

Medical students speak to media on UCT admissions policy

Students spoke out to the media about UCT’s controversial admissions policy at a press conference hosted at the Faculty of Health Sciences on 1 October.

Welcoming the media, faculty dean Professor Marian Jacobs acknowledged that using race as a proxy for disadvantage in their admissions process had been under the media spotlight recently.

For this reason, she explained, the media had been invited to discuss the issue with senior medical students, who shared their experiences and opinions.

“UCT was the only university I applied to because it was only university with an admissions policy that gave me a chance to be accepted,” said final-year student Marwala Pule, who added that he was the only learner from his 50-strong matric class to make it to university. “Now I’m definitely graduating as a doctor because of the support for students with my background.”

Fifth-year student Thadathilankal Jess John said that although UCT plays a huge role in addressing the differences between students, race shouldn’t be used exclusively as a proxy for disadvantage.

“Although we use race as a proxy now, we already notice other social factors which should be included, such as family background and income,” said John.

“There was already a quota system in place for race and gender when I applied,” said student leader Allison



Student proxies: Attending the media conference were (from left) Vuyane Mhlomi, Shannon Calloway, Prof Marian Jacobs, Lwando Mpotulo, Itumeleng Ntamatama, Thadathilankal John and Allison Powell.

Powell, “but it has always been a clear and transparent system. It doesn’t worry me in any way because I actively understand the reasoning behind it.”

Powell also noted that the system allows the university to produce qualified medical practitioners from diverse backgrounds. “I’ve had to learn Xhosa, but I’m not very good at it, so I might not be the best doctor for a patient who speaks only Xhosa.”

Lwando Mpotulo agrees with Powell’s last point. “In my community, nurses and teachers were the highest-qualified people. Now UCT is producing doctors who are familiar with this background.”

Mpotulo failed his first semester in first year. “I went through all sorts of support programmes,” he says. “After failing I entered the intervention programme, but even before that people

were already trying to help me.

“I never feel inferior to my white counterparts,” says Mpotulo. “I was at a disadvantage, but that can be overcome.”

Now in his fifth year and on the dean’s merit list, Vuyane Mhlomi suspects that the admissions policy was the only reason he was accepted by UCT, because his application to Stellenbosch University was rejected.

“This was my first experience of learning with whites, and the impression I received going into first year was that whites are the top students in the country,” he said. “So when my first results came back and they were better than many white students’, I was quite shocked!”

Mhlomi says that school results are a poor indicator of how a learner will perform at university, but race is still the best indicator of disadvantage. He points out that once accepted, students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds still have to work just as hard, if not harder, than other students to earn their qualifications.

“If not for the admissions policy, students like me would never have made it,” he says, “and I think I deserve to be here.”

“There is no question that black students are disadvantaged; so right now, race is the major measure,” said student Shannon Calloway. “UCT is putting a huge effort into producing graduates who are appropriate for the country, doctors who don’t simply accept the norm.”

Jacobs agrees. “Our goal is to produce graduates capable of working in primary health care in South Africa who care about human rights and about their integrity.”

Jacobs told the media: “The admissions policy is not just aimed at redressing our history, but also our curriculum, in the method and in the places we teach.” **MP**

Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za

Blown away at VC’s concert

Every year the Vice-Chancellor’s Concert showcases the rising talent of UCT’s South African College of Music (SACM), which has programmes in African music, composition, jazz, opera, Western classical music and world music. Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price’s guest appearance at this year’s concert was fitting in its own way: this is the SACM’s centenary year and the programme ensured it was a tribute to South Africa’s music heritage. Price kicked off with saxophonist Basil ‘Manenberg’ Coetzee’s composition *Manenberg*, a South African jazz classic. For the first time, the SACM featured ensembles from their brass department, including a piece on the mighty Von Beckerath organ, followed by a piano solo (Olga Rademan playing Liszt) and a selection of music performed by the college’s opera students, who played to critical acclaim earlier this year. Dizu Plaatjes performed traditional African music, and the concert ended with a blast from the UCT Big Band, directed by Professor Mike Campbell and featuring special guest marimba player Bongani Sotshonondza. **MP**

Darren English performs on the opening night of the Vice-Chancellor’s Concert.



Stellar award for Ellis

The South African Institute of Physics (SAIP) has awarded A-rated researcher and cosmologist Emeritus Professor George Ellis their De Beers Gold Medal – the institute’s highest award – for his work in theoretical cosmology.

The medal was presented to Ellis by the SAIP’s acting president, Professor Simon Connell, at a banquet at the CSIR Convention Centre in Pretoria. The Gold Medal is awarded every second year, and this is the eighteenth such award. Several UCT students were also recipients of prizes, awarded at the same dinner, for their various presentations.

One excerpt from Ellis’ citation

reads: “A powerful interest in matters well beyond his research speciality is almost a defining characteristic of George Ellis. His fierce and outspoken opposition to apartheid went way beyond written criticism; he was frequently present to lend what support he could to the dispossessed when the bulldozers went in to destroy their shacks during the forced removals. His publications on social problems include discussions of homelessness, the nature of poverty, low-income housing policy, revisions of the school syllabus, science research policy and a proposal for a peace education curriculum. George is a consistent advocate of free and

open discussion on all matters within the scientific community and in society generally.”

Besides the gold medal, four student prizes for astrophysics were awarded to current and former National Astrophysics and Space Science Programme students (NASSP is hosted at UCT). They are Marissa Kotze, who shared the prize for the best oral presentation by a PhD student; Wendy Williams, who received the prize for the best oral presentation by an MSc student; Thuso Simon, who shared the prize for the best poster; and Zara Randriamanakoto, who won the encouragement prize. **MP**



Top notch: Emer Prof George Ellis.

To know the future, know the past



Compulsory viewing: VC Dr Max Price (left) views the Steve Biko Memorial exhibition. He was joined by (from left) Assoc Prof Denver Hendricks, Prof Marian Jacobs and Dr Roshan Galvaan.

The Steve Biko Memorial exhibition, currently on show at UCT’s Faculty of Health Sciences, will probably elicit disturbing memories for many South Africans born before 1994. For younger viewers, the exhibition reflects just how much apartheid affected the provision of health care in South Africa.

On loan from the Wits University-based Adler Museum and presented by the faculty’s Transformation Portfolio in commemoration of Black Consciousness Movement leader Steve Biko’s death, the poster exhibition uses photographs, news articles and historical information to explore the interplay between apartheid, health and health care, and draws out some implications for the present and the future. Many of the ethical issues that confronted health professionals under apartheid still challenge them in different guises in the 21st century.

Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price noted that the exhibition was created while he was a dean of the Health Sciences Faculty at Wits and out of a realisation that the reality of apartheid remains foreign to many black and white students born after the release of Nelson Mandela. The show helps them to understand the current status of health care – and what needs to be done to change the situation.

