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Monday Paper

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War on pesticides earns Rother top award

Informal vendors are selling highly toxic agricultural pesticides to the city's poor for tackling poverty-related pest infestations. In addition, these substances are being marketed in drink bottles associated with bottled water and fruit juices, exposing children to additional risk

Dr Hanna-Andrea Rother's work on the consequences of the use of street pesticides on children's health and health policy has earned her UCT's 2010 Distinguished Social Responsiveness Award.

Established by vice-chancellor Dr Max Price to promote the university's commitment to social responsiveness as an important institutional activity, the award is valued at R25 000 and is open to staff whose activities benefit not only UCT, but also an external community.

Rother's pioneering work in this un-researched area of public health has already influenced state policy. Armed with her research, Rother challenged government and NGOs with possible solutions to the use of illegal and highly toxic pesticides among the urban poor in Cape Town's peri-urban communities.

The programme leader of Health Risk Management in the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health Research, Rother brought to light the popular and extensive use of agricultural pesticides (not intended for household consumption, as they are too toxic) for tackling poverty-related pest infestations.

Not only did she uncover highly toxic occupational exposures for informal vendors of these street pesticides, but she was able to link child exposures and poisonings, predominantly as a result of accidental ingestion. This is because street pesticides are sold in common drink bottles such as those used for water, fruit juice and alcohol.

Rother's project was one of co-operation. A community NGO co-initiated the project and participated in the research design. A Child Pesticide Policy reference group (representing the community, child health practitioners, researchers and government) was established to discuss the research process, findings, problems and interventions.

As well as scholarly output, Rother's initiative also resulted in risk communication tools for spreading the knowledge. A point chart/algorithm was developed for identifying



Pesticide patrol: Dr Hanna-Andrea Rother is the 2010 recipient of the VC's UCT Distinguished Social Responsiveness Award for her work on the use of illegal and highly toxic pesticides among the poor in Cape Town's peri-urban communities.

and treating cases of poisoning by street pesticides, for use by clinicians, nurses and health promoters in health facilities, and by environmental health professionals nationally.

Communication tools such as stickers on the hazards of street pesticides have been produced for national and international distribution. A pamphlet in three languages raises awareness of pesticide hazards for children. A wall chart on prevention of child pesticide poisoning was inserted into a local newspaper.

Nationally, a new notification form to improve the system for reporting pesticide poisoning has been implemented

by the national Department of Health, and presentations have been organised by the Departments of Health and Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

Rother's programme also focuses on equipping under-resourced officials in Africa in order to reduce the risks from pesticide use, particularly for vulnerable populations. The programme includes bi-monthly online Vula seminars and a new postgraduate course in Pesticide Risk Management, with pesticide regulators from most African countries and resource persons from several United Nations organisations.

The project is also a learning ex-

perience for undergraduate, honours and master's students in the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Department of Anthropology. They conduct community-based household surveys, collect narratives from families of poisoned children, participate in field observations, interview informal sellers of pesticides, work alongside community fieldworkers and design risk communication tools.

Rother's award will be used to further her social responsiveness initiative, and showcases the valuable contribution soft-funded academic staff make to UCT. ^{MP}

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Afropolitanism starts at home

UCT hosted a delegation of five from the University of Venda in November, led by the deputy vice-chancellor (academic), Professor Xikombiso Mbhenyane. Other members included Professor Aninemias Gyekye (dean of the School of Management Sciences), Dr Clever Ndebele (head of the Centre for Education Teaching and Learning), Bevlyn Dube (Media Studies Department) and Reuben Mkhazuhuli (project manager of the DVC Academic Office).

The visit was a culmination of events following early conversations between vice-chancellor Dr Max Price and his counterpart at the University of events following Venda, Professor Peter Mbat, followed by a visit by UCT deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo to Thohoyandou

for the installation of the University of Venda's vice-chancellor.

During these engagements, UCT mooted the idea of a partnership between the two universities, to further various mutually beneficial projects.

Nhlapo hosted the visiting delegation over two days, during which time meetings were held with their counterparts in the Centre for Higher Education Development, the Institutional Planning Department, accounting, media studies and the Research Office. The delegation explored links in all of these areas, especially with respect to academic development, quality assurance and community engagement. They also discussed support in various disciplines, notably accounting and film and media.

"The conversations ranged from

issues of PhD training and student exchange, to assistance and support for our postgraduate students undertaking research in rural Venda," said Nhlapo. "There is a lot that we can do together."

Work has begun on concrete plans for some of these collaborations to take off fully from 2011.

"UCT is committed to playing its part in sharing capacity within the sector, a message recently reinforced by the Minister of Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, on his recent visit to the campus," Nhlapo added. "The relationship with the University of Venda is an important aspect of this commitment. Afropolitanism starts at home."

Nhlapo praised his UCT colleagues for the warm welcome they extended the Venda delegation. **MP**



Venda visitors: (From left, back): Venda University's Professor Agyapong Gyekye, Reuben Mkhazuhuli, Dr Clever Ndebele, and Bevlyn Dube. (Front) Professor Xikombiso Mbhenyane and UCT's DVC Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo.

Tough choices and challenges in paediatric intensive care

An intensive care unit (ICU) is sacred ground for Professor Andrew Argent of UCT's Department of Child and Adolescent Health.

