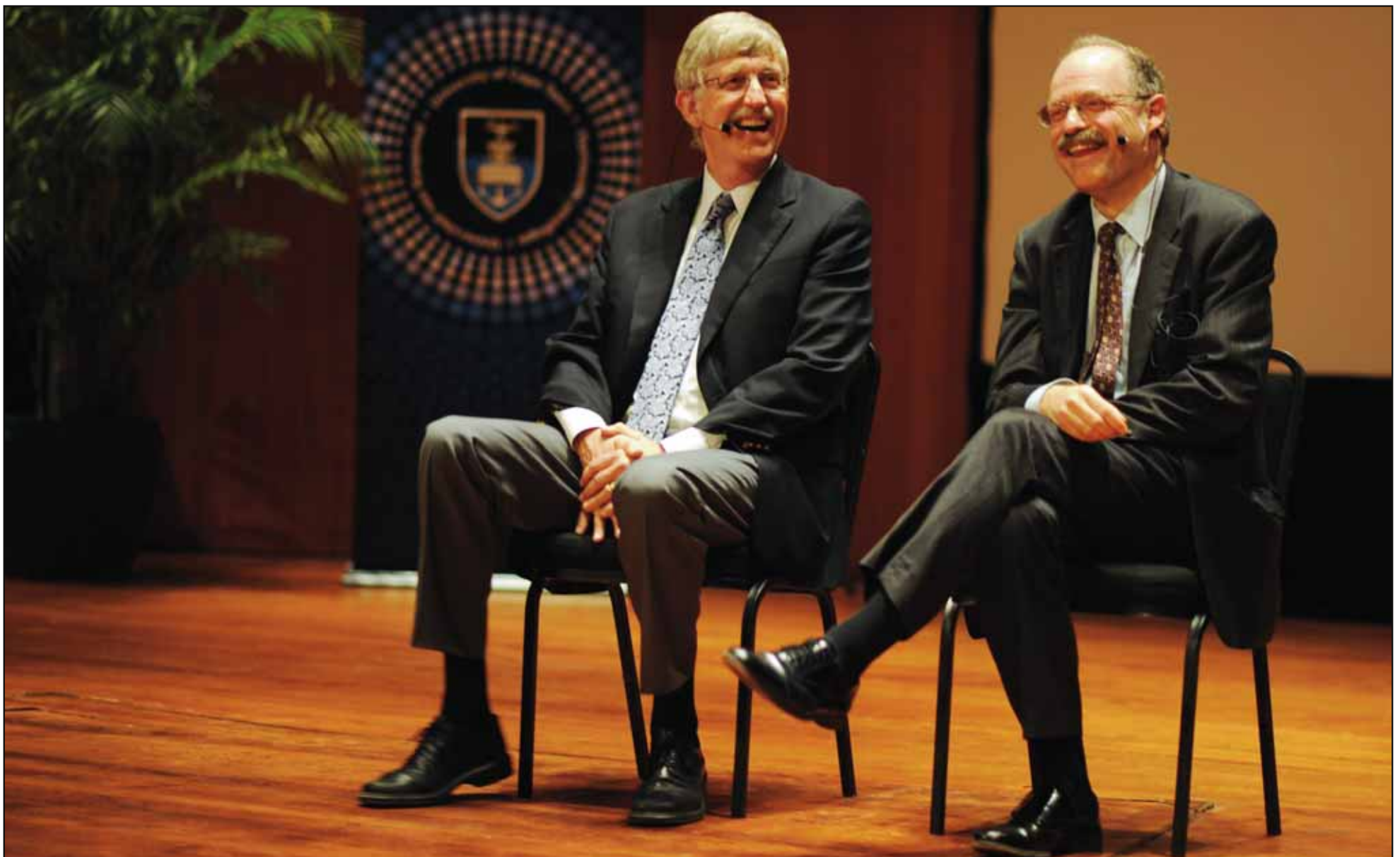




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Balancing hype and hope is the challenge for genome science



Partnerships: In both their talks, Dr Francis Collins and Sir Mark Walport emphasised the role that collaborations – particularly with and within Africa – have played and must still play in genomics and the pursuit of treatments for disease.

Jointly delivering the year's first Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture on 3 March, Dr Francis Collins and Sir Mark Walport outlined just what an amazing place the world has become since the sequencing of the human genome.

Collins began his presentation, titled *Genomics and Global Health in 2011*, with a quote from US politician Robert F Kennedy, delivered as part of a talk in Cape Town in 1966, about the world's "shared humanity".

"It is by the study of the human genome," said Collins, "more than perhaps anything else we've done in science, that we have learned to see with ever greater clarity that we all are part of one family, and that we are all Africans."

Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health in the US, also listed the number of projects that have sprung from the ground-breaking work in genomics. These include the International HapMap Project, which looks at patterns of human genetic variation in a small sample from four ethnic groups; and the 1 000 Genomes Project, an extension of the HapMap study that aimed to look at such genetic variation in 1 000 (that number's now jumped to around 2 500) individuals from a greater number of population groups.

And from 4 March, Collins noted, researchers and funders would be gathering in Cape Town for discussions of a new project that involves scientists in Africa. The Human Heredity and Health in Africa (H3Africa) Initiative

(<http://www.h3africa.org>) sets out to boost research capacity in Africa for the study of genomics and the links between genetic and environmental risk factors for disease. This is particularly important given Africa's burden of disease, he pointed out.

"We're shifting from the practice of removing samples from Africa and analysing them elsewhere, to building the kind of infrastructure in terms of laboratory capabilities, in terms of computational and IT efforts, to allow the research to occur here on the continent," he said.

These are enterprises that the Wellcome Trust (of which he is director) has supported for many years and continues to support, particularly in Africa, Walport explained in his talk. Among

these is the £30-million African Institutions Initiative, incorporating more than 50 institutions from 18 countries on the continent.

"These are partnerships formed and led from the South," he said.

On the Human Genome Project, Walport spoke of the "extraordinary explosion of knowledge" in the field. He commented on the hope it offers for the treatment of diseases such as metastatic malignant melanoma, a form of skin cancer that remains virtually untreatable.

But it's early days yet, he emphasised.

"One mustn't raise excessive hope; it's a question of balancing the hype and the hope, and I think that's been one of the challenges for genome sci-

ence as a whole."

The future of genomics is uncertain as yet, added Walport. There are questions about how individuals will respond to knowing their genetic make-up, and what possible treatments will arise from the Human Genome Project.

But humans are more than just their DNA, Walport pointed out in closing. He argued – as he had throughout the lecture – that there are other elements, such as the environment, that must not be overlooked.

"I do think that we must recognise that we are a very complicated mixture of our genes and our environment, and thank goodness for that." (Video link: www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia/stream_video/series/)

Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za

Million-dollar boost for UCT rugby stadium

A donation of US\$1 million – yes, dollars, not rands – by alumnus Neville Isdell to the Rugby Club has allowed UCT to dust off its long-nursed plans to build a decent rugby stadium.

Isdell, former chairperson and CEO of the Coca-Cola company, and a longstanding, dedicated donor to UCT coffers, made the official announcement of the donation of around R7-million at a function after the UCT-Stellenbosch Varsity Cup clash on 7 March.

The award, he said, was inspired by his rugby-playing days as a student here in the 1960s. (According to records, his game was marked by “speed, aggressiveness and team spirit”.)

“I look back on my life and my career, and certainly the time that I spent here at varsity was absolutely pivotal in terms of the person that I became, good or bad. The most meaningful part of that was actually playing rugby.”

It is those experiences that urged him to keep in touch with the Rugby Club at UCT. And it’s a lesson that the university can learn, he noted.

“There is no question – and this is my US bias because I spent a lot of time in the US – but the constituency that I represent, the people who played or followed sport while at



Million dollar man: Neville Isdell (left) hands over the sizeable cheque to Dr Max Price, money that is earmarked for a new sports stadium.

the university, tend to have a closer attachment, and continue that attachment over the years. And therefore, as a fundraising mechanism for the university as a whole – not for sport, but the university as a whole – it is an excellent way to continue the bonding with the individual after they leave the university.”

The Varsity Cup, he added, has upped the stakes for university sport.

That sentiment was echoed by vice-chancellor Dr Max Price. Especially, Price pointed out, in the light of the Ikeys’ surprise performance in the competition.

