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Let the celebrations begin!

A bumper harvest of undergraduate and postgraduate students will graduate this week



Jubilation: Joy was contagious at the recent announcement of the MBChB and allied health sciences results at the Faculty of Health Sciences. Among those eligible to graduate this week are 183 new doctors, 45 occupational therapists, 42 physiotherapists, 20 speech-language pathologists and eight audiologists. (See page 4. To view footage, please go to www.youtube.com/user/UCT-SouthAfrica)

The year-end graduation (15 to 21 December), the flagship event on UCT's academic calendar, will see a grand procession of thousands of undergraduate and postgraduate students through stately Jameson Hall, continuing a tradition dating back to the university's founding in 1829.

This year a whopping 5 062 students are eligible to graduate (2009: 4 768; 2008: 4 489; 2007: 4 507).

Among them are 440 master's and 84 PhD graduands (2009: 398 master's; 103 PhDs).

The Faculty of Humanities, weighing in as UCT's largest faculty, will cap 1 739 students in four ceremonies, among them 98 master's graduands and 14 doctoral candidates. (2009: 1 573; 82 master's; 17 PhDs). This tally also includes 873 bachelor's and 322 honours graduands.

The Faculty of Commerce will cap 1 399 students in three ceremonies, a tally that includes 40 master's graduands and nine doctoral candidates. (2009: 1 310; 30 master's; seven PhDs.) The total includes 741 bachelor's and 142 honours graduands.

Numbers are slightly down in the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment, which will cap 683 students over two ceremonies,

including 112 master's and 12 doctoral candidates. (2009: 736; 103 master's; 12 PhDs.) The total includes 456 bachelor's and 94 honours graduands.

The Faculty of Science will cap 560 students in two ceremonies, among them 62 master's and 33 doctoral candidates. (2009: 544; 48 master's; 39 PhDs.) The tally includes 284 bachelor's and 164 honours graduands.

In the Faculty of Health Sciences,

533 candidates will graduate in two ceremonies, including 62 master's and 13 doctoral candidates. (2009: 469; 49 master's; 25 PhDs.) The total includes 300 bachelor's and 62 honours graduands.

The Faculty of Law will cap 148 candidates in one ceremony, among them 57 master's and three PhD graduands. (2009: 136; 37 master's; three PhDs.) **MP**

Four greats among honourees at December grad

In addition to the regular procession of graduands, four well-known public figures will also make their way up on stage over the coming December graduations when UCT awards honorary doctorates to British politician Baroness Linda Chalker (21 December), who will receive an LLD (*honoris causa*); United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and South African Judge Navi Pillay (21 December) will receive an LLD (*honoris causa*); and acting greats Sir Anthony Sher and Janet Suzman will receive honorary DLitt degrees (both on 20 December).

Judge Navi Pillay

Judge Navi Pillay was the first woman to open her own law practice in Natal, and the first black woman and the first attorney to be appointed an acting judge of the High Court of South Africa.

Born in Durban and the daughter of a bus driver, she went to the University of Natal where she graduated with a BA in 1963 and an LLB in 1965. In 1982, she obtained a Master of Law degree and in 1988 a Doctor of Juridical Science degree from Harvard University. She has practised as an attorney since 1967, defending many anti-apartheid activists and trade unionists.

Among her precedent-setting achievements were judgments exposing the use of torture in the apartheid state, the debilitating effects of solitary confinement,

and importantly, the winning of the right for Robben Island prisoners (including Nelson Mandela) to have access to legal representation.

In 1995 she was elected by the UN General Assembly as judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and led the court from 1999, setting significant international criminal law precedents, including the groundbreaking redefinition of rape as an act of genocide.

In February 2003, Judge Pillay was elected one of the 18 judges – and the only South African judge – of the newly-created International Criminal Court. In 2008 she became the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, an office she regards as “the voice of the victim everywhere”.



Sir Antony Sher

Sir Antony Sher was born and raised in South Africa, before going to London to study at the Webber-Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art between 1969 and 1971.

For a while he performed with the Gay Sweatshop theatre group, before joining the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1982. His performance in the title role of *Richard III* in 1984 was crowned with an Olivier Award for Best Actor, and in 1997 he won another Olivier Award for *Stanley*.

His acting success extends also

to film – including performances as Disraeli in *Mrs Brown*, and chief weasel in *The Wind in the Willows*. His television work includes *The History Man* (1981) and *The Jury* (2002).

He has also written extensively, both fiction and non-fiction. His books include his memoirs, *Woza Shakespeare: Titus Andronicus in Africa* (1997), *Year of the King* (1985), *Characters* (1990) *Beside Myself* (2002), *Primo Time* (2005), and a number of novels. His plays include *ID* (2003), *Primo* (2004)

and *The Giant* (2008).

His links with South Africa remain strong: directing at the Baxter, presenting master classes and writing on gay identity, and so creating a learning opportunity for others.

In 2005 he directed *Breakfast with Mugabe*, and in 2007 he produced the Channel 4 crime documentary *Murder Most Foul*, which chronicled the Cape Town murder of Brett Goldin and Richard Bloom.

Sher has been widely honoured for his contributions as an actor, writer and director.

Baroness Linda Chalker




Baroness Linda Chalker, a British Conservative politician, was a Member of Parliament in the United Kingdom from 1974 to 1992. She became a life peer in 1992.

As a trustee of the University

of Cape Town Trust in the United Kingdom, she has been very supportive of UCT over the years, by promoting the support of needy black students.

Chalker founded the Chalker Foundation for Africa, which sup-

ports medical knowledge and training in Africa. She is chairperson of the board of the Medicines for Malaria Venture. She is the founder and chairman of Africa Matters Limited, and a founder board member of the Nelson Mandela Legacy

Trust. Her support for development initiatives in Africa is widely recognised by African leaders: At the World Economic Forum meeting in Cape Town a few years ago, African presidents applauded when one of them called her “Mama Africa”. 

Janet Suzman



Janet Suzman, in a remarkable career, has distinguished herself as an actor and director in theatre, film and television.

Born in Johannesburg, she was educated at Kingsmead College and Wits University. She was an active voice against discrimination, and as a student spoke out against the Extension of University Education Bill, which paved the way for the extension of apartheid into higher education. Following its promulgation into law in 1959 she left South Africa for England, where she studied acting at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA), of which she is now vice-President.

In 1963, she joined the newly-formed Royal Shakespearean Company for their *War of the Roses*, and subsequently played many Shakespearean heroines. Her performance as Cleopatra in 1973 received rave reviews, and is still regarded as the definitive performance of the role. She is passing on the baton, however, having recently directed Kim Cattrall in the role for The Liverpool Playhouse. More recently, in 2007, critics raved about her performance as Volumnia in *Coriolanus*, and noted that there were “too few stage performances from this fine actress”, reflecting the ratio of male to female dramatic parts.

Her first role in film in the early 1970s was as the Empress Alexandra of Russia in *Nicholas and Alexandra*, for which she received Golden Globe and Academy Award nominations for best actress. She has made many other films including Andre Brink’s *A Dry White Season*, and the cult movie *The Draughtsman’s Contract*. She has twice received London’s prestigious *Evening Standard* Award for plays by Fugard and Chekhov.