Price suggested the show becomes compulsory viewing for health sciences students.

“Some academics recognised that apartheid was wrong but were unable to practice what they believed in,” Price noted.

Professor Marian Jacobs, dean of the health sciences faculty, reminded staff and students that the struggle is not over, and challenged them to share ideas on what more needs to be done in the future. **MP**

Fitztitute a fully-funded Centre of Excellence

Following a mid-term external review in 2009 of the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence (CoE) at UCT’s Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, news was announced of a second five-year funding cycle for the institute.

This means additional financial support of R12.5m over five years (R2.5m per year from 2010 to 2014). The good news comes at an opportune time: the institute’s 50th anniversary year.

“We greatly appreciate this significant enhancement of support from the National Research Foundation and

the Department of Science and Technology, and trust that it will allow us to achieve even higher performance levels,” said the institute’s director, Professor Phil Hockey.

Though positive in their report, the panel felt that too many resources had been devoted to areas that are not core to biodiversity and conservation research, and called for an expansion of research into population and community ecology and the conservation biology of terrestrial systems. Since then the CoE has made strategic advancements to increase its terrestrial ornithology and conservation work. **MP**

Commemoration after closet-torching

Flowers were laid at the remains of the Closet last week, following the fire that damaged the structure. The Closet was installed in front of the Jameson Hall by RainbowUCT, a student organisation promoting sexual diversity and human rights, on 4 October 2010, to launch Pink Week.

The gesture commemorated those who have died in the struggle for sexual diversity.

The university has launched an investigation into the incident.

UCT students and staff members had been encouraged to write graffiti on the sides of the pink box, called the Closet, to express their attitudes about sexual diversity.

Following the fire, vice-chancellor Dr Max Price said: “One would have hoped that the rights of LGBTIQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer) people are accepted and one need only celebrate that right, rather than still fight for it. However, it seems there are still people who do not acknowledge some rights embedded in our Constitution, and that we definitely still have a lot of work to do in this regard.”

He added: “It is regrettable that this has happened. The ‘closet’ structure is meant to allow people to



Here and now: On Monday 4 October DVC Prof Crain Soudien cut the ribbon launching the Closet project. Hours later the structure was set alight and badly damaged (inset).

express their opinions by writing on it. The idea is precisely to encourage debate. It is regrettable that those who are responsible for burning it did not have the courage to express their opinions in an open and less destructive way. I know the UCT staff and students celebrating Pink Week will not let this incident spoil their important efforts.”

After cutting the ribbon to launch the Closet, deputy vice-chancellor

Professor Crain Soudien added his own message: “All of us. Without exception!”

RainbowUCT chair Dylan van Vuuren had said UCT was considered a safe haven for LGBTIQ people. The Closet, he said, had been intended to celebrate the country’s achievements in advancing civil rights for homosexuals and to highlight the human rights violations that still plague society. **MP**

Camaraderie and debate at law reunion

Several decades of law at UCT were celebrated as the graduates of 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1985 visited UCT in early October for a reunion weekend.

“The most popular part of the annual law reunion weekend is undoubtedly the academy that is held on the Friday afternoon,” said dean of law, Professor PJ Schwikkard. “You could have heard a pin drop as Emeritus Professor Solly Leeman took the graduates through the paces of criminal justice again, peppering his talk with references to ‘... and you will remember, not so ...’.

“Dale Hutchison and Dennis Davis’ reflection on the sanctity of delict and contract in the constitutional era sparked great debate that continued over a glass of wine, and spilled over to the dinner the following night,” she added. “There was no doubt in our alumni’s minds that the standards in their law school are as good, and better, than when they were here.”

The special guests were those



Old friends: The law graduates of 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1985 enjoyed a reunion weekend at UCT in early October.

from the final year of 1960 who were celebrating their 50th reunion. Two of their group spoke to great applause. Richard Wood’s presentation on his experience as an attorney in Harare, titled *Ice in the Desert: The rule of law in Zimbabwe*, was cause for some reflection.

Jeffrey Jowell’s after-dinner

speech was, in contrast, cause for great hilarity; he remembered making contact with his Students’ Representative Council counterparts in Berlin, under cover of a masked ball, and setting a pocket alarm clock only to find that the inimitable Ben Beinart took it as a signal to exit the room after only 20 minutes of lecturing. **MP**

Association of Black Alumni has UCT's support

The reunion of UCT's black alumni from the past 50 years – who gathered under the umbrella of the UCT Association of Black Alumni (UCTABA), over the Heritage Day weekend – has elicited several letters from alumni, and received attention in both the *Cape Times* and the *Cape Argus* and on CapeTalk radio.

Several alumni have questioned whether there is a place in contemporary South Africa for such a racially selective gathering; and more critically, have asked whether it is appropriate for the vice-chancellor, Dr Max Price, to sanction the establishment of a racially-based organisation that is affiliated to UCT.

Answering these concerns, Price agreed that the UCTABA, an independently-organised group of black UCT alumni, is not uncontroversial. "The existence of the UCTABA will no doubt stimulate a debate, but I believe these are debates we have to have; debates about race and reconciliation."

It was of some concern, he added, that discussions around race issues remained so sensitive and difficult.

"These discussions are often complex, and a purely academic argument is almost impossible. Because our history has such an emotional impact on people's lives, we are not yet at a place where these painful feelings can be divorced from these discussions. There are no easy, off-the-shelf answers, but these complexities make it even more important to continue the debate."

Price said that the association has the support of UCT's Development and Alumni Department, and pursues a particular goal that the university supports strongly.

"UCTABA is not exclusively for black alumni, but for anyone who shares their particular agenda. Their agenda is part of the reconciliation process within UCT," he said.

"UCTABA's existence must be seen in the context of the history of UCT as a white liberal university. As such, UCT fought the apartheid government to be allowed to admit black students to study here. The liberal universities professed non-racism and anti-racism. Yet black students experienced the UCT environment as racist. In the realm of social activi-



Remember when: UCT alumni and friends gathered at the opening cocktail reception at the US General Consulate, part of the recent Heritage Day weekend arranged by the UCT Association of Black Alumni.

ties, from admission to residences to participation in sports and dances, from access to certain facilities to the attitudes of students and staff, there was explicit discrimination."

Price said that this extended even to the academic sphere. For example, in medicine (as testified to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by past students) black students could not be taught using white patients or observe autopsies on white cadavers, while no such restrictions existed for white students with respect to black patients. Many black students were so offended by this pervasive discriminatory treatment that they refused to attend their graduation ceremonies.

