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Noakes clears the 10 000 milestone

One of the first things that should catch the eye of any new student who enters the offices of the Medical Research Council/UCT Research Unit for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine (ESSM) is the rows of beautifully framed articles lining the unit's walls.

The student will soon learn that not just any old article makes it onto this wall of fame. Only those that have scored 50 or more citations in peer-reviewed journals are worthy of that privilege.

Yet there are many of them. This would explain why Professor Tim Noakes, UCT's Discovery Health Professor of Exercise and Sports Medicine, has just racked up 10 000 citations, according to the citations-tracking database Web of Knowledge.

Noakes also boasts an h-index – a measure of the productivity and impact of the published work of a scientist or scholar – of 53. This means that, for now, 53 of his articles have each been cited at least 53 times.

That best illustrates the message that Noakes is trying to pass on to students at ESSM.

"It doesn't matter how good an article is; if it doesn't get cited, it's not going to be very influential," he says.

The citation count is a milestone of some note. At UCT, for example,

only a Noakes mentor, Professor Lionel Opie of UCT's Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research, has cleared 10 000 citations – 16 000, actually.

(This according to a cursory *Monday Paper*/UCT Libraries search on Web of Knowledge, so if anyone else has 10 000 citations or more, or a similar or higher h-index, do let us know!)

Noakes takes pride in ESSM's shrine to scholarly plenty, but it's not a mere display of vanity. For one thing, it's his way of throwing down the gauntlet to the next generation of ESSM scholars, and teaching them to take pride in the achievements of others (of course, all the articles were written with colleagues and students).

"These articles represent what we are about. There is a saying in sport that if you don't measure it, you cannot manage it. This is one way we can measure whether or not we are reaching our goals."

And as an aside, the occasion also allows Noakes to settle an old score.

"When we started Sports Science at UCT in 1981, we were told we were 'Mickey Mouse'," he says. "So I said, 'We'll show you guys – we'll out-publish all of you.'"

Consider this mission accomplished.

Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za



The pen is mighty: Prof Tim Noakes with some of the journal articles that have earned him and ESSM 10 000 citations.

DAD's why I give



Giving back: As manager of the Student Financial Aid Office, Tasneem Salasa knows what financial support means to students – which is why she agreed to donate to UCT, and why she now features on the *Why I Give to UCT* campaign.

The Development and Alumni Department (DAD) has added a fresh twist to its annual fundraising drive aimed at alumni, friends and staff.

Titled *Why I Give to UCT*, this year the campaign boasts a selection of posters featuring alumni and staff who have donated money to UCT. (UCT folks will see the staff posters around campus soon, and on Facebook and other DAD sites.) The

posters also allow the featured personalities to explain what made them open their purses to the university.

"It really does change students' lives," says Cindy de Oliveira of the Student Financial Aid Office. "I give because UCT has given me so much already," observes Abdu Mohamed of the Division of Chemical Pathology. And "... if worthy students are prevented from entering UCT for financial reasons alone, I am more

than happy to do my little bit," notes Professor Jean-Paul van Belle of the Department of Information Systems.

"It's the first time we've asked alumni and staff to share why they are willing to support the university," explains Jasmine Erasmus, individual-giving officer at DAD. This, DAD hopes, will encourage others to do likewise, says Erasmus, who points out that no gift is too small. **MP**

Found in translation

In the world of the worldwide web, lecture notes can go far these days. But even Matumo Ramafikeng was surprised that notes she had prepared for a stand-in lecturing stint in UCT's Division of Occupational Therapy went all the way to the Spanish-speaking world.

The editors of the *Journal of Occupational Therapy of Galicia* (TOG) – named, in part, after the historic region in Spain – translated Ramafikeng's lecture notes on the Model of Creative Ability, made available online through UCT's OpenContent directory (<http://opencontent.uct.ac.za/>), into Spanish. Those notes have now appeared as an introduction to the journal's September edition on the model (www.revistatog.com/num12/pdfs/matumo.pdf), an occupational-therapy practice model that originated in South Africa in the 1960s and 1970s.

In 2009 Ramafikeng (then working on her master's degree) was

standing in for lecturer Dr Roshan Galvaan, who in turn was wrapping up her PhD. But when teaching the model – one of six – to the third-year occupational therapy students as part of the conceptual frameworks module, Ramafikeng realised that they were having a hard time getting to grips with the model's more abstract elements.

This is when the division's Associate Professor Lana van Niekerk suggested she put her lesson plans on UCT's OpenContent directory.

"We wanted to see how we could use technology to enhance student learning and interaction, and particularly their understanding of conceptual frameworks."

But rather than merely copying and pasting the lecture notes online, Ramafikeng went the extra mile. Working with Galvaan and Van Niekerk, she souped up the notes ([https://vula.uct.ac.za/access/content/group/9c29ba04-b1ee-49b9-8c85-9-](https://vula.uct.ac.za/access/content/group/9c29ba04-b1ee-49b9-8c85-9-a468b556ce2/Framework/lecture4.html)

[a468b556ce2/Framework/lecture4.html](https://vula.uct.ac.za/access/content/group/9c29ba04-b1ee-49b9-8c85-9-a468b556ce2/Framework/lecture4.html)) by refining 'paper cases' (case studies) and adding videos, sourcing newspaper clips, updating the literature review, and also 'translating' the perplexing textbook material into easier-to-understand English.

The elbow grease paid off.

"The students found it more appealing, and the use of video made it easier for them to connect to the case studies," she reports.

The article is breaking further new ground; according to the journal's editors, it's the first on the Model of Creative Ability to be published in Spanish-speaking countries.

Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za

New ground: Lecture notes prepared by Matumo Ramafikeng and colleagues in UCT's Division of Occupational Therapy have appeared in a journal aimed at Spanish-speaking countries.



Their blood is green

"I was not the most environmentally friendly person; but now, having done work and research on the harm each individual can cause, I feel a lot more aware of my environment and I will definitely make sure I play my part."

This reflection, by a student on the Professional Communication Unit course in the Faculty of Commerce, illustrates a global challenge: how to make students green. The course has won the originators, the PCU's Terri Grant and Claudia Kalil, the Backsberg Group Sustainability Award at the 2010 Green Campus Initiative Awards ceremony held at UCT recently.