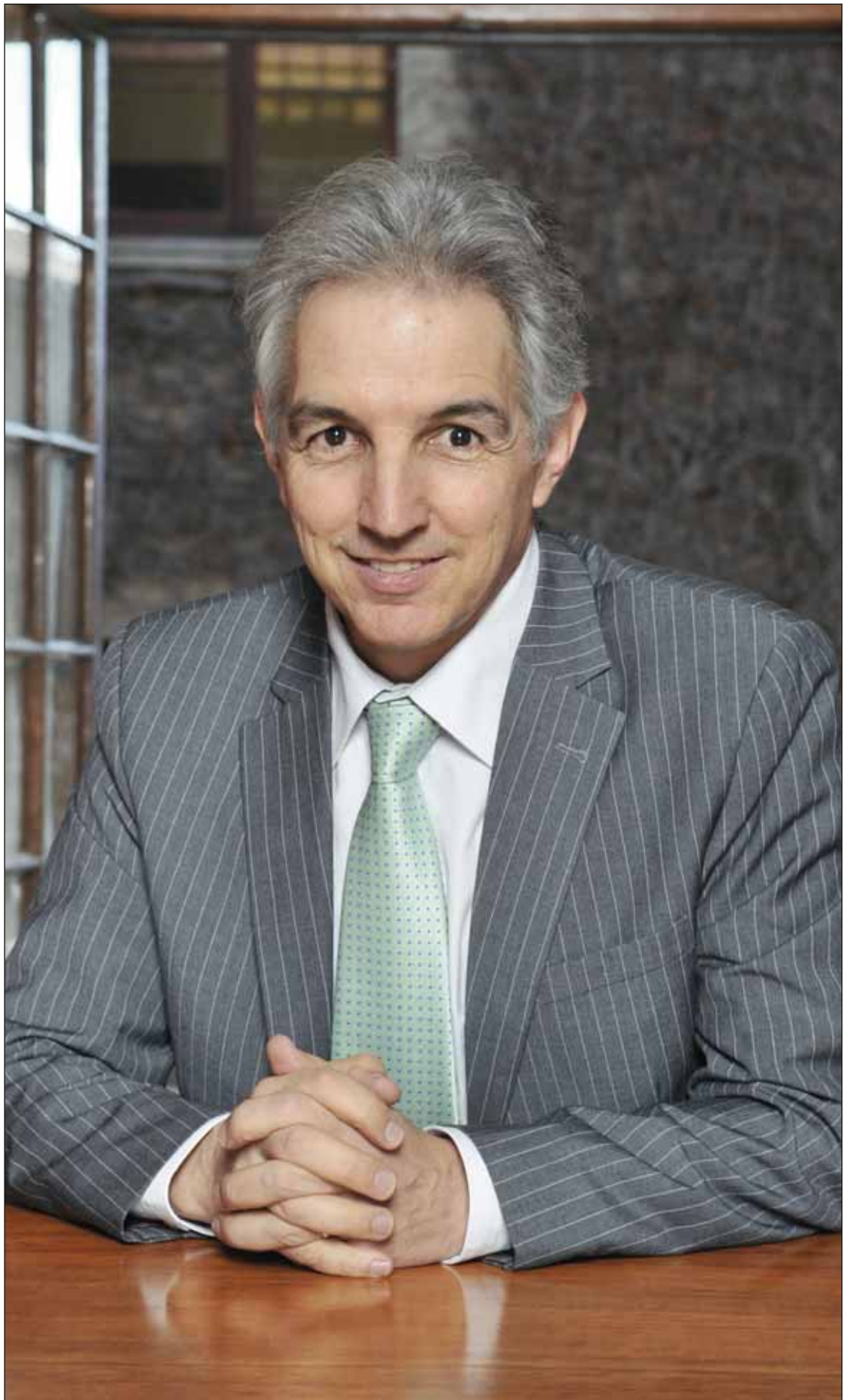
She has always kept her links with South Africa and opened the Market Theatre in 1976 in *The Death of Bessie Smith* with John Kani, and subsequently directed him in *Othello* there in 1987, treating it as a protest play.

In the 90s she directed *The Good Woman of Sharkville* there, and in 1987 rewrote *The Cherry Orchard*, setting it in the Free State for Birmingham Republic. Her production of *Hamlet* for the Baxter Theatre was invited to open the RSC’s prestigious Complete Works Festival in 2006, but was scarred by the horrific murder of Brett Goldin, playing Rosenkrantz.

Her most recent South African play, *The Dream of the Dog*, which she helped develop with its author, Craig Higginson, opened at the Finborough Theatre, London, in April this year, and received rave reviews. **MP**

Great expectations of graduates

Graduation message from vice-chancellor Dr Max Price



There are few jobs as satisfying as sending UCT graduates out into the world. My colleagues and I have reason to celebrate – not only on the day of your graduation ceremony, but also in the years to come, as we read about UCT alumni who actively participate and contribute to the communities in which they work and live.

We will hear of you as you start new business ventures (or transform old ones); make inroads in the fields of medicine, science and technology; win landmark court cases or rewrite law; break new ground in the arts, literature

and media; build an eye-catching new style of building or bridge – or perhaps engineer the formula that will lead to the replacement of petroleum some day.

We are sending you out with great expectations, just as I know you have ambitious expectations of yourself. You have already met the high standards that were set for you in order to graduate. This is no ordinary achievement.

You all came from different environments, schools, personal circumstances and ability. There must have been many academic, financial, social and personal challenges

to meet on the path that led you to this graduation ceremony. Yet, here you are. Graduates of UCT!

I am also certain that in most cases, as you faced these hurdles, you relied on the support of family members and friends. They too are congratulated today.

You have the privilege of higher education that many will never attain. It is most important that you put this to use in the world for the benefit of all. It will be the values and social commitment that inform your work and achievements that will make us most proud of you as graduates of UCT. **MP**



Healthy dose of jubilation: Joy was contagious at the final results bash at the Faculty of Health Sciences yesterday.



Gilt-edged: Michaela Hopley (third from left), MBChB Gold Medal winner.



Elation: "It feels great! It's over!" – Sarah Masola (23), who came from Mpumalanga to study medicine at UCT.

Trust me, I'm a (new) doctor

It seemed appropriate that the notorious Cape Doctor would show up at the annual final-year results bash at the Faculty of Health Sciences, when 183 new doctors (representing a 98.4% pass rate) formally received their results.

In a message read by deputy dean Professor Sue Kidson, dean Professor Marian Jacobs (in the US at the time) expressed her joy at the results, and paid tribute to the students and those who had supported them during their journey of six years.

"I am at Harvard, participating in a meeting which will have important opportunities for our faculty, so I hope that you understand and that I am forgiven. I will definitely be at graduation, up there reading all the names that I have practised so carefully in the past year, and ask you to look up at me as you wait to go onto the stage (and not to fall head first into the VC's lap!)."

"This is the last time we make contact before you graduate as health professionals; and with each one of you, it is a moment that I treasure."

Traditionally the results pamphlets are thrown from the balcony at the Fuller Building, and this year wind dispersal aided the process.

And then began the rounds of hugs, laughter, and tears of joy.

Among the festive throng were 45 newly qualified occupational therapists (an 88% pass rate for the course), 42 physiotherapists (98% pass rate), 20 speech-language pathologists (100% pass rate) and eight audiologists (89% pass rate).

"It feels great! It's over!" said a beaming Sarah Masola (23), who came from Mpumalanga to study medicine at UCT. "It was stressful, but manageable."

Masola is the first doctor in her family. Who was the first person she called with the good news?

"My mother. She was too excited. She couldn't speak!"

Masola plans to do her community service in Pretoria, and then hopes to return to UCT to specialise.

"But tonight I'm going to party!"

Women students shone. The award for the top MBChB student went to Jessica Rule, while the faculty's Gold Medal was awarded to Michaela Hopley. Top students in the allied health sciences were Genna Irving (occupational therapy), Charlene Marshall (physiotherapy), Tarryn Sparg (audiology) and Jane Harrison (speech-language pathology).

(To view footage, please go to <http://www.youtube.com/user/UCT-SouthAfrica>) **MP**

Family-first philosophy directs by degrees

There's a first time for everything in a relationship – and although Dr Sascha Edelstein has several degrees under his belt, this is the first time he'll be capped by his partner, Cal Volks.

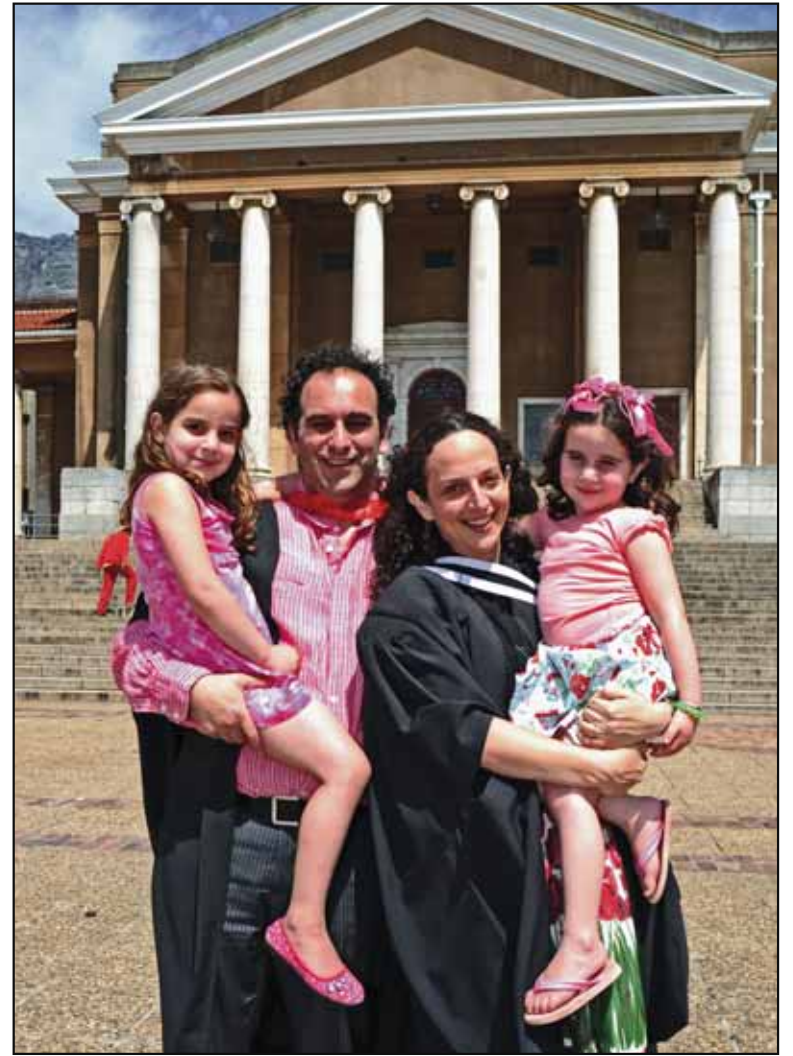
Edelstein (of UCT's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology), who is graduating with an MPhil in reproductive medicine on 21 December, has promised Volks (director of the HIV/AIDS Co-ordination Unit, better known as HAICU) that this will be his last degree – at least for a while.