"Many of these alumni say they appreciate the opportunity they had to study at UCT, because of the opportunities it opened up for them which they could not otherwise have had, but that they were glad to be out of UCT as soon as they had finished. They recall their experience with some bitterness. They wanted to have nothing more to do with the university."

He said that for some 12 or 13 years after 1994, and in spite of the fact that UCT had been led by two black vice-chancellors, UCT's black alumni were absent from most reunions and alumni events, and from participating in the life of the university as members on convocation.

Two years ago a group of black alumni who graduated in the 1970s and 1980s got together to talk about their experiences as students and about how to deal with the hurt they still felt. These alumni debated whether they needed to continue

isolating themselves from UCT, and what reconciliation would require.

They had identified a need for a forum where they could talk about their experiences, and share them with other, younger black alumni, some of whom (even in the post-1994 era) experienced UCT as an alienating environment.

"These alumni concluded that the time had come for them to become part of UCT, to identify with and own their university and to contribute to the transformation of UCT, especially through recruiting, mentoring and funding black students from disadvantaged backgrounds."

"They founded UCTABA and have been successful in bringing many disaffected black alumni back to UCT. These alumni have become active in engaging with the university and its projects. Very importantly, they have made a commitment to promote philanthropy among the new black middle class of which they are a part. Their commitment is admirable, and they serve a much-needed reconciliatory agenda."

Price added: "I have no doubt that there will come a time when black alumni feel sufficiently a part of UCT's past, present and future, and are represented in sufficient numbers in convocation for their voice to be heard. Then UCTABA will have no further reason to exist and will dissolve."

"We work hard to create a bond with all UCT alumni and we feel privileged that our alumni are growing in diversity, not only in terms of race but also in terms of socio-economic background, geographical origin and current base and nationality." **MP**

Social responsibility does not detract from excellence – Boelen

From the start of his Van den Ende Memorial Lecture on 4 October, Dr Charles Boelen made it clear that he would not answer the question posed in the title of his talk – *Social Responsibility: A new paradigm of excellence?*

Rather, he suggested that it is time to rethink the wisdom passed on by the likes of Hippocrates and, more importantly, the foundation for modern-day medical education laid by American educator Abraham Flexner in his 1910 showpiece, the Flexner Report. As influential as these two fathers of medical education were, perhaps it is time to question the standards they set, suggested Boelen, an international consultant in health systems and personnel, based in France.

"I think we have to revisit what they have said and written, consider the way we play our role in society, our expectations, and the challenges that we have to face as health people," he said.

Medical schools have to reflect on their social accountability, which the World Health Organisation defines as "the obligation to direct their educa-

tion, research and service activities towards addressing priority health concerns of the community, region and/or nation they have a mandate to serve".

And incorporating such social accountability into its curriculum in no way detracts from the quality of a school's education, said Boelen. On the contrary, tools such as the conceptualisation-production-usability model – or CPU model – ensure the quality of that education.

Bringing up a sketch, *The Stone Bench in the Garden of Saint-Paul Hospital* by Vincent van Gogh, Boelen encouraged health professionals to – like Van Gogh when he first found the bench at the psychiatric hospital where he had been confined – "to sit, interact with others and discuss".

The Faculty of Health Sciences hosts the annual lecture in dedication to UCT alumnus and (later) professor of bacteriology, Marinus van den Ende (1912-1957), considered one of the country's most outstanding medical scientists. As has become her custom, Van den Ende's widow, Joan, now 95, attended the lecture. **MP**

Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za



Rethink wisdom: Dr Charles Boelen posed some questions around social responsibility to those attending the annual Van den Ende Memorial Lecture.

Twin roles for geographer

Professor Mike Meadows of the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science will continue his association with the International Geographical Union (IGU) following his election, at a meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel, as both secretary-general and treasurer on the organisation's executive committee. While he affectionately describes the jobs as something akin to a "dogsbody", Meadows is also an ardent believer in the work of the IGU.

The organisation, founded in 1922, boasts over 90 national committees, and aims to promote the

study of geographical problems and create research networks across the globe.

Through its collaborations the IGU is influential in setting the international research agenda in geography, says Meadows, and the networks, conferences and meetings allow him to keep his ear to the ground to what's happening in the discipline globally.

"The payoff for me is a selfish one," he says, "because I get to meet and work with people from many different parts of the world." **MP**

Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za



Around the world: Prof Mike Meadows keeps up with colleagues through the International Geographical Union, for which he will serve as secretary-general and treasurer for the next few four years.

Social Anxiety and Your Brain!



Brain imaging study conducted by the Department of Psychiatry

About? This study aims to investigate which areas in the brain are involved in Social Anxiety.

Who? Men and women, between the ages of 18 and 30 years who are right handed and experience a great deal of anxiety in social situations (like speaking in public, or when dating).

What? This study involves talking with a clinician and undergoing a brain scan.

If you are interested, please contact
Coenie Hattingh: coenie.hattingh@uct.ac.za

Long servers tote up centuries

Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price praised staff members who have loyally dedicated long periods of their careers to UCT. At the Long Service Awards ceremony on 5 October, Price said it was unusual and special for people to stay with one employer for a long time in a world where staff often jumped from one career to another. The staffers' long service says something about the university and about themselves, he added. "You have shown commitment by serving your colleagues and a countless number of students. I thank you for that." The 78 awardees were honoured for 45, 35, 25 and 15 years of service, and together have clocked up 1 760 years of service. Among the memorable long-servers are traffic supervisor Harry Fisher (45 years) and receptionist Ella Waqu (25 years), who began her career at UCT as a tea lady. Their stories are below.

Tea-time turns to long-time career

When Ella Waqu started her career as a tea lady at UCT 25 years ago, the first question her supervisor threw at her was: "Are you coloured or black?"

Afraid that she would lose the position, Waqu pretended to be coloured. That turned out to be her ticket to a warm welcome.

"UCT was not for blacks back then," she recalls. "Racism was rife, and there were very few black faces around."

The situation was such that for three years she had to speak either Afrikaans or English with her Xhosa-speaking colleagues in the catering services – as she saw it, to save her job. Things improved when workers were unionised in the late 1980s, and Waqu joined the Department of Electrical Engineering as a tea lady.

"From academics to support staff and students, people in this department were the first to show humanity to me. I always say it is a not by luck but a blessing that I work here."

The head of her department helped her stave off retrenchment when hundreds of employees from various services were outsourced in the late 1990s.

"My name was on the list. Then, I had just lost my father, and my mother was very sick. As I was a second-born, all my siblings were depending on me. No one knew about my troubles at home, but they still fought



Back then: Ella Waqu began her 25-year career at UCT as a tea lady.

for me. I don't know how I can thank them properly."