Grant, head of the PCU, said: "For the course in 2008 we selected an institutional scenario, UCT's sustainability policy and the work of the Green Campus Initiative (GCI) to provide the content and a context in which to embed the entire communication module. It worked so well, we extended it in 2009 and 2010. Winning the Green Campus Group Award this year sends a powerful signal to the UCT community that environmental sustainability on campus is all of our business."



Green fingers: Terri Grant (right) and Claudia Kalil.

Congratulations came from environmental consultant Sarah Rippon: "Well done on your foresight and vision in bringing sustainability into the core of your curriculum. I, too, am convinced of the educational value of setting this topic."

In her recommendation, she wrote: "The topics for the course have ranged from energy efficiency, water conservation, water recycling, and how to encourage behaviour change among students and staff towards greater environmental responsibility. From the feedback

I've obtained from students, I am convinced that they develop commitment to environmental sustainability as a result of this course. The focus of the student research topics on the context surrounding them is a powerful means of education and change towards a more sustainable campus and society."

Grant said the underlying collaborative teaching and learning approach used was Scenario Pedagogy.

"We have used this for developing business and academic communication in selected short and core PCU courses over the past 10 years. It's a collaborative model of teaching and learning that aims to enhance the learning, interest and motivational aspects for participants of an educational experience, and to broaden the educational goals achieved in the classroom. In this way, it supports the goals of higher education by producing graduates with the skills and competencies of critical and analytical problem-solving, effective communication, working in diverse teams, self-management and organisation, information processing, and use of technology within a real-life context." **MP**

Prof wants to make a difference

The National Early Childhood Development Alliance (NECDA) has its work cut out, as its 90 member organisations serve about 24 000 centres in the country's unregulated early-childhood development (ECD) industry.

That open market brings its own challenges, says Adjunct Associate Professor Eric Atmore of the Department of Social Development, who has been re-elected chairperson of NECDA, which he founded in 2005. For one, the quality of the services provided by ECD centres is not standardised.

This is where the Alliance comes in. The network's 90 non-profit early-childhood development organisations aim to advocate and lobby for every child's right to quality early-childhood development opportunities prior to entering formal schooling. It also provides essential services (like training, programme development, materials and the like) to ECD centres.

NECDA is the largest association of early-childhood development organisations in Africa, and serves as the South African representative on the Global Alliance for the Education of Young Children.

Through its collaborations the Al-



liance is influential in setting the ECD agenda in South Africa, says Atmore. And NECDA has helped its members to sustain their organisations in these tough economic times.

"There are more than enough service providers," says Atmore, "but they all live a hand-to-mouth, typically non-profit existence because none of them receives government funding."

Atmore's served as NECDA's chairperson since its inception, but is not balking at the challenge of another term.

"Being chairperson of the alliance is a huge responsibility," he says, "but it's also a huge opportunity to make a significant difference in the lives of young children." **MP**

Be careful what you share online

JOANN JULIUS AND STEFFNE HUGHES OF ICTS

How often have you seen a friend's Facebook page show their contact details or moan about their work-life or provide links to photographs of family and friends? Have they ever Tweeted that they're currently on holiday in Knysna? As trivial as these posts may seem, they can be dangerous.

Take care – what you share online can quickly become public knowledge shared by millions of people around the globe. It is very easy for anyone to take information from the web or to download someone else's photographs.

Before you know it, information that you thought was only being shared among your close circle of friends is now floating around in cyber space. Rather be more critical about what you post and who you allow onto your personal pages.

These tips will protect both your online persona and your real life person.

Don't post any personal information such as your home or work address, contact details or full date of birth.

Always check the privacy settings on your online profile. Most social networking sites will allow your profile to be viewed by anyone in the world.

Change these settings so that you control who can view your personal information and photographs. The settings are easy to change and, if you are initially too cautious, you can always make changes later on.

Think twice before sharing anything that could damage your personal or professional reputation. Ridiculing your manager online is the same as creating bad press for your organisation. Think of it this way: Would you make the same comment in real life while standing in your department's crowded tea room? If not, think twice about sharing it online.

Another big no-no is sharing details about dates and times that you

won't be home or when you or your children will be out attending special events. Some online social media websites have an "add location" feature to posts that you send. Disable this feature to protect yourself and your family from stalkers, or your home from being robbed while you're away.

Photographs are a great way of sharing your experiences and events in your life, but they tell a lot about you and your current situation. Only post photographs of your trip or holiday once you're already back home. And remember to ask the permission of your family and friends before you post pictures of them. If you haven't protected your profile, as mentioned

above, you never know who may actually see these photographs – or what they could be using them for.

Social networking sites can allow bullies to take 'gossiping' to a whole new level. By posting videos and comments about other people, these cyber-bullies have found the quickest way to spread rumours or to ridicule fellow classmates. Young people need to be taught to respect each other's privacy and to not engage in social media bullying. A recent case at Rutgers University, where a young man committed suicide over a video that was shared without his knowledge, shows just how dangerous uncensored posting can be. **MP**

Climate change communication goes online

The Earth won't be destroyed by global warming because God promised Noah after the flood that he wouldn't.

This is the view of US Republican Congressman John Shimkus, a vocal opponent of Barack Obama's American Clean Energy and Security Act aimed at limiting carbon emissions, who last year hoped to chair the powerful House Energy Committee in the country's House of Representatives.

Views such as the congressman's are understandably alarming for Professor Bruce Hewitson, the National Research Foundation Chair for Climate Change at UCT. Speaking on 17 November at the media launch of two new online services aimed at bridging the communications gap between scientists and the people, Hewitson emphasised that complex data was often lost in translation, and misrepresented in the media.

Hewitson's Climate Systems Analysis Group (CSAG) has been hard at work addressing this knowledge shortage on two fronts. Firstly, the unit is managing the regional leg of the international weatherathome online experiment, a project including Oxford University and the Met Office in the UK and the University of Washington in the US, and funded by Microsoft.

Internet users are invited to go to weatherathome.org and download state-of-the-art global-regional climate model software, which then uses the computer's spare processing time, when the user is not actively working but still has it switched on.

The software is locally focused, so over a period of a few weeks Southern African computers will calculate the

changing weather over the region.

Once the simulation is complete, the results will be uploaded automatically to UCT researchers, who will be able to determine how our weather has been changing and, in particular, whether damaging weather events are becoming more or less frequent.