The list of Edelstein's degrees is impressive. He graduated previously with an MBChB, winning the UCT Cuthbert Crichton Prize for Obstetrics and Gynaecology. After working in the UK, he completed an MPhil at UCT in environmental and geographical science, graduating with distinction. Then followed a World Bank project for a number of years, after which Edelstein returned to UCT, graduating in 2008 with an MMed – again with distinction – and winning the obstetrics and gynaecology department research prize.

Edelstein says he was influenced to specialise in infertility by Volks' experience of struggling to conceive. The successful outcome, following medical intervention, was Leila, now five, and Kiera, now three.

"I want to work with this group of people because I understand something of the cultural, physical, emotional and financial hurdles one might need to jump to have children," says Edelstein. "The modern-day developments in this field are very exciting."

Like many working parents, both say it was tough parenting young children while working – and, for



Family plan: Cal Volks (right) with partner Dr Sascha Edelstein and their daughters Leila and Kiera.

Edelstein, completing the registrar exams. He wrote the primary exam when Leila was born, and the exit exam on Kiera's arrival; but it was all worth it.

The couple share role models in the form of Health Sciences dean Professor Marian Jacobs, and the

head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Professor Lynne Denny. Edelstein also paid tribute to Professor Zephne van der Spuy, Professor Silke Dyer and others in the department for their teaching and research supervision.

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Hat-trick for Westcott sisters

This week's graduation will mark a special milestone for the three Westcott siblings.

A trio of sisters will all be business science information system honours graduates by the end of the graduation week.

Nicky Westcott graduated in 1997 with Pam close behind in 2000, and baby sister Kim will graduate on 17 December.

After graduating, Nicky decided to take a year off to go to the UK before coming back to take on the serious task of a real job. On arriving, she found a job with a small IT consultancy and worked there for two years in web development and pre-sales. She then contracted as a Java programmer for three years, taking time between contracts to travel to Southeast Asia, China, Nepal and Europe – as well as working in Switzerland for three months (conveniently, during the ski season!). She is now working at an investment bank, managing a team of Java developers who write surveillance processes for the trading systems, looking for unusual or suspicious behaviour patterns. Nicky lives in London with her husband and two small children.

Pam completed her IS honours degree in 2000. She then went to America to work at a ski resort and to travel,



One, two, three: The Westcott sisters (from left) Nicky, Pam and Kim.

before returning to South Africa to get a job as a business analyst at BSG. At the end of 2003 she was bitten by the travel bug once again and travelled to Mozambique and South America. She then moved to London, where she began work for Sequel Business Solutions, a company which produces software to support underwriters and brokers operating in the Lloyd's of London and international insurance markets (www.sequel.com). Initially employed as a business analyst, Pam moved into project management for a large scale software development and implementation project.

In October Pam moved back to South Africa with her husband, where she continues to work for Sequel until the end of this year, as she is expecting her first baby.

Kim, the youngest, plans a two-month break to travel around Southeast Asia with three of her friends. She will then follow in the footsteps of both her sisters by moving to the UK, where she has a job as a Business Solutions Consultant in the London office of BSG. Although Kim says she's unsure what the future holds, she intends returning to the Mother City. **MP**

Septuagenarian gets her PhD on the trot

Graduand and grandmother Marianne Balarin lives life to the full, adding a doctorate to a string of accomplishments, writes Daniella Pollock

Marianne Balarin makes most 20-somethings look a lacklustre lot. At 76, this mother of four, granny of five and half-marathon veteran will receive a PhD for her work on phytoplankton from UCT later this week.

There is no sitting pretty here. After learning in September that her thesis had been accepted, she made her granddaughter's wedding dress (the wedding was in November), one of the bridesmaid's dresses, her own dress and that of her daughter, mother of the bride.

She runs, too; and this is not just 'going round the block' running, either. When Balarin took up running in 2000, she used to do half marathons.

"I have trophies from each year," she laughs.

These days she mostly runs tenners, racking up an astonishing 518kms between 16 June 2009 and 16 June 2010.

As someone who's surfing through her late 20s, I leave the interview thinking: 'I want to be like that when I grow up'. So how did a girl who grew up in Nazi-occupied Holland discover a love for drifting ocean organisms?

The Pieters family immigrated to South Africa in 1949, and Balarin completed her schooling at Hoërskool Jan Van Riebeeck in Cape Town. After school, she registered for a BSc at UCT, but found the jump from Afrikaans to English-medium learning difficult.

She moved to what was then Rho-

desia, got married and qualified as a teacher from the Bulawayo Teachers Training College (HDE). She started a family and taught for 16 years at various schools in Salisbury (Harare), returning to South Africa in 1977.

When her youngest, Jody, finished school, Balarin returned to university and read for her BSc, BSc honours and master's degrees at Rhodes University.

"At first I thought I'd complete a BSc and that would be that, but the bug had bitten and I just kept going."

She keenly remembers the last year of her BSc, when she did a project in growing phytoplankton, which involved a lot of electron microscope work.

"The head of botany liked the pictures so much that a few of them were hung in the botany library. They're still there," she says.

Her studies provided her with opportunities to carry out research off Marion Island and Antarctica, where she spent one Christmas on board the oceanographic research ship, the *Agulhas*. Brings new meaning to having a white Christmas!

"Imagine perfect stillness (there's nothing to reflect sound) and the whitest white."

She moved back to Cape Town in 2000 and registered for a PhD at UCT.

Her thesis, *Comparative laboratory study of photo-acclimation in selected dinoflagellate and diatom species of the Benguela Ecosystem*,

investigates the different responses to light in two groups of phytoplankton, one of which is motile and the other tending to sink.

In a turbulent upwelling environment, diatoms (mixers) are exposed to rapid changes in light level, whereas dinoflagellates (migrators) are favoured by calm conditions under which they can swim up to an optimum environment.

She found that diatoms were more efficient in utilising light at high intensities, while small-celled dinoflagellates were most efficient in low light.

After graduation and spending time with the family who live in Franschoek, she will return to her riverside home in the Eastern Cape for Christmas.

"But first, while I'm here, I need to get back to the gym," she says. A recent Achilles injury put her out somewhat.

"I'm not a fanatic; but I do love my gym."

And what's planned for the new year?

"My supervisor, Professor John Field, is encouraging me to explore academic writing, but we'll see."

Balarin is also not the only member of her family with UCT ties: also on the UCT academic staff are her son, Emlyn, who heads up the MA-RE institute for marine research, and daughter-in-law Dr Isabelle Ansoorge, a lecturer in the Department of Oceanography. **MP**



Legal eagles soar together

The Hutchison family will keep it legal when popular law lecturer Prof Dale Hutchison hoods his sons this week

Professor Dale Hutchison is easily one of the most popular law professors at UCT, despite having to overcome a serious hearing disability. But he says his recipe is a simple one: Keep it real.

Hutchison is set to cap his two sons, Andrew and David, who have followed in his footsteps and will graduate this week.

Hutchison has what he calls "quite severe" sensorineural hearing loss (nerve deafness) in both ears. But he has not allowed this to prevent him from carving a reputation for himself as a lecturer of outstanding ability.