While work conditions have improved, benefits – such as medical aid, housing subsidies and loans for staff – are now tougher than before, she says. Last year, Waqu was offered a position of departmental assistant.

Her wish for the future? To spend the rest of her working career at UCT. **MP**

Traffic officer clocks 45 years

Traffic supervisor Harry Fisher always tells his son "Be a man like your father, come to work at UCT".

For Fisher, working at UCT has always been an honour, which explains why the university was his first employer (he started at the age of 15), and probably his last (he's just a few years from retirement). At this year's Long Service Awards ceremony he was the only recipient of a 45-year service award.

"I so loved my job that I used to come to work even when I was sick, and on weekends, just to check how things were going," he says.

Fisher began his UCT career in the garden services, way back in 1965. When the gardening services were outsourced, he was offered a position in the Traffic Department.

Having worked under six vice-chancellors – Dr JP Duminy, Sir Richard Luyt, Dr Stuart Saunders, Dr Mamphela Ramphele, Professor Njabulo Ndebele and Dr Max Price – Fisher has seen many changes, and has stories to tell.

In the old days, he says, people were caring and interested in the wellbeing of colleague's families.

"Now it is just 'hello and goodbye'."

Fisher says UCT has grown tremendously. The burgeoning campus and community have affected the traffic functions, with the



Ticket to ride: Traffic supervisor Harry Fisher was the only recipient of a 45-year long service award at the annual dinner this year.

lack of parking on campus a case in point.

"I often joke that students can't read. They will see a no-parking sign but still park, even in front of a door."

Among many memorable incidents, Fisher recalls when traffic officers ticketed an illegally parked vehicle for a month. "In each instance, a different traffic officer would issue a ticket for the same car until we realised that it had been stolen. Its number plate was different from its licence disc." **MP**



In concert: John Woodland conducting the UCT choir, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, at St Paul's in Rondebosch.

UCT choir turns 25

The UCT Choir celebrates its 25th anniversary in style this year, hosting a special concert and releasing a new CD.

The concert will take place on 20 October at the Jameson Hall, and the choir will perform a rich variety of a *cappella* works from early classical to contemporary genres, both sacred and secular. The CD is set to be released next month.

Under the guidance of final-year BSc student John Woodland, a presenter on Fine Music Radio 101.3 since 2006, the 40-member choir is a diverse musical group, and welcomes local and international students from all faculties, as well as alumni and the general public.

The choir has toured extensively around the country and has participated in countless events, including, this year, the *Last Night of the Proms* charity concerts in the Cape Town City Hall, a winter concert at St Paul's Church in Rondebosch, and a traditional choral service at St George's Cathedral. **MP**

Facing the social responsiveness challenge

Following the recent publication of UCT's *Social Responsiveness Report 2009*, a selection of its authors presented talks on their work at a symposium on 30 September.

Introducing the speakers, deputy vice-chancellor Professor Crain Soudien, who currently holds the portfolio for transformation and social responsiveness, said that in defining social responsibility, UCT had set broad parameters rather than take a narrow approach, that might exclude certain aspects of the issue.

Dr Janice McMillan of UCT's Centre for Higher Education and Development delivered a presentation *In Search of Service Learning's Role in Social Responsiveness at UCT*, a paper written with Dr Seth Pollack of the California State University in the US. McMillan stressed the importance of transforming teaching and learning practices in higher education so that they reflect the realities of their location.

Judy Favish, director of UCT's Institutional Planning Department (IPD), spoke on the state of social responsiveness at the university and the challenges to be faced, such as



Hot press: (From left) DVC Prof Crain Soudien, Dr Janice McMillan, Judy Favish and Sonwabo Ngcelwana.

sustainable funding, encouraging student support and establishing international links.

Produced by the Social Responsiveness Unit in the IPD, the report includes a foreword by vice-chancellor Dr Max Price, who describes it as providing "reflections on impressive examples of socially responsive prac-

tise and initiatives across a wide range of faculties, departments and units".

"It proves that at UCT we can be proud of our record of engagement with society at large and our support to the many and varied communities with which our staff and students engage." **MP**

Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za

New institute straddles humanities and law

It's all systems go for the new Institute for Humanities in Africa (HUMA) as it wraps up preparations for its official launch next week, just months after it was formally founded.

Nestled philosophically and organisationally between the faculties of Humanities and Law, the institute, helmed by founding director and professor of sociology Deborah Posel, has set up office atop the Centre for African Studies, and has also made its first appointments.

In addition it has compiled a jam-packed two-week launch programme of debates, discussions, lectures, presentations and a poetry reading that kicks off with a teasingly-titled discussion, *Human, Humane, Humanist* – also one of the institute's research thrusts – on Monday 11 October. It closes with a presentation titled *Crime in the Townships: Experiences and perceptions*, on Friday 22 October.

A stellar cast of participants – scholars, social commentators, talk show hosts, activists, writers and journalists among them – has been lined up for the two weeks.

The launch will also serve as the coming-out of two of HUMA's three new academic appointments – Associate Professor Shamil Jeppie, who joins the institute from the Department of Historical Studies; and multi-award-winning author and former Rhodes Scholar Jonny Steinberg. (Associate Professor Natasha Distiller, of the Department of English Language and Literature, has been appointed as chief research



Something new: HUMA staff include (from left) Jennifer Poole, Prof Deborah Posel, Heather Maytham and Jonny Steinberg.

officer, but is on maternity leave and so won't take part in the launch.)

HUMA is a long-overdue initiative to foster interdisciplinary scholarship at UCT, says Jeppie. Of particular interest to him are the scholarly forays into yet-unexplored areas. "There is also a vision to work beyond the boundaries of the academy, in Cape Town constituencies not usually reached from the hill," he says.

Other than Posel, Steinberg is the only one of HUMA's academic staff not appointed from UCT ranks. While he's "nibbled at the edges" of academia – visiting positions at the University of New York and Oxford and a few fellowships – the institute will be his first immersion into full-time academia, and he's raring to go. "There are a couple of courses I want

to put together and teach and that I'm really excited about," he says.

In turn, Posel is keen to see the institution up and running. She's already lined up – fingers crossed for the funding to come through – a doctoral programme for early in 2011.

And if her group seems modest in size, that's in keeping with the institute's 'interdisciplinary' ambitions, Posel notes.

"In some ways, we're small by design," she says. "The idea is that HUMA should have a porous boundary in relation to the faculties of humanities and law, and hopefully encourage active participation from our colleagues."

And if its launch programme is anything to go by, research at HUMA is likely to be distinctively varied. **MP**
Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za



Rocky records: Prof Mike Meadows and doctoral researcher Lynne Quick explore the past as they dig into a dassie midden.

