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New era afoot as international university rankings are released

In spite of some shuffling and movement on the three major international university rankings released over the past few weeks, UCT remains the top-ranked African university. Most pleasing is that the *Times Higher Education* (THE) rankings placed UCT at number 107 in the world, the university's highest finish in any ranking yet.

The THE ranking is one of three making news at the moment, alongside the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings and the Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU).

The THE rankings, released on 16 September, place UCT at number 107, well up from its 146th spot in 2009 when the THE and QS rankings were still combined. That suggests, however, that the two numbers cannot really be compared, as the ranking methodologies differed.

Now teamed with Thomson Reuters' Web of Science, the THE system uses 13 individual performance indicators and claims to cover all three core missions of a university in its new methodology, namely research, teaching and knowledge transfer. However, the highest-weighted category remains a university's 'research influence', measured by the number of times its published work is cited in other academics' papers.

Based on 12 000 journals listed in Thomson Reuters' Web of Science, taken over a five-year period, the citations data will be normalised to account for different volumes of citations between disciplines. For the first time, knowledge-transfer activities are included in an 'industry income – innovation' category (worth 2.5% of the total ranking score), based on research income from industry.

On 15 August, the QS World University Rankings system released its first results after the split between QS and THE. The QS system continues to rank UCT as the only university in Africa in the top 200, but the university has dropped from 146 to 161. (There were some dramatic changes at the top of the log as well, with Cambridge taking the number one spot from Harvard, the highest-ranked university since 2004.) UCT will study the changes, although it is considered a small fluctuation, especially since half of the weighting of this ranking is based on opinion



Share your ride and save the world

It was like a scene from a movie. Fourteen people crammed into an old four-seater VW Beetle, some folding themselves into the boot, all in the name of carpooling. The event was organised by the Green Campus Initiative (GCI) on 22 September as part of its Green Week campaign last week, and in support of its Ridelink project, an online carpooling website. The aim is to persuade students and staff to share rides, thus reducing

carbon emissions and easing on-campus parking. "We thought that this would be a fun way of getting students to realise how many people can fit into one vehicle," said GCI's Kate Pallett. "Students aren't expected to go to the same extremes, but to start carpooling, and an easy way to do this is through Ridelink," she added. (View the videos of the Ridelink launch on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/UCTSouthAfrica>)

polls (academic peer review, 40%; employer/recruiter review, 10%), the other indicators being student-faculty ratio, 20%; citations per faculty, 20%; international faculty, 5%; and international students, 5%.

But not too much about UCT's performance should be read into that, noted vice-chancellor Dr Max Price in an op-ed piece in the *Mail &*

Guardian on Friday 24 September.

"For example, UCT could be 107 this year, and make significant improvements such as recruiting more postdoctoral scholars and leading international scientists, increasing its research articles further... but if the university at position 110 has improved slightly more than UCT, then UCT will drop – though this would

not reflect any deterioration."

On 9 September, the results from the Academic Ranking of World Universities were released by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University. UCT was once again ranked as the top university in Africa (and maintained its place in the range 200 to 300). The indicators used by the Shanghai Jiao Tong ranking are explained on

the ARWU website: "ARWU uses six objective indicators to rank world universities, including the number of alumni and staff winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals, number of highly-cited researchers selected by Thomson Scientific, number of articles published in journals of Nature and Science, number of articles indexed in Science Citation Index – Expanded and Social Sciences Citation Index, and per capita performance with respect to the size of an institution."

While the results are satisfying and large, in his op-ed Price cautioned against inherent biases.

The new *Times Higher Education* system, for example, uses a combination of 13 criteria weighted in a particular way, which has not been used before. They place strong emphasis on research productivity and impact, the ability to attract research grants, the quality of staffing, internationalisation, and perceptions among the international community of the quality of graduates.

"UCT does well on this globally and in relation to Africa (there are no other universities from the continent in the top 200) because of this particular bias, which happens to coincide with a core element of UCT's mission; viz, to be a research-led university," wrote Price.

"The danger of ranking systems, especially where they are designed with an eye on developed country universities, is that they may lead to behaviours and redesign of strategy to improve in the rankings rather than do what's right for the local setting."

That said, the rankings come with benefits that cannot be overlooked, Price noted.

"We cannot ignore the rankings because, for all their flaws, people the world over pay attention to them. This can be turned to the advantage of the university and the country."

His sentiments were endorsed by Professor Danie Visser, the deputy vice-chancellor responsible for research. Though mindful of the flaws inherent in all ranking systems, he said, UCT's rankings reflected, in the first place, the quality and dedication of its staff and students.

(The vice-chancellor's op-ed, which appeared in the *Mail & Guardian* on Friday 24 September, can be found at <http://www.uct.ac.za/news/media/oped/>) **MP**



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

Can birds survive another mass extinction?



Feathered future: Prof Phil Hockey's Distinguished Alumni Lecture explored the future for birds in a changing global environment.

“Everyone talks about dinosaurs being extinct; but of course they aren’t, because you all have dinosaurs in your gardens.”

So opened Professor Phil Hockey’s Distinguished Alumni Lecture on 23 September. Titled *Is a Changing World all Bad for Birds?*, Hockey’s lecture examined the changing habits and behaviours of birds, their links to climate change and their possible futures.

Hockey notes that birds are modern-day dinosaurs which have already survived a major extinction event 65 million years ago, namely the Cretaceous–Tertiary extinction event (aka the K-T event), which killed off all non-flying dinosaurs.

“We now live on what has been called the Goldilocks planet, because it’s not too hot and not too cold and can therefore support what we perceive as life,” said Hockey. “But how well are birds going to do as we approach the next mass extinction event?”

Hockey explains that we are entering a new geological epoch – and approaching the sixth mass extinction

– called the Anthropacy, so named because it is the first epoch that will be driven, directly or indirectly, by the activities of a single species, namely us humans.

“We are starting to see around us the evidence of an approaching mass extinction event,” said Hockey.

But there will be winners as well as losers, Hockey predicts, and the winners will be adaptable, generalist species – that is, species able to thrive in a wide variety of environmental conditions and able to make use of a variety of different resources. The losers will be the specialists – species suited to a narrow range of environmental conditions or having a limited diet.