In his inaugural lecture on 24 November, Argent explained that the paediatric intensive care unit is sacred in the sense that it is a place of profound experience for many people, is not readily accessible to all who need it, and its raison d'être is often dealing with life and death issues.

Titled *Paediatric Critical Care – Working on sacred ground*, Argent's lecture took his audience into the heart of his work at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital (RCWMCH), and the challenges he and his team face on a daily basis.

Argent notes that providing care to children with life-threatening illness or injury can be prohibitively expensive in poverty-stricken areas. However, several workers in poorer countries, using available resources, have found innovative and cost-

effective methods for providing such care. An example of this is training professional drivers in first aid, as they are often first on the scene at traffic accidents.

"There are several methods that can save thousands of lives cheaply," said Argent. "Often, simple reorganisation may save lives at minimal expense."

But Argent points out that although South Africa is in an income range that can afford intensive care, the infant-mortality rate is too high. This, he argues, means that we have to focus on ensuring the most cost-effective and efficient ways of caring for children who are critically ill.

"We have to ensure that these children have rapid access to effective early treatment, at the appropriate level in the health care system.

"The RCWMCH is a place of tough choices," added Argent. "We have to decide who gets the resources, such as beds. And in decision-

making we have to work out why we do it, how we do it, and do it openly and transparently."

Despite these difficulties, the hospital's ICU maintains an extremely low mortality rate.

Argent says that an ICU's "dark side" is a challenge for the people who work there.

"It's an environment that can have a strong impact on one personally. People struggle with death, with the emotional impact of severely ill children. They are often stressed, and many feel underappreciated. This can result in depression and burn-out, which is a huge problem – not only for the staff, but also because it may affect the quality of care received by the patients."

He added: "We owe it to our children to maintain these services. Our country can afford it, and we need to do everything we can to meet that commitment." **MP**

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Prof Arthur Argent was surrounded by family at his inaugural lecture (from left, back) his son Jonathan, wife Sally, son Brendan, daughter Lucienne, and his mother, Helen, who turned 97 on 25 November.

The Institute of Applied Statistics

The Institute of Applied Statistics is proud to announce a call for applicants for its inaugural round of scholarships in fields related to or reliant on statistical sciences, in any commerce, science and social sciences discipline. These scholarships are non-contractual awards for two-years support of full-time Research Masters study commencing at the University of Cape Town, but in subsequent rounds there will be progress to awards for study at other South African universities.

The value of the scholarships is R75k per annum. Candidates are required to have completed undergraduate courses in either mathematics or statistics. Preference will be given to previously disadvantaged students, but students possessed of particular talents and passion in the discipline will also be considered.

Applicants are required to email or fax a CV, academic transcripts and a covering motivational letter to applications@institute-applied-statistics.org.za or 086-670-5260. The deadline for submission of the same is 15th February 2011. Short-listing of candidates for interviews will be conducted on 16th February 2011. Candidates must be prepared to interview in Cape Town. Pending suitable candidature, awards will be announced by the 15th March 2011. For more information, please visit www.institute-applied-statistics.org.za

UCT must catch the scholarly engagement wave

UCT is driven by academic conservatism; meaning there is a focus on basic research, but an absence of appreciation of a new global academic revolution with a "third mission" (alongside teaching and basic research) of university engagement in societal development.

One implication is that current academic promotion and merit award criteria pay scant attention to scholarly engagement.

This was the argument of Fulbright scholar Associate Professor David Cooper of UCT's Department of Sociology, at a presentation on 22 November titled *The Concept of Engaged Scholarship*.

A member of UCT's University Social Responsiveness Committee, Cooper spoke on his case study of engaged scholarship at Michigan State University in the US as part of his Fulbright work this year, where – along with 30 similar international researchers – he focused on the theme,



The University as Knowledge Centre and Innovation Driver.

"Where the third mission is pursued, a focus is around the 'triple helix' of industry, government and university relations," said Cooper. "Universities need to open themselves up to a 'fourth helix' of civil society, with social science in particular becoming involved in the wide range of social research fields available, such as transport, low-cost housing and many more."

During his stay in the US, Cooper saw a growing debate on engaged re-

search and its aspects, including public sociology, service learning (earning academic credit by serving the community) and translational research, in which the National Institutes of Health is stressing the translation of research findings from the laboratory to the clinic, then back to the lab for further development.

But Cooper points out that the difference between civic involvement and engaged scholarship is crucial in understanding university-based social responsiveness.

"Not all outreach activity necessarily falls under the definition of engaged scholarship," he explains. "As well as serving the community, engaged scholarship must fall within the scholar's field of study and contain some form of innovation, or new knowledge."

UCT's dual mission of positioning itself as a research powerhouse as well as an Afropolitan university needs consolidation through engaged scholarship, says Cooper. **MP**

Airbus collaboration off to a flying start

Birds do it. So well, in fact, that Airbus, the world's leading aircraft manufacturer, has partnered with UCT researchers to see if formation flying could be applied to getting people around in the future.

Out in nature, large birds benefit from co-operative flying to save energy, giving them increased range, explains Professor Christiaan Redelinghuys, head of UCT's Department of Mechanical Engineering, which is undertaking a two-part study. When flying in formation, the leading bird's wings generate trailing vortices (whirling masses) of air, just as fixed-wing aircraft do.