Dassies leave heaps of environmental data

Unlike ditzzy dogs who will do their business all over the yard, a rock hyrax – aka dassie or *Procavia capensis* – will, for his number ones and twos, go to the exact same spot as the rest of his colony, year in and year out.

For paleoenvironmentalists keen to paint a picture of long-term climate and vegetation change, that toilet etiquette has made the diminutive dassie a near-unrivalled collaborator. Because over time – tens of thousands of years – these sticky (and eventually boulder-sized) dunghills or middens, made up of urine and faecal pellets, trap stable isotopes (atoms) and pollen that are neatly and chronologically stratified, one layer stacked atop another. You haul a generous chunk of hardened midden to your lab, carefully carve out a wafer-thin slice, radiocarbon date it, cross-check your pollen, and voila! You have one of the most accurate and high-resolution (as sensitive as year by year) records of changing climate and vegetation patterns.

This is exactly what Professor Mike Meadows and his students in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences have been doing for many years. While they were limited to dassie colonies in the Western Cape, Northern Cape and Namibia, they can now cast their nets wider thanks to the €1.4 million (around the R13 million mark) in funding secured from the European Research Commission by one of Meadows' former postdoctoral research fellows, Dr Brian Chase.

Attached to the University of Bergen in Norway but based in France, Chase

will serve as principal investigator and Meadows as co-investigator on a five-year study, *HYRAX: Rock Hyrax Middens and Climate Change in Southern Africa during the Last 50 000 Years*.

With Cape Town as base camp, the scientists will strike out for dassie colonies in three different directions – the first bearing north along the west coast deep into Namibia; a shorter stretch along the south coast into the Eastern Cape; and then they'll make a beeline inland, cutting across the Northern Cape, the North West Province and Botswana before ending in Zimbabwe.

In the largely semi-arid and arid regions of Southern Africa, dassie middens trump just about anything else in a paleoenvironmentalist's arsenal, such as organic-rich sediments that are restricted to wetlands, explains Meadows. These natural archives also more than match the best sources in Europe – the geochemical and fossil record captured in *varves*, annual layers of sediment found in Sweden, Norway and the like, which provide data regarding changing environments for the models that are used to forecast future climates.

"The beauty of the hyrax middens is that they accumulate, sometimes for many tens of thousands of years, more or less continuously," says Meadows. "And to have records at that temporal level of resolution, I think, is a major breakthrough."

With these records in place, scientists can follow a climatological timeline and then better forecast what should happen over the next few hundred years. **MP**
Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za

Double-header for health inaugural

It was a double-header at the Faculty of Health Sciences on 22 September when Professors Peter Meissner and Ed Sturrock delivered their inaugural lectures. The lectures were dedicated to the memory of Emeritus Professor Ralph Kirsch, a mentor and friend to both.

The reason for this unprecedented double feature was that Meissner and Sturrock's career paths have intertwined throughout their careers, culminating in their appointments as professors in the Division of Medical Biochemistry in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

Using *The Lord of the Rings* as an analogy, Meissner gave a basic introduction to the colourful world of porphyrin rings and the genetic mutations that have formed the foundation of his work. He submitted that this is the "one ring that rules them all!" Much of his work has revolved around the R59W mutation that leads to Variegated Porphyria, which is uniquely common in the South African population, with the founder gene having been traced back to 1688 and with the arrival of a Dutch orphan girl who had come to Cape Town to marry a farmer of Dutch origin.

One of his closing messages was to appeal for the continued study of rare diseases, emphasising that even if a disease is not common, it is worthy of study and provides unique insight into complex biological systems. Further, scientists working in such

studies are able to contribute directly to the well-being of affected patients and their families.

Both young academics found themselves under the wing of Emeritus Professor Wieland Gevers and in the laboratory of the late Emeritus Professor Ralph Kirsch, studying the ring that would bind their careers – the porphyrin ring, that forms the basis of so many chemical reactions in the body that are essential to life.

From the Porphyria Laboratory their paths and interests diverged a little as Meissner continued his study of porphyria – a passion which had developed from the tender age of seven, when he acted as mother Doreen's unpaid field research assistant.

Sturrock, on the other hand, had become interested in the angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE), which plays a key role in blood pressure control and which led to his interest in drugs for treating cardiovascular disease and hypertension. Following the completion of his PhD, Sturrock went to the Centre for Biochemical and Biophysical Sciences and Medicine at Harvard Medical School where he began work on ACE, the protein that has occupied the last 17 years of his life.

The importance of drug discoveries such as ACE inhibitors was brought into sharper focus for Sturrock recently, following the news of his sister's stroke at the age of 53. He described hypertension as one of the

greatest public health challenges of the 21st century, affecting 26% of the world's adult population.

Speaking about the challenges of treating hypertension, he pointed out that the faculty's own Professor Lionel Opie, an A-rated researcher, believes that there is no need for new drugs to treat hypertension, and that it is often possible to achieve optimal results with a combination of existing drugs.

Other clinicians and professionals in the pharmaceutical industry believe that newer drugs are needed, as there are patients who still do not reach their BP goal with current drugs. Presently, one of the important challenges in treating hypertension is polypharmacy, or the use of multiple medications by a patient. One of the ways in which this challenge is being addressed is the introduction of the polypill – a single pill that contains four drugs (Aspirin, a statin or cholesterol-lowering drug, and two blood pressure-lowering drugs). This approach could also have a significant effect on the burden of cardiovascular disease in developing countries as all these are inexpensive, generic drugs.

Meissner returned to the Liver Research Centre in 1993 and Sturrock joined him in 1997. Both were appointed Wellcome Trust International Senior Research Fellows: Meissner in 1997, and Sturrock in 2004. Meissner was also appointed a Fellow of the University of Cape Town in 2005. **MP**

Looking for a temporary/contract position within UCT? Or do you need to fill a vacancy?

Look no further! Contact

Ayanda Mbanga Communications

Your contact person is
Pruniel Thornes on tel. 021 413 7551.

For the best placements in the market, forward your CV to us at temps@ct.amcomms.co.za

ayanda
mbanga

Quality First
Recruitment Solutions

Belfast sojourn for authors of disability papers

Postgraduate student Emma McKinney and her husband, UCT alumnus Vic, recently presented papers at the Inclusive and Supportive Education Congress at Queens University, Belfast. The theme of the conference was promoting diversity and inclusive practice.

Emma submitted a paper reflecting on her personal experiences of educating people with disabilities in South Africa. Vic submitted a paper on challenges South African children with intellectual disabilities face when moving from primary to high school.

Vic, who has an MPhil in Disability Studies from UCT, was also interviewed by the *Belfast Telegraph* who wrote a three-page article about his life and studies as a quadriplegic, a result of injuries sustained in a freak road accident that killed his father, Irish national footballer Vic McKinney senior.