“Birds are responding to both climate and land use changes,” observes Hockey. “There is evidence that our current network of protected areas might not work in the future, because we are changing the mosaic in which these birds live.”

“So the real challenge is identifying where these future climate refugia might exist.”

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New collaboration fosters links in Europe

The Cape Higher Education Consortium (CHEC) has received a prestigious student and staff mobility award, in partnership with Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and a consortium of eight European universities. The award (one of three grants made to South African universities) exceeds €1.6 million, and was made under the Erasmus Mundus initiative of the European Union (EU). The project is intended to foster institutional co-operation in higher education between the European Union and South Africa through student and

academic exchanges. It is anticipated that 106 South Africans will benefit from the scholarship scheme, and will be able to spend some time (between one and 35 months) at one of the EU partner universities – the University of Leuven, Belgium; Freie Universität Berlin, Germany; Pierre et Marie Curie Université, Paris; Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm; Masaryk University, Brno; Universidad de Granada, Spain; University of Amsterdam, Netherlands; and the University of Antwerp, Belgium. CHEC member institutions – UCT, the Cape Peninsula University

of Technology (CPUT), Stellenbosch University and the University of the Western Cape (UWC) – recently hosted a visit to the region by Joachim Fronia of the Education, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA), which is responsible for the implementation of the EU’s Erasmus Mundus programmes worldwide. A delegation from the four Western Cape universities will shortly attend a meeting at the University of Leuven (which serves as the lead institution in the partnership) to finalise the details of the programme. **MP**

Copyright competition a big success

Information and Communication Technology Services (ICTS) hosted a prize-giving on 20 September for winners of the fun but educational UCT Respect Copyright quiz.

A number of people walked home with nifty gadgets such as a PlayStation PSP, computer games, movies, backup system recovery desktop software, memory sticks, pokens, iPods and shoulder bags. But more importantly, many more people are now better informed about the huge financial and legal risks of infringing copyright laws.

It emerged last year that there is widespread peer-to-peer file sharing of copyrighted materials on the UCT network. This exposes both UCT and those involved to serious legal repercussions, including the risk of prosecution for breach of copyright. Such file-sharing also places a load on the network, which slows down legitimate network activity and consumes bandwidth.

In response, UCT’s Risk Management Committee initiated an awareness campaign, which was managed by ICTS. The campaign involved, among other things, registering UCT with the



Live and learn: (Front, from left) Oscar Noels, Linet Huchu, Thembekile Kamanga and Richard Cheng, and (back, from left) Kyla McNulty, Andrew Rand, Marilyn Wilford and Terri Landbrooke were some of the lucky winners in the Respect Copyright Quiz.

Internet Service Providers’ Association, putting up educational posters, creating informational web pages and hosting this quiz.

Steffne Hughes, ICTS’ communication and training team leader, said the competition drew good representation from staff and students, and many

said they learnt a lot about copyright.

“That was the main aim of the initiative: to expose people to information about copyright, and to help them make some personal decisions about how they interact with and use copyrighted items such as music, movies, images, and so on,” Hughes added. **MP**

UCT artists share their process

For the tenth volume of its *Artworks in Progress* journal, UCT’s Michaelis School of Fine Art went for the hand-in-hand approach – launching the publication and opening an exhibition of the work featured in the publication at the same time.

Published every second year, *Artworks in Progress* celebrates the creative activities of 20 of the school’s academic staff, many considered among the country’s leading visual arts practitioners. In turn the namesake show, on at the Michaelis Galleries from 16 September to 6 October, allows locals the rare opportunity to enjoy the artists’ works, which are often exhibited only internationally.

The exhibition ranges from painting to video projection, movable type to conceptual discourse. The journal, edited by Associate Professor Fritha Langerman, casts some light on each artist’s concerns and working methods.

As a series, the publications are said to form “an intriguing archive of the evolving concerns of individual staff members, and of the shifting staff body, set against a background of two tumultuous decades of social change”.

The title of the journal and the exhibition may be misleading: most pieces on display are in fact finished, although some may form part of broader projects that are still ongoing. More than that, the pieces are but a snapshot from the artists’ still growing



Fluid art: This piece, a detail from Prof Pippa Skotnes’ *Book of Blood and Milk* installation, is one of the works featured in the two versions of *Artworks in Progress* – a new journal and an exhibition currently on at the Michaelis Galleries.

bodies of works.

“There is something very fluid and fascinating about the artistic process, and this exhibition captures the

liveliness of what goes on in the studio – not just the final work,” says Nadja Daehnke, curator at the Michaelis Galleries. **MP**

Human rights champion for UCT's transformation hot seat

The measure of your integrity is how you care for the most vulnerable.

This is the philosophy of human rights advocacy veteran Glenda Wildschut, recently appointed director of UCT's Transformation Services. Reporting to deputy vice-chancellor Professor Crain Soudien, who holds the transformation portfolio, Wildschut is responsible for transformation activities, events and interventions at the university, from concept to execution.

Appointed by former president Nelson Mandela to serve as a commissioner on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1995, Wildschut's human rights activism dates back to the early 1980s. She worked with political prisoners, their families, exiles and orphaned returnee children in South Africa and Namibia, and pioneered, together with other health workers, the establishment of a trauma centre for violence and torture survivors – the first centre of its kind in the country.

Wildschut has also worked with the United Nations' World Health Organisation, the World Council of Churches

and the Desmond Tutu Peace Centre, as well as many NGOs.

Operating in tandem with UCT's Discrimination and Harassment Office (aka DISCHO), HIV/AIDS Coordination – UCT (aka HAICU) and the Disability Unit, Wildschut's long list of tasks includes conducting surveys, promoting transformation in UCT's structures, forming partnerships, managing UCT's employment equity plan and providing a transformation advisory service.

"Unless we confront our past and deal with our memories, we will be unable to move ahead into a future free of hatred and revenge," says Wildschut. "If we don't deal with negative emotions they will dominate all that we do and permeate every aspect of our lives."