Suddenly the university is attracting more sponsorships, it’s benefiting

from invaluable marketing mileage through the television broadcast of the competition, and potential students are looking at the university as a top sporting institution as well.

“We do want to be a university that educates all-rounders, and we see the value of sport in the development of students and future leaders,” said Price.

UCT has not yet decided on a site for the stadium, reported Price. But, he noted, it will unfortunately not be on campus. (Because of heritage concerns, the rugby fields on Upper Campus cannot be upgraded to house the new stadium.)

But, particularly considering the Varsity Cup, the stadium will be located within range of the university.

UCT has already appointed a project implementation committee which is scouting the surrounding area for options, confirmed John Critien, executive director for properties and services at UCT. The university has also appointed an architect and a quantity surveyor.

The concept is not new, said Critien. “It’s based on the premise that for the last 10 or 12 years the university has not really invested in sporting facilities.”

The new Kopano soccer turf and the new gym were among the first steps to make up for this shortfall. But the new stadium will be the university’s biggest investment yet.

However, more fundraising will be required before any work can begin on the stadium, which will be developed in stages. The first will cost around R12 million.

Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za

European parliamentarians visit leading TB vaccine trial



Deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo welcomed six Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to UCT on 25 February; who were in the province to observe the most advanced tuberculosis vaccine clinical trial on infants in the world.

The trial, in Worcester, is being conducted by UCT’s South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI), the world’s leading TB-

Site visit: Members of the European Parliament who visited the SATVI trial site in Worcester included Michael Cashman (left), photographed with Prof Willem Hanekom, co-director of SATVI.

vaccine clinical research group, in partnership with the European-based Oxford Emergent Tuberculosis Consortium and the US-based group Aeras.

“UCT’s mission is internationalisation with an Afropolitan niche,” said Nhlapo, “which means our goal is to be internationally competitive while focusing on Africa. The European Union has been absolutely wonderful in supporting our mission.”

The visiting MEPs were Michael Cashman (UK), Giles Chichester (UK), Bernd Lange (Germany), Judith Sargentini (Netherlands), Alf Svensson (Sweden), Roeland van de Geer (Netherlands), and Sabine Verheyen (Germany).

The new vaccine was devel-

oped in Europe, so the MEPs were especially interested in hearing about its progress.

Vaccine developer Dr Helen McShane of Oxford University in the UK was also here to report to the MEPs. “So far,” McShane said, “the trial has progressed smoothly, with no safety concerns experienced among the 2 537 babies vaccinated to date.”

SATVI principal investigator Dr Hassan Mahomed added that the local community’s positive response to the trial is due to their willingness to be part of the fight against TB, which is ravaging their community.

The trial, which has generated worldwide media attention, is expected to run until 2012.

Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za

Commerce dean flags obstacles to academic transformation

Why are academics stereotyped as mad, dishevelled, and unacquainted with hair stylists? This question by the Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Professor Don Ross, served as the entrée to the new Transformation Committee Seminar Series, launched on 23 February. At the launch Ross addressed the topic, *Why would a recently-empowered South African want to be an academic?*

He said the perception existed that the path to academia is not always a lucrative one, so the challenge was to convince young people to become academics by the lure of offering them a relatively high degree of freedom compared to the dreary treadmill of the corporate world. This freedom is socially encoded through the caricature of extreme eccentricity.

Ross, who was addressing

delegates in the African Studies Gallery under the banner *Let’s Talk Transformation*, said the attraction of academia was well established elsewhere in the world.

“But in South Africa there are two major obstacles. One is that many students from disadvantaged backgrounds have families whose expectations and needs for a quick return on their human capital investment are relatively urgent. Another is that the trade-off is likely to be invisible to most students and their families.

“So we shouldn’t be surprised that we struggle – especially in Commerce – to attract people from formerly marginalised communities into postgraduate study. It would be astonishing if we didn’t find this a struggle.”

Ross outlined the problems he

foresaw for universities around the world, and the unique challenges – and opportunities – faced by the academy in Africa.

It is possible that a new, distinctively African model of the academic lifestyle will evolve, Ross said, “but only if Africa experiences an Indian-style wave of excitement about our own development, and if academic research is widely seen to play a significant role in this wave.”

Allegiance: Chair of the Faculty of Commerce’s transformation committee, Prof Haroon Borhat (middle), at the launch of the Transformation Committee Seminar Series, with Tinyiko Ngwenya (left) and Yvette Adams, members of the Commerce Students Council.



Steadfastness and fortitude needed for transformation

UCT formally kicked off its Month of Transformation programme on 2 March.

At a gathering at the Baxter Theatre Centre, UCT executives and guests reflected on the aims of the month's events, and on transformation in general. Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price began proceedings by outlining the challenges facing UCT and the role that the institution can play in transformation in the country, through the calibre of its graduates and the work of its units and departments.

Glenda Wildschut, director of the newly-configured Transformation Services Offices, then spoke of how transformation touches every element of life at UCT, and how individuals can shape transformation. Deputy vice-chancellor Professor Crain Soudien added that UCT finds itself in a time and place in which it is "thinking deeply" about what it is and how it goes about its business – and how to create a university that is "hospitable" to all.

In turn, Archbishop Njongonkulu

Ndungane, chair of UCT Council, compared transformation to running a marathon, which requires "steadfastness, fortitude and resilience"; especially in a time when the country is in need of real moral leadership, he said.

Finally, guest speaker Dr Pregs Govender, deputy chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), placed transformation at UCT into a national and global context. She spoke of how young people can be pivotal in changing the world, as illustrated by recent events in the Middle East.

Govender also spoke of the SAHRC's recent Reconciliation Seminar at the University of the Free State, the "culmination of a long process" that followed the release of the videos depicting four white Free State students subjecting black employees to a series of initiation-like activities.

"The courage shown by the workers in pursuing their dignity also helped catalyse the process of transformation within the University of the Free State," said Govender. ■



Looking forward: Dr Pregs Govender helped launch UCT's Month of Transformation.



Student support: (From left) SRC members who were tested during the first Things First HIV/AIDS campaign included Kim Senogles, Inshaaf Isaacs, Jessica Price, Sean Darge, Kathleen Taylor, and Vimbai Paraffin.

Students give HIV the finger

Students at UCT's Faculty of Health who flocked to the two First Things First HIV testing stations on the campus on 2 March were joined by deputy dean Associate Professor Gonda Perez, who also 'submitted' her finger in support of the awareness drive.

"I do it every year," said Perez. "This is a very important initiative, because we can only battle this problem if we all know what our statuses are. So I hope I'm setting a good example by getting tested myself."

Deputy chair of the Health Sciences Students' Council, Kabelo Musi, also stressed the importance of awareness for medical students.

"We feel that because we are health professionals we are at the

forefront of dealing with the HIV pandemic in South Africa," said Musi. "Because of that, we first have to be aware of our own HIV status. Personal experience colours the way you deal with other people, and when you have experience, you are better able to help your patients."

A further incentive for getting tested was the chance to enter a competition. Senior students stood a chance of winning various prizes, and first-year students, who were targeted this year, could win a Toyota Yaris Zen.

"In a perfect world everyone would get tested of their own volition," commented Musi. "But we live in a world where people are afraid, so the opportunity to win a prize may help to persuade them."

The testing facilities were provided by the Desmond Tutu Foundation's mobile HIV testing clinic, the Tutu Tester, partnered by Health for Men, an NGO focused on men's health. The funders of the national campaign for first-year students, launched in January, are Innovative Medicines South Africa (IMSA), who were partnered by the Department of Health, the South African National AIDS Council, the Foundation for Professional Development, Higher Education South Africa and the Higher Education HIV and AIDS programme. The Department of Health aimed to reach close on 35 000 students with this campaign. (Video link: www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia/stream_video/series/)
Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za

Transformation in song

Renowned composer and musician Philip Miller presented a talk at UCT on 3 March as part of the university's Month of Transformation. In the talk, titled *Music and Transformation*, Miller, a UCT law graduate, outlined the process of producing his award-winning choral work, *Rewind: a Cantata for Voice, Tape and Testimony*. *Rewind*, designed and directed by Gerhard Marx, and featuring vocalists Sibongile Khumalo, Fikile Mvinjelwa, Arthur Swan and Kimmy Kkota, is based on the testimonies of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and commemorates the victims of apartheid. It has been performed in Johannesburg, the US and the UK, and Capetonians will have an opportunity to enjoy it when it comes to the Baxter Theatre in May. ■



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Doctors train and treat at new Hanover Park SLC

The new Student Learning Centre (SLC) at the Hanover Park Community Health Centre symbolises a new level in the relationship between the Provincial Government of the Western Cape's (PGWC) Department of Health, UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Hanover Park community.