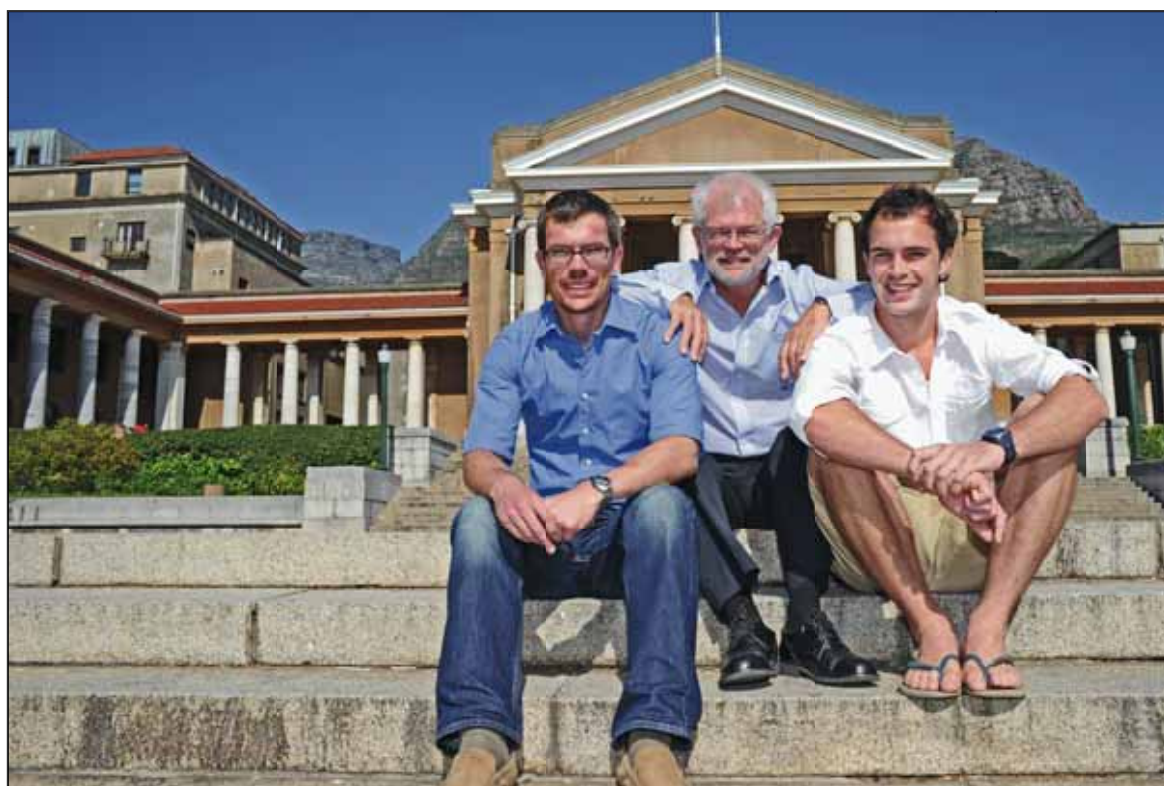
"It started in my early 20s and became progressively worse. Hearing aids are very good these days, but they can only amplify sound, and become less effective when the hair-like nerve fibres in the inner ear deteriorate to the point that mine have," he explains.

Now, however, science has come to the rescue with cochlear implants, with an electrode that directly stimulates the auditory nerve.

"I used to think this was a form of technology still in its infancy, but since I had my implant in January this year I have realised otherwise. I am absolutely amazed to what extent my hearing has improved," says Hutchison.

Over the years his disability has affected his teaching.

"Taking questions from the floor



Family affair: Prof Dale Hutchison, a UCT alumnus, and popular law lecturer (Department of Private Law), will hood his sons, Andrew (left) and David during graduation week.

became rather difficult, especially since those who often ask questions tend to sit at the back of the class! Now I hope that will be a thing of the past. 2010 has been a year of adjusting to my new form of hearing, and that process is almost complete," he says.

He is extremely proud of his sons and is looking forward to that special moment when he hoods them.

Andrew (30), already has BA, LLB and LLM degrees from UCT and is now receiving his PhD, having completed his doctorate (on changes in the South African law of contract)

in under three years.

"The fact that he managed to do that while carrying a full load as lecturer in the law faculty, having to prepare lectures from scratch in a number of courses, is testimony to his dedication and the seriousness of purpose with which he tackled that

project. I foresee a great future for him in academic law," Hutchison says.

His younger son, David (22), graduates with a BBusSc degree on 17 December, and will then go on to complete his LLB over the next two years. He is more interested in business and legal practice than his brother, and has already shown considerable entrepreneurial flair, says Hutchison.

David received his full colours for karate from UCT this year, is a Black Belt and grades for his Second Dan on the 16th, the day before he graduates.

Hutchison's daughter, Helen (27), graduated MBChB from UCT in 2007 and was also hooded by her dad, as was Andrew at all his previous graduation ceremonies.

Hutchison says he loves teaching and is proud to have been one of the first recipients of the Distinguished Teacher Award, with former deputy vice-chancellor Professor Wieland Gevers, back in the early 1980s.

"I have no 'magic recipe', but my philosophy is: keep it as clear and simple as you can. The best legal writing is clear and logical and easy to read, not dense and convoluted; I try to achieve something similar in my lectures."

If the regard in which he is held by his students is anything to go by, it seems he does this, and then some... **MP**

Three kidneys and an honours degree

Catherine de Beer's middle name must be Courage.

On 4 December last year she underwent a life-saving kidney transplant – and this gutsy young woman will not only graduate with an honours degree in Information Systems (and three kidneys), but is also destined to represent South Africa at the World Transplant Games in Sweden next year.

She was on doctor's orders to stay at her home in Eshowe after the operation, in which she received a kidney transplant from her mother at a hospital in Durban. Confined to her home, she missed registration; fortunately her fellow students and the Department of Information Systems rallied to ensure that she could register for her honours degree.

During the course of the year De Beer excelled at her studies and her IS honours team, ShadowFax, earned the second-highest marks in the class for their software development for the national Department of Education, a secondary school management system allowing for marks, awards and other data to be searched at school, provincial and national level.

This project was one of three from UCT teams that represented the university at the Microsoft Imagine Cup in Pretoria earlier this month.

Not just a brainbox, this brave transplant recipient is also a formidable squash player. In October she played in the SA Transplant Sports Association national games (recognised by NOCSA) and won gold for squash, earning a place at the World Games in Sweden next year as a Springbok.

De Beer is also a dedicated member of the Organ Donor Foundation and competed in the 'world's biggest walk' at Sea Point to raise awareness about organ donation (www.odf.org.za).



Transplant success: Kidney recipient and information systems honours graduand Catherine de Beer (left) and friends.



PhD for registrar in chemical pathology

Ryan Benjamin keeps two lines in the water at once.

At graduation this week Benjamin will receive his PhD in mechanical engineering (he completed his undergraduate degree in 1997). And while he was putting the final touches

Many hats: Ryan Benjamin, a registrar specialising in chemical pathology, will receive his PhD in mechanical engineering this week.

to his PhD, he was also hard at work as a registrar, specialising in chemical pathology.

Benjamin's PhD concerns a new theoretical model of polymers and a numerical method for computer simulations of these polymers.

How has he been able to balance the demands of two demanding areas of research and study?

"For any given period of time," says Ryan "you cannot have every-

thing. Thus, if you want something, you have to sacrifice something else. So I just redistribute time from other areas. I cannot deny that it is difficult to switch from one way of thinking to another, but I have been lucky in this respect."

He is currently contracted to the National Health Laboratory Service for two years and says he will be functioning as a chemical pathologist for the foreseeable future.

"If things go according to plan, I will be able to do research in vascular disease, numerically modelling blood vessels and prosthesis design."

UCT, he says, has been very kind to him.

"The university has allowed me to enter multiple fields of study simultaneously, and they and my supervisor, Professor Daya Reddy, have been very patient with me. I am very fortunate that UCT has allowed me this latitude." **MP**

From rebellious teen to prosperous leader

Local entrepreneur Paul Adams never believed that he would one day be part of the executive team of a reputable recruitment consulting firm. A rebellious teenager, he almost didn't finish high school. Life could then easily have taken a different path, but Adams believes he was destined to do great things – all he needed was an intervention.

The 'intervention' was more like a series of occurrences, says the man who will graduate from UCT's Graduate School of Business with a Postgraduate Diploma in Management on 18 December.

Today Adams is general manager of Siphwiwo Consulting Services, a company that specialises in consulting and outsourcing services in the fields of human resources, training and development and recruitment. Adams is playing a vital role in developing and marketing the business. He also manages the human resources, operations and legal departments – which he says he loves, and which allows him to wear many hats every day.

Although Adams relishes his good fortune, he looks back on his life and is grateful for the struggles he experienced and how they led him to where he is today.

The first turning point came when his older brother, Gidion Adams, per-

suaded him to return to school.

"I left school in Grade 9, convinced that I didn't need it. I was always very independent, a self-starter kind of person. I think this was due to the absence of a father figure in my life," says Adams.

Adams' father left the family when he was 11; he confesses that this aggravated his rebellious nature.

"I didn't like following rules and I believed I could find work or even start my own business at the age of 16, but I ended up working for a car wash. Gidion came to my rescue with some stern words, and helped me realise the importance of education. That message has stuck with me throughout my life."

Adams finished matric in 1994 at Grassdale High School in Grassy Park where he grew up with his mom and five older brothers. Times were tough and he couldn't afford to study further. He had a string of jobs between 1995 and 1998 selling different products door to door, experienced many failures and learnt hard lessons. Then he went into business with Gidion and spent five years helping to run their small business, called Trend-setter Blinds.

"This period of my life taught me great resilience and made me realise how hard you need to work to get

what you want," says Adams.