"Thankfully, there are many who realise the real power of letting go of these destructive emotions and who take positive steps to heal the memories and face the tasks of embracing those things that celebrate life and make us fully human."

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Human rights veteran: Glenda Wildschut, recently appointed director of UCT's Transformation Services.

Uneasy balance between performance management and academic freedom

Members of the academic community raised their concerns about performance management and its impact on academic output at last week's lively debate, *Performance Management and Academic Freedom: Anathema or appropriate*, held at UCT's Centre for African Studies.

The matter of whether performance management represents a threat to academic freedom has received some airing at UCT in recent months. Calling for more discussion on the topic, the Academic Freedom Committee (AFC) recently hosted two events to foster debate about the issue.

At the first, the 2010 TB Davie Memorial Lecture, Professor Robin Briggs of Oxford University in the UK addressed the impact of managerialism on academic freedom in the European context. This was followed by a panel discussion on 16 August.

More recently, an AFC resolution was tabled for the attention of Senate, highlighting academics' concerns that performance management pressured academics into choosing research topics that lead to quick publication in ac-



Delicate balance: Profs Leslie London (left) and Andre du Toit at the discussion on performance management and academic freedom.

credited journals, rather than research projects on more complex topics – or topics whose worth lies in their social importance.

The discussion began by looking at how research performance is measured.

"NRF rating and the peer-review system encourage academics to

research and publish," said Professor Rob Morrell, co-ordinator of the Programme for Enhancement of Research Capacity. "This is not a threat to, but rather a promoter of, academic freedom."

Some members of the community said NRF targets are likely to encourage less adventurous research.

"It's an incentive to produce quick-and-dirty research," said Associate Professor Andrew Nash of the Department of Political Studies.

Professor Deborah Posel, founding director of the UCT Institute for Humanities in Africa, added: "The NRF rating system rewards people who've stayed in one narrow area of research. People who move around areas of research are penalised, not recognised."

"Is there then an alternative to this system of peer review?" asked Emeritus Professor Andre du Toit. "Peer review is at the heart of academic freedom. [Having] no system of review means self-governance, and this means you can make mistakes, which is dangerous."

The panel agreed that peer review should take individual achievement into account, but in relation to the university community.

"We should defend the idea of managing performance, but not a system of performance management," said Posel. "Where resources are scarce, it's not bad to account for what we do."

"Performance assessment at UCT, imperfect as it may be, is necessary," said Professor Daya Reddy, director of the Centre for Computational & Applied Mechanics and former dean of the Faculty of Science. "These reviews must be based on teaching and research output. There is a strong developmental component to it."

He said the assessment of research should consider the quality and impact of a person's work and not the quantity. In one case, research grants were allotted based on the number of publications alone.

"It is possible to have systems in place that fit the objectives of the university," he said.

In closing, workshop organiser Professor Leslie London, director of the School of Public Health & Family Medicine, called for more debate about the kind of university UCT academics want and what system of appraisal or assessment they believe will promote academic freedom.

"We just need to get off our bottoms and do something about it." **MP**

Carpooling service for a greener campus

A unique, student-led carpooling service is the latest brainchild of UCT's Green Campus Initiative (GCI).

Coinciding with the first day of Green Week last week, Ridelink was officially opened by vice-chancellor Dr Max Price on 20 September. Aimed at alleviating UCT's parking congestion, reducing carbon emissions and saving users in petrol money, Ridelink is reportedly the first university carpooling system in the country.

Hosted on Vula at <https://vula.uct.ac.za/portal/site/ridelink> and freely available to anyone with a UCT

student or staff number, Ridelink is a carpooling matchmaker service. Users are partnered based on their similar travel schedules and routes, allowing them to organise carpools easily.

The need for such a system became apparent when the GCI took an informal survey of 200 cars entering the Sports Centre parking area one morning and found that almost 90% of these vehicles had only one occupant. They calculated that if half these drivers began sharing lifts to campus, they would help free up 90 more parking spaces.

As an incentive to take advantage



Matchmakers: Attending the Ridelink official launch were (from left) Kate Pallett; John Critien, executive director of Properties and Services; vice-chancellor Dr Max Price; Kimon de Greef; and Francios Fagan.

of Ridelink, the P4 parking lot (next to the rugby fields) will be reserved for multiple-passenger vehicles only. Access will be controlled by a boom gate operated by a UCT traffic official.

"We've been working on Ridelink for a year, so it's great to be finally launching it," says GCI's Kimon de Greef. "It's a part of UCT life now, so it's up to us to make it work."

Ridelink is supported by UCT's Properties and Services Department. (For more information watch the Ridelink video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqsABoKGw9w>.)

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Claude Leon awards for young researchers

Four up-and-coming lecturers received welcome boosts to their research kitties when they were presented with UCT's Claude Leon Foundation Merit Awards for Young Lecturers.

At an small ceremony on 21 September, deputy vice-chancellor Professor Danie Visser met with the four recipients - Dr Hans Beushausen of the Department of Civil Engineering, Dr Chris Clarkson of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, Dr Olabisi Falowo of the Department of Electrical Engineering, and Dr Rob Ingle of the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology. Each received R50 000.

Longstanding supporters of UCT, the Claude Leon Foundation made a generous award of R200 000 to UCT earlier this year, leaving it to UCT's discretion to apportion the money, but stipulating that it should only be used to assist the work of young academics. A committee opted to split the