So said Frank Molteno of UCT's Primary Health Care Directorate at the centre's official ribbon-cutting ceremony on 24 February.

While it will be used to train UCT's medical students and as an internet resource, the SLC will also serve the community through providing primary health care. It comprises four fully-equipped consulting rooms, a waiting room and three online computers.

"It's been a long journey to create the new facility," said Molteno, "and it will be of real value to all in this relationship."

Echoing this sentiment was senior family physician at the centre, Dr Tsepo Motsohi. "I feel like I'm coming in at the tail end of a long

narrative containing a lot of blood, sweat and tears. And what I've been trying to share with my colleagues since my arrival a year ago is the relationship between academic knowledge and the knowledge of experience, of grey hair. The addition of this student centre is going to add to this attempt and build on that relationship."

Also attending the event was Professor Marian Jacobs, dean of UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences, who explained the motivation for the university's involvement.

"In the past doctors always did their training in the big hospitals. Over time we realised that it is so important for students to be prepared to work anywhere, particularly in community services. Primary health is an important part of our health plan," said Jacobs.

"Students need to be fit for purpose, and that purpose is to ensure that we contribute to health care for all."

(Video link: www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia/stream_video/series/)
Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za



Open day: Attending the official opening of the Hanover Park SLC were (from left) Dr Tsepo Motsohi, Prof Marian Jacobs, and Hanover Park Community Health Forum chair Elizabeth Bantam.

Marriage proposed as the future for African studies at UCT

The perceived threat to the future of UCT's Centre for African Studies (CAS) and African Gender Institute (AGI) was the topic of a lively public forum between students, staff and executive management on 25 February.

The forum followed a statement by dean of the Faculty of Humanities Professor Paula Ensor about the year-long discussions on merging CAS, the AGI, the Department of Linguistics and the Department of Anthropology into a new department, tentatively titled the New School for Critical Enquiry in Africa.

The restructure, explains Ensor's statement, is a two-stage process. The departments will first merge under an interim placeholder name – the Department of Anthropology, Linguistics and Gender Studies – as a step towards the creation of the new school.

Some students have protested what they see as the dissolution of African studies at a university that positions itself as Afropolitan.

But Ensor was explicit in refuting this viewpoint in opening the discussion.

"What we are talking about this afternoon is not murder," said Ensor. "This is not about the elimination of anything UCT offers at the moment. This is about marriage. Some students have opposed the closure of CAS, but do they also oppose the idea for a new school? This is what we need to discuss."

Associate Professor Jane Bennett, head of the AGI, voiced her concern that the department may lose its identity with the merger.

"Why would the AGI be interested in moving beyond its space?" Bennett asked.

"We're worried. We're feminists, and we're wondering where that is going to go. We're profoundly supportive of radical queer politics. We have experts around conflicts and peace, and around gender and media, whose programmes are very important to us. We will have to think about how to re-imagine them in this space."

UCT's student newspaper, *Varsity*, reported that some students share the concern that smaller departments would disappear in the merger.

CAS alumnus Ryan Williams commented: "My fear is that UCT will only become known for servicing adventurous suburban Americans on semester abroad courses instead of being a leading venue for thought on the continent."

Deputy vice-chancellor Professor Crain Soudien stressed the need for

forward thinking, arguing that African studies around the world have become locked in a conservative position.

"I'm a product of 1976 when the question of this centre [CAS] was first discussed, so there is a great deal of nostalgia for me," said Soudien. "The loss of the name itself would mean a lot to me. But we now live in different times. We are going through a stage in which we are re-imagining what we are intellectually."

Soudien argued that the proposed school would open up new spaces for dialogue and enable UCT to become a more hospitable place, and a world centre for African studies.

"We're absolutely committed to this [Ensor's] statement and what it stands for," he said. "In the spirit of hospitality, of course it's going to happen in the humanities faculty, but it must also happen across the

university."

Deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo added his voice to the argument for change. "I have a feeling that if the status quo remained, a lot of the doors that we plan to open for Afropolitanism will be shut. It's really that simple for me."

Nhlapo also argued for better communication in addressing the proposal's opponents.

"The upside of a university is that we are an articulate community. But the downside is that we tend to believe we can always explain everything. And I think that the cause for some of the disapproval we have here is that we have failed to explain everything. The UCT community needs to understand that we have a dream to shoot for."

Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za

Magnificent seven for longstanding donor

When Professor Klaus-Jürgen Bathe stepped up to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Buenos Aires in November last year, it was not an unfamiliar occurrence – the degree was, as a matter of fact, the seventh honorary doctorate he has received.

The other six attest to Bathe's reputation around the globe as a scholar. The degrees hail from the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Technical University of Zilina, Slovakia; the Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany; the Technical University of Rzeszow, Poland; the Technical University of Madrid, Spain; the University of Bucharest, Romania; and the University of Miskolc, Hungary.

Although born in Berlin in Germany – in the middle of World War II, in May 1943 – Bathe was to finish his first degree, a bachelor of science, here at UCT in 1967. He would return to UCT years later to complete a Doctor of Science

degree, after further studies in Canada and the US. (He also holds a PhD in civil engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.)

These days Bathe is a much-celebrated, much-cited professor of mechanical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is also hailed as a pioneer in the field of finite element analysis – a technique to find approximate solutions to partial differential equations – and has been listed as a highly-cited author in engineering by the ISI Web of Knowledge.

Despite these and many more achievements at other world-leading institutions, Bathe has never forgotten his alma mater.

Since 1997, he has donated around R3 million to UCT through his foundation, the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Charitable Foundation. The lion's share of this money has been earmarked for bursar-

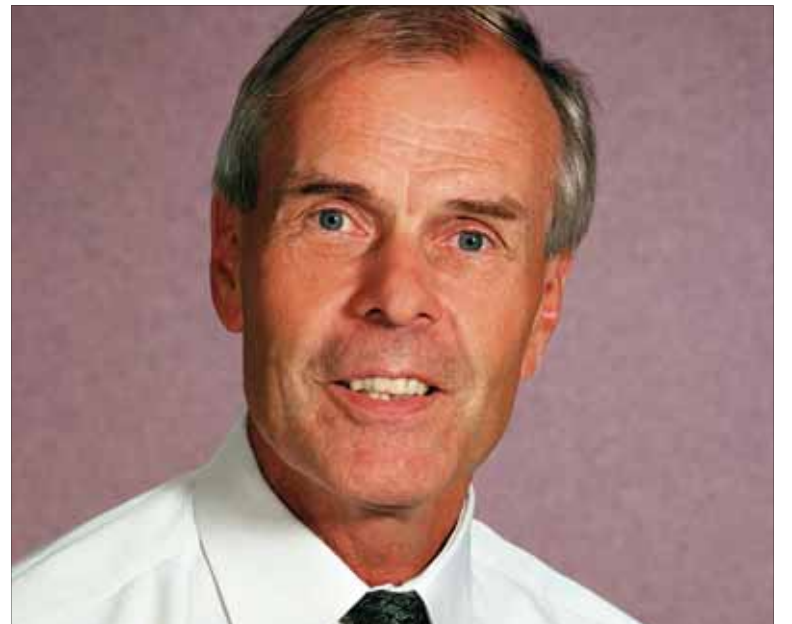
ies, notably the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Scholarships in Engineering, one of which was awarded this week.

Receiving the scholarship, said recipient Benjamin Meltzer, had motivated him to work harder. "I want to achieve good marks, now not only for myself, but as proof to the university that their scholarship was not wasted on me."

Observed Dr Jim McNamara, executive director of development and alumni affairs at UCT: "Professor Bathe is a very treasured donor to UCT."

Bathe still recalls his days here fondly.