The next big turning point came in 2004. He entered the SAB Kick-Start programme, a poverty alleviation programme that has become a platform for stimulating sustainable enterprise development in the country. With the help of his Kick-Start mentor, Wajdi Abrahams, a Heart 104.9 business show presenter, Adams realised that he had a passion for human resources services. He compiled a comprehensive business plan, calling his business Inkhunzi Consulting Services, and got the capital to establish his venture.

"This was indeed a brilliant and life-changing experience for me and I learnt so much, including what I was capable of," he says.

A year later Adams sold Inkhunzi to Siphwiwo Consultancies, where he now invests his time and energy.

He doesn't know whether it was luck or just 'meant to be', but being able to study through UCT's Graduate School of Business and fulfil his dream of acquiring a management qualification was unexpected, but an experience which he says was one of the most valuable of his life.

"It's huge in my world, and I'm the first in my family to graduate at varsity level!"

Adams plans to start law studies in 2012. **MP**



Second wind: Local entrepreneur and self-starter Paul Adams will graduate from UCT's Graduate School of Business with a Postgraduate Diploma in Management on 18 December

Medical teachers grab 2010 awards



Teachers apart: (From left) The winners of the 2010 Distinguished Teacher Awards are (second and third from left) Profs Zephne van der Spuy and Roland Eastman, here with DVCs Prof Crain Soudien (far left) and Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo.

Professor Roland Eastman and Professor Zephne van der Spuy, both of the Faculty of Health Sciences, have been named the recipients of UCT's 2010 Distinguished Teacher Awards.

So (as both indicated) their experiences of teaching are perhaps unlike those of most others at the university – no large lecture halls crammed with students, for one. Rather, most of their teaching is done in small groups while doing rounds in hospital wards, cheek by jowl with students and patients.

Van der Spuy, head of postgraduate education in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, describes teaching as one of the 'legs' of the three-legged stool of medical training, going hand in hand with clinical work and research. "It is said that the best care of a patient comes through teaching, because as you teach you review and criticise, and so your treatment of the patient improves," she says.

Those sentiments are echoed by Eastman, head of the Division of Neurology, when he speaks of 'setting the tone' and acting as a role model for students. "A large part of the work

is clinical bedside teaching of the students – that's where a lot of the real learning is done, and that's the only way to teach people to be doctors," he says.

In medicine, the two agree, teaching, clinical work and research are inseparable – as deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo also highlighted in his toast at the Annual Distinguished Teachers Dinner on 1 December.

"While tonight's award recipients have excelled in particular ways, they both show that teaching and research are not mutually exclusive; they must run in parallel in the university environment," said Nhlapo.

He also noted that the two both hail from the health sciences; where, he said, the study of the disease can often overshadow concern for the patient.

"What has set each of [Eastman and Van der Spuy] apart, however, is the way they teach their students to care for the patient while learning about the disease."

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Finding fossils

How Mariagrazia Galimberti cracks ancient marine mysteries

PhD graduand Mariagrazia Galimberti lives in a different world – more specifically, the Middle Stone Age.

She will receive her PhD in archaeology this week for a study that involved the reconstruction of the marine palaeoenvironment during the Middle Stone Age (between 300 000 and 30 000 years ago) – particularly the period between 115 000 and 50 000 years ago in South Africa – through the use of oxygen isotope analyses on two species of shellfish, *Turbo sarmaticus* and *Donax serra*.

The shellfish concerned were recovered at two archaeological sites, Pinnacle Point and Klasies River, and hers was the first study of its kind undertaken in South Africa and on South African material.

"Reconstructing the marine temperature as it was during the occupation of both the sites, I discovered that there is at times a discrepancy between the global record and the marine record on this coast of South Africa (the south coast)," says Galimberti.

"I also studied the season of exploitation of shellfish, which showed that they were mostly

exploited in winter, shedding some light on behavioural patterns of *Homo sapiens* in South Africa. My PhD also included a pilot study on sclerochronology on both modern and archaeological specimens, which involved the counting of growth increments in shellfish carbonates to identify growth patterns in different time periods." To which lesser mortals can no doubt only reply: huh?

Her proud parents, Rosarita and Mauro, arrived in Cape Town from Italy recently for her graduation, and she says she is very excited that they will be able to share this special moment in her life.

"I am very grateful to them for having supported me, at times even financially, all through my university career. I know that they were not too enthusiastic to see me leaving Europe to come to South Africa, but I very much appreciate the fact that they never complained about it. They certainly contributed to me reaching this point (graduation), even if they don't realise that."

Galimberti did her undergraduate degree in Italy, at the University of Venice, obtaining a BA (equivalent to BA [Hons] in South Africa) in

the preservation of cultural heritage, then went to Oxford for her master's and obtained an MSc in archaeological science at the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and History of Art.

She pays tribute to her supervisor, Professor Judith Sealy, who, she says, "has been incredibly good, helpful and extremely patient with me. She's a great supervisor."

On her time at UCT, she says: "Overall, UCT has been a very good experience for me. Even though my PhD has been very challenging at times due to the fact that my work was dependent on the efficiency of the available equipment, I've always found that people were very willing to help and I got much interaction and advice from many departments, including the Department of Geological Science, Zoology and the SEM Unit. Their help was invaluable."

At present she is working for the South African Heritage Resources Agency, and she plans one day to publish her work for her PhD.

"But I am leaving a door open to get back to academia and research in archaeological science, possibly with a postdoc." ^{MP}

Law graduands from Rwanda celebrated

Eighteen Rwandans were awarded their Master's in Law degrees this year. As not everyone could be at the graduation ceremony, a celebration event was held in Kigali last month. Deputy dean Professor Evance Kalula was greeted with much applause by the more than fifty alumni and guests when he noted that Rwanda – as the biggest group of foreign nationals in the faculty this year – had contributed to the research excellence that was one of the markers in the latest *Times* ranking that placed the University of Cape Town at 107th in the top 200 universities worldwide.

The guest of honour at the event was the Director of the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), Professor Geoff Rugege. "The NCHE's core business is developing benchmarks and standards for rating and accrediting universities in Rwanda," said Rugege. "UCT is the best-run university in Africa and is at the cutting edge of research. For example, they have done a great deal in discovering drugs to treat HIV/AIDS, but you don't hear a lot about that in the US and the UK. We have to sing our own song. People think we [Africa] aren't there, but UCT certainly is."



Left to right: UCT's Prof Evance Kalula (middle) with Dr Emmanuel Ugirashebuya (left), and LLM graduate Gedeon Rukondo.

The Rwandan Student Representative for 2009/10, Godfrey Kamukunde, proposed a vote of thanks to the government of Rwanda for investing in the students. "Many African governments have not made higher education a priority, so we really thank you. Thank you too to UCT for a warm welcome, a fantastic orientation, and for English classes for those for whom English is not their first language.

"Our humble prayer is that the existing relationship between our governments and UCT will continue to the benefit of Rwanda," he said. ^{MP}

Research on AIDS orphans attracts national and international awards

Concern for orphans has led to a duo of awards for Dr Cally Ardington, a senior research officer in the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) in the Faculty of Commerce.

Her doctorate on parental death and schooling in South Africa was judged the best PhD in the country, based on an evaluation by the Economics Society of South Africa (ESSA). Ardington's postdoctoral research has also won acclaim and a five-year grant from the Global Research Initiative Programme for New Foreign Investigators of the United States National Institutes of Health.

Commerce dean professor Don Ross said: "This is the second year in a row that the School of Economics has produced the best PhD in South Africa, according to ESSA. Last year Dr Tia Linda Zuze clinched the title. This speaks to the calibre of research undertaken in the Faculty of Commerce, and particularly to the leadership of the supervisor on both doctorates, Professor Murray Leibbrandt."

Ardington's doctoral research examined the impact of the great losses suffered by AIDS orphans and their potential to succeed in life.

She wrote: "The HIV/AIDS pandemic is leaving in its wake a generation of children who have lost



Dr Cally Ardington with Prof Murray Leibbrandt.

parents, care-givers, and other loved ones. One of the lasting effects of the crisis will be the impact it is having on the education of the generation of children now of school-going age. My thesis examined the extent to which South African children who have experienced parental loss are vulnerable to poorer educational outcomes."

She also explored the fears that extended families were no longer effective as safety nets for AIDS orphans. She found that the death of the mother, in particular, had the greatest impact on the schooling of children,

and looked at the effects of this loss on broader society.

"I investigated the longer-run impact of parental loss in childhood on human capital formation by focusing on the completion of secondary school by early adulthood. These results suggest that parental death will reduce the ultimate human capital attainment of the child."

Building on the solid base of her doctorate, Ardington will now broaden the scope of her research to the links between poor health in childhood and the legacy of poverty. **MP**

Graduation in the bush



UCT alumna Julia Wakeling has an unusual graduation story to tell.

She graduated with an MSc in botany last June, but as she had already started working for her MSc supervisor, Professor William Bond, managing his research project in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park in KwaZulu-Natal on the day of graduation, she missed her big day.

Bond happened to be in the park at the time, helping Wakeling find her feet while assisting several honours students. So that she wouldn't miss out, Bond arranged a small surprise graduation ceremony.