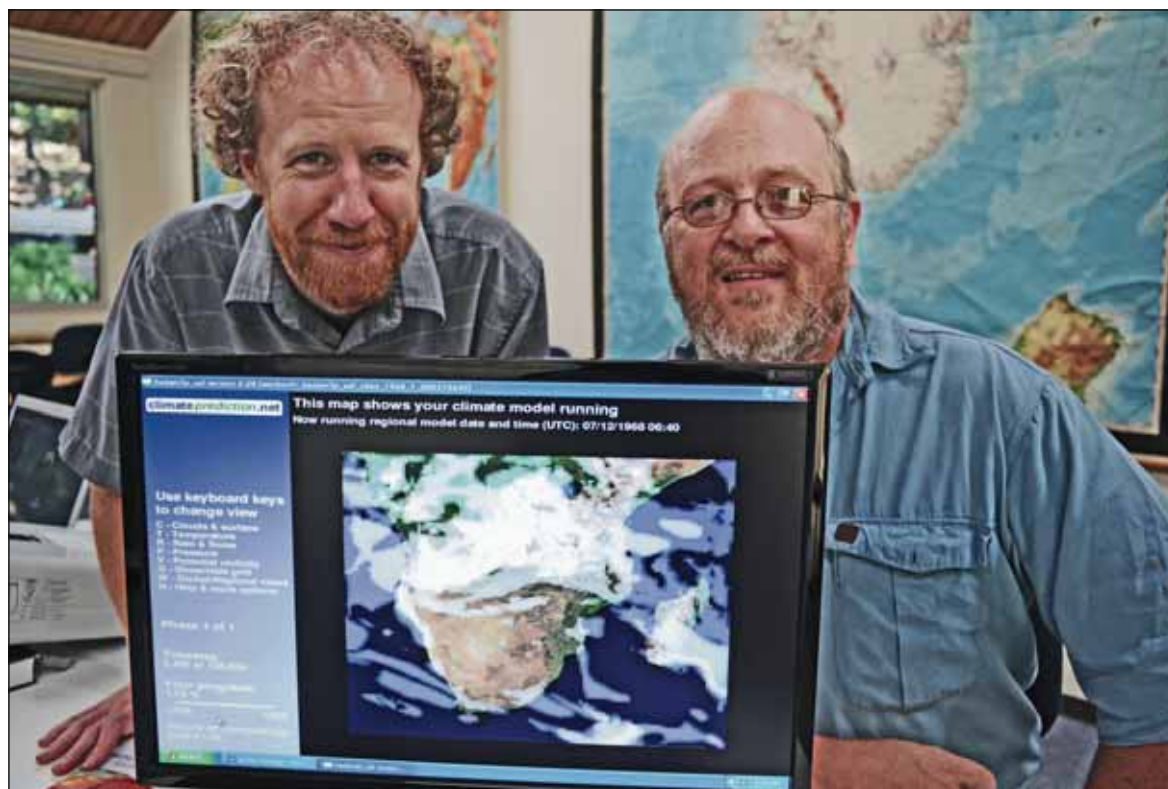
Participants can also use the software to get a ringside view of the project, as it includes graphics on how the simulation is progressing and what the simulated weather is at that particular moment.

CSAG also launched the Weather Risk Attribution Forecast – the world's first real-time service to examine how humanity's past greenhouse gas emissions have contributed to unusual weather patterns.

This question is one of the world's leading topics for debate in climate change, and, for the public, often takes the form of, "Are these crazy weather conditions caused by greenhouse gas emissions?". This is a question this project tackles head-on.

Soon to be available for download, the Weather Risk Attribution Forecast predicts weather for a hypothetical "non-GHG world" in which human activities had never emitted greenhouse gases. These forecasts are then compared with real-world forecasts in order to estimate the contribution of greenhouse gas emissions to weather events.

Dr Chris Lennard, who heads CSAG's seasonal forecasts, explains: "Climate change is usually discussed as being in the past or in the future, but in fact it is also very much a matter of the present. We all live in the present, but climate change is occurring fast



Heavy weather: Project leader Dr Dáithí Stone and director of CSAG, Professor Bruce Hewitson, at the launch of the Weather Risk Attribution Forecast and weatherathome experiment.

enough that our definition of the present matters. For instance, a seasonal forecast of a hotter summer than usual may be less informative than it appears because most summers now are hotter than what was usual just a few of decades ago."

CSAG's Dr Mark Tadross added: "Estimates of the contribution of our emissions to a damaging event could be particularly useful for Africa. As part of the global negotiations in dealing with the climate change issue, a large amount of funding will become available in the next few years to pay

for measures in Africa to adapt to climate change."

Tadross adds that not only would the Weather Risk Attribution Forecast inform stakeholders about what adaptation measures are urgently needed, but it should also assist the funding application process. The service will also be a platform for gaining experience with different types of attribution information and how to convey the information.

Project scientist Dr Dáithí Stone notes: "By actually getting our hands dirty and running this service, we hope

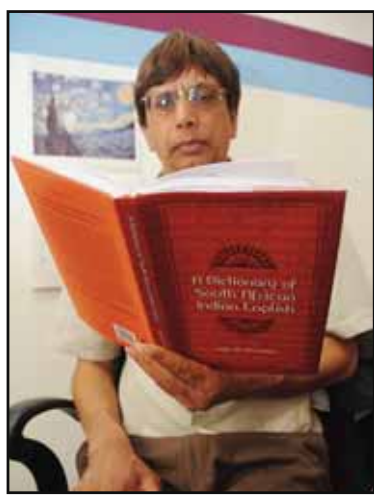
to better understand exactly what questions are being asked, what we can confidently say about them, and how we can present the answers."

Stone adds that the project is still in the experimental pilot stage so there's no guarantee of accuracy, but he encourages users to try it out and send in their feedback.

For more information on the Weather Risk Attribution Forecast service, go to www.csag.uct.ac.za/~daithi/forecast/doc/about.html.

Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za

Local is *lake* in new Indian South African dictionary



Professor Rajend Mesthrie of UCT's Department of English Languages and Literatures recently launched *A Dictionary of South African Indian English*, published by UCT Press this year, which marks the 150th anniversary of the first ship bringing Indian labourers to then-Natal. Monday Paper spoke to Mesthrie about the 1 700-word project.