"I am very thankful to UCT," he says, "because the education I obtained at UCT was excellent, and the time I spent as a student at UCT was wonderful. I am glad to see that UCT continues to be a very good university for many areas of study." ■



Doc times seven: UCT alumnus and regular donor Prof Klaus-Jürgen Bathe, now based at MIT in the US, recently received his seventh honorary doctorate.

New Ombud takes office in Lovers Walk

It's mid-morning on a Tuesday and UCT's new Ombud, Zetu Makamandela-Mguqulwa, is signing for furniture destined for her office in the cottages along historic Lovers Walk, opposite the School of Dance.

It's a quiet cul de sac, a good locale for an Ombud's headquarters; part of the campus but distinct and separate from the administrative functions. In this sense, it mirrors her own role as a designated neutral or impartial dispute resolution practitioner. Appointed as part of the university's broader transformation initiative, Makamandela-Mguqulwa is not 'part of the furniture' in the administration at Bremner.

Her office in Lover's Walk will accentuate what is so important to the job: the creation of a safe and informal space to be heard, an alternative to the other formal modes of dispute resolution at the university.

As she explained to members of the various university constituencies and community she has been visiting since early January, when she took office, she reports to the chair of Council, Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane.

Almost all universities abroad have such an office, she says. But South African institutions have been slower to act, with only three other universities hosting Ombud offices.

"The Ombud's office adheres to the International Ombudsman Associa-

tion (IOA) Standards of Practice and Codes of Ethics. The tenets require that Ombud offices shall function independently of the organisation, shall be confidential and neutral, and shall limit scope of their services to informal means of dispute resolution," she said.

As Ndungane explained in his announcement of her appointment, the role of the Ombud has a long and honourable tradition as a safeguard against abuse, bias and other improper treatment or unfairness.

A UCT graduate, (she has a Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons) from UCT and a Master's in Social Science from UWC) Makamandela-Mguqulwa was the transformation co-ordinator in the Faculty of Health Sciences from 2003 to 2006.

This is her third stint at UCT in a career that has been steeped in conflict management and resolution.

Now she's keen to get the message out to the community: the Ombud is here and the office is open for business.

This business is to establish a fair and restorative process in the settlements of disputes or disagreements.

"The underlying values are that disputes should be resolved in ways that reconcile competing interests, are relationship-enhancing that reconcile competing interests, and are transformative."

Who sees the Ombud? All members of the UCT community, says Makamandela-Mguqulwa. As far as possible, people should be equipped to deal with conflict. The ultimate goal is to see all staff at UCT taking responsibility for their own engagement with the university. On the other hand, the university climate must enable this interaction to happen without fear of retaliation.

She also highlights an important difference between mediation and the grievance procedure.

"Mediation is a separate process from the grievance procedure and aims to move away from adversarial procedures to resolve issues as early as possible."

One of the pivotal skills of mediation is listening.

"Listening is a rare attribute; it comes from practice over the years. I'm a student of listening," Makamandela-Mguqulwa adds.

But she will not listen alone. To assist, Makamandela-Mguqulwa is able to call on 28 independently trained PASS and academic staff to act as mediators in the Ombud's office. All have made it through a competitive selection process.

How confidential is the mediation process then?

"All meetings are confidential. The only exception is where there is evidence of potential harm or any serious risk to health and safety. In those



The new Ombud, Zetu Makamandela-Mguqulwa, is headquartered in the cottages opposite the School of Dance.

circumstances the Office of the Ombud will have the discretion to terminate the process."

And any personal notes taken

by the parties or the mediators are destroyed at the end of the process.

"I'm going to buy a big shredder," Makamandela-Mguqulwa adds. ■

Potter and Corder are new trustees

The UK-registered charity the University of Cape Town Trust has announced the appointment of two new trustees: Professor Hugh Corder and Dr Elaine Potter.

Corder has been Professor of Public Law at UCT since 1987. A graduate of the universities of Cape Town, Cambridge and Oxford, Corder has been widely involved in community work since his student days, concentrating on popular legal education, race relations, human rights and the abolition of the death penalty. He served as a technical adviser in the drafting of the transitional Bill of Rights for South Africa. He has written two books and edited a further three, and has

contributed many articles and chapters in books.

Potter grew up in South Africa and lives in England. She completed her D Phil at Nuffield College, Oxford, before joining the *Sunday Times*. Thereafter she wrote for the *Sunday Times* and co-authored several *Sunday Times* books, including *Suffer the Children: The story of thalidomide*, and *Destination Disaster: From the trimotor to the DC10*. She has edited the holocaust memoir *A Jump for Life* and has collaborated on *The Murdoch Archipelago*. Potter is a trustee of the Centre for Investigative Journalism, the Centre for Open Democracy and the Bureau of Investigative Journalism. She is married to UCT

alumnus Dr David Potter and is co-founder of the David and Elaine Potter Foundation, which has been supporting a major Fellowship Programme at UCT since 2004.

The UCT Trust was founded in 1990 by former vice-chancellor Dr Stuart Saunders, who remains on the board. Over the years, the trust has raised over £18 million for bursary programmes and capital projects at UCT, with funds sourced from UK- and European-based companies, foundations and individuals. Also currently serving as trustees on the board are Sir Franklin Berman KCMG QC (chair), Baroness Lynda Chalker of Wallasey, Professor Jeffrey Jowell QC, Irene

Menell, and Jennifer Ward Oppenheimer.

The UCT Trust has received a superb boost to its fundraising efforts. The UK-based Wolfson Foundation recently pledged the sum of £550 000 towards a suite of 22 study bedrooms in the new residence, Obz Square.

This is the ninth grant from the Wolfson Foundation. The foundation has supported projects at UCT since 1995. These include substantial donations towards the refurbishment of the chemistry laboratories, the science and technology library, and the Wolfson Pavilion at the Institute for Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine. ■

New appointments in commercial law

The Department of Commercial Law in the Faculty of Law has beefed up its staff complement by appointing new lecturers:

Marumo Nkomo hails from Pretoria, but has also lived and worked in Europe. He obtained his LLB from the University of Wales in 2005, and has postgraduate certificates from the University of Pretoria and the University of South Africa. Nkomo also has two LLM degrees, one from the University of Pretoria in international trade and investment law (2007), and another from the World Trade Institute in Berne in international law and economics a year later, which he obtained *summa cum laude*. Nkomo completed his articles with Adams & Adams in Pretoria in 2010, and has also worked as a legal officer for the World Trade Organisation in Geneva. He is an avid sports fan and, like most Pretorians, enjoys a good braai.

Afton Appollis completed both her BCom (financial accounting and law) in 2005 and her LLB in 2006 at UCT, and therefore is no stranger to the

law faculty. After obtaining her LLB she completed her articles with Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr and was subsequently admitted as an attorney, notary and conveyancer in February 2009. After working as an associate in Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr's tax department for a further two years, and successfully completing her MCom in Tax, also at UCT, Appollis joined the law faculty in January 2011. Reading, cooking, the occasional crossword puzzle and good company are some of the less taxing activities she enjoys.



Rufaro Gweshe originates from Zimbabwe but is a familiar face in the law faculty. She graduated from UCT with an LLB in 2007 and subsequent-

ly undertook postgraduate studies on a part-time basis. She was appointed as a teaching and research assistant in the Department of Public Law, before joining the Department of Commercial Law as a lecturer in 2011. Gweshe lectures Business Law I and II, and her research focuses on individual and collective labour law. In her free time she is making the most of all that Cape Town has to offer, and is well on her way to becoming a true Capetonian.

Also, the Law Clinic has appointed **Paul Anthonie** as a new candidate attorney. Anthonie, who hails from Beaufort West in the Little Karoo, obtained both his BA in law degree and LLB at the University of Stellenbosch in 2007 and 2009, respectively. He has held various positions at the University of Stellenbosch, including administration assistant and assistant warden. Before that Anthonie worked as a petrol attendant in Beaufort West, a job, he said, that taught him how to deal with customers. He is keen on sport, soccer and rugby in particular. ■

The Centre for Conflict Resolution, Cape Town, South Africa invites you and members of your organisation to a public dialogue on the book

MBEKI AND AFTER: REFLECTIONS ON THE LEGACY OF THABO MBEKI

CHAIR

Dr Adekeye Adebajo

Executive Director, Centre for Conflict Resolution
Cape Town

SPEAKER AND EDITOR

Professor Daryl Glaser

Department of Political Studies, University of Witwatersrand

SPEAKER

Professor Chris Landsberg

Department of Politics, University of Johannesburg

Date: Tuesday, 22 February 2011 • Time: 17H30 to 19H00

Venue: The Centre for the Book, 62 Queen Victoria Street, Gardens, Cape Town • RSVP: Lavenia Benjamin • Email: lavenia@ccr.uct.ac.za
Tel: (021) 689-1005 • Fax: (021) 689-1003 • Website: www.ccr.org.za

All are welcome and entry is free. Kindly RSVP for seating purposes.