It's the birds flying in the lead bird's wake that benefit most from this, getting a free lift from the vortices, and thus using less energy to fly.

The military have been biomimicking birds for years, and are old hands at formation flying. For obvious reasons (safety, for one) passenger carriers have been less inclined to try out the idea.

But now Airbus is keen to push the envelope and explore, on paper, the potential 'green' application of formation flying.

"Grouping together aircraft flying similar routes, for example from Europe to Africa, could in theory



Aiming high: Looking at greener ways to fly are (from left) UCT's Prof Christiaan Redelinghuys and master's students Nicholas Bizinos and Drewan Sanders, with Dale King of Airbus.

provide a reduction in fuel burn and emissions," says Dale King, senior manager for research and technology partnerships at Airbus.

However, a lot of the finer detail – such as getting passengers comfortable with seeing other aircraft in close proximity through their windows –

would still have to be addressed, he points out.

Formation flying, if it ever comes off, is still some way down the line. In

the meantime, studies have suggested that energy savings could be as high as 20%, notes Redelinghuys.

"If we could harness those benefits safely, we could reduce the aviation industry's consumption of fossil fuels," he says. "The potential benefits are enormous."

At a press briefing at UCT on 22 November – fittingly hosted by the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology – Airbus unveiled groundwork modelling studies that will be conducted by Redelinghuys and two postgraduate students in his Aeronautical Research Group.

In the first of these, master's student Nicholas Bizinos will look at the effect of formation-flying turbulence on passenger and crew comfort. At the same time, fellow master's student Drewan Sanders will investigate the effect of turbulence on fuel consumption in formation flight.

Both students will be supported by Airbus and South Africa's National Aerospace Centre, based at the University of the Witwatersrand.

The collaboration is but the latest in a string of South African projects sponsored by Airbus, the aim of which is to draw on expertise and ideas from around the globe. **MP**

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Prophylactic antiretrovirals could check HIV infection

It's a long way from being the final word in HIV prevention, but a major study involving UCT researchers and published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* reveals that the daily use of an antiretroviral tablet as a prophylactic could curb infection among those at high risk by nearly 44%.

The findings are based on an HIV-prevention trial conducted at 11 international sites in six countries (including the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation [DTHF], associated with UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences), from June 2007 to May 2010. The study, named the Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Initiative (iPrEx), looked at the prophylactic use – in other words, for people not infected with HIV – of a tablet that contains two widely-used HIV medications, emtricitabine and tenofovir (FTC/TDF).

Results showed that high-risk individuals – men and transgender women who have sex with men – who took the tablet experienced an average of 43.8% fewer HIV infections than those who received a placebo. In all, 64 HIV infections were recorded among the 1 248 study participants who received a placebo pill, while 36 HIV infections

were recorded among the 1 251 participants who received the study drug.

The iPrEx study found that this pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) was more effective among those who reported taking the pill more regularly. Among participants who used the tablet on 50% or more of days, as measured by pill counts, bottle counts and self-reports, risk of HIV infection fell by 50.2%; while among those who used the pill on 90% or more of days, as determined by the same measures, the PrEP pill reduced infection risk by 72.8%.

"I think this is a very significant study in that what we have here is the first proof of concept that taking an antiretroviral prophylactically – in other words, taking it before exposure to HIV – would actually prevent HIV infection," says UCT's Associate Professor Linda-Gail Bekker, deputy director of the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre.

As the tablets (brand-named Truvada) are readily available, anyone can buy and use these. But Bekker is quick to point out that a lot of work still has to be done on the treatment, especially on its use outside of trial conditions. (For example, the tablet can affect

renal and liver function, so participants' kidneys and livers were monitored closely.)

Also, those recently infected and still developing antibodies to the HIV (ie seroconverting) are cautioned not to take the tablet, as it exposes the virus to two agents, upping the risk of building resistance to the treatment. "You may inadvertently affect or impact your chances of good treatment down the line," says Bekker.

Naturally, high-incidence countries like South Africa will take plenty of interest in the study. But at around R400 for 30 tablets, this may not be the treatment to turn things around for the country.

"It is unlikely that we will be able to treat our way out of this epidemic," said the DTHF in a statement. "We are going to have to find innovative, affordable and practical ways to stop the ongoing transmission of HIV."

Fortunately, the study found that participants did not relax their use of safer-sex practices. On the contrary, self-reported HIV-risk behaviour decreased among participants, while condom use increased.

Professor Anna-Lise William-

son, of UCT's Institute for Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine and a member of the South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative, welcomes the treatment as another valuable advance in curbing the spread of the disease, but remains cautious of the human-behaviour element. For one, she says, people have to recognise that they are at risk before they'll commit to the tablet.

"But it gives people options, and the more options they have, perhaps they'll find a prevention strategy that suits their lifestyles," she says. "But in the long term, I still believe we need a vaccine to prevent HIV infection."

Concerns about risk compensation – increases in risky behaviour prompted by decreases in perceived risk – will remain, says Bekker. For this, education will be essential.

Also, the tablet's use as a prophylactic will have to be but one tool in an arsenal of measures.

"We're going to have to layer different kinds of preventative strategies together to come up with foolproof prevention," Bekker warns, "but it's probably not going to be dependent on only one strategy." **MP**

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Being there: UCT's Assoc Prof Linda-Gail Bekker led the South African component of the six-country study on the prophylactic use of an antiretroviral tablet.