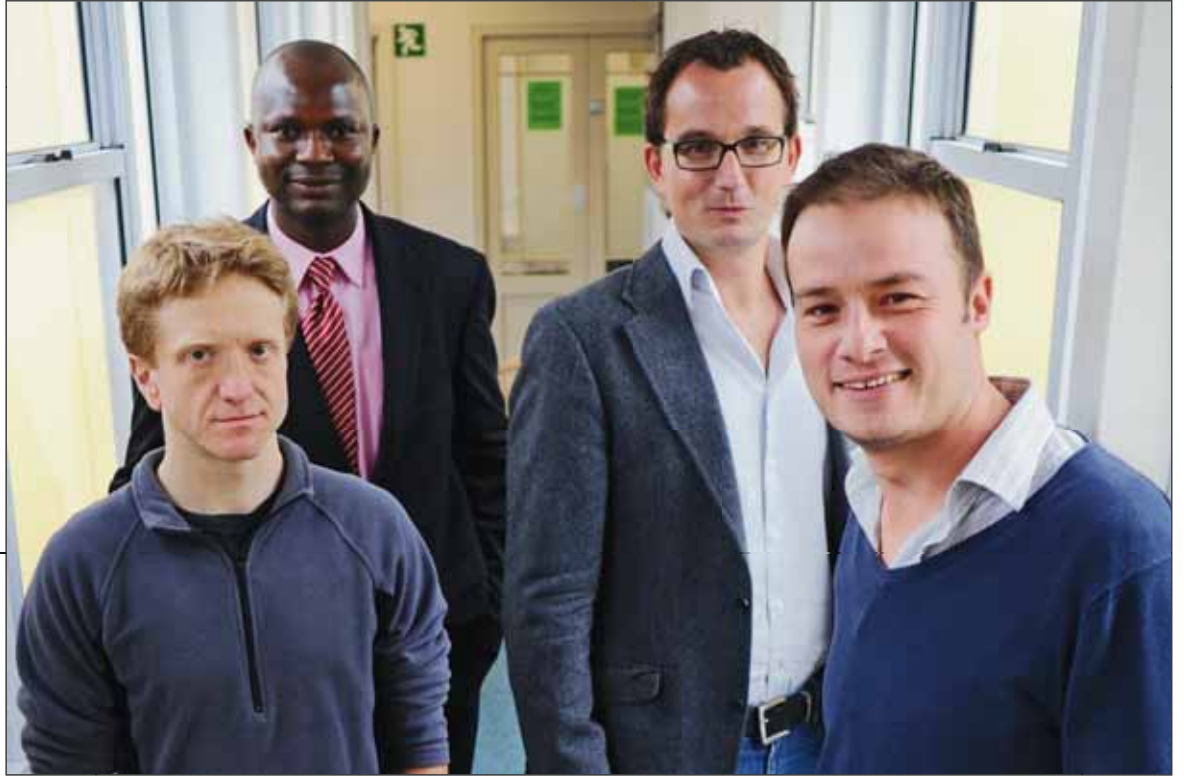
money into four sizeable awards rather than into many (but small) portions, explains Visser.

When asked what they'll be spending the money on, all four listed identical items: conference or other research-related travelling, the running costs of projects, plus precious support for their graduate students.

"The main problem we have is that molecular biology projects are very expensive to run," said Ingle. "And we have three students who need to finish next year, so this will definitely go a long way towards that."

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Outstanding researchers: (Back, from left) Dr Olabisi Falowo and Dr Hans Beushausen, and (front, from left) Dr Chris Clarkson and Dr Rob Ingle are the four winners of the Claude Leon Foundation Merit Awards for Young Lecturers.



Fun and serious games ahead for UCT sport



Herald: Prof Mike Meadows and Prof Crain Soudien celebrate the launch of the new Vision and Mission of the UCT Sports Council.

A new era for sport at UCT was ushered in when the UCT Sports Council launched its revised Vision and Mission on 20 September.

The Sports Council's vision is a bold and ambitious one: "To be the leading tertiary institution for student-centred sport by providing a balanced and broad-based sports programme that promotes participation and performance excellence and through which students can achieve their full potential."

In turn, its mission recognises that through a student-centred approach, sport fosters the development of the 'whole student'. The document, headlined by the catch-

phrase 'UCT Sport: In Mind and Body – For Life', also lists the kinds of values that sport can bring to the UCT community.

"What this document really tries to do is inform everyone involved at UCT – and beyond the university – what sport is at UCT, what it can do for an institution like UCT, what it can do for the students at UCT, and what it can for the community around UCT," said Professor Mike Meadows, chair of the Sports Council.

More than that, the document sets out to reconcile sport with academia, added Meadows. "We very often see sport as an add-on,

and I think what this document tries to do is see it as a much more integrated part of the life of a university."

The words may be new, but not the commitments, which have evolved over time, noted deputy vice-chancellor Professor Crain Soudien. He also pointed to what he called "the new space of performance excellence" and the challenge that UCT faces to create that space, understanding that the demands of sport often clash with the demands of the classroom. "It's asking hard questions about where we had been in the past," he said.

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New postgrad service unveiled

The partnership between master's and doctoral students and their supervisors was celebrated at the annual awards ceremony for the 2010 UCT research associates and supervisors.

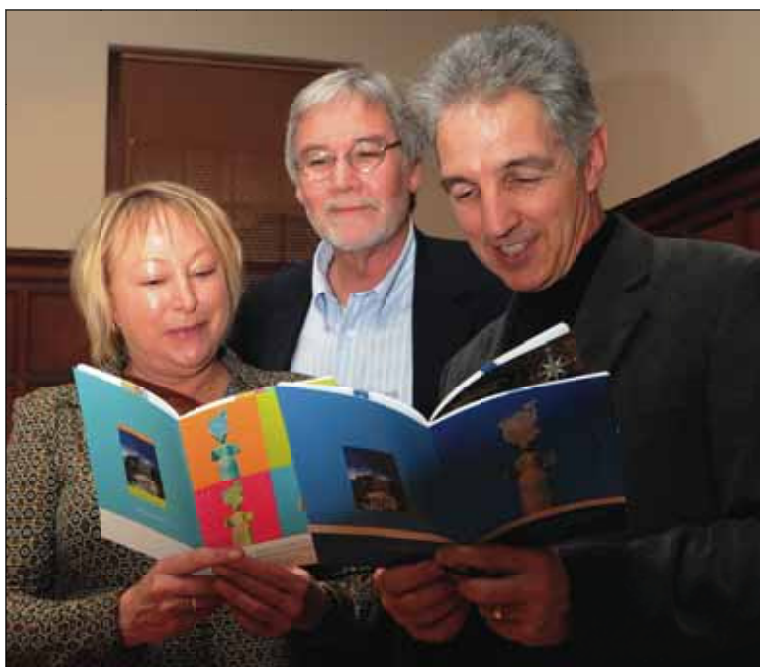
Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price noted that over 60 research associates were nominated, but only 18 could be selected to receive the UCT Research Associateships. Doctoral candidates received R45 000 each, of which R15 000 is allocated to supervisors to cover research costs or to provide support for travel to conferences. Those at master's level received R30 000 each, with R10 000 going to the students' supervisors.