Word's worth: Prof Rajend Mesthrie is the author of *A Dictionary of South African Indian English*.

What prompted you to write the book?

The conviction that our current dictionaries of English in South Africa, excellent though they are, merely skim the surface of the riches that lie behind dialect, regional and ethnic usage in the country. As English spreads globally it's bound to diversify. Sociolinguists like me see language as played out in living, changing communities, rather than something fixed and stored in dusty Oxford dictionaries and crusty Cambridge grammars. It is up to properly trained linguists to support and give credence to ordinary language used by ordinary people.

Could you give us a few examples?

There are religious terms like 'Diwāli', 'Eid', and 'Kāvady'; culinary terms like 'biryāni' (so spelled), 'bunny chow', 'rōti' (not 'rooti') and 'dhanya'. There are also neologisms (or new coinages) like 'healthy' meaning 'fat', and 'future' meaning 'one's future husband or wife' (possibly an archaism from Victorian times). And of course, lots of slang: 'lake', adapted from the Afrikaans *lekker*, 'pōzi' for 'house' adapted from the Great War usage, meaning 'going back into position'.

Can these words be used in Scrabble?

Some words are official, like Gandhi's coinage in Durban in 1903 of 'Satyagraha', which means 'resistance to injustice by peaceful and ethical means'. This is now in all international dictionaries, but the word started off in Gandhi's newspaper based in Durban. A truly important and historic word. I also included historical words like 'girmit', the term labourers coined for the practice of indenture. But there's no law against dialect Scrabble as far as I know.

Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za

Foundation underpins research endeavour

UCT vice-chancellor Dr Max Price hosted the first alumni gathering of the Claude Leon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellows at Glenara on Friday 29 October.

The fellows – UCT, Stellenbosch University and University of the Western Cape researchers who have been recognised for their academic achievements and their potential to train the next generation of South African researchers – took the opportunity to meet each other as well as representatives (including the chairperson, William Frankel) from the Claude Leon Foundation, the charitable trust that awards the fellowships.

The two-year Claude Leon Postdoctoral Fellowships count among the most prestigious and generous in

the country. The foundation has 67 postdoctoral research fellows on its books at the moment, not counting the 2011 recipients. In 2010 alone, the foundation injected over R11 million into the programme, with a further R15 million earmarked for 2011, reported Frankel at the event.

Now in its thirteenth year, the Postdoctoral Fellowship Award programme builds research capacity at South African universities, specifically in the faculties of science, engineering and the medical sciences, by making awards to both South African and foreign postdoctoral scientists. This encourages them to increase the volume and quality of research output, transfer their technical skills and generally enhance the research



Joining forces: At the event for Claude Leon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellows were (from left) Siyasisanda Kleinbooi, UCT fellow Dr Julien Larena, Nomphele Kayi of Stellenbosch University, fellow Dr Per Sundin of UCT, fellow Dr Julia Meitz of Stellenbosch, Sindi Kayi of Stellenbosch, and fellow Dr Lidia Auret of Stellenbosch.

culture.

The Claude Leon Foundation is responsible for approximately 30% of all postdoctoral research fellowships awarded in South Africa – more than any other one donor.

"Without exception, you are men and women of enormous intellect," said Frankel, grandson of founder Claude Leon (1884-1972), whose bequest underpins the foundation's work. "We as trustees are hugely

impressed by what we hear of the research that is being undertaken."

The value of the fellowships, driving the work of a critical segment of the research community, cannot be underestimated, added Price.

"Most of the universities in the country have not recognised the importance of postdoctoral fellowships as the stepping stone from doctoral studies to academia, and also as the most important and prolific engine of research in universities."

The foundation has supported UCT for almost 30 years, donating more than R30 million. Other projects include merit awards for lecturers, the Claude Leon Foundation Chair in Constitutional Governance, and the first Claude Leon lecture at UCT (in 2010). **MP**

Fare thee well, retirees

At what vice-chancellor Dr Max Price described as both a “sad and a sweet occasion”, UCT said farewell to 56 staff members who retire at the end of 2010.

Together they have contributed a combined total of over 1 500 years, with one lecturer having spent 45 years at UCT.

“I prefer at this time to pay hom-

age to the effort each of you has put into making UCT the leading university on the African continent,” Price said at the annual Retiree’s Dinner on 11 November. “Your individual achievements have helped build up the community at UCT – and it is that sense of community that makes students and staff feel they belong here.”

Price added that one of the building blocks for a community such as UCT is the institutional knowledge and memory each individual contributes.

“Thank you for that priceless gift. I trust that you will leave with a sense that you also received from us, in the form of friendship, experience and the wisdom you have built up

over the years.”

Price reminded the retirees that they remain part of the university, and that they are expected to join Summer School courses, attend vice-chancellor’s lectures, cheer for sports teams, and attend performances at the Baxter Theatre.

On behalf of the retirees, Jean Graham of Information and Com-

munication Technology Services thanked UCT for their opportunities and wished the university continued success.

Graham said although they looked forward to free time to explore other interests, they would miss their colleagues, the friendships, and the experience UCT had afforded them. **MP**

Prof Dave Dewar: Respected scholar

Professor Dave Dewar has been with UCT for 39 years – 37 as a full-time member of staff. Over this time he has become one of the university’s most respected scholars; he was elected a UCT Fellow in 1997, and currently holds the BP Chair in City and Regional Planning. He is author or co-author of nine books and over 200 monographs and articles on city and regional planning. He also consults widely in Southern Africa and has been core consultant to the City of Cape Town in drawing up a spatial development framework for the city. Dewar retires from UCT at the end of 2010. Monday Paper met with him in his office – there’s some clearing out happening – and spoke to him about life on campus, how his discipline and the university have changed (or not), multidisciplinary versus interdisciplinarity, what’ll he miss about not coming into the office (as much), and how he plans to spend ‘retirement’.

Monday Paper: Thirty-seven, 39 years at any company is quite a long time. What is it about UCT that kept you here?

Dewar: Academic life always ap-

pealed to me; the search for understanding. I always thought UCT had – and has – a major role to play in the development of the country, particularly in a discipline like mine. When I started here planning was effectively a handmaiden of apartheid, so in a way we were beginning to challenge that and rewriting the theory. So there was no other place you’d rather be.

MP: How has your discipline – planning – changed over the years?