Global studies programme gives students larger perspective

UCT has joined forces with the Albert-Ludwigs University of Freiburg in Germany to run the Global Studies Programme, a master's programme that will include training on three different continents.

On 29 November, UCT deputy vice-chancellor Professor Jo Beall and Professor Hermann Schwengel, vice-chancellor of Freiburg, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to

cement the new partnership between the two institutions.

Beall said the programme is both unique and exciting as it exposes students to global studies. It is important for UCT as it puts the university's strategic goal of preparing students for the global world into practice, she added.

The programme's two-year curriculum comprises sociology, political sciences, anthropology and

geography courses, and is conducted jointly by Freiburg, UCT, the Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLASCO) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, and Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India.

All students in the programme start their journeys at Freiburg, then hop to either UCT or FLASCO, and then do their third semester at either

Chulalongkorn or Jawaharlal Nehru.

The programme was established in 2002, and UCT is taking part for the first time. It is administered by the International Academic Programmes Office, and two students – Merlinda Abrahams and Ichumile Gqada – have signed on. Abrahams, who has already completed her semester at Freiburg, noted she had been able to broaden her horizons by being exposed to and making contact with

different worldviews and perspectives.

"The programme teaches you that we are all connected, and we all influence each other in a variety of ways," she said.

Gqada added that she got different perspectives of the effect of globalisation at macro and micro levels.

"What I learnt from this exchange was something I could never be taught from any textbook," she said. **MP**

UCT hails newly promoted academics

Though the annual ad hominem promotions event is traditionally a lunchtime meet and greet, UCT added some lustre and spiff this year by hosting a formal dinner for the latest recipients.

At the occasion, held in Smuts Hall on 25 November, vice-chancellor Dr Max Price explained that the occasion and the honourees more than warranted the elevated celebrations. He praised the promoted academics and the scientific and technical officers (though technically, promotions kick in only on 1 January 2011) for the value that they add to UCT's reputation. It is their work, said Price, that makes UCT a sought-after centre of learning for school learners, postgraduates and fellow scholars, and allows the university to attract substantial public and private funding.

“We have this kind of influence because of the efforts you have put into your field of study.”

Price also made special mention of recipient Associate Professor Cassim 'Cas' Motala, who died on 10 November, shortly after being informed that he had been promoted to full professor.

“Prof Motala serves as just one example of the talent and accomplishment we are here to honour,” said Price.