SA kids' health cause for concern

The C-minus that South Africa scored overall on the 2010 Healthy Active Kids 2010 Report Card may be a tad flattering.

The card – the country's second, following on the 2007 edition – is a report on the physical activity, nutrition and substance use among South African children and youth in primary and high school, drawing on over 95 published, peer-reviewed studies or reports – the National Youth Risk Behaviour Survey 2008 (published in 2010) and the Birth to Twenty project run from Wits University among them. A panel made up of partners from the private sector, academic institutions (including UCT), NGOs, the Health Sciences Research Council and the Medical Research Council then pores over these studies and compiles the report card – seen as an advocacy drive – with funding from Discovery Vitality.

(See the grade table – and report card – at www.discovery.co.za/discovery_za/web/pdfs/vitality/healthy_active_kids_report_card.pdf.)

The C-minus the country scored in 2010 matches the mark awarded by the panel in 2007. But the report card is blotched with Ds and Fs.

So, for example, there's a D for the 3% decline in physical activity levels, with only 42% of youth participating in enough vigorous physical activity to pass for health-enhancing. (Nearly 42% of the surveyed youth do little or no physical activity.)

Then there's the paradoxical C-minus for obesity (an increase in overweight and obese children to 20% and 5% respectively) and D-minus for stunting, the reduced growth usually



associated with malnutrition among children. Fast-food intake (an F grade) is also on the up, with 30% of children and youth eating fast food two to three times a week.

The country's children also earned an F for the amount of television they watch – 'screen time' lasting more than three hours a day. Not only does that increase sedentary time, but also the likelihood that children will view adverts related to food of poor nutritional value.

The smoking and alcohol numbers (both earning D grades) don't make for pretty reading, either. Nearly 30% of adolescents say they have smoked at some time or the other, while 21%

admit to being smokers currently (double the global prevalence estimate).

The country's saving grace – forcing that overall grade in the right direction to a C- minus – is the wealth of policies and programmes designed to stem the tide. So a B for sport for development initiatives, a C for the growing number of vegetable gardens at schools, and an A for the country's exemplary tobacco legislation.

Also a light at the end of the tunnel are the scores of programmes and initiatives for which the panel assigned a rating of NE, or no evidence, meaning their impact is yet to be evaluated. These include the National School Nutrition Programme, tuck shop poli-

cies, schools-based interventions for physical activity and healthy eating, the work of the Bicycle Empowerment Network, as well as studies on interventions to curb smoking and alcohol intake.

The rewards from these could kick in soon, says Professor Vicki Lambert of the Medical Research Council/UCT Research Unit for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine, a member of the Healthy Active Kids review panel and the one who first proposed a South African version of the report – only the second in the world – after taking part in the Canadian exercise in 2006.

"The reason that we're still at a C-minus is that although the trends are

concerning, we have many new initiatives and programmes; we know that our tobacco legislation is probably the best in the world; there are wonderful corporate social investments and private-public partnerships; and our schools-based initiatives are just in the process of being evaluated. So we think we're on the edge of a lot of evidence being generated about interventions and evaluations of government programmes, which I think will be promising."

But there's no two ways about it that right now, the downward trend is worrying. But how to turn things around?

An across-the-board, all-out effort, with everyone from government to civil society to the private sector to parents pitching in, suggests Dr Tracy Kolbe-Alexander, also of ESSM and the Healthy Active Kids panel.

"The message that we're trying to get across is that this requires a multi-level approach – it's multi-faceted," says Kolbe-Alexander. "Each grouping has to do something, and not just leave it to another grouping."

Another step in the right direction is a follow-up initiative that the panel is considering – a best-practice catalogue. "Some solutions," says Lambert.

The next report card is not yet scheduled, but it, too, has a role to play if the country is to make the grade – and improve its grade.

"In order to give our children a healthier future we have to change their destructive behaviours now," says Lambert, "but we have to understand which factors drive these behaviours."

Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za

Archive activists launch project online



File system: ARC's visualisation of the university's columbarium.

A university-wide project to establish a network of "archive activists", bring together archival and curatorship projects at UCT and provide a platform for greater involvement in the public domain is now in its online trial phase.

ARC (*Archive and Curatorship*): *The Visual University and its Columbarium*, initiated in June 2010 and boosted by a Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Grant, seeks to break archival silences, to examine archival systems critically and open routes to new forms of knowledge.

"ARC-online is being developed

to become a high-profile aspect of UCT's public face, providing public access to the university's collections and different ways of understanding them," explains ARC manager Niek de Greef. "Increasingly, world-wide curation of collections happens in electronic formats. The website provides an accessible, public window to UCT's research excellence."

The website is set to launch officially in August.

The project is spearheaded by the holder of the National Research Foundation's chair in Archive and Public Culture, Professor Carolyn Hamilton,

and Professor Pippa Skotnes, director of the Centre for Curating the Archive at the Michaelis School of Fine Art.

"ARC sees the archive as inclusive of visual and object collections, and actively positions UCT as alert and responsive to increasingly visual and new media forms of knowledge production across the disciplines," says Hamilton.

De Greef says that as it grows, the project aims to participate in developing university-wide policies for the research and curation of archives, and to establish UCT as a place to deposit valuable collections for innovative

research. Already the project is developing a postgraduate focus in curatorship, and is forging relationships with other institutions in the city.

"We are seeking to fuel investigation into new forms of visual methodologies of research," says De Greef.

"We hope ARC will become part of the way UCT understands itself," says Skotnes, "We would like ARC's strategies for accessing, studying and representing both our own and other collections and archives to become integrated with other forms of scholarship within the university."

Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za



EDUCATION NEWS
FROM AFRICA AND
THE WORLD

(Sources: AllAfrica, Chronicle of Higher Education, Times Higher Education)

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE UK is increasing its funding to the National Institute for Health Research's network of biomedical research centres and units by around 30%. The British government is billing this as the largest-ever funding programme for translational research in medicine.

Starting in September 2011, all students from outside the **EUROPEAN UNION** studying in Sweden will pay tuition fees. Tuition will remain free for local and EU students, but others will be charged fees that may average around £11 950 a year.

Humanities academics in the UK are in danger of being reduced to "intellectual lap dancers" due to funding cuts which endanger democratic freedom. So said Prof

Richard Drayton of **KING'S COLLEGE LONDON**, at a conference in **CAMBRIDGE** in the UK.

An academic who was found guilty of sexual harassment by **UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK** in the UK after showing a female colleague a research paper on oral sex among fruit bats has had the sanctions against him reduced following a court ruling. Dylan Evans, a lecturer in behavioural science, will be monitored for one year (reduced from two years) and undergo equality training.

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS in the UK is investigating allegations of plagiarism in the doctoral thesis of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, son of the embattled Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi.

Universities in affected areas of New Zealand were closed in the aftermath of the huge earthquake that destroyed large parts of Christchurch. Thousands of students were hit by the closures, with the earthquake striking on the second day of lectures for the first semester of 2011 at the **UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY**.

The Rwandan government is considering a proposal to place all public universities under single management. Director of the country's Higher Education Council, Prof Geoffrey Rugege, said that the move will help reduce expenses.

Seventy-four Nigerian ex-militants were flown to Malaysia for degree programmes in different fields as part of the ongoing amnesty

programme. They are the first set of ex-militants to go abroad to study for higher degrees. Others, currently in Ghana and South Africa, are undergoing vocational training in oil- and gas-related fields.

State-supported colleges and universities in Pennsylvania in the US are set to take some of the biggest hits in a 2011-12 budget proposed by the state's new Republican governor, Tom Corbett.