Dewar: The rhetoric has changed fundamentally. The practice hasn’t changed nearly enough.

MP: How so?

Dewar: I don’t think we’re doing very well in meeting the challenges of South African cities at the present time. We still have a long way to go. What’s required is a radical shift in the way we think about cities. There are capacity problems. But probably the biggest single problem that the professions face at the moment is that they still work in silos.

MP: Is there then not enough –

what’s the buzzword? – multidisciplinary work happening?

Dewar: There is multidisciplinary work but very little interdisciplinary activity. You see, multidisciplinary is when you have a group of professionals working on the same problem, but there isn’t common agreement what the problem is because they’re all defining the problem in their own disciplinary terms. Interdisciplinary is when you’re working on a common problem and there’s consensus about what the problem is and the way forward.

MP: What have been the big changes at UCT over the past decades, other than the demographic changes, of course?

Dewar: I think it’s changed fundamentally, and most of that has mainly to do with a kind of size thing. Almost by definition it leads to a very different kind of management style – there is a much greater degree of managerialism compared to when I started. And I think that does impact negatively on collegiality.

MP: Is retirement actually retirement?



Farewells: Prof Dave Dewar (left) with the vice-chancellor, Dr Max Price.

Dewar: It’s certainly not retirement in the sense that things come to an end. In a way it’s a kind of new beginning. I’ll be building my consultancy practice, and I will continue writing. I have two books I’m finishing now, and there are a couple more in the pipeline. So it will just give me time to write.

MP: What won’t you miss about UCT, and what will you miss?

Dewar: I won’t miss administration, and I won’t miss marking. And

the routine of it. What I will miss are the friendships – we’ve been lucky that over 35 years the core of our programmes has involved exactly the same people, so we’re a very close group and there’s a high degree of collegiality. In a way, we were all starting out together, and had to reinvent the profession. And that’s been a very challenging and exciting and ongoing journey of discovery.

Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za

Alan Rynhoud: Maths doyen of 48 years

It’s understandable that Alan Rynhoud of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics intends spending a couple more years at UCT after he retires at the end of the year. The 65-year-old has spent 48 years at UCT, 44 of those in the same office.

“This is really *my* office.

When I leave I will fold it and take it with me,” he jokes. (Rynhoud is the only one who has ever used Room 416 since the former physics block was rebuilt and absorbed by the mathematics block).

Rynhoud’s stint at UCT began

as a first-year student in 1962; he was appointed as a junior lecturer in 1966 and then a full-time lecturer four years later.

During his tenure, he has witnessed UCT growing from a “village”, with few buildings, staff and students, to a “city”.

“We had smallish lecture groups of around 80 to 90 students. These days you have up to 300 people in a class, which is not ideal,” says the dedicated teacher. The number of staff did not match the increase in students, and the intake is not adequately prepared

for the university environment, something which disappoints Rynhoud.

But the satisfaction of interacting with some of the best students in the country, and seeing them succeed in their careers, has made the long stint at UCT worthwhile.

And there have been funny moments, too. One student, wearing shorts, had written maths formulae on his thighs, which were revealed when he stretched before his exam. Afterwards, it was found that three of the four formulae were wrong! **MP**



Long server: VC Dr Max Price (right) congratulates retiree Alan Rynhoud, whose career at UCT spanned 45 years.

New on the bookshelves from UCT

In The Anatomy of a South African Genocide: The extermination of the Cape San peoples (UCT Press), Assoc Prof Mohamed Adhikari of the Department of Historical Studies casts a spotlight on the forgotten passing of the country’s original inhabitants, the Khomani San and others, under the European colonialism of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The book traces the history of the genocide, as well as its modern aftermath.

Bats of Central and Southern Africa: A biogeographic and taxonomic synthesis (Wits University Press) is a full-colour and detailed look at the 116 bat species known in these regions, by Dr Woody Cotterill of UCT’s Department of

Geological Sciences and Assoc Prof Ara Monadjem of the University of Swaziland, Assoc Prof Peter Taylor of the University of Venda, and Dr Corrie Schoeman of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The book covers the evolution, biogeography, ecology and echolocation of these bats, among other features.



Traumatic Stress in South Africa (Wits University Press), by Dr Debra Kaminer of the Department of Psychology and Prof Gillian Eagle of Wits University, has the not-so-enviable advantage of looking at traumatic stress in a country that, says the book, “has

the unfortunate distinction of being considered a real-life laboratory” in which to study the condition. While looking at both historical and international material, and giving an overview of theory and practice in the field, the book also explores trauma under South Africa’s particular cultural and class challenges.

In Beer, Sociability and Masculinity in South Africa (UCT Press),

Assoc Prof Anne Mager of the Department of Historical Studies writes about the commercial, social and political history of drinking (beer) in South Africa. She looks at the past and



Africa: The race for representation (Indiana University Press). In particular, she examines how media transformed the meaning of race and

current commerce of beer – and the monopoly of South African Breweries – as well as the brew’s ties to male sociability and sport, and how issues of race are played out in the trade and consumption of the drink.

Dr Lucia Saks of the University of Michigan and UCT’s

Centre for Film & Media Studies uses cinema to reflect on cultural changes in post-apartheid South Africa in her new book, *Cinema in a Democratic South*

nation after 1994.

The Music in the Ice: On writers, writing and other things (Penguin

Books SA), is the latest collection of essays from Prof Stephen Watson of the Department of English Language and Literature, described as “South

Africa’s foremost essayist” by writer Justin Cartwright. As the title suggests, Watson writes on writers, places and things – from Leonard Cohen to Dante, Albert Camus to Allen Ginsberg, Robben Island to the Cederberg, the birth of a daughter to the site of a love affair.

Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za

Past traumas are a present problem

Working through trauma by facing the past is at the heart of transformation, said Professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela in her much-anticipated inaugural lecture, titled *The 'Face of the Other': Human dialogue at Solms Delta and the meaning of moral imagination*, delivered at UCT on 11 November.

This, said Gobodo-Madikizela, is the central theme of her world-renowned work on trauma, empathy and forgiveness in post-apartheid South Africa.

"The questions that I have been dealing with in my work are part of both a personal and a professional journey," said Gobodo-Madikizela, of UCT's Department of Psychology. "My work grew out of the investigation of extreme violence committed in a collective context."