AD HOMINEM PROMOTIONS

FACULTY	TITLE	NAME	UNIT/ DEPARTMENT	PROMOTED TO
CHED	Dr	Tracy Craig	ADP: EBE (ASPECT)	Senior Lecturer
CHED	Dr	Linda Cooper	ADP: EBE (ASPECT)	A/Prof
CHED	Dr	Dick Ngambi	CET	A/Prof
Commerce		Paul Maughan	Department of Accounting	Senior Lecturer
Commerce	Dr	Craig West	Department of Accounting	A/Prof
Commerce	Dr	Kosheek Sewchurran	Department of Information Systems	A/Prof
Commerce	A/Prof	Irwin Brown	Department of Information Systems	Professor
Commerce	A/Prof	Jean-Paul van Belle	Department of Information Systems	Professor
Commerce	A/Prof	Eric Wood	Graduate School of Business	Professor
Commerce	Dr	Mare Sarr	School of Economics	Senior Lecturer
Commerce	Dr	Martine Visser	School of Economics	A/Prof
Commerce	Dr	Carolyn Ardington	School of Economics (SALDRU)	Chief Research Officer
Commerce		Justin Beneke	School of Management Studies	Senior Lecturer
Commerce		Shivani Ramjee	School of Management Studies	Senior Lecturer
Commerce		David Strugnell	School of Management Studies	Senior Lecturer
EBE	A/Prof	David Deglon	Chemical Engineering	Professor
EBE	Dr	Julian Smit	Division of Geomatics, Architecture, Planning	A/Prof
EBE	A/Prof	Harald Winkler	Energy Research Centre, Mechanical Engineering	Professor
EBE	Dr	Jane English	Professional Communication Studies	A/Prof
EBE		Horst Emrich	Mechanical Engineering	Principal Technical Officer
Health Sciences	A/Prof	Willem Hanekom	Child & Adolescent Health	Professor
Health Sciences	A/Prof	Cassim Motala	Child & Adolescent Health	Professor
Health Sciences	Dr	Alan Davidson	Child & Adolescent Health	A/Prof
Health Sciences	Dr	Mark Hatherill	Child & Adolescent Health	A/Prof
Health Sciences	A/Prof	Trevor Sewell	Clinical Laboratory Sciences	Professor
Health Sciences	Dr	Lillian Artz	Clinical Laboratory Sciences	A/Prof
Health Sciences	Dr	Stefanie Rohrs	Clinical Laboratory Sciences	Senior Research Officer
Health Sciences	Dr	Eve Duncan	Health & Rehabilitation Sciences	A/Prof
Health Sciences	Dr	Lebogang Ramma	Health & Rehabilitation Sciences	Senior Lecturer
Health Sciences	Dr	Dirk Lang	Human Biology	A/Prof
Health Sciences	Dr	Kishor Bugarith	Human Biology	Senior Lecturer
Health Sciences	Dr	Lester Davids	Human Biology	Senior Lecturer
Health Sciences	Dr	Lester John	Human Biology	Senior Lecturer
Health Sciences	Dr	Helen McIleron	Medicine	A/Prof
Health Sciences	Dr	Graeme Meintjes	Medicine	A/Prof
Health Sciences	Dr	Andrew Boulle	Public Health & Family Medicine	A/Prof
Health Sciences	Dr	Susan Cleary	Public Health & Family Medicine	A/Prof
Health Sciences	Dr	Aqiel Dalvie	Public Health & Family Medicine	A/Prof
Health Sciences		Charles Lionel Harris	Human Biology	Principal Technical Officer
Health Sciences		Mohamed Allie Abdullah Jaffer	Electron Microscope Unit	Principal Technical Officer
Health Sciences		Berenice Arendse	IIDMM	Principal Technical Officer
Humanities	Dr	Mzayivane Nyamende	African Languages & Literatures/SLL	A/Prof
Humanities	Dr	Roman Roth	Classical Studies/SLL	Senior Lecturer
Humanities		Jacqueline Singer	Department of Drama	Senior Lecturer
Humanities	A/Prof	Anne Mager	Department of Historical Studies	Professor
Humanities	A/Prof	Bernhard Weiss	Department of Philosophy	Professor
Humanities	Dr	John Ritchie	Department of Philosophy	Senior Lecturer
Humanities	Dr	Reuben Chirambo	English Language & Literature	Senior Lecturer
Law	A/Prof	Rochelle le Roux	Department of Commercial Law	Professor
Law		Caroline Ncube	Department of Commercial Law	Senior Lecturer
Law		Kathy Idensohn	Department of Commercial Law	Senior Lecturer
Law		Lee-Ann Tong	Department of Private Law	Senior Lecturer
Law		Anne Pope	Department of Private Law	A/Prof
Law	Dr	Mohamed Paleker	Department of Private Law	A/Prof
Law	A/Prof	Wouter de Vos	Department of Public Law	Professor
Science	Dr	Lindsey Gillson	Botany	A/Prof
Science	Dr	Laura Catherine Roden	Molecular & Cell Biology	Senior Lecturer
Science	A/Prof	Nicola Illing	Molecular & Cell Biology	Professor
Science	Dr	Spencer Wheaton	Physics	Senior Lecturer
Science	A/Prof	David Thomas Britton	Physics	Professor
Science	Dr	Michael David Picker	Zoology	A/Prof
Science	Dr	Mannus Justin O' Riain	Zoology	A/Prof
Science	Dr	Amanda Weltman	Dept Maths & Applied Maths	Senior Lecturer
Science	Dr	Shadreck Chirikuri	Archaeology	Senior Lecturer
Science	A/Prof	Kevin Naidoo	Chemistry	Professor
Science		Fayrooza Rawoot	Geological Sciences	Senior Scientific Officer
Science		Pei-Yin Liebrich	Molecular & Cell Biology	Senior Scientific Officer
Science		Louisa Hutten	Archaeology	Senior Scientific Officer
Science		Madhu Chauhan	Molecular & Cell Biology	Principal Technical Officer
Science		John Graham Harrison	Geological Sciences	Principal Technical Officer

(Please note that the faculty groups photographed on these pages include only those recently promoted members who were able to attend the celebratory dinner. Information correct at time of going to press.)



Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment: (From left) Horst Emrich, VC Dr Max Price, Dr Jane English, dean Prof Francis Petersen and Assoc Prof Harald Winkler.



Humanities: (From left) Dr Reuben Chirambo, Dr Mzayivane Nyamende, Assoc Prof Bernhard Weiss, VC Dr Max Price, Dr John Ritchie, dean Prof Paula Ensor, Assoc Prof Anne Mager and Dr Roman Roth.



Science: (From left) Louisa Hutten, Pie-Yin Liebrich, Assoc Prof Nicola Illing, Madhu Chauhang, Assoc Prof David Britton, Dr Lindsey Gillson, VC Dr Max Price, John Harrison, HoD Professor Anton le Roex, Dr Justin O'Riain, Fayrooza Rawoot, Assoc Prof Kevin Naidoo, Dr Laura Roden and Dr Spencer Wheaton.



CHED: (From left) Dr Tracy Craig, VC Dr Max Price, Dr Linda Cooper, dean Prof Nan Yeld and Dr Dick Ngambi.



Graduate School of Business: (From left) VC Dr Max Price, Assoc Prof Eric Wood and Assoc Prof Tom Ryan, who was representing GSB director Prof Walter Baets.



Health Sciences: VC Dr Max Price, Dr Susan Cleary, Dr Lester John, Dr Lester Davids, Dr Stefanie Rohrs, Dr Lebogang Ramma, Dr Alan Davidson, dean Prof Marian Jacobs, Dr Kishor Bugarith, Dr Lillian Artz, Dr Dirk Lang, Dr Aqiel Dalvie, Charles Harris, Dr Eve Duncan, Dr Graeme Meintjes and Assoc Prof Trevor Sewell.