Vic is a talented painter, a hobby that stems from his years as a Michaelis Fine Art student before his accident.

He was also a UCT first-team soccer player.

Both Emma and Vic's papers were accepted and it was a matter of getting the funds together to make the trip to Belfast a reality.

"We were very fortunate to get generous sponsorship from the Postgraduate Office at UCT; Reinette Popplestone, the director of the Disability Service at UCT; and deputy vice-chancellor Professor Danie Visser," said Vic. "We also received funds from the Rotary Club of Rosebank (Jhb) and sponsorship of our congress registration fees from the Academic Committee of Queens University."

On arrival at the university the pair was struck not only by the beauty of the campus but also by how accessible everything was.

"It was wonderful to see how accessibility rights for people with disabilities had been embraced," said Vic. "The conference itself was incredible. There were delegates from 35 countries participating and they covered a wide

spectrum of topics. It was often a tough decision to know which talk to go to, to choose between support for disabled students in America or experiences of autism in Italian primary schools, for example.

"We were exposed to a wide range of ideas and perspective and innovations from different countries from all over the globe."

They were also approached by three educational journals and asked to submit articles for publication.

"We made many contacts and friendships from like-minded people internationally."

Vic also visited his father's home town after so many years since his passing, and caught up with family. **MP**

(The Belfast Telegraph article can be viewed at <http://www.belfast-telegraph.co.uk/lifestyle/features/at-19-a-freak-accident-left-victor-in-a-wheelchair-and-his-dad-dead-so-how-did-he-rebuild-his-life-and-find-happiness-14902328.html?r=RSS>)



Authors abroad: Emma and Vic McKinney, who presented papers at the Inclusive and Supportive Education Congress at Queens University, Belfast, Ireland.

Blindness workshop teaches echo navigation

World Access for the Blind president Daniel Kish visited UCT last week to host a workshop for blind children (some as young as 10 years old), blind adults, mobility instructors and social workers.

Kish became something of a celebrity in his field when he appeared on the Discovery Channel explaining his technique for enabling blind people to obtain an optimal amount of information from their environment, so they can move more freely and independently.

He teaches the use of an ultralight cane combined with what he calls "human echolocation", the ability to use sound reflected from the environment to detect objects.

Twenty attendees practised locating obstacles by using various tongue clicks to produce echoes from objects in the environment. Kish, who has trained blind people all over the world, was delighted with the readiness with which his South African pupils attempted and mastered the clicks, which he said took non-South Africans ages to perfect.

The workshop was presented jointly by UCT's Disability Unit and the St Dunstan's Association for War-Blinded Veterans.

Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za

Sound off: Daniel Kish hosted a workshop to teach blind people to navigate using environmental cues.



Braille a key to survival

The Braille Awareness Workshop comprised talks, discussions, performances and an exhibition, but all carried one message: Braille is central to everything blind people do.

At the event, hosted by UCT's Disability Service in conjunction with the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) on 6 October, speaker after speaker demonstrated how Braille empowers people with visual disabilities and how the nearly 200-year-old system is their gateway to education, work and recreation.

Reinette Popplestone, manager of the service, says the workshop was held because levels of Braille literacy are decreasing, a reliable indicator that education at schools for the blind is deteriorating.

Justice Zak Yacoob of the Constitutional Court, and a chairperson of the South African Library for the Blind, recalled how Braille developed over the years, and how it helped him at school, as a lawyer, and on the bench.



Braille gateway: Reinette Popplestone (seated) with (from left) Andre van Deventer, DVC Prof Crain Soudien, Justice Zak Yacoob, and Dr Nomfundo Mali at the Braille Awareness Workshop.

"Braille gave me the power to make living much more worthwhile," he said.

It is the government's responsibility to make sure that the world is accessible to everybody, and for

people who are blind, it is by Braille, added Yacoob.

PanSALB and the Western Cape government pledged to make effective Braille literacy and access to information in Braille a priority. **MP**

New staff learning and development funding policy

All current UCT policies, guidelines and policies relating to funding staff learning and development have been collated into a single, new integrated policy, the Staff Learning and Development Funding Policy.

This policy provides a clear model, criteria, conditions and methods for the funding of staff learning and development. This ensures consistency throughout UCT and compliance with SARS regulations and ensures a clear link between learning and development and job performance.

Presently UCT has a number of different guidelines, policies, practices and procedures for staff learning and development funding. Staff and line managers alike have found this confusing and frustrating. It has also resulted in differing practices in the budgeting for learning and development across UCT. The university must also comply with the SARS Regulations in terms of the Income Tax Act (Practice Note: No. 17 – 12 March 1993).

The Staff Education Assistance Plan and Staff Education Plan Loan Scheme have been collapsed into one scheme, the Staff Education Bursary Scheme.

The Funding Formal Development guidelines and the Funding Expensive Training guidelines have been converted into policy, which also sets out the process by which an application to have a department pay the Staff Tuition Rate paid on behalf of an employee has been approved under the Reimbursements Policy (form FM005).

All these policies have been collated into one integrated policy, the Staff Learning and Development Funding Policy, and are supported by new bursary agreements, new forms and new processes and procedures.

The full policy can be found at (http://hr.uct.ac.za/humdev/dev_opp.php). For more information contact your HR Generalist or Kirsty Holmes at kirsty.holmes@uct.ac.za. **MP**

EVENTS

“The Uses and Misuses of Polytheism and Monotheism in Hinduism” By Prof Wendy Doniger, University of Chicago expert in Hinduism and mythology. Date: 13 October 2010. Time: 1-2 pm. Venue: Leslie Social Sciences bldg 5.67. Contact: Birgit Taylor 021 650 5818 birgit.taylor@uct.ac.za

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

GSB Research Seminar. Topic – MBA study: Choices and challenges. Speaker: Dr. Linda Ronnie. Date: Wednesday, 13 Oct.Time: 13h00-14h00. Venue: Executive Room, GSB, Breakwater Campus, Portswood Rd, Green Point. Contact: tamlyn.mawa@gsb.uct.ac.za

The 2010 Alec Brown Memorial Speaker: Professor Larry Hutchings. Topic: A random walk through the Benguela: How can environmental changes be incorporated into an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management. Date: 21 October 2010. Time: 16h00. Venue: Zoology Department, University of Cape Town

Whose democracy? Whose Reality? Speakers: Professors Mario Blaser and Marisol de la Cadena Date: Tuesday 12 October. Time: 14h00-16h00. Venue: Ben Beinhardt Room, Otto Beit Building – Dept of Social Anthropology

Resisting Culture, embracing life: Anthropology beyond Humanity by Prof Tim Ingold, Chair of Social Anthropology and Head of the School of Social Science, University of Aberdeen. Date: Monday 18 October. Time: 12h30 for 13h00. Venue: Ben Beinhardt Room, Otto Beit Building – Dept of Social Anthropology