Gobodo-Madikizela argued for a crucial link between violence and trauma.

"Trauma leads to a disruption of the protective aspects of functioning," she said, explaining that severely abused individuals have a tendency to 'cut off' (or dissociate from) painful experiences, to protect themselves from confronting pain.

Unfortunately, traumatised people learn to 'cut off' such painful or stressful experiences by taking them out on others – thereby perpetuating a cycle of violence.

Gobodo-Madikizela describes this process as 'acting out' trauma – the opposite of 'working through' it – and applies this theory not only to individuals, but also to groups.

"When a group has suffered victimisation and its members share humiliating injury, the 'narrative' of this victimisation establishes an imprint in the group's identity, and becomes a theme in the violent 'acting out' this past trauma. These traumatic re-enact-



Facing memories: Prof Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela tackled trauma – the heart of transformation – in her inaugural lecture. For the pod cast go to <https://www.uct.ac.za/news/lectures/inaugural/2010/> and for the video go to https://www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia/stream_video/series/

ments are known to be passed on from one generation to the next, playing out cycles of violence that so often repeat themselves historically.

"Perhaps we can now consider the possible link between the excessive violence of the 'necklace' murders they committed, and their traumatic history."

Gobodo-Madikizela said that past traumas, specifically those experienced collectively, don't simply disappear.

"Suggesting that people must 'forget the past' creates great conceptual

mischief," she argued. "Those at the margins wake up daily to face feelings of worthlessness and a yawning void of emptiness in their lives. One cannot bestow a sense of worth on others' lives if one does not know what worthiness means."

But Gobodo-Madikizela points out that her appeal for recognition of the past is not intended to rekindle old hatred, but to transform that past – or, at least, its effects.

"The multiple dimensions of the

story of apartheid, a practice that has been called a crime against humanity, and the sheer burden that it imposes at both an unconscious and conscious level, must be confronted."

Gobodo-Madikizela says that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (of which she was a member) was a starting point in the process, opening a space for the narration of trauma, but the task of reparative healing is yet to happen.

"What is needed is a process of

transformative dialogue that goes beyond the binaries of victim-perpetrator," she explains. "Secondly, such dialogue should lead to true transformation of lives, not only transcending the traumatic past, but also breaking the cycles of its transgenerational repetition."

Gobodo-Madikizela's inaugural lecture is one of a three-part series of lectures, *Living Reconciliation*, co-hosted with the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation.

Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za

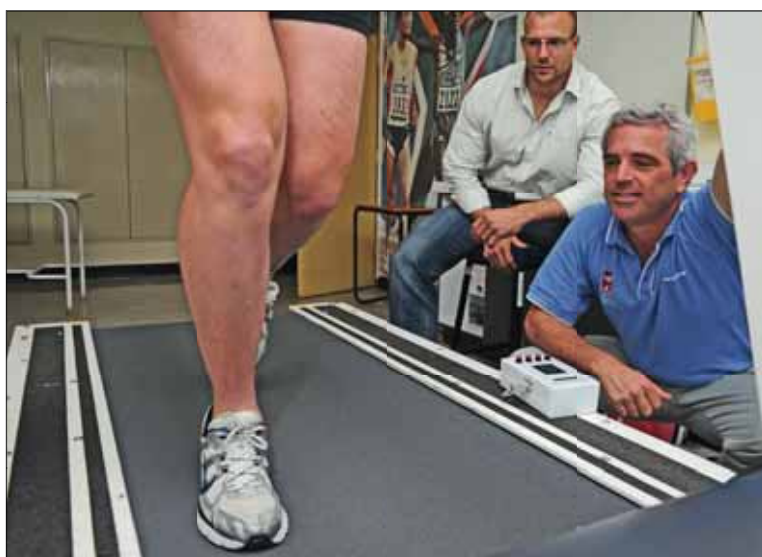
Looking out for the genes

UCT's Associate Professor Malcolm Collins and Dr Mike Posthumus won the prize for the best poster presentation at the International Scientific Tendinopathy Symposium, held in Umeå, Sweden, at the end of October.

The award is nothing to be sneezed at. The event focuses exclusively on tendinopathy, a painful condition usually related to overuse of tendons, and attracts the cream of the world's researchers in the field.

The poster award also cements the reputation of the Medical Research Council/UCT Research Unit for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine (ESSM), where Collins and Posthumus are based, as world leaders in the study of the genetic factors related to the condition. It's a topic that the pair covered in all seven of their oral and poster presentations at the symposium.

Such as in their poster, *A potential link between Achilles tendinopathy risk and endurance running ability*. In that study, Posthumus, Collins and Professor Martin Schweltnus identified a genetic variant – previously shown to predispose people to Achilles tendinopathy – that is



In the running: Dr Mike Posthumus (left) and Assoc Prof Malcolm Collins took a long, hard look at the genetic factors that predispose runners to a condition known as tendinopathy.

also associated with performance.

Interestingly, the study reported that the gene (known as COL5A1) influences performance in endurance running events. This is what Posthumus found in his study of 313 triathletes who took part in either the 2006 or 2007 South African Ironman Triathlons.

COL5A1 encodes (or issues

instructions) for the production of a protein known as type-V collagen. In turn, the collagens, made up of fine threads of fibrils or fibres, provide support to the body's tissues, such as the tendons.

But who gets tight, painful heels, and who gets nicely oiled ones? That's partially determined by the individual's specific COL5A1 geno-

type, ie the kinds of type-V collagen that the gene encodes for.

And alas, it's a double-edged sword.

In his Ironman study, Posthumus hypothesised that those runners with the T variant of COL5A1, which is associated with "increased musculoskeletal stiffness", would be more predisposed to tendinopathy (and up to twice as likely to develop the condition). Funnily enough, triathletes with this form of the gene did better in the race's running segment, as a result of improved muscular efficiency.

On the other hand, it is thought that individuals with the C variant of the COL5A1 gene had the more flexible Achilles tendons (and built-in protection against tendinopathy). But these triathletes didn't do as well on the runs.

These findings may smack of genetic predeterminism, but they're far from the full story, say the researchers. Having the T variant of the COL5A1 gene doesn't mean that a runner will develop tendinopathy without question; merely that he or she will be more at risk of doing so. (And nor does having the C variant

– and more flexible Achilles tendons – mean a runner will never win a footrace.)