Commerce: (From left) Shivani Ramjee, Paul Maughan, VC Dr Max Price, Dr Craig West, Assoc Prof Irwin Brown, dean Prof Don Ross, Assoc Prof Jean-Paul van Belle and Dr Carolyn Ardington.



Faculty of Law: (From left) Anne Pope, Assoc Prof Wouter de Vos, VC Dr Max Price, dean Prof PJ Schwikkard, Caroline Ncube, Assoc Prof Rochelle le Roux and Lee-Ann Tong.

Research unit status for concrete group

The Concrete Materials and Structural Integrity Research Unit (CoMSIRU) has been given full accreditation as a University Research Unit.

While the research group is almost 20 years old, its growth and increased activities in recent years prompted the group's leaders – Professor Mark Alexander, Associate Professor Pilate Moyo, and Dr Hans Beushausen – to apply for research unit accreditation.

This is a reflection of the high

standards underpinning the unit's research goals and productivity, its leadership, financial soundness and management.

The full establishment of CoMSIRU was celebrated at a dinner in Cape Town on 23 November 2010. Guests included Bryan Perrie, managing director of the Cement and Concrete Institute, and representatives from the industry and other academic institutions.

The unit has grown to include a cohort of about 20 full-time

postgraduate students (master's and doctoral) in addition to its research, admin and laboratory staff. Strong interest is being expressed in the unit's postgraduate courses.

At the dinner, Alexander thanked representatives of the cement industry who have funded the concrete research operation at UCT over the years. He praised the quality of the graduates being produced, many of whom go on to key positions in industry, the profession and academia. **MP**



Status update: Leaders of the new Concrete Materials and Structural Integrity Research Unit (from left) Assoc Prof Pilate Moyo, Prof Mark Alexander, and Dr Hans Beushausen.

Power talks on power at the GSB

As Professor Anton Eberhard indicated in his keynote address at the Africa Power Colloquium, hosted by UCT's Graduate School of Business (GSB) from 28 to 30 November, there's plenty wrong with the power sector in Africa. For one thing, two in three Africans do not have an electricity connection, while most countries on the continent are hobbled by insufficient, unreliable and costly electricity-generation capacity and networks, frustrating development efforts. In the plus column, however, there have been steps in the right direction – the unbundling of state-owned utilities, increased private sector participation and the establishment of regulatory authorities among them. And countries are starting to learn from each other, as they did on the three-year peer-review programme that Eberhard, as director of the GSB's management programme in infrastructure reform and regulation, ran with the CEOs of electricity regulatory



Power to the people: The GSB's Prof Walter Baets (left) and Prof Anton Eberhard kickstarted discussions at the Africa Power Colloquium, where delegates reflected on the state of the power sector in Africa.

agencies in Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The colloquium brought together these CEOs plus a rich selection of top-level representatives from these countries and South Africa, allowing

them to share further insights into the industry. But as Eberhard put it, the overriding challenge for Africa remains “megawatts, megawatts, megawatts”. **MP**
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Steyn scores a double win



Double whammy: Assoc Prof Melissa Steyn is the recipient of this year's HELTASA/CHE National Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award and the NCA Outstanding Scholarship Award.

November was a busy month for Associate Professor Melissa Steyn (Director of Intercultural and Diversity Studies of Southern Africa, better known as iNCUDISA), as she won two prestigious scholarship awards for two different areas of academic performance.

Steyn's first honour came from the National Communication Association in the US. A research paper co-authored with Professor Jolanta Drzewiecka of Washington State University in the US took the association's Outstanding Scholarship Award for the top article in International and Intercultural Communication for 2009.

Their paper, *Discourses of Exoneration in Intercultural Translation: Polish immigrants in South Africa*, examines the translations in identity of Polish immigrants, first with their integration into white South Africa during apartheid, and then again as the country shifted from apartheid to a free democracy.

Steyn's second win was the HELTASA/CHE National Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Award for 2010 (HELTASA is the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa, and CHE is the Council of Higher Education).

Four awardees are selected from nominations submitted through the Vice-Chancellors' Offices at Higher Education Institutions. The awards recognise outstanding leadership and practice in teaching. One of the initiatives Steyn was recognised for is her spearheading of diversity studies at UCT, as well as her approach to teaching, which she views as an active engagement between student and teacher.

“I am lucky in that the substantive material I teach, the methods I employ and the outcome I work towards – intellectually informed, critically thinking, diversity-literate graduates – all dovetail very closely. It's all very satisfying.

“I try to work to establish a co-operative ethos in the classroom, because I believe everyone has a need to feel affirmed, and students think at their best when they feel actively supported.” **MP**
Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za

Retirement fund trustees sharpen their skills

The newly elected Trustees of the UCT Retirement Fund (UCTRF) recently underwent training on aspects essential to their new roles.

Titled *Trustee Duty in a Nutshell*, the course was presented by Jennifer Grefen of NMG Benefits, a financial services consulting firm. The training covered topics such as the role of the retirement fund trustee, the importance of understanding the history of the fund, knowing the stakeholders of the fund and their needs, and the background to the legislative environment in which retirement funds operate.

“The importance of understanding the UCTRF's relationship with their service providers was dealt with in some depth, with particular emphasis on how one measures the level of service provided by the administrator of the fund (Sanlam in the case of the UCTRF),” explained Professor Craig Comrie, chair of the UCTRF's Communications Committee.