The **UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME** in the US has banned the use of hydraulic lifts to film football practices. This move is in response to the death of a student who was killed in 2010 when a lift he was using toppled in strong winds.

Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za

New meningitis vaccine brings hope to millions

It's easy to see why Associate Professor Neil Ravenscroft describes his work on MenAfriVac, a recently-released vaccine against meningitis, as the most important he's ever done.

After all, MenAfriVac has the potential to wipe out meningitis in the infamous 'meningitis belt' in the north of Africa, a strip of 25 countries that stretches from Senegal in the west to Ethiopia and Eritrea in the east. Some 450 million people live in this belt, said to account for the bulk of the world's meningitis epidemics, which hit the region every seven to 14 years. (It's the dry seasons from December to June, the dust winds, cold nights and upper respiratory tract infections, scientists believe, that make people in this region especially susceptible to infections.)

MenAfriVac is designed specifically to provide protection against group A *Neisseria meningitidis*, the bacterium responsible for nearly 90% of all meningococcal infections in the belt.

Meningitis may not boast the global scale or mortality rate of AIDS or malaria, but it's no trifle, says Ravenscroft, based in UCT's Department of Chemistry, where he runs a Bioanalytical and Vaccine Research Unit. The disease – which infects the meninges, the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord – kills thousands every year; the particularly violent epidemic of 1996-1997 caused 250 000 cases and led to 25 000 deaths in the meningitis belt.

But it leaves its mark in other ways as well. Of those who survive infections, thousands – 10-20% of those infected – are left deaf, retarded or disabled.

"These are massive epidemics, and they just sweep through society," says Ravenscroft. "And because there's little infrastructure, there's not much you can do about it."

A previous vaccine failed to contain the disease. This polysaccharide vaccine – so called because it's made from the long chains of sugar molecules, or polysaccharides, that form the outer capsule of the bacteria – was largely ineffective. It did

not work well in children, required repeated vaccination, and defeated its own purpose as it could only be used once the epidemic was already in full flood.

In contrast, the new vaccine links the polysaccharide from group A *Neisseria meningitidis* to a protein carrier to form a highly immunogenic conjugate vaccine. This stimulates the body's immune system, allowing it to produce antibodies against the polysaccharide of the meningitis bacterium.

MenAfriVac also meets other essential criteria for curbing the spread of the disease in this largely underdeveloped region. It can be used with children as young as one, needs only one shot, and – here's its trump card – is cheap, finally coming in at between 40 and 50 American cents (or around R3.50) per dose.

Much less than the conjugate vaccines designed for the meningitis strains that occasionally break out in the developed world.

And affordable enough for most African countries, says the Meningitis Vaccine Project (MVP), the consortium led by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and PATH (a non-profit organisation in the US) that masterminded the development of the vaccine.

Big-name pharmaceutical countries would not commit to developing the vaccine within the targeted costs set by the MVP. So, instead, it turned to the Serum Institute of India, and farmed out most of the groundwork to scientists around the world.

For his part, Ravenscroft, who spent many years in vaccine research and development with Chiron Vaccines (now Novartis), conducted structural investigations and characterisation studies on the vaccine. He also prepared the first draft of the WHO Recommendations for the vaccines, and presented the final draft of the document to the WHO's Expert Committee on Biological Standardisation.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded most of the work – to the tune of \$70 million – and



Vaccine vanquisher: Assoc Prof Neil Ravenscroft was part of an international collaboration that developed a vaccine to protect millions in Africa against meningitis. (Map visual courtesy of PATH.)

five years of clinical trials in India and West Africa.

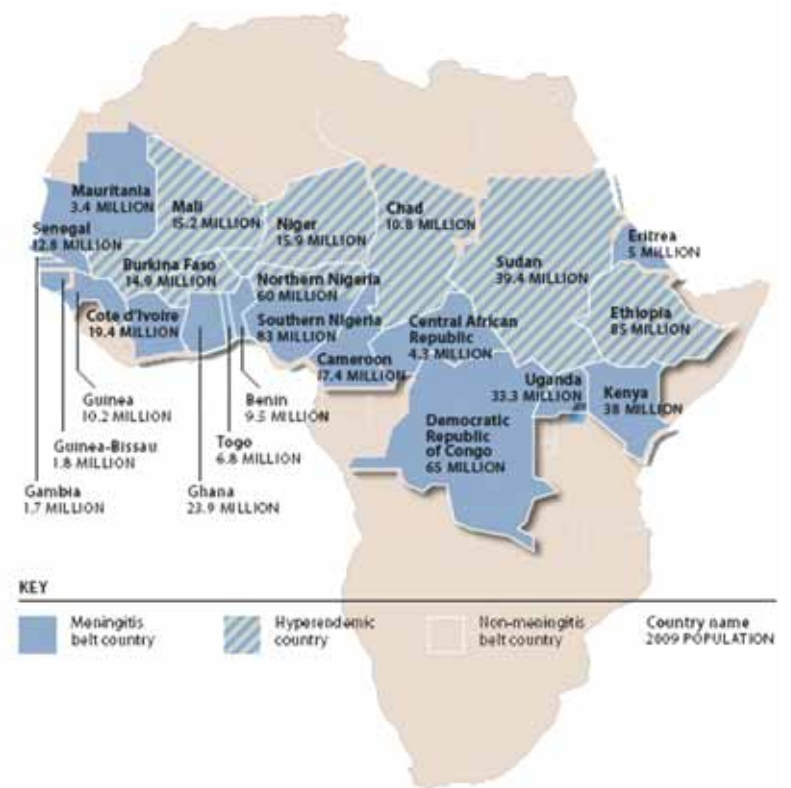
In December last year, the WHO launched mass vaccination campaigns in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, setting out to vaccinate the country's 33 million residents aged between one and 29 years. The aim is to vaccinate 300 million people by 2015, ridding the region of the disease.

"Meningitis is only carried by humans," says Ravenscroft. "So if you vaccinate people, as many as possible, then the bacteria have nowhere to go, and there's a chance of eliminating the disease."

But that objective may well be frustrated by a lack of money. Even at the current cost, it's unlikely that African countries will have the funds to buy the millions of doses needed, says Ravenscroft. A further US\$475 million would be required, the WHO estimates, to cover vaccination programmes in all the meningitis-belt countries.

That said, the eradication of the disease is now within reach.

Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za



Publish your work in *Nature*, editor urges

Visiting UCT's research Office in February, *Nature* senior editor Dr Leslie Sage urged local researchers to submit articles to the prestigious journal – and gave a seminar on how to go about it.

Sage is senior editor: physical sciences, and his seminar, *How to Publish a Paper in Nature*, is part of the series of research development initiatives offered by the Emerging Researcher Programme (ERP) and the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Capacity (PERC).

Nature has one of the highest impact factors of any science research journal – reaching 34 480 in 2009 – and it is widely regarded as a great achievement to be published in the journal. (The impact factor is a measure of the frequency with which a journal's articles are cited in a particular year, and is used to evaluate the relative importance of journals.)

The seminar was attended by about 80 academics and postgradu-



Dr Lesley Sage (second from right) of *Nature* is consulted at the Research Office by (from left) Dr Gaëlle Ramon, co-ordinator of the SET (science and engineering) stream of the Emerging Researcher Programme (ERP); Prof Leonard Barbour of the University of Stellenbosch; and UCT Emeritus Professor Luigi Nassimbeni, senior research scholar on the ERP.

ate students. Sage also offered individual or small group consultations at the Research Office throughout the day for researchers who wanted to discuss publishing in one of the over 30 specialist journals under the *Nature* title.

Sage said *Nature* received very few submissions from South Africa. For example, in the 18 years he has been with the journal, he has received only four astronomy sub-

missions from South Africa, from which two articles were published. In general, South Africa's astronomy research was on a par with Canada's he said, yet he'd received far more submissions from Canada – six or more a year.

With a reputation for publishing 'the best and most important work', *Nature* publishes only about 7% of the submissions it receives. Most papers are rejected without being sent

to referees. The journal looks for articles that 'report a fundamental new physical insight, or announce a startling, unexpected or difficult-to-understand discovery or have striking conceptual novelty with specific predictions'. It is not uncommon for an article to be reported on national television in the United States on the same day it was published in the journal.