Price said he hoped these incentives would inspire research associates to remain in academia after graduating.

At the ceremony, the new Blue Desk Information Service and the A-Z guides for postgraduate students and Postdoctoral Research Fellows were also launched. Both initiatives aim to improve overall support to these sectors.

Based in the Postgraduate Centre & Funding Office, the Blue Desk is a visible, dedicated service that provides a one-stop information centre for all matters relating to postgrads, including details on funding, facilities, and available spaces for meetings and seminars.

The A-Z booklets cover a range of



Off the press: (From left) Linda Vranas of the Postgraduate Centre & Funding Office, DVC Prof Danie Visser and VC Dr Max Price peruse the new A-Z booklets for postgraduate students.

other information, and are particularly helpful to those who come from outside Cape Town, as deputy vice-chancellor Professor Danie Visser explained.

"As the number of students and Postdoctoral Research Fellows increase, we had to think of different ways of ensuring that our doors are always open, and that students and fellows enjoy a great experience," said Visser.

Hard copies of the guides are available from the Postgraduate Centre & Funding Office and electronically on the following URLs:

postgrad:http://www.uct.ac.za/usr/pgfo/booklet/postgrad_a-z_final_guide.pdf; and

postdoc:http://www.uct.ac.za/usr/pgfo/booklet/postdoc_a-z_final_guide.pdf.

Would you like more flexible work hours?

STEFF HUGHES

While we can't change your office hours, we can tell you how to access your email, calendar, network drives and other UCT resources from anywhere and at any time. This is useful if you're trying to work from home or if you travel frequently.

There are a number of easy-to-use options for accessing your UCT mailbox. For instance, if you have access to the Internet, you can either use GroupWise WebAccess to access your mailbox via a web interface, or you can install the GroupWise client onto your laptop or home computer and connect to the mail server that way. If you don't have access to the Internet while travelling or at home, you can still use the GroupWise client on your laptop – you just work in caching mode until you're back in the office. This will allow you to read messages from the cached mailbox and compose new messages which will be held in the cached mailbox until you next connect to the mail server – either from campus, or the next time that you connect to the Internet.

Did you know that you can even use your mobile device to read your mail? Just set up your mobile device using either GroupWise Mobile

Server, PDA Connect or an IMAP connection. Some phones even work with the software that came with the phone.

You also don't have to be sitting at your desk, in your office, or even on campus to access UCT resources. The EZProxy link on the UCT Libraries website gives you access to library resources and journals, and there are three ways in which you can access your files on your network (F: and G:) drives. While on campus, you can use any one of the many WiFi hotspots located in popular meeting places such as libraries, open areas and meeting rooms. If you're off campus, you can use your web browser, and either use NetStorage to download and upload files on the network drives or you can connect to the network via UCT's Virtual Private Network and remote desktop application.

If you want to know how to access these UCT services, read the version of this article on the ICTS website (www.icts.uct.ac.za).

Subscribe: If you'd like to receive the latest ICTS announcements or our monthly *Bits & Bytes* newsletter, subscribe to our two mailing lists: icts-announce-l and icts-newsletter-l on UCT's mailing list page (<https://lists.uct.ac.za/lists.php>).

How to get along with baboons

It may be called ‘baboon management’, but PhD researcher Bentley Kaplan of UCT’s Department of Zoology says that people management is the most problematic component of the job.

“Baboons are pretty easy to manage,” he says. “People are far more difficult.”

Kaplan hopes that ultimately his PhD will produce a holistic strategy for managing people, baboons and waste, side by side, to minimise baboon invasions into human areas.

The starting point was a behavioural study conducted in Namibia, which examined how feeding shaped leadership in baboon groups. Researchers found that if they provided a small amount of food to the leader, he would lead the pack to wherever he was fed. In other words, the boss could be bribed.

Marrying behavioural research with conservation, Kaplan’s first experiments were to use the Namibian method to lead baboon packs away from populated areas in the surrounds of Simon’s Town. The month-long experiment was a success.

Feeding baboons, or provisioning, is a controversial practice, and Kaplan is quick to point out that this is a short-term solution.

He explains that the method could be a cost-effective alternative to monitoring – following baboons wherever they go – especially for smaller troops.

“Employing monitors is very costly as well as controversial,” says Kaplan, “so I’m trying to find methods that will either complement the monitors, or replace them where



Neighbours: PhD researcher Bentley Kaplan is investigating methods for effective baboon management.

possible with cheaper options which don’t affect baboon behaviour, as monitoring does.”

But ultimately, the solution for a harmonious cohabitation lies primarily with changing the perceptions and behaviour of the endangered Cape baboons’ less hairy neighbours.

Kaplan explains that baboons don’t actually like humans very much

– it’s just the food they’re after.

“Human food is very appealing to them,” he says “It’s nutritious, easy to digest, and raiding is quicker and easier than finding food in the wild.”

A side effect of baboon raids is vandalism and crop loss in the area’s vineyards – which has resulted in aggressive reactions from disgruntled residents. Baboons have been shot,

poisoned and hit by cars, despite their habit of avoiding physical conflict wherever possible. Their shows of aggression, explains Kaplan, are usually exactly that and nothing more.

“Residents need to minimise the appeal of urban areas by locking their bins, removing their fruit trees and compost heaps, and keeping food out of sight,” Kaplan advises. “They can

ignore this, but then they shouldn’t be too surprised when baboons raid and vandalise their homes.”

Kaplan believes in baby steps to a solution. “I think a better strategy will come through incremental improvements,” he says. “I know that people want a single, decisive solution, but that’s not going to happen.”