Lacking the usual gravitas of graduation, Wakeling was draped with sheets and towels to create a suitable 'gowned' effect.

"It was a delightful little ceremony at the research camp where I'd been based for most of my master's fieldwork."

The ceremony a la bush camp was followed by snacks and champagne.

"It was a little out of the ordinary, but very memorable," said Wakeling. **MP**

Wild celebration: MSc graduate Julia Wakeling at her 'bush graduation' ceremony with her supervisor, Prof William Bond.

Nobel laureate to mentor top UCT scientist

Dr Mohlopheni Jackson Marakalala of UCT's Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM) has won the annual Sydney Brenner Fellowship Award, offered by the Academy of Science for South Africa (ASSAf).

Marakalala joined the IIDMM in 2008 as a postdoctoral fellow under the mentorship of Professor Gordon

Brown, and is currently investigating the role of Dectin-1 in innate immunity to various infectious diseases, including tuberculosis, fungal infections, and recently, the role of this receptor in anti-cancer immunity.

The award was established when Dr Sydney Brenner donated a portion of his 2002 Nobel Prize

to ASSAf to permit the academy (in partnership with the National Academy of Sciences in the US) to offer a research fellowship to an outstanding young scientist working in South Africa.

The fellowship includes mentorship by Brenner, both during and after tenure.

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Super computer sleuths



Digital detectives: (From left) Samantha Rule of the Computing Platforms team in the Technical Support Services Division, Nick Parsons of the Helpdesk team in Customer Services Division, and Roshan Harneker, a team leader in the Customer Services Division. In the middle is their course convenor, Adri Stander.

Three members of the university's Information & Communication Technology Services (ICTS) team will graduate with honours in Information Systems, specifically in the vital area of computer forensics.

They are Samantha Rule of the Computing Platforms team in the Technical Support Services Division, Nick Parsons of the Helpdesk team in Customer Services Division and Roshan Harneker, a team leader in the Customer Services Division.

Computer forensics concerns computer crime and is a branch of digital forensic science that involves legal evidence found in computers and digital storage media. The aim is to examine digital media in a "forensically sound manner with the aim of preserving, recovering, analysing and presenting facts and opinions about the information", according to a brief description in Wikipedia.

"As computer forensics and digital forensics get more exposure, people will realise that there is a great need for more individuals who can

perform digital forensic investigations in a legally admissible manner, and interpret their findings," said Harneker.

"It is definitely an in-house skill that benefits any organisation. And as two of my fellow graduands are also members of ICTS, I believe we're well-situated to be able to start assisting the campus with queries or cases they have which require a digital forensic investigation to be conducted."

Rule has long had an interest in computer forensics, having already completed industry-specific certification courses such as AccessData Certified Examiner, a qualification for digital forensic investigation.

Having an in-house team of digital forensic investigators at UCT is a boon.

"There are now individuals who understand and know what processes should be followed to ensure that evidence isn't contaminated and who can respond to and perform digital forensic investigation," added Rule. **MP**

Transformation takes time, say scholars

Germany and South Africa are worlds apart on many fronts, but the two countries followed similar trajectories when it comes to transformation.

Those similarities were dissected this week when UCT and the German Consulate in Cape Town hosted a three-day symposium, *South Africa & Germany 20 Years On: What does nation building & reconciliation mean?* It was co-organised by UCT's Professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela of the Department of Psychology and the German Consul General, Hans-Werner Bussmann.

Among the participants were UCT vice-chancellor Dr Max Price, Professor Andreas Eckert of Humboldt University in Germany, Professor Nobert Kersting and Dr Jerome Slamant of the University of Stellenbosch, local film producer Mark Kaplan, and author and playwright Dr

Sindiwe Magona. Topics ranged from the progress of transformation in the two countries and the role of youth in overcoming the recent past, to the common challenge of climate change.

Eckert spoke of challenges in academia his native country faced during the unification of West and East Germany – two vastly different nations – and how the country overcame these.

"It was difficult, it took time, but Germany now has a mixed academic scene," he said.

Price outlined developments in the South African higher education landscape over the past 40 years, in which he said radical transformation has occurred but still has a long way to go to achieve equalisation. Transformation is a long-term programme that can take between two to three generations, Price said, and the work starts with the school system. **MP**



Parallel experience: Prof Nobert Kersting (left) and Hans Bussmann at the symposium on transformation in Germany and in South Africa.

International honour for TB authority

UCT's Associate Professor Keertan Dheda has been named the winner of the 2010 Union Scientific Award of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD).

This international award is made annually to a researcher under the age of 45 who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of tuberculosis and/or lung disease.

Dheda (director of the Lung Infection and Immunity Unit in the Department of Medicine) was singled out for his internationally cited and acclaimed research, which focuses mainly on poverty-related lung disease, including TB, HIV and pneumonia. The IUATLD



Hand in hand: Assoc Prof Keertan Dheda (right) is congratulated on his IUATLD award by Dr Michael Kimerling of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Health Programme for Infectious Diseases.

lauded Dheda for his expertise in combating drug-resistant TB, and for his part in developing a programme that offers training and clinical services at the two designated hospitals in the Northern and Western Cape that deal with extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis – aka XDR-TB.

Dheda's work has influenced decisions and recommendations made by the South African National TB Programme and other leading international TB and health organisations. He is internationally recognised for his work in TB diagnostics, TB immunology and drug-resistant TB, and holds a patent related to new diagnostic technolo-

gies, for the further development of which he has received a grant from the South African Department of Science and Technology.

But, Dheda points out, the IUATLD award is a dedication to a team of collaborators, and to the hard work done in Africa.

"It is inspiring that all members of this team have been recognised for their hard work," he says. "It's also great advocacy for TB and diseases of poverty – and inspiring and significant that such an award comes to Africa, given that we are relatively under-resourced and poorly funded compared to American and European researchers."

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Students wind up power supply

They may have been grade 10 learners, but they discussed the importance of wind turbines as a renewable energy source like experts.

"Wind is free, less harmful, and sustainable, and there is a lot of wind in Cape Town," said Kuhle Mbewu of Oaklands High School in Lansdowne, when the UCT student branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (UCT IEEE) unveiled a hybrid renewable energy installation – combining wind and solar power – at the school on 2 December.

The learners' expertise also had something to do with the programme UCT IEEE has been running over the past two years, teaching the basic principles of electrical engineering to grade 10 learners. The project began at Thandokhulu and Westerford high schools in 2009, and moved to Oaklands and Oude Molen Technical High in Pinelands this year. The project formed part of the UCT IEEE's Engineering Projects in Community Service with High Schools (EPICS-High) initiative. EPICS-High is a global IEEE project that sees student branch members (such as the UCT IEEE) team up with high school learners to create community outreach projects.

UCT student Nana Ampofo-Anti, project manager for the UCT IEEE's Projects Committee (the team that managed the project), said the



Sustainable power: Members of the UCT IEEE and learners of Oaklands High and Oude Molen Technical High celebrate the installation of a wind turbine and solar panels at Oaklands.

project's ultimate aim is to establish a new 20-machine computer lab at an under-resourced school, using computers donated by the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment.

"One of our goals is to increase access to information and educational tools in under-resourced schools, to expose high school learners to engineering as a possible career path, and to encourage them to be innovative," Ampofo-Anti explained.

At this stage, the hybrid renewable energy supply (consisting of a wind turbine and four small solar panels that were installed by contractors hired by the UCT IEEE) feeds

power to the school's administration block. Once the school's revamp is completed next year (the government has approved a reconstruction to replace the asbestos structure), the wind turbine and solar panels will supply power, in tandem with the school's main electrical supply, to the new computer laboratory.

This will reduce the total power the school consumes from the city's electrical network.

Learners from Oaklands and Oude Molen designed models of the project that will be kept at the two schools. They will act as simple experimental facilities for illustrating the operation of wind turbines. **MP**



UCT poet wins Ingrid Jonker prize

UCT Master's in Creative Writing graduate Tania van Schalkwyk's debut collection, *Hyphen*, has won the prestigious Ingrid Jonker prize for English poetry.

The Ingrid Jonker Prize for debut poetry collections is awarded every year, alternately for work in English and Afrikaans. The prize, which consists of a medal and cash, will be presented at a ceremony during the 2011 Franschhoek Literary Festival.

The judging panel consisted of the poets Prof Leon de Kock, Prof Sally-Ann Murray, and Charl JF Cilliers. Six volumes were submitted for judging.

The work has been described as "a rich addition to English South African

writing" and "a very significant volume indeed". One judge wrote: "There is not a single poem in this volume that does not expand the reader's consciousness."

The judges were won over by Van Schalkwyk's "lushly evocative and yet also understated" poems. Van Schalkwyk was lauded for the "incandescence" of her poetic insight, her "quiet humour" and delicate capturing of "human strangeness".