Nature articles should be comprehensible to a wide audience, Sage added. The journal has a policy that the first paragraph of an article should be written at a level "no higher than the level of an introductory undergraduate class" and the bulk of the paper "at the level of a first-year graduate course". Authors should avoid jargon and "babbling" and should limit the length of submissions to 1 500 words, with a maximum of four figures and 30 references. Supplementary information, for which there is no effective limit, can be provided online.

Sage also warned against unethical research practices and the faking of data. He said a study published in *Nature* in 2005 had found that about 30% of biomedical scientists in the US engage in some form of unethical behaviour. He said scientific societies should educate their members and employees as to what constitutes unethical behaviour. Scientists should encourage 'transparency' in all aspects of science and establish clear standards and lists of what not to do, and 'talk about the problem'.

Sage encourages researchers (postgraduate students as well as academics) who want to submit an article to *Nature* in his field (physical sciences) to write to him at lsage@us.nature.com with any questions before making their submissions. He advises that if you do contact him, "be prepared to answer questions about the significance of your results". Pre-submission enquiries can also be made via the web, at www.nature.com. ■

It'll take more than pink shorts to tackle violence against women

Dr Kelley Moulton and Associate Professor Lillian Artz of the Gender, Health & Justice Research Unit

This month SuperSport ran a short report about how more than 40 members of the University of Cape Town Rugby Club – players and staff – spent a hot Saturday at the end of January at Sisters Incorporated, a shelter for abused women and children in Cape Town, sprucing up the gardens, facilities and living areas. According to one media source, staff at the shelter (where men are usually not allowed) were impressed not only by the quality of the men's work but also by their gentleness and kindness.

Imagine if women felt safe in every home in South Africa: if communities were places where women could walk freely; if every mother could know that her daughter would be treated respectfully by boys and could make safe and reasoned choices about her own body. Imagine a world where "kindness" is cool and respect is revered. Imagine the potential of women. Imagine the potential of South Africa.

Unfortunately, that isn't the world we live in. Violence against women is a pervasive problem the world over, and it has become one of the most prominent features of life in post-apartheid South Africa. Many recognise that we have become one of the most violent countries in the world, with murder, femicide and sexual offence rates reaching intolerable levels.

For this reason, this year Varsity Cup officials are raising awareness about violence against women and children, through the Varsity Cup Trust and the Pink Shorts campaign. All eight captains will wear pink shorts in the opening clashes, as will the four Players of the Match in every game thereafter, to draw attention to the rights of women and children to live free from the fear of abuse.

Gender-based violence is often committed in the home and away from public view. The intensely personal nature of these crimes, victims' fear of retaliation, and self-blame at having been victimised are among the chief reasons why women



and children choose not to report such offences. Although 54 000 rapes are reported to the police every year, research shows that for every one of these cases, another eight go unreported. Of the cases that are reported, only a few go to trial and even fewer result in conviction. The extent of domestic violence is more difficult to calculate as it is currently not codified as a separate criminal offence in South Africa, but is recorded as "common assault" or "assault with the intent to do grievous bodily harm" which hides the "domestic" nature of these offences. This, coupled with the reluctance of victims to report, is why police often refer to domestic violence as the "dark figure" of national crime statistics.

Yet it is clear that violence against women is deeply embedded in South African society. It cuts across geographic, cultural, linguistic and socioeconomic boundaries, and deprives women of safety and security at the most fundamental level. This trend reflects a context in which coercive and forced sex is tolerated and violence is the norm. Many survivors sustain serious physical injuries, and experience serious psychological and emotional consequences, including fear, anger, shame and depression.

In addition, more than 5 million people in South Africa are currently infected with HIV, so women who are sexually victimised face an extremely high risk of contracting HIV themselves.

Domestic abuse takes many forms, including physical violence, psychological abuse and economic abuse, each of which sustains and perpetuates the others. Poverty exacerbates the problem by limiting women's choices and access to assistance (for example from health, social welfare, legal and criminal justice services) and affecting their ability to challenge male violence against them. Besides fear, economic dependence has been cited as the most common reason why women stay with an abusive partner.

Our society overwhelmingly characterises men as the primary breadwinners and places the heavy burden of childcare almost exclusively on women. As such, women find themselves in a position of double vulnerability, since they have greater financial need but have access to fewer resources. This allows men to maintain control over family finances and to withhold essential financial support from their wives as well as their children – or to exploit this need for abu-

sive purposes. Violence against women, then, has severe implications not only for the physical and mental health of the women involved, but also for their families and communities.

Attitudes ranging from simple disinterest to blatant disregard for women's risk of victimisation, especially at the hands of those they know and love, perpetuate the problem. How many of us can honestly say we have never laughed at a sexist joke or stayed silent when a friend made derogatory remarks at a woman's expense? How many of us have sat mute and uneasy when a friend or family member has treated his partner in a way that makes us feel uncomfortable? Or turned a blind eye to sexual harassment on the street?

When strung together, these seemingly benign "incidents" add up to a social culture that encourages violence against women, however subtly. Rape and domestic violence are not committed only by people who are antisocial or pathological. In fact, most offenders are everyday people. You have probably sat next to one at a dinner table, on the train, around a boardroom table... or at a rugby match. You might even have one living in your home.

In a social context in which the fear of crime and violence – and other frightening intrusions by strangers – features so prominently in our lives, it is surprising that we are so silent about violence and other degrading treatment in our own private spaces.

The Gender Health and Justice Research Unit at UCT was founded to help chip away at the problem of violence against women. We were interested to hear that the rugby captains in the Varsity Cup will be wearing pink shorts as a way of raising awareness about the abuse of women and children. To some, the 'men in pink' are powerfully symbolic of the (often silent) concern that men have about violence against women and the critical need for men to become part of the solution. To others, this benevolent act may do little more than raise a few eyebrows.

While 'ordinary' men do get involved in the fight against gender-based violence by supporting women who have been victimised, on the whole men tend to only really engage with these issues after some priming experience, such as witnessing or hearing about violence against a woman or a child they care about. Getting involved means more than taking a pledge: it is a conscious commitment to responding to the way men treat and view women in private and public spaces. It means promoting positive masculinity, where respect for women is seen as 'manly'; where involvement means speaking out, in a public way, against sexism and other forms of degrading treatment against women. It means being aware and sensitive to the discomfort and fear that many women feel every day, for just being women.

With a conscious effort to promote safe and respectful relationships with women, we can start edging our way towards a less vulnerable existence, in which violence is not the norm, and where women no longer need to live in fear. ■



Medical museum founder honoured

Professor Jacques Charl de Villiers, former head of the Department of Neurosurgery at UCT, believes that Cape Town was established because of disease.

Hundreds of Dutch seamen died on sailing ships due to scurvy which

Living legend: Prof Jacques Charl de Villiers' work to start the Cape Medical Museum has earned him the Simon van der Stel Foundation's Gold Medal.

resulted from lack of fresh food on these long sea voyages to the East. The Cape, he explains, with its rich biodiversity, made for a good pit stop.

So it was strange to De Villiers, a UCT graduate, that such history was not recorded and retold well enough. Which is why he set up the Cape Medical Museum 29 years ago.

His work was recognised recently when the Simon van der Stel Foundation awarded him its Gold Medal.

That took him by surprise, he says.

"I never thought that this would be possible because starting a museum was like a hobby."

The museum, around the corner from the Somerset Hospital on the Waterfront in Cape Town, records a vital part of our history.

"Medicine is not a side issue, but a central theme in the history of this settlement," he said. "If we are here

because of diseases, then that should be remembered. And the museum is one way of doing that."

De Villiers wishes that the museum be acknowledged and developed into a showpiece for visitors to this city.

For many years, De Villiers conducted research on the medical history of the Anglo-Boer War, culminating in a two-volume history, *Healers, Helpers and Hospitals*. ■

UCT will charge offenders

UCT will prosecute current and former staff members who have been found guilty of theft, fraud or similar criminal offences.

In addition, the university has undertaken to recover any loss incurred due to the offenders' transgressions, and would go as far as deducting from their retirement benefits, within the limitations imposed by the Pension Funds Act. In cases where a loss is covered by an insurance

policy, this may also be required by the insurer.

According to the protocol for prosecution of offenders approved by the university's Audit Committee late last year, these actions will be followed in all cases except where the vice-chancellor rules that this is not to be done, in which case the decision and the reasons for it will be reported to the Audit Committee.