Redrawing Anthropology: Materials, Movements, Lines by Prof Tim Ingold, Chair of Social Anthropology and Head of the School of Social Science, University of Aberdeen. Date: Tuesday 19 October. Time: 14h00. Venue: Ben Beinhardt Room, Otto Beit Building – Dept of Social Anthropology

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

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

Lecturer in Asian Religions, Department of Religious Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 18 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)

Finance Administrative Officer, Department of Finance, Closing date: 11 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

Senior Secretary, Primary Health Care Directorate, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 18 October 2010

Site Facilitator, Primary Health Care Directorate, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 22 October 2010

Small Group Facilitators, School of Public Health & Family Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 8 November 2010

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

Warden – Carinus Residence, Student Housing & Residence Life, Department of Student Affairs, Closing date: 15 October 2010

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

PROPERTY/ACCOMMODATION

Rondebosch: House to let R5500. 2beds/lounge/kitchen-dining/bathrm/garden/ garage/ off-street parking. Contact: Kasia 0727404911

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

Zandvlei: Quiet location near cul-de-sac, vlei and Lakeside station, about 2km from Muizenberg beach. Self-contained sep entrance, furnished, secure off-street parking. R3000pm incl water and elect. Will suit postgraduate student or staff . Contact: 0217887643 or larry@webafrica.org.za

Bishops Court: Accommodation offered to visiting academics quiet, safe neighbourhood, close to UCT campus. Upstairs apartment, large room with balcony and stunning views, en suite shower. Private garden with pool. Contact Mike on

0722151139

Ottery: 2 Bedroom flat for sale (R450000) or rent (R4700) in secure complex in Ottery. In excellent condition and reserved parking inside complex. Laminated floors throughout with tiled bathroom and fully-fitted kitchen + blinds + Burglar bars + Security gate. Available Immediately. Contact 082 4478817 for more information.

AFFORDABLE HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION: (Self catering) (Only available 22 Dec to 23 Jan or part thereof) : Mowbray (Upper) Lovely Victorian cottage, mt views, fully furn (including linen & towels) 4 bedrooms (sleeps 5) secure parking. Very accessible for tourist attractions. Minimum 5 nights. Rates excl electricity. Email: raet@absamail.co.za or Tel: 021712 3818 for further details.

HOUSESIT/ RENTAL REQUIRED. Professional couple, moving to Cape Town, taking up academic post from January 2011. Please contact Tanja on 082-819-4413.

Wanted: Postgraduate or mature person to take over self-contained studio apartment with separate entrance from 1 November. Non-smoker preferred Quiet location in Rondebosch with mountain view. Secure parking R3000 including electricity. Please phone Clare on: 021-671-1928 to view

FOR SALE

Sun City Vacation Club - 2 bedroom (6 sleeper) self-catering unit available 14.01.2011 - 21.01.2011. Price: R 10 000.00 Contact: 0722531170 email: debbie.erasmus@uct.ac.za

For sale: Two lounge chairs, one large grey-green (R500), one smaller dark green (R300); imbuia writing bureau/glassed cabinet and imbuia chest of (4) drawers (120 years old), what offers? Telephone Richard at 083 455 6297

Car: Toyota Yaris – 2009, New Spec T1 – 5 Door – White in Mint condition. Aircon, Power Steering alarm with anti-hijack 29000km, R89 900.00 Incl rwc. Please contact: 0786887711 Finance can be arranged

Car: 2003 Toyota Tazz sport central locking with gear lock and alarm with immobilizer, air-conditioning, fully serviced 2010 JVC MP3 radio/ cd player excellent condition price R 55,000 negotiable Contact Katherine.Traut@uct.ac.za

GENERAL

EAGLE TRANSCRIPTION & TRANSLATION SERVICES:TRANSCRIPTION of audio recordings - Eng, Afr, Xhosa. Tapes, cd's and sound files. Special rates for students. NO outsourcing. Tel.: (021) 761 1866, Cell: 084 812 9386. Email: eagle@iburst.co.za

Painter/decorator/odd jobs: Jan Skosana 0835351162. Highly recommended by Sue Fawcus (Obs &Gynae) Judith Head

(Sociology) Sue Ogterop (African Studies Library). Reference: Call Judith 0794930794

Proofreading and editing: of thesis and journal articles. Competitive rates. Call Deborah: 072326362 - proofreader@mweb.co.za

Professional Editing & Proofreading: Improving language, expression and style. Postgraduate Dissertations, Essays, Articles, etc.Very experienced and reliable. Competitive rates. Tel: Regine at (021) 531 3330 or Email: regine@cybersmart.co.za

Egg Donors: Ladies aged 21 – 33 please become egg donors. Beautiful gift of life, safe, no costs and full anonymity. www.baby2mom.co.za or info@baby2mom.co.za or 0844658353

THESIS EDITING: A very experienced freelance science editor will correct your mistakes and improve the readability of your PhD or MSc thesis. Ph. Jeremy David 021-7947544; cell 0845124407

Pilates: Classes Tue eve 5:30-6:30 and Wed mornings 7:30-8:30 at Sports Injuries Clinic, UCT Sports Center, Upper campus, UCT. R75 per class, booking essential, max 6 per class. Contact us on x3560 or info@sic.org.za.

CHAR: Idah is looking for work. She is completely reliable and trustworthy, a good housekeeper and good with children. Call Idah Ndava on 073 323 0799 (or call Sonia on 2668 for a reference).

Moving: Are you moving? I have a bakkie to help move your things at good rates. Contact 076 74 666 55.

Carin Transcribing: Accurate and efficient transcribing tailored to your needs: qualitative research, focus groups, conferences, etc. Work not outsourced, confidentiality guaranteed. References on request. Carin 021 4659904/083 6822245 carintranscribing@webafrica.org.za

Domestic char: looking for cleaning work 1 or more days a week. Contact Lindiwe Mqhele 072 0133 171

Editing of dissertations. A. Harold, BA (Hons), MA (Wits); BA (Hons), MA (TESOL) (Cum Laude), HED (Unisa) 021461-1483 / 0724140064 / alby01@telkomsa.net

Quantum Touch/Reiki Healing: Give and/or Receive a healing via Quantum or Reiki under Supervision - Donation Only - Tuesday 19th October, 6:00-7:30 pm, in Cape Town CBD studio. All welcome. To reserve your place, email towardshealth@gmail.com or 0828432765

On Time Transcribers: Student rates! For all your transcription needs. Thesis, interviews transcription www.ontimetranscribers.yolasite.com / ottranscribers@gmail.com. Call Elaine at 021 553 4409 / 076 606 4266

Editing and Proofreading needs: Highly experienced editor will

take care of all your proofreading requirements. Theses, dissertations, etc, prepared to the highest professional standards. Reasonable rates and quick turnaround times. Contact David Capel on davidcapel@24.com or 0726606211.