Member representative trustees for the new term, January 2011 to December 2013, were elected by UCTRF members in the first ever electronic voting process during September 2010, or were nominated by employee bodies. They are Kathleen Evans (Academics' Union's nominated trustee) of the Department of Construction Economics and Management, Professor Jan Glaze-



Trusted team: Newly elected UCTRF trustees are (back, from left) Prof Jan Glazewski, Karin Lehmann, Kira Chernotsky, Assoc Prof Steve Richardson, Emer Prof John Simpson and Chris Tobler; and (front, from left) Margie Tainton, Kathleen Evans, Mbuyi Mnyani, Dr Craig West and Emer Prof John Terblanche. Absent were Hugh Amoore, Assoc Prof Jennifer Roeleveld and Qarnita Loxton.

wski of the Department of Marine and Environmental Law, Karin Lehmann of the Department of Commercial Law, Associate Professor Steve Richardson of the Department of Geological Sciences, Associate Professor Jennifer Roeleveld of the Department of Accounting, Chris Tobler (Employees' Union-nominated trustee) of the Department of Zoology, and Dr Craig West of the Department of Accounting.

The employer representative trustees were appointed by Council. They are registrar Hugh Amoore, Kira Chernotsky of Information and Communication Technology Services, Mbuyi Mnyani of UCT Libraries, Emeritus Professor John Terblanche,

Emeritus Professor John Simpson, Qarnita Loxton of the Legal Services and Secretariat Department, and Margie Tainton of the Human Resources Department.

The final meeting of the outgoing Board of Trustees is on 10 December 2010. On the same day the trustees will have their first meeting, at which the membership of the sub-committees, namely the Admin, Audit and Rules Committee, the Investment Committee, the Communications Committee, and the Death Benefits Sub-Committee will be decided. The respective chairpersons, including the chair for the new Board of Trustees, will also be elected by the different committees. **MP**

EVENTS

GSB Research Seminar

The First Deal: The Division of Founder Equity in New Ventures.”

Speaker: Thomas Hellmann

Date: Wed 8 Dec, 12h30-14h00

Venue: Executive Room, GSB, Breakwater Campus, Portswood Rd, Green Point

RSVP: tamlyn.mawa@gsb.uct.ac.za

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

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)

Administrative Assistant, Properties & Services Department, Closing date: 6 December 2010

Library Assistant: Health Sciences Library, Libraries, Closing date: 8 December 2010

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

Trainer/Facilitator, UCT Lung Institute, Closing date: 15 December 2010

Candidate Attorney, UCT Law Clinic, Closing date: 15 December 2010

Research Medical Officer, UCT Lung Institute, Closing date: 17 December 2010

Research Nurses, UCT Lung Institute, Closing date: 17 December 2010

Research Nurse Co-ordinator, UCT Lung Institute, Closing date: 17 December 2010

Research Echocardiographer, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 24 December 2010

Research Officer, Drug Discovery Development Centre, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, 31 December 2010

Senior Library Assistant, UCT Libraries, 31 December 2010

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

Bursaries & Loans Assistant, Student Financial Aid, Department of Student Affairs, Closing date: 6 December 2010

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

PROPERTY/ACCOMMODATION

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Rondebosch: Year long rental available from January 2011 in addition to short term lets as above. Ideal for visiting academics or post-graduate students. Visit the website for further information and picture gallery Tel: 0216865113 www.ivydeneapartments.com

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Rondebosch: Comfortable furnished room, own bathroom, fully serviced, secure parking. Quiet, close to UCT. Non-smoking.Suit Postgrad/Academic. Meals by arrangement. R3000 pm neg. Julie 0833091826

Rondebosch: Rondebosch Guest House. Year long rental available from January 2011 in addition to short term lets as above. Ideal for visiting academics or post-graduate students. Contact reservations@rondeboschguesthouse.com/ yasmin@discover-capetown.co.za / 0828264602

Rondebosch: Graduation/ Holiday accommodation available close to UCT,secure parking. Fully furnished, able to accommodate individual or groups. Daily/weekly/monthly rates. Contact Kirsten on 0827407418

FOR SALE

Sun City Vacation Club: 6 Sleeper - 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom unit available 14/01/2011 - 21/01/2011. R9 500.00 contact 0722531170 debbie.erasmus@uct.ac.za

Dining room suite: Imbuia Round table (135cm) with 6x Rempie chairs - immaculate condition R2,500 neg. Contact: 0839615040

Three Freestanding white storage cupboards, 213cm x 61cm x 61 cm (hwxwd). R300 each. Stainless steel single basin, single drain, sit-on kitchen sink on white cabinet. R350.

Contact: 0824148539

Gate Opener/Motor with Arm: HansaElite 220 volt heavy duty single leaf swing gate opener/ motor with arm. Opens large driveway gate. Good condition. Pam 0214043040/0839975570

Cd: Artist: James Grace Title: World Cafe Price: R150 the very latest album (just released) Contact: ext.4739 or 0716775061

DVD: The Hit Comedy Show Artist: Riaad Moosa Title: FOR THE BARACKa includes bonus FOR BARACKa audio cd Price: R200 contact: ext. 4739 or 0716775061

Stroller: Maclaren Stroller - as

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GENERAL

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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.

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LETTER

The Jammie Shuttle: A predator/prey mismatch?