"It's not a cause and effect," says Posthumus.

Rather, the long-term goal is to find a test, based on the COL5A1 genotype and other genetic markers (the non-modifiable factor), that would reveal who would be more likely to develop tendinopathy and other musculoskeletal soft tissue injuries, and who would be less likely.

The trick would then be to develop interventions for the modifiable factors, such as training and treatment.

Other than the poster award, the study also drew interest from other delegates at the Umeå symposium.

"It's always been suspected; and people wrote about the possibility that there is a genetic component to the condition," says Collins. "But we've been the first – internationally – to actually identify the genetic elements that alter your risk for tendinopathy."

As trendsetters, they can now expect more researchers to follow hard on their heels.

Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za

Death of allergy expert Cas Motala

The health sciences community at UCT has been shocked by the sudden death of Professor Cassim (Cas) Motala on 10 November 2010 in Singapore.

Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price said Motala's contributions to the university and his academic brilliance were widely recognised.

"Prof Motala made a huge contribution to the field of medicine and the Faculty of Health Sciences over his many years here. He will be remembered with great fondness, especially by his colleagues and former students. The university extends its condolences to Prof Motala's family."

Motala was born on 6 July 1947, in Ventersdorp, Gauteng. He graduated with a MBChB from the University of Natal in 1970 and did his internship at King Edward VIII Hospital in Durban. He worked as a general practitioner in Vryburg, North West before joining the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital as a senior house officer in 1979.

He often said that he had learned more by being a GP in an impoverished community than in any other setting. This had given him compassion and desire to "look after" people.

In 1983, he qualified as a specialist paediatrician, and in 2001, obtained a fellowship at the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. In 1998 the same organisation named him the first South African recipient of an International Distinguished Fellowship in Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

In 2004 he was appointed co-director of the Allergy Division in the School of Child and Adolescent Health. Prior to this, he contributed towards developing and implement-



ing the Diploma in Allergology examination under the auspices of the College of Medicine of South Africa, and contributed to the submission to the Health Professions Council to have allergology recognised as a sub-speciality.

In addition to his leadership positions at UCT and the Faculty of Health Sciences, Motala served on the boards of several organisations, chairing the South African Childhood Asthma Working Group and twice serving as President of the Allergy Society of South Africa. From 2000 to 2007, he was the first South African to serve on the board of the World Allergy Organisation.

Colleague Dr Tony Westwood said: "Cas has been a central pillar of the School of Child and Adolescent Health at UCT as well as the Department of Paediatrics at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital; and of course a major leader in paediatric allergy in the country and internationally. He will be sorely, sorely missed."

Motala is survived by his wife, Farieda, a paediatrician at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital; and son, Mikhail, a UCT student. **MP**

Renowned Italian scholar, Nelia Saxby, remembered

UCT is saddened by the death of Professor Nelia (Cornelia) Saxby (BA Hons, MPhil (Lond), PhD (UCT) of the Italian Section of the School of Languages and Literatures, after a protracted illness.

Saxby was born in Alexandria, Egypt, on 6 January 1945. She joined UCT in 1969 and was responsible for the establishment of Italian studies at UCT in 1970, elevating the study to full undergraduate and postgraduate levels. In 2007 she was awarded the *Cavaliere nell'ordine della stella di solidarietà italiana* (Knight of the Order

of the Star of Italian Solidarity) in recognition of her contribution to the diffusion of Italian culture in South Africa and as a philologist.

The star is awarded to Italians and non-Italians for their support and contribution to Italian culture. The Italian embassy in South Africa made the nomination.

Saxby's mother was Greek and her father Italian, but she grew up in Kenya and Zimbabwe. She moved to Cape Town in the late 1960s. Her eclectic origins inspired her passion for philology, which is the study of the grammar, rhetoric, history, literary interpretation and critical traditions of a given language. Saxby authored several books, including her magnum opus, the 1997 *Rime di Francesco Palmario di Ancona*, the richest collection of verse to have been composed in honour of Sigismond Malatesta and his mistress.

Saxby was a founder member of the Association of Italian Professors and a regular contributor to *Italian Studies in Southern Africa*. She was due to retire at the end of this year.

She is survived by two children and three grandchildren. **MP**



Staff members dismissed for theft and fraud

Three UCT staff members have been dismissed having been found guilty of fraud and financial misappropriation.

All three staff members – one from the Department of Zoology, one from the Properties & Services Department, and one from the Department of Surgery – were dismissed following internal disciplinary hearings, and criminal charges have been laid against them with the SAPS. They were all in charge of purchasing and completing purchase orders for their respective departments, and were found to have made fraudulent purchases and to have created false purchase orders.

The Department of Zoology staff member had abused a UCT credit card between April 2008 and June 2010; and had also received money from other staff, but used it for personal gain instead of paying it into the university coffers. She misappropriated R20 920.

The Properties & Services Department staff member was found to have defrauded UCT of R136 872 this year, by creating false purchase orders on the SAP system.

The Department of Surgery staff member defrauded UCT of R28 479 between November 2009 and August 2010.

Steven Ganger, investigation manager for UCT Risk Management Services, said this was a strong signal to staff and students that crime will not be tolerated at UCT. **MP**



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Just a large-ish quibble about the front-page headline and photo caption of the current *Monday Paper* (Vol 29 #17). It's not the humanities that need reinvigorating – on the contrary, they're mostly flourish-

ing – but ignorant and philistine funding agencies. I suspect that Blade Nzimande's attitude is merely a more intelligent and articulate version of 'What contribution does this make to implementing government policy?', which is not likely to be

much good for most literary studies, for example. We're used to it, but it does get a bit trying.