Advertising Disclaimer: UCT reserves the right to decide whether an advertisement is publishable. UCT cannot take responsibility for the quality of services advertised in the *Monday Paper*. Advertising is free to staff and students only where they are able to provide a UCT contact address or personal telephone number. Under no circumstances will UCT staff or students be permitted to submit advertisements on behalf of other parties. Costs for advertising are payable in advance.

Editor/proofreader

Available for postgraduate theses, journal articles etc. Experience in academic publishing. CV/references on request. Contact Dave 0828990452 or david.buchanan@telkomsa.net

Call for applications

Applications are open for the CHED award for Collaborative Educational Practice (CEP). Awards of up to R40 000 are available in 2010. This award is open to groups of two or more UCT staff members who have collaborated on a project to enhance the teaching and learning environment at UCT. Examples of groups might be a teaching team, a curriculum development team, or a department. If you would like to apply or nominate your group of colleagues, please refer to the documents available on www.haesdu.uct.ac.za/Haesdu_teachaward.html. The closing date for applications is 29 October, 2010. For more information contact Assoc Prof Jeff Jawitz, ext 3351 or email jeff.jawitz@uct.ac.za.

The Chair of Council, The Most Reverend Njongonkulu Ndungane, will host a Dinner for Retiring Staff on Thursday 11 November 2010 in the Smuts Dining Hall at 19:00 for 19:30. All staff are invited to attend this dinner to support the retirees.

The cost of the three-course dinner, which includes a welcome cocktail and red/white wine, will be R145 per person.

To obtain tickets for this prestigious event, please contact Edwina Kannemeyer at 021 650 5671 or email Edwina.kannemeyer@uct.ac.za, by 1 November 2010. Communication & Marketing Department

Boots and boerewors with the VC

After their first Western Province Grand Challenge triumph since 2004, the men's hockey side deserved a celebratory reception. Which is what they enjoyed with the vice-chancellor, Dr Max Price, at his Glenara residence on Sunday 3 October. The occasion, a leisurely braai, allowed Price to congratulate the team on their performance, and laud them for their dedication to what amounts to an extra-curricular activity. But the club is renowned for its overall organisation and spirit – and a popular internal league – so it wasn't just the boys who got to hang out with the VC; the women's first team also joined in the fun. And while they had a less-than-spectacular season, finishing eighth in the women's Grand Challenge, better times may be ahead now that the once-invincible Stellenbosch outfit has been dethroned, giving other sides a look-in for the first time in years. **MP**

Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za



Sports talk: Dr Max Price (second from left) and Prof Mike Meadows, chair of the UCT Sports Council, share drinks and sporting insights with members of the men's hockey first team.

Soccer star walks his talk

Students from the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at UCT roped in soccer star Musa Otieno of the local Premier Soccer League side Santos to persuade learners to make positive choices in life.

In collaboration with non-profit organisation Facing Up, six fourth-year occupational therapy (OT) students hosted a holiday programme in Lavender Hill on 28 and 29 September, which involved some 150 Grade Seven learners from Levana, Hillwood and Zerilda Park primary schools.

The event was part of the social responsiveness aspect of their programme, and aimed at developing young people's life skills, especially their ability to choose sustainable, healthy values and practices.

Activities included teambuilding and a sports day, where the Kenyan-born Otieno demonstrated his skills and spoke with the learners.

"We hope we can leave a lasting imprint on the minds of these learners about the alternative choices they have, as well as the prospects for a better future made possible by a healthy lifestyle," said student Nikki Smit. **MP**



Right direction: Musa Otieno of Santos, with his coach, Boebie Solomons, helped UCT students persuade learners to make positive choices in life.

Eighteen-year high for club

The UCT Chess Club has won the Western Province League for the first time in 18 years.

The win means that the 60-strong team will be invited to play in the African Club Championships and the South African Club Championships in 2011.

Club chairperson Laura Irving notes that they started the season with a bang, moving into first place on the log from the start. Everyone – including the club – thought they were just keeping the top spot warm for the so-called big guns in the league, but they managed to maintain their performances over the season, defeating nine of the 10 other teams.

It is the first time that the club has won the premier division – the top tier in the league – since 1992.

Irving says the club has steadily been increasing in popularity on campus, with the majority of members coming from the so-called hard degrees such as maths and physics.

"We have created a very nice social vibe at the chess club, and everyone seems to enjoy it thoroughly," she says.



Good move: Laura Irving, chairperson of the UCT Chess Club, winners of the Western Province League for the first time in 18 years.

The team will be participating in the South African University Championships in December, where Irving will defend her title in the individual female event. **MP**

supa quick

TYRE EXPERTS
CLOSER TO YOU

155/80x13	R349	195/50x15	R499
175/70x13	R399	195/65x15	R599
175/65x14	R499	205/55x16	R699
185/60x14	R449	225/40x18	R999

BAKKIE & 4X4

195x14	R650	245/75xR15	R1250
195x14 WSW	R795	205/70x15 ALSO FITS ON QUANTUM	R895

Includes fitting but Exclude balancing and tubeless valves

STOCKIST OF:

ANNOSTONE Firestone
BRIDGESTONE
GOODYEAR
FALKEN

OBSERVATORY

321A MAIN ROAD

Tel: 021 447 0591 Cell: 082 076 4381 • 087 3539 442

Email: supaquickobs@partsave.co.za

BATTERIES

INCLUDES OLD BATTERY

from **R449** FITTED

CV JOINTS

FROM **R295**

PER SIDE FITTED

6 MONTHS GUARANTEE

For most popular vehicles

BRAKES

from **R295** FITTED

WE DO ALL SUSPENSION REPAIRS AT VERY COMPETITIVE PRICES !!

* ALL WORK GAURANTEED!

GREAT MAG WHEELS SPECIALS!

(WIDE VARIETY IN STORE)

4 X 13" RIMS	From R1 799
4 X 17" RIMS	From R2 699
4 X 15" RIMS	From R2 899
4 X 17" RIMS	From R3 499

ABOVE PRICE INCLUDES FITTING BALANCING AND WHEEL ALIGNMENT

BE SAFE THIS WINTER..GET A FREE 20 POINT SAFETY CHECK.

(Valid at R100)

SHOCKS

MONROE & GABRIEL

Now Less **60%**

3-YEAR GUARANTEE FITTED!

FUEL SAVER EXHAUST

BOSAL & TUFFEX

60% 1 YEAR GUARANTEE