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High honour for Lewis’ transformation work among researchers



Her sterling work in training and mentoring a number of black and women students in industrial crystallisation research has won UCT orator and professor of chemical engineering Alison Lewis the Champions of Transformation Capacity Development at South African Higher Institutions award

Mining talent: Prof Alison Lewis has won the Champions of Transformation Capacity Development at South African Higher Institutions award from the president of the National Research Foundation. (Picture courtesy of Mail & Guardian.)

from the president of the National Research Foundation, Dr Albert van Jaarsveld.

The honour is tribute to Lewis’ efforts to transform the research and community landscape. It also acknowledges her efforts to discover research talent in those from “designated groups”, and in helping these individuals become world-class researchers. Sixteen postgraduate students are registered under her guidance in the Crystallisation and Precipitation Research Unit.

Van Jaarsveld praised Lewis’ enthusiastic support over the past 10 years.

“Not only is she passionate about transforming the face of science in South

Africa, but she is highly regarded and enjoys considerable recognition from her peers for the high quality and impact of her research outputs. The NRF is delighted to honour Professor Alison Lewis with this well-deserved award.”

Lewis’ accolade is one of three special awards that augment the NRF President’s awards. The latter honour researchers recognised by their peers for world-class research. This rating and evaluation system enjoys great prestige among the research community. The other two special honours are the Lifetime Achievement and the Transformation of the Science Cohort Awards. **MP**

Prize-winning paper on nuclear graphite

Given the increased national and international interest in nuclear power generation and talk of a ‘new build’ nuclear power station in South Africa in the near future, it was good news for UCT when PhD student Thorsten Becker won the Best Paper prize at the recent International Youth Nuclear Congress (IYNC).

The IYNC attracted over three hundred delegates from 32 countries. Becker’s paper was titled *Damage, crack growth and fracture characteristics of nuclear grade graphite using the double torsion technique*. His supervisor and co-author is Professor Bob Tait of UCT’s Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Becker is spending a year at the University of Manchester, one of the leading universities in nuclear materials, with another co-author, Professor James Marrow. Becker’s work there focuses on the part of his PhD that deals with image correlation of cracking and damage development with fracture mechanics. He has returned to UCT to write up his PhD.

Tait says that for the first time research has provided a link between crack growth rate, damage development and fracture mechanics behaviour in nuclear graphite on one hand, and the stress fields and unique structural geometry that is

experienced on the other. This understanding facilitates the prediction of service life and performance.

“Such an approach enhances structural integrity and safety, and makes long-term behaviour more predictable in such nuclear applications. The model has the potential to extend to other brittle particulate composites.” **MP**

Top honour: Thorsten Becker (front), photographed with his supervisor and co-author Prof Bob Tait, won the Best Paper award at the recent International Youth Nuclear Conference 2010.





Music college presents musical tribute to heritage

Last Thursday the Reaching Youth Through Music (RHYTHM) group, made up of students from the South African College of Music, presented a jazz tribute to celebrate Heritage Day.

Held at the Baxter Theatre Centre, the tribute featured guests Duke Ngcukana and his band, musician Errol Dyers, trumpeter Feya Faku, and jazz vocalist Gloria Bosman. RHYTHM was formed in 2009 and is largely funded by the South African-Norwegian music corporation MMINO. The aim of their concert was to celebrate local jazz legends and introduce the youth to South Africa's

rich musical heritage. The concert was held in conjunction with music and cultural workshops on Heritage Day, 24 September.

Hosted at UCT, the workshops focused on the history of South African jazz, and the personal stories and experience of South African jazz legends. Facilitators included Little Giants managing director George Werner, Kyle Shepherd, Dizu Plaatjies, Darryl Andrews, Eric Alan, and Nomfundo Xaluva.

The group transported 120 children to the workshops from high schools on the Cape Flats and Southern Suburbs of Cape Town. **MP**

Staffers celebrate new skills



Certified: Receiving certificates for completing the first aid course were (from left) Innocentia Motsai, Phumeza Nyovane, Hillary O'Connor, Charlene Esau, Deborah Steenkamp, Veliswa Dwyili and Denise Fredericks.

Scores of UCT residence staffers were honoured at a certificate ceremony on 17 September in celebration of the completion of four practical courses.

Residence staff each received certificates for their courses in health and safety, level one first aid, handypersonship or cleaning, the latter offered by Siyaya Contract Cleaners.

Handing out the awards was manager of student housing in UCT's Department of Student Affairs, Glenn von Zeil. Congratu-

lating the awardees, Von Zeil said that these courses have helped UCT residence staffers to be more productive, and therefore more employable.

"These are skills that nobody can take away from you, which can be used in your work as well as in your homes," said Von Zeil.

"Through courses such as these, we hope to cultivate a safer and healthier working environment, which will improve our standards in the years to come."

Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za

SRC leadership: Women put their heads together

The three top spots on the new Students' Representative Council for 2010/2011 have gone to women. *Monday Paper* met SRC president Amanda Ngwenya, and her two deputies: Kathleen Taylor and Jessica Price.

SRC president will take the bull by the horns

Amanda Ngwenya admits that her vision for the 2010/2011 Students' Representative Council (SRC) could land her in hot water with some students. But she is determined to stand her ground.

Ngwenya, who was elected as the SRC president, is inspired by people who can stand by their convictions. Her parents probably know that better than most. They wanted her to study medicine, but she has chosen a career in politics instead.

She joined the Democratic Alliance Student Organisation (DASO), a decision that raised eyebrows in her circles as many black South Africans, she says, are ignorant about what the Democratic Alliance can offer all South Africans.

Ngwenya, who hails from KwaZulu-Natal, served as the vice-



Valuable experience: SRC president for 2010/2011, Amanda Ngwenya.

president: external in the 2008/2009 SRC. She brings valuable experience to the student body. She believes that the SRC should not be burdened by administrative functions like services to students, as there are departments that handle those aspects of student life.

"If the departments are failing, the SRC shouldn't attempt to provide those services, but should ensure that those departments pull their weight."

She intends to push for the development of a policy agenda, with the help of external experts, which will carry the ideological position of the SRC on various issues.