John Cartwright
(Former lecturer in English and dean of the Faculty of Arts)



Desperately seeking your grad stories

We're sharpening our pencils for the bumper December graduation edition of *Monday Paper*. Last year's edition was a huge success, thanks to the leads from the UCT community. There were stories of triumph over adversity (remember Michael Tladi, the former street child who graduated with an electromechanical engineering degree?), parents capping their children, new doctors carrying on the family tradition, and examples of fascinating master's, PhD and postdoctoral research. We'd like to do the same this year. But we

need you to scout out the news. Is your prof hooding his wife? Do you know of an octogenarian receiving a PhD for work on rare glow-worms? Is there a student who has overcome formidable odds to graduate? Are we capping the twin daughters of someone rich and famous? Is there a graduand whose grandmother from Iceland is coming to grad? Yes? Then send your lead (with names, the gist of the story, and telephone or email details of the candidate/s) to Helen Theron at helen.theron@uct.ac.za or telephone (021) 650 3735 by 1 December. **MP**

EVENTS

GSB Research Seminar Influence of Burnout on Skills Retention of Junior Doctors Speaker: Mark Stodel Date: Wed 24 Nov, 13h00-14h00. Venue: Boardroom 1, GSB, Breakwater Campus, Portwood Rd, Green Point. RSVP: tamlyn.mawa@gsb.uct.ac.za

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

Lecturer, Department of Mathematics & Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 22 November 2010

Associate Professor/Senior

Lecturer, African Gender Institute, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 26 November 2010

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer:

Academic Development, Academic Support Programme in Engineering (ASPECT), Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment AND the Centre for Higher Education, Closing date: 3 December 2010

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer,

Postgraduate Writing Development in Quantitative Disciplines, Academic Development Programme, Centre for Higher Education Development, Closing date: 10 December 2010

Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Development, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 13 December 2010

Senior Lecturer: Addiction Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry & Mental Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 15 December 2010

Associate Professor/Senior

Lecturer/Lecturer, Department of Mathematics & Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 14 January 2011

Chair & Head of the Division of Chemical Pathology, Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 14 January 2011

Executive Director: University Libraries, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Closing date: 28 February 2011

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

Learning Support Co-ordinator, Open Academic Programmes, Graduate School of Business, Closing date: 22 November 2010

Research Officer (Medical

Officer), Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 25 November 2010

Postgraduate and Research

Administrator, School of Health &

Rehabilitation Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 29 November 2010

Research Echocardiographer, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 29 November 2010

Project Officer: Peer

Programme Co-ordinator, HAICU, Transformation Services Office, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Closing date: 30 November 2010

Laboratory Technologist, Lung Infection Immunity Unit, UCT Lung Institute, Closing date: 1 December 2010

Senior Curator: Visual Archives, UCT Libraries, Closing date: 3 December 2010

Principal Technical Officer,

Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 5 December 2010

Senior Technical Officers (X2) and Senior Technical Assistant, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 10 December 2010

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

Receptionist, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 25 November 2010

Researcher: Environmental Evaluation Unit, Department of Environmental & Geographical Science, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 26 November 2010

Part-Time Project Co-ordinator, School of Public Health & Family Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 30 November 2010

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Sci-fi comes down to earth at Open Day

With displays raging from functional, socially responsible projects to designs that wouldn't seem out of place in a science fiction movie, the UCT Department of Mechanical Engineering Open Day on 16 November was the celebration of a long year's slog for final-year students.

A functional six-legged robot that can teach itself to walk was one of the stars of the event, its developer Leanne Robertson jointly taking the Best Project Award with Niel du Plessis, for his research on perforated plates as blast shielding in underground tunnels.

James Boonzaier claimed first place in the Best Oral Presentation Awards for his work on the reconstruction of cranial bones. His alternative solution to traumatic grafting procedures is the Crawler – a prototype device that uses distraction – pulling healing surfaces apart – to generate bone growth. Boonzaier explains that existing distraction devices have several shortcomings, which he hopes the Crawler will address.

Second, third and fourth places went respectively to Gary Mc Farlane for his design and construction of a

stable flame burner; Adam Ozinsky for his project on the design, building and testing of blast-resistant polymeric sandwich panels; and Robertson for her knowledge-assimilating hexapod. All four students delivered short presentations on their work to a packed audience.

In his welcoming address, department head Professor Chris Redelinghuys noted that this was the department's 92nd Open Day, representing some 36 000 hours of student work.

"Each open day is an opportunity for students to showcase their work, and for the industry to forge new links with future leaders," said Redelinghuys.

Student awards also included numerous prizes offered by sponsors, including AAT (Aerodyne Aviation Technology) Composites, the South African Institute of Mechanical Engineering; the South African Institute of Refrigeration and Air Conditioning; the Aluminium Federation of South Africa; Element Six; the Ministry of Science and Technology; SASOL; and the National Research Foundation.

Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za



Mean machine: Leanne Robertson's functional six-legged robot.

Origin of dust study breaks new ground



On the ground: Kathryn Vickery at the Makgadikgadi Pan, one of the largest sources of dust and other aerosols in Southern Africa.

Scientists are beginning to realise that they may have been selling dust short.

This may be one of the reasons the Southern African Association of Geomorphologists (SAAG) has named the master's thesis of UCT student Kathryn Vickery as the best of 2010. In that thesis, *Southern African Dust Sources as Identified by Multiple Space-Borne Sensors*, Vickery not only points out for the first time some of the largest points of origin of dust on the subcontinent, but also hints at some of the environmental and climatological roles that it can play.

There's patchy information on the functions of aerosols – floating plumes of fine solid particles – in the region. The collection of aerosols (including dust) floating across the Atlantic Ocean off the Sahara Desert, for example, is said to be one of the largest sources of

nutrients for the Amazon Basin in South America.

But beyond that, studies on dust in the region are few and far between.

"We don't really know where the dust goes or what it does," Vickery says.

Working off some 5 000 images of various resolutions obtained from Meteosat and MODIS (Moderate-Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) satellites, she looked at what aerosols are blowing off Southern Africa, their make-up, where they're heading and how long it takes them to get there. She paid particular attention to salty aerosols coming off the Makgadikgadi Pan in Botswana, one of the largest salt flats in the world, and the Etosha Pan in Namibia.

Other than identifying the dust sources, Vickery also explored their links with regional weather patterns.

It's that kind of detailed work – "basically I sat and looked at thousands of

jpegs" – that is likely to have impressed SAAG. In turn, Vickery (who did her master's under the supervision of Dr Frank Eckardt in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science) is grateful for the honour.

"I guess it's just really nice to have your research acknowledged by the research community that you hope to reach," she says.

But even an award-winning master's thesis is not going to answer all the questions. And Vickery is not going to let any dust gather on her groundwork. She also recently won a prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship, which she'll put to good use for her doctoral studies on the same subject at UCT and Sheffield University in the UK over the next few years.

Expect her to scrutinise a few thousand more jpegs.

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