"This is an excellent debut and a wonderful achievement for Creative Writing at UCT," said acclaimed poet Professor Joan Hambidge.

Van Schalkwyk was supervised by Professor Stephen Watson. **MP**

UCT Facebook page gathers 6 000 fans

Despite its short life the UCT Facebook page has exceeded 6 000 fans, with just a month to go before its first birthday.

The Communication & Marketing Department (CMD) set up the site as a complementary news platform to showcase the university's research, teaching and learning, as well as its campus and student life. With most of the status updates being linked to the online daily news and the fortnightly Monday Paper, plus the added value of lots more pictures and the occasional video, the page is an alternative way of spreading the news and reaching thousands of people who are interested in keeping up with developments on campus.

There are some who have asked: Why are we even on Facebook?

Facebook, a social networking site which was launched almost seven years ago, has garnered over half a billion active users, becoming the second most popular site on the web after Google (YouTube is number 3, according to the web traffic-reporting website www.alexa.com). In South Africa, it is also one of the top three sites. This means that a lot of people are spending a lot of time on Facebook, connecting with each other and sharing news and information.

This trend hasn't gone unnoticed by universities, and they have bought into the power of Facebook and other social networks such as Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn, as well as blogs, to reach out and interact with their students and with the community.

"The UCT Facebook page provides that social space that brings together a community united by a common interest – to stay informed about the latest news on campus," said web editor, Shumi Chimombe. "It allows UCT to engage directly with its audience, which consists mostly of potential and current local and international students, staff, alumni, and others who are simply interested in getting a glimpse of what life at UCT is like. And it also allows the community to connect with the university, commenting on the stories as well as interacting with each other. It's a quick, dynamic, two-way conversation."

With graduation now upon us, a new generation of alumni will walk away from Jameson Hall filled with memories of their student days. The Facebook page will ensure that those memories will not fade too soon.

You can access our social networks by clicking on the icons on the UCT website homepage at www.uct.ac.za. **MP**



Switched on: UCT web editor Shumi Chimombe (left) and web intern Mamello Mongoatu keep tabs on the university's social media sites.

Fuller sculpture honours the woman behind the name

Something of an enigma in UCT's history, Maria Emmeline Barnard Fuller is the name behind Fuller Hall, but she is almost never referred to by her full name – and popular knowledge of her life seems to suggest that she lived vicariously through her more prominent husband.

But now the woman known only as 'Mrs Fuller' has come into the limelight following the recent placement of a bust in her honour, commissioned by UCT's Works of Art Committee and created by sculptor Delise Reich. The bust now stands in front of the main façade of the women's residence Fuller Hall, which now bears

her name.

Born Maria Emmeline Buchanan in Cape Town in 1869, Fuller was one of the first four women students to enrol at the South African College in 1886 for her matric and teacher's certificate. The four were allowed to register for chemistry only; it was only in the following year that women were admitted to all classes.

In 1893 she married Dr Edward Barnard Fuller, a consultant at Somerset Hospital and part-time medical officer for the City of Cape Town, who later became chairman of the University Council (1938-1945). Fuller was instrumental in establishing Arthur's

Seat (a residence for women students of the South African College) in 1907, and served on the house committee for five years until a warden was appointed.

After the South African College officially became UCT on 2 April 1918, Fuller was a member of the Provisional Committee appointed to oversee the development of the new Groote Schuur campus. In the same year she was one of two women appointed to the newly constituted University Council.

Opened in 1928, the women's residence was renamed Fuller Hall in 1950 in recognition of her contributions to UCT. In the same year UCT awarded

Fuller an Honorary Doctorate of Laws.

As founder member and first president of the National Council of Women, and dedicated to promoting education and the enfranchisement of women, Fuller was awarded the George V Silver Jubilee Medal in 1935 for more than 40 years of public service.

Fuller died in 1957.

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Figurehead: A bust of Maria Emmeline Barnard Fuller has been unveiled in front of the main façade of Fuller Hall.



Professor van Belle, we presume?

An unusual celebration brings UCT professor eye-to-eye with humpbacked whales off Tonga



Denizens of the deep: Prof Jean-Paul van Belle celebrated his ad hominem promotion in an unusual manner, swimming with whales off the coast of Tonga.

Promotion to full professorship is a reason to celebrate in anyone's book. In the Faculty of Commerce, the event called for something a little more esoteric for Professor Jean-Paul van Belle: a swim with whales in the South Pacific.

Van Belle, who was one of a number of ad hominem promotions announced recently, was promoted from associate professor to full professor.

There are a few things that whales in South Pacific around Tonga have in common with the whales which frequent False Bay in the Cape. One is the strong ocean wind – in fact, Tonga was originally named Tongahahake, 'the wind that blows from the South East'. Another is that they are both likely to encounter the snorkelling, bearded

professor from UCT.

Such was the case this month when two humpbacked whales frolicking around the Kingdom of Tonga came within two metres of the flipper-clad professor.

Tonga is one of the only places on earth where divers can get up close to humpbacked whales. They migrate from their feeding grounds in Antarctica, along the New Zealand coast, to Tonga, where they stay from July through September to court, mate and calve. A number of dive operators follow very strict guidelines to enable humans to experience these majestic creatures in their natural habitat.

Van Belle, en route from Japan, where he'd delivered a conference at Koyasan, decided to stop off in Tonga on his way home. Consist-

ing of 176 islands (most of them uninhabited) Tonga lies in the heart of the South Pacific, east of Fiji and to the south of Samoa, and just west of the International Dateline.

Van Belle's experience with the whales touched him deeply.

"It's impossible to describe in words," he said.

"I felt very humble. It's not as if I was watching them – they were watching me!"

It was not his first encounter with whales. Some time back he was swimming in False Bay when two Southern Right whales swam towards him. He is also keen to go swimming with seals. Perhaps to celebrate another milestone? Whatever happens, it is clear that the bar has been raised for ad hominem celebrations at UCT. **MP**

Inaugural lecture spells out the drug-discovery challenge

Professor Kelly Chibale has been at UCT for some 14 years, on the prowl for molecules that could potentially be applied in life-saving medicines. But it's only over the past three or four years, he says, that he's learned the most about drug discovery, lessons he explored in his recent inaugural lecture, *Kissing Many Frogs Before Meeting the Prince: What it takes to discover pre-clinical drug candidates*.

Lessons number one to four are that drug discovery takes time, money, multi-disciplinary skills and – back to the money – consistent funding. Identifying a lead molecule is but the first step in a process that can take from 10 to 20 years, and can cost hundreds of millions – if not billions – of rands, with many wrong turns and dead ends.

For every drug that makes it onto the market, hundreds of possible compounds will have been identified, tested and rejected, explains Chibale, of UCT's Department of Chemistry and the Institute for Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine.

But money and time are not the

only ingredients. Also essential is a critical mass of skills and experience.

It is here that South Africa is found most wanting.

"We don't have a track record of discovering, developing and testing medicines," Chibale says. "We don't have the know-how."

Which means that the country is missing out on opportunities along the drug-discovery value chain, argues Chibale. Yes, South Africa has strengths in identifying compounds and running essential clinical trials at the end of the line, but we are making few contributions in the middle of that R&D value chain.

Partnerships are key, says Chibale, who's initiated a few in his studies on anti-malarial and other drugs. And he's exploring more as he looks into launching a Drug Discovering Centre at UCT.

Funding forthcoming, that centre will allow him to inject some of the lessons he's learned from the pharmaceutical industry and start building that critical mass of skills and experience.

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Discovery channel: In his inaugural lecture, Prof Kelly Chibale spoke of the drug-discovery lessons that can be learned from the pharmaceutical industry.

Heart specialist awarded prestigious new fellowship



New ground: Dr Neil Hendricks (second left), the first Life Healthcare Electrophysiology Fellow, is congratulated by (from left) Prof Bongani Mayosi, Peter Scott and Prof Patrick Commerford.

Cardiologist Dr Neil Hendricks of the Division of Cardiology has been appointed as UCT and Groote Schuur Hospital's first Life Healthcare Electrophysiology Fellow.

The fellowship paves a path for the training of cardiologists in diagnosing electrophysiological conditions of the heart, and performing surgery on local patients suffering from such diseases. Electrophysiology, the fastest growing area of cardiology worldwide, relates to rhythmic disorders of the heart, or arrhythmia, a group of conditions characterised by abnormal electrical activity in the heart.

"These diseases require a range of interventions, from pacemakers to implanted defibrillators, and the establishment of this fellowship is a first step towards training a number

of cardiologists in South Africa who would otherwise have to be taught abroad," Hendricks explained.

Up to now, such programmes have only been offered overseas, an arrangement that often seduced cardiologists to remain abroad upon completion, and thus contributed to the country's brain drain.

Under the tutelage of Professor Andrzej Okreglicki, who trained in the US and the UK before returning to Cape Town to share his expertise, Hendricks will spend two years honing his skills in electrophysiology.