Anyone who has read Hunter S Thompson's *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* – a twisted narrative about a drug-crazed road trip across America in a supercar – will recall his vivid descriptions of terrifying, hallucinogen-induced apparitions surfacing before him. But to get the equivalent effect, you need neither drugs, nor a supercar, nor the US of A – a drive around UCT's Ring Road will do the trick. There they are, our own mechanised mastodons – growling, smoke-spitting and very real blue monsters hunched and snarling in the middle of the road, seemingly intent on forcing you to make a very nasty goulash of the parked cars next to you. And quite versatile creatures they are. Usually it is the middle-of-road, head-on attack daring you, as potential prey, to challenge their ownership of the tarmac. Sometimes they use ambush tactics, waiting until you are almost alongside before jumping out in front of you. And then there is the group approach, parked side-by-side in the road, discussing tactics: impasse (for you, that is), with victory assured for the Blues by virtue of size.

It is only a matter of time before someone is goulashed – most likely, a visitor who is evolutionarily naïve to the danger, being experientially trained (elsewhere) to assume that vehicles on a university campus will be driven at appropriate speeds, on the correct side of the road and obeying some basic rules of vehicular etiquette. Ironically, 'Jammie Shuttle' anagrams to 'just e-mail them'. But after years of intimidation I doubt if that would do much good.

Frustrated UCT driver

New SRC tables plans for 2011



Well met: The SRC 2011 met with vice-chancellor Dr Max Price. Photographed here are (from left, back) Alexander Spoor, Mark Schoeman, Khanya-Khanyiso Gwaza, Mike Ramothwala, Ross Hare, Kim Senogles, Vimbai Paraffin, Lethu Shange, and Aboobaker Kalla. (Front) DVC Prof Crain Soudien, Jessica Price, VC Dr Max Price, Amanda Ngwenya, DVC Prof Danie Visser, and Sean Darge.

Social responsibility, creating an intellectual culture, a greener campus and changing student perceptions of leadership are some of the focus areas of the newly elected Student's Representative Council (SRC).

In an introductory meeting with vice-chancellor Dr Max Price and a number of deputy vice-chancellors and

executive directors on 23 November, the SRC committee outlined their plans for 2011, including their intention to address the transformation process and the quality of student services.

SRC president Amanda Ngwenya noted a gap between student leaders and students, which needs to be closed.

"The perception of student lead-

ers has become tainted, and now the SRC is caught in a time-warp, facing the same issues as 10 years ago," said Ngwenya.

"We can change this by encouraging a more productive student culture by including postgraduates as well as first-years." **MP**

Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za

Seaweed heroes nab skelm



Crime-fighters: (From left) Chris Boothroyd, Emma Gray, Glenn Moncrieff and Mark Rothman.

On Thursday 25 November botany MSc student Emma Gray and staff from the Seaweed Research Unit and the botany department foiled a thief as he was making off with MSc student Glenn Moncrieff's laptop.

Moncrieff is set to graduate this month, and his laptop contained important research data. The laptop was stolen from Gray and Moncrieff's office while Gray was busy making headway on her own thesis. She spotted the thief as he was fleeing the scene.

Alerting others, she gave chase. Mark Rothman and Rob Anderson were first on the scene and managed to apprehend and restrain the perpetrator who was later handed over to Campus Protection Services. The slippery character is currently in police custody.

Moncrieff thanked all involved.

"It's great to know that we all work in a place where crime-fighting superheroes lurk behind office doors humbly labelled 'Seaweed Research Unit'." **MP**

Get ready, get set, go on leave!

The great thing about technology is that it can keep on working, even when you're not. Here are some tips on how to make technology work for you while you're on leave, courtesy of the ICTS communications team.

If you're getting ready to go on leave, the last thing on your mind should be what you'll be coming back to in the new year. Following these useful tips will make your return to work a breeze. If you need more than the hints in this article, go to the ICTS website (www.icts.uct.ac.za) for easy-to-follow instructions.

1. Let Password Self-Service

help you with your password changes. Register on Password Self-Service before you go on leave so that you can reset your password in case you can't remember it after that lovely, long, lazy holiday.

2. Tell people that you're away – and when you're coming back.

Manage those incoming email messages and phone calls by setting up a vacation reply in your email account and by recording an out-of-office voicemail message on your telephone extension. The email vacation reply wizard is very easy to use and is available to anyone using the GroupWise client – just look under the Tools

menu. Voicemail is a free service offered to all UCT staff. To get it activated on your extension, log a call with the IT Helpdesk at least a week before you go on leave.

3. Tidy up before you go. Make sure that you create enough space in your mailbox (to handle any incoming emails you may receive while you're on leave) by deleting old emails and archiving those messages that you want to keep.

4. Stay in touch. If you just can't let go while you're on leave, you can access your mailbox, by using Groupwise WebAccess (via the Internet), installing the GroupWise client

on your home computer, or setting up your smartphone to send and/or receive emails.

5. Back up your data before you go. Do one final backup before you go on leave and store it in a safe place, preferably away from your office. Then you can rest easy. Don't panic if you've never done a backup before – read the article on data backup at UCT on the ICTS website. It covers everything in easy-to-follow steps.

And remember: ICTS will still be there looking after things over the festive season. If you need any assistance, contact the IT Helpdesk. **MP**

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