Issues regarding student services have been the same in the past 20 or 30 years, and the SRC will not leave a legacy through them, Ngwenya argues. The only lasting legacy is through the ideas that shape the institution's values and which will, in turn, guide it into the future.

Her team will continue to stand for students' needs, and will fight for fee increases that are justified, but balanced against the university's need to maintain UCT as a leading institution. **MP**

Co-operative SRC can achieve more - Taylor

Kathleen Taylor has a strong voice, strong views and a strong personality.

That much was clear when she managed to win the most votes in the 2010/2011 Students' Representative Council elections – as an independent candidate with no political structures to back her, to boot. She was encouraged to stand for the SRC and assisted in her campaign by her sibling, Anton Taylor, also a UCT student, who served in the 2008/2009 SRC.

Now she has been named as the SRC's vice-president: internal, and will be responsible for internal discipline and work with the development agencies, a function she's excited about but not what she had in mind.

She had promised students during her campaign that she will push for



Unity is strength: Kathleen Taylor says working together will be key to the SRC's success.

supplementary examinations to be held in July, for online registration (which is being implemented), and to rotate entertainment around all campuses. The seat-allocation meeting decided otherwise.

Taylor has put her frustrations with that meeting behind her, has re-evaluated her priorities and is eager to deliver the best services to students.

As one of the only four independent candidates in the 15-member committee, she hopes that policies will not be decided by voting, but will be reached through compromise and consensus.

"It will be a slow, tedious process, but it can be done and it will be worth it if we have an SRC that works and that properly represents all students," she said.

A co-operative SRC, Taylor added, can get a lot more done. So she hopes her team will be accessible and visible on campus, something she understands will be difficult to achieve. **MP**

Student politics, not party politics – Price

Keen on politics, sport, economics, philosophy and art, Jessica Price, the 2010/2011 Students' Representative Council (SRC) vice-president: external, describes herself as a well-rounded individual.

This broad range of interests may well have underpinned her popularity among the 2 200 UCT students who voted for her in the recent SRC elections.

Price, a second-year medical student, says her new SRC role encompasses international student matters, the SRC's constitution committee, which she will be chairing, and playing a part in other external matters.

These functions fit well with her objectives; the rallying points in her manifesto were transparency, social activism and communication. For instance, Price says that the proposed media appeals tribunal and the related Protection of Information Bill, which she believes will affect everyone if passed as is, have not yet been brought to the table by students.

"I think it is unacceptable that no-one is really focusing on the media



tribunal bill. It is the SRC's role to point out to students how it will affect us."

Having lived in medical residence last year, Price feels that the medical campus is isolated, with little contact between medical students and the broader student body. There could be more communication, in the form of *Varsity* and *Monday Paper*, available in the medical residences.

Price stood as an independent candidate because she feels party politics should be separated from student politics, the latter essential to representing students' interests and not party-political interests.

As she is the daughter of vice-

chancellor Dr Max Price and Professor Deborah Posel, founding director of UCT's Institute for Humanities in Africa, there is a question that begs asking: Will her relationship with her parents affect her work on the SRC?

It was a question often posed during the elections, Price said. But she has an open, mutually respectful relationship with her parents, who respect her right to her own opinions.

Her parents supported her decision to stand for the SRC, but were not involved in her campaign.

"When you wear an SRC cap, you automatically act in a professional capacity rather than a personal capacity," she adds.

"The fact that whenever I interact with the management I will be wearing that cap means that it will be easy to differentiate between personal and professional lives.

"And there are 14 other people in the committee who will hold me accountable for my actions. If I break that trust, the consequences will be detrimental for me personally. That is not an option at all." **MP**

EVENTS

Steve Biko memorial Exhibition – Opening of the event by the VC, Dr Max Price. Date: Wednesday, 29 September, 12h00. Venue: Faculty of Health Sciences, Foyer Area, Barnard Fuller Building

Van Den Ende Memorial Lecture Title : Social Accountability: a new paradigm of excellence a century after Flexner's report. Speaker, Dr Charles Boelen, Md, Mph, Msc; International consultant in health systems and personnel. Date: Monday, 04 October 2010, 17h00. Venue: Faculty of Health Sciences, Wolfson Lecture Theatre, IIDMM Building

Melissa Steyn, The City's Other: Small Towns in post-apartheid South Africa, Sociology and Director of Intercultural and Diversity Studies, University of Cape Town. Date: October 6. Time: 3pm. Venue: Davies Reading Room 2.27 Engeo Building,Upper Campus

Steven Robbins, Urban social movements, rights talk and mass action in Cape Town, Department of Sociology, University of Stellenbosch. Date: November 3. Time: 3pm. Venue: Davies Reading Room 2.27 Engeo Building,Upper Campus

Social Responsiveness Symposium Date: September 30. Time: 15h30 – 18h30. Venue: Kramer Quad in the foyer, Law Building, Middle Campus. Contact: elaine.hendricks@uct.ac.za or 021 6502149

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 27 September 2010

Professor/Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer, Graduate School of Business, Closing date: 30 September 2010

Executive Director: Human Resources, Closing date: 30 September 2010

Professor/Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer, Department of Private Law,

Faculty of Law, Closing date: 01 October 2010

Family Physician/Lecturer, Division of Family Medicine, School of Public Health & Family Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 11 October 2010

William P Slater Chair of Geriatric Medicine (joint position UCT and PGWC), Division of Geriatric Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 29 October 2010

Pro Vice-Chancellor & Director: African Climate and Development Initiative, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Closing date: 01 November 2010

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

Editor-in-Chief, African Centre for Cities, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 30 September 2010

Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology & Research, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 30 September 2010

Data Quality Officer, Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology & Research, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 30 September 2010

Senior Administrative Officer: Academic Structures, Faculty of Commerce, Closing date: 30 September 2010

Part-time Administrative Assistant, Department of Mathematics & Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 30 September 2010

Assistant Warden - Rochester Residence, Student Housing and Residence Life, Department of Student Affairs, Closing date: 01 October 2010

IT Helpdesk Consultant, Customer Services Division, Information & Communication Technology Services, Closing date: 04 October 2010

Systems Manager, Properties & Services Department, Closing date: 15 October 2010

Research Officer, Health Economics Unit, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 15 October 2010

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

Data Manager, Department of Child & Adolescent Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 30 September 2010

Postgraduate Administrator, Department of Child & Adolescent Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 30 September 2010

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

PROPERTY/ACCOMODATION

Wanted: Retired couple looking for two-bedroom furnished rental in Gardens or Oranjezicht while visiting grandchildren 29 Nov to 12 Dec 2010. Contact jslevy@discoverymail.co.za or 083 4158285.