Hendricks added that, in addition to his clinical work, he will also be undertaking research on arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy, and teach both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

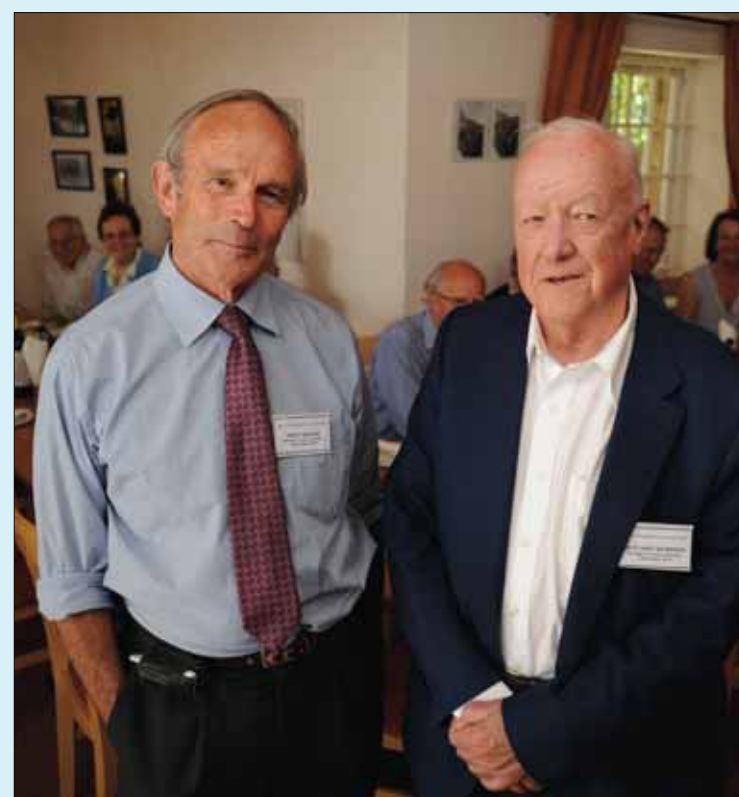
Life Healthcare has provided

R1.2 million over two years for the fellowship, with the balance coming from the Facilities Board of Groote Schuur Hospital.

Peter Scott, general manager of Life Healthcare, noted that the fellowship aims to secure the sustainability of healthcare in South Africa.

"In order to ensure that medical expertise remains in South Africa, a substantial part of the fellowship agreement is that the incumbent agrees to work either in a South African government facility, or Life private hospital, for a period of two years after the end of the programme," Scott said.

And that's no problem for Hendricks, who was quick to confirm that his future plans involve a South African academic institution and a lot of research and teaching. **MP**



Legacy: Dr Stuart Saunders (right) has stepped down as president of the UCT Heritage Society, a position that will now be filled by Emer Prof Francis Wilson (left).

Saunders passes on the baton

As much as he is taking a step back from his many, many attachments and associations with UCT, former vice-chancellor Dr Stuart Saunders who turned 80 this year, remains one of the university's most committed and called-upon supporters. One example of this generosity was to be found at the annual luncheon of the Heritage Society on 7 December. On one hand, Saunders was stepping down as president of the society, which he founded as vice-chancellor back in the mid-1990s

to honour those alumni and friends who had left a legacy – a bequest or provision – to the university in their wills. At the same get-together, however, Saunders was deliberating in a corner with his successor in the society, Emeritus Professor Francis Wilson, on a funding proposal that Saunders had been plugging on behalf of another UCT entity. So even though he'd figured "the time had come" to resign as president of the society, says Saunders, he's not riding off into the sunset just yet. **MP**

isiXhosa course in demand

The opportunity to learn about the lives and culture of the Xhosa-speaking people and learn to speak basic isiXhosa has attracted over 1 000 UCT staff and students to the Masithethe isiXhosa course over the past four years.

This represents a notable achievement, especially as it is in line with UCT's goal of changing its institutional climate, making the campus more accessible to all people, said deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo at the recent graduation of the 2010 class.

Offered by the Multilingualism Education Project (MEP) in the Centre for Higher Education Development, and funded by the South Africa-Norway Tertiary Education Development programme, the course was piloted in 2006 to staff, and to students two years later.

Since then 758 staff and 350 students have participated in the

programme. In 2010, the MEP (in collaboration with the School of Languages and Literatures) also piloted the isiXhosa in Law course for law students.

Nhlapo urged project managers to monitor the need for a similar course in Afrikaans, the third official language spoken in the Western Cape.

Project co-ordinator Associate Professor Mbulungeni Madiba said many participants noted in their evaluations that they had enrolled on the course for social purposes, to be able to break the ice with isiXhosa speakers, and to increase their 'cultural capital'.

"Learning any language helps one to understand those who speak it a little more, and in this way one benefits from seeing things from other people's points of view," Madiba added.

(Interested in joining the next course? Contact Nonkululeko Nokhepheyi, on 021 650 5359.) **MP**



Linguists: Prof Mbulungeni Madiba (middle, right) celebrates with (from left, back) Charmaine Buys, Charles Slater and Emma Makin; (middle) Caren Lodewyks; and (from left, front) Rovena Hendricks, James Moos and Abimbola Windapo, who completed the Masithethe isiXhosa course.

Michaelis grad work on show



On show: The Michaelis School of Fine Art is hosting their annual graduation Show until 21 December.

Graduating fine-art students are showcasing their talents at UCT's Michaelis School of Fine Art, which is hosting its highly-anticipated annual Graduation Show from 8 to 21 December.

The exhibition at the Hiddingh campus is deemed one of the highlights of the South African arts calendar, and has a diverse, innovative selection of works from each of the five postgraduate and 51 fourth-year students, from painting and sculpture to new media, print and photography.

Nadja Daehnke, curator at Michaelis Galleries, noted that the exhibition could be a turning point for the young artists.

"Gallerists, collectors and art critics mingle with the crowd, so young talent is quickly appraised, and – where merit is seen – finds support in galleries, or is snapped up by collectors," explained Daehnke.

Themes include personal psychological reflections, questions on the politicisation of space, the 'playful subversion' of art history, and aesthetics, Daehnke added.

The exhibition is displayed in eight buildings and will be arranged in a way that allows the works to stand as individual projects while still showing some interesting links between classmates. **MP**

First three deaf candidates graduate from computer literacy course

UCT's Staff Learning Centre notched up a milestone when three deaf UCT employees completed their basic computer literacy course.

Dorrelle Cornberg, a research information assistant at the Development and Alumni Department, and Thumeka Ntozini and Rudolph Priestley, both of the Health and Human Rights Programme at the School of Public Health and Family Medicine, were the first deaf people to complete the computer literacy programme. They were among the 17 staff members to graduate this year, making this year's graduation even more special.

The three said the course exceeded their expectations.

"Before, I was unable to grasp certain things at work, and this course has helped me to overcome that," Cornberg explained.

All agreed that Microsoft Excel was the most challenging part of the course, and Word the most enjoyable. They are now keen to move on to the advanced computer training.

Sign language interpreter Michelle Lom-



Saluted: Dorrelle Cornberg was one of three deaf employees to complete the basic computer literacy course.

bard, whose service was funded by a grant from the Staff Development Committee, was present during the classes to support the trio.

Staff Learning Centre manager Kirsty Holmes reported that some people who had com-

pleted the course had never touched a computer before they enrolled six months ago.

"Now that you have graduated, a number of opportunities have been opened for you," she told the group. **MP**

Lord of the Benzene Rings enthralls young audience



Whizz, bang, pop: Postgraduate students conjure up slime and chemical tricks for their young audience.

Gandalf the wizard, Frodo Baggins and Gollum, the villain of JRR Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, made special appearances at this year's Jack Elsworth chemistry lecture, delighting the audience of young chemistry enthusiasts.

For some years the Department of Chemistry has teamed up with the local branch of the Royal Society of Chemistry to put on a public lecture honouring the former UCT academic, who used to give an annual lecture to show school children the exciting chemical world they inhabit.

In recent years, the department's postgraduate students have taken over the event, which attracts around 250 school pupils as well as their parents, many of whom can recall seeing Jack Elsworth in action. This year they put together an exciting evening of bangs,

whistles and changing colours to educate and entertain, all within the theme *Lord of the Benzene Rings*.

Gandalf the wizard sent off his two Hobbits, Sam and Frodo, to Mordorfontein to drop the dangerous Benzene into a volcano. Along the way they met up with elves, the rascal Gollum, and others. There were sizzling displays of light, a giant bubble bath for the queen, a frozen hand falling off, erupting volcanoes spewing bread rolls, and the construction of a sword and a lamp - all made by combining chemicals.

It was remarked that several of the postgrad students should give some thought to careers on the stage; the theatrics and chemical wizardry kept the audience spellbound for an hour!

All proceeds from the show will go towards the establishment of the new Science Centre in Cape Town. **MP**