Wanted: American family on sabbatical Jan-Dec 2011 seeks 3BR, 2 BA house, furnished or not, in Southern Suburbs, outdoor space a plus. contact: dackerly@berkeley.edu

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

Wanted: EX-UCT Capetonian living in Brussels seeks accomodation 23/12-6/1/11 for 3 adults. Willing to housesit, rent or houseswap. Local references. Contact: barbara.jawitz@ec.europa.eu

Observatory: Very clean & secure house in Observatory, 2bedrooms, study, lounge, kitchen, parking for one car, this is available for mature, none-smokers, no drinking and preferable christian post graduate students or senior college staff. Available immediately. Phone 076-0463782 or 021-8624771

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Abigail on Abigail.Parenzee@uct.ac.za

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Club gets its second wind at Lipton

BRIDGET CLAYTON

The UCT Yacht Club earned its best finish yet in the 102-year-old Lipton Challenge Cup, kind winds and smart helming earning the team an ovation-worthy fourth spot at this year's event, hosted by the Royal Cape Yacht Club at the end of August.

The competition allows UCT students to match boats and wits against the country's best sailors. UCT crews have put in some polished performances over recent years, including, in 2007, UCT's up-to-then best result – sixth.

After a good race at the previous weekend's L26 Western Province Championships, there were high hopes that the 2010 team – skipper Oliver Hobson, helmsman Ross Dyer, crew Stewart Cardis, Bridget Clayton, Connor Leech, Neil Malan and team manager Geoff Kilpin – would vie for a place among the top five at Lipton this year. And right from day one the

UCT boat, named *UCT Maverick*, was among the leaders, finishing fourth in the opening race. The crew would hold on to fourth place with reasonably consistent racing afterwards, finishing ninth, sixth, third, 12th and third again in races two to six.

With just a handful of points separating the top five boats, there was plenty to race for on the final day.

"Sailboat racing is all about consistency and making fewer mistakes than the next competitor, by achieving a great start and choosing the correct wind shifts throughout the race," says Clayton.

Which is exactly what UCT had to do in that final race. Lying in ninth position at the top mark – which would drop them to eighth overall – a bold tactical call from Malan sent the team to the right-hand side of the course on the prowl for a stronger breeze and a wind shift. Great helming by Dyer and precise foredeck

work and trimming by the rest of the team shot them into third place in the race. That was enough to secure fourth position overall, and a feather in the cap for UCT sailing.

But *Maverick* wasn't the only boat crewed by UCT students. William Crockett was on board the third-placed *Orion Challenger* of the Royal Natal Yacht Club. In turn, Danielle Jarvis was part of the all-women's team that sailed under the colours of the Imperial Yacht Club on the boat *Bandito*, finishing 11th. And the more fun-orientated *Team Well Hung*, representing the Hermanus Yacht Club and featuring another all-UCT crew – in skipper Gabriel Fernandes and Julius Biermann, Nicholas Bush, Colin Greyvensteyn, Elizabeth Whipple and manager Rudi Aucamp – cruised into 24th spot out of the 25 boats. **MP**

Breezy stuff: The UCT *Maverick* makes its way to the front of the pack at the 2010 Lipton Challenge Cup.



UCT surprises in boat race

UCT men and women impressed with second-place finishes at the 30th Mutual & Federal SA Universities Boat Race, held in Port Alfred from 9 to 11 September.

The University of Johannesburg took the women's title, while men's favourites the University of Pretoria (Tukkies) crossed the line first once again. Nine universities took part in this year's event – Fort Hare, Johannesburg, KwaZulu-Natal, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan, Rhodes, Stellenbosch, UCT, Tukkies and Wits.

"Definitely no records were set this time round," said Sean Kerr, a trustee of university rowing; as weather conditions in the Eastern Cape made for a very difficult race, with rain on Friday and strong headwinds blowing up the Kowie River over the finals on Saturday.

Kerr noted that this year's winners were among the favourites, so there were no surprises in this regard. "However, a notable achieve-



Podium finishers: The UCT men enjoy their runners-up finish at the SA Universities Boat Race.

ment was that the UCT got into the Men's final race."

The UCT women also had reason to celebrate their performance. "I think it is important to note that two years ago we were struggling to put a ladies' eight on the water, and

this year we have three crews for the women, as well as three crews for the men," said the club's Jane Passmore. "This is surely due in part to the strong coaching that the teams are now receiving, and the revived spirit in the club." **MP**

University divers brave the cold Cape seas

RAYMOND SIEBRITS

Spring saw student divers from South African universities descend upon Cape Town for some of the best diving conditions of the season. Named 'varsityDIVER', part of the UCT Underwater Club's DIVER outreach brand, the event aimed to bring university dive clubs together and show off the best that the Cape waters have to offer. With over 100 dives completed from 2 to 4 September in False Bay, wrecks and reefs were explored and friendships were forged. The club also promoted its principal beneficiary, the Save our Seas Shark Centre, which is located in Kalk Bay (www.saveourseas.com/sossc-za). The UCT Underwater Club aims to make this and other DIVER events annual features on their calendar. Wits Underwater Club diver Chris Cubitt, after praising the cold water and the equally chilly beer, said that "memories will remain in my mind



Soaking it up: Rhodes' Hayley Reed and UCT Underwater Club chairman Dean Harrison share a moment on the dive boat with club mascot Jerry the Giraffe.

for a long time to come, and I hope that we shall all keep the ties we have made while down in Cape Town." Event organiser Raymond Siebrits enjoyed the guests' enthusiasm, saying that "it was great to finally get an intervarsity of sorts going for a sport that has no real competitive vein". **MP**

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