"The onus will be on the head

of the Human Resources' Employee Relations Section to bring to the attention of the vice-chancellor any case in which HR considers that a charge should not be laid," the protocol document reads.

To ensure prosecution, the head of Campus Protection Services' (CPS) Investigations Section will be responsible for laying criminal charges, but must consult with the director of Legal Services and the

executive director of HR or a nominee. Together they will formulate the charges, and must inform the head of Internal Audit when the charges are to be laid.

The head of HR's ER section is responsible for informing the head of CPS Investigations of all decisions that require criminal charges to be laid.

The role of Internal Audit in such matters will be to review and report

on the control environment in the section or department concerned, and to make recommendations to the line manager(s) about the control environment in that section or department.

Where necessary, as judged by CPS, Internal Audit must assist in the forensic investigation of the case. This would be the exception rather than the rule. It must also report the event and details of the control environment to the Audit Committee. ■

Award-winning writer explores new territories with book

Over his writing career Jonny Steinberg has covered some of the big South African themes – racial conflict, crime and punishment, the country's beleaguered police force, AIDS – often through the looking glass of one or a few lives.

So when kicking around ideas for a new book, the two-time winner of the Sunday Times Alan Paton Award for non-fiction (for his first two books, *Midlands* and *The Number*) was keen to explore some new ground. "All the books I'd done were about here, and I was feeling like I was writing the same book over and over again, and that I needed to shake this place out of my head for a couple of years and write about something completely different," says Steinberg, now also a lecturer in UCT's new Institute for Humanities in Africa (HUMA).

He got his new story when, over drinks in Cape Town, a friend living in New York told him of an afternoon spent with a group of Liberians living in an inner city housing project there; people, the friend said, "frozen in a moment of time" – a moment of time in Liberia,



then in the grip of a civil war.

In the recently-released *Little Liberia: An African Odyssey in New York*, Steinberg tells the story of two of these Liberians, men whose lives he had sat in on for two years, and who he would track back to Liberia.

The first is the ambitious but long-marooned Rufus Arko, leader of the New York group but harbouring plans to return to his homeland and run for president. The second, Jacob Massaquoi, had fled the war in Liberia, expecting things to be different in New York – no power struggles, for one thing.

But in the early 2000s the pair would square off, their rivalry spilling over into the rest of the New York community – in many ways mirroring the conflict back home, which was intensifying at the time. In their tug-of-war for power, they were soon as underhand, manipulative and mercenary as the leaders scrapping for supremacy in Liberia.

"In a strange sort of way, they were recreating the war," says Steinberg.

Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za



Odyssey: In his new book, Little Liberia, Jonny Steinberg tells the story of two men fighting an African conflict in New York.

New Hambidge poems inspired by travel

Visums By Verstek is the 23rd volume of poetry by one of UCT's most prolific writers.

The latest offering from Professor Joan Hambidge of the School of Languages and Literatures is described as "an evocative collection of poetry in which the poet's richly varied travel impressions are assimilated and brought to bear on her interpretation of that Greater Journey called Life".

Although written over a number of years, many poems in the volume appear here for the first time. Hambidge explains that the inspiration for her travel poems came while working as a columnist for the Afrikaans-language travel magazine *By*.

But it was only long after her trips to Cuba and Mexico that Hambidge was inspired to put pen to paper.



Travelogue: Visums By Verstek is Prof Joan Hambidge's new collection of poetry.

The inspiration took some time to bear fruit, Hambidge says, because her travel experiences were both complicated and alienating, and took some time to process.

"Even a horrible journey can be an inspiration for a poem," she says.

Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za

Qatar showcases South African artists

Curator of UCT's Michaelis Gallery, Nadja Daehnke, fine-arts lecturer Svea Josephy and two UCT graduates were five of seven artists featured in an exhibition of South African contemporary art in Doha in Qatar.

Lien Botha and Hasan and Husein Essop were invited to take part in the exhibition at the Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar Gallery, titled *Crossing Boundaries: Contemporary art and artists from South Africa*. The exhibition showcased work that deals with the complex issues of the Middle East and the question of identity in Islam.

South African artists Sharlene Khan and Nomtunzi Mashalaba completed the diverse line-up, which represented artistic practice in photography, mixed media, print, installations and text.

Riason Naidoo, director of the South African National Gallery, delivered the address at the opening of the exhibition, which ran from 26 January to 5 March.

"A whole lot of interest in South African political context is given in each artist's work," said Naidoo. "South Africa has both technology and history, which results in great artwork."

Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za



Dichotomy: Two views of Doha in Qatar.

LETTERS

Lotto ticket

I received a traffic fine yesterday while parked in a red bay in front of the Anatomy Building on the health sciences campus, where I work. I attended a meeting in Bremner Building at 10h00 and when I arrived back on the health sciences campus at 12 noon, the parking area for yellow bays was, once again, chaotic. Sometimes when I arrive at work in the morning, the parking area is already almost full. If you have to vacate your bay to attend a meeting, you have no chance of finding parking again. I find it unacceptable that the traffic office issues parking disks knowing full well that there are insufficient parking bays to meet the demand. Furthermore, it is just a matter of time before there is a serious accident on the hockey field parking area. People have

to park wherever they can find a spot and it is sometimes difficult to navigate your way between the cars. Regarding the Bremner Building parking area, the bays are far too narrow and one sometimes has to get into the driver's seat via the passenger door because the space between the cars is insufficient. I do understand that parking on campus is an ongoing problem but find it unacceptable that the traffic office, who are no doubt well aware of the problem, continue to hand out parking tickets to those parking in the wrong bays because there are no other bays available.

Disgruntled staffer

Response

The Bremner Building parking bays are narrower than the norm and we are looking at rectifying this. This

will mean losing a few bays but there is a new parking area planned on the old netball courts. Regarding the medical campus, we are doing a survey of how many red, yellow, and student bays there are with a view to reconfiguring these to suit demand. We will also liaise with Student Housing at GSH regarding the under-utilised parking at Clarinus. Please note that as the parking policy states, a disc does not guarantee parking. It gives the vehicle driver the right to seek parking on campus. (www.uct.ac.za/services/properties/risk/parking/).

Bruce Jansen, acting traffic and transport manager

Hard to swallow

The prices of food on Upper Campus are going up far too much. A small plate of food in Leslie now costs R25!

This is not possible. I don't know how students can afford that! Is there anyone regulating these prices?

What is the SRC doing about this? Does no one at UCT see that the prices are high? Does anyone care about this issue?

How can students be made more aware of these issues? Why do the students accept these prices? Is it that they don't like to complain (or are too rich) or they don't know where to turn?

Or maybe people complain but the complaints are not taken into account. These are some questions that I would like to have answered.

Roshan Bhurtha

Response

UCT does not play any role whatsoever in the determination of food

prices on campus, other than to ensure that contractors are aware that they are dealing with a predominantly student market and they should take this into account in their pricing structures. It is up to individual contractors to set their own prices, but they must at the same time accept that they stand a chance of facing student boycotts of their products if they are thought to be ripping off their customers. The university will naturally vigorously follow up on any accusations of collusion between vendors.

I seem to recall that the Students' Representative Council met with vendors last year and that prices were indeed reviewed, but must add that continual revision may not necessarily bring prices down.

Duke Metcalf, Properties & Services

RAG floats up in the air

The traditional annual RAG float procession has been cancelled for 2011 due to the high costs involved.

The cost for a student residence to build and pay for a single float can run to R15 000 or more. This is in addition to costs for security on float building night and fees to the Cape Town Traffic Department. However, the money raised in a float procession can be as little as R6500 in coins thrown to the floats by bystanders.

"SHAWCO is grateful to Cape Town for the support over the years,"

said Varkey George, director of SHAWCO. "We are also grateful to UCT students who give their time and energy to raise more than R1 million a year to fund projects to serve Cape Town communities."

RAG (Remember and Give) is the student organisation set up to raise funding for SHAWCO. Last year more than R672 000 was raised for SHAWCO just through the sales of SAX Appeal 2010. Additional funds were raised in other initiatives such as selling UCT-branded bottles of wine at graduation.

These funds are used to finance projects such as SHAWCO's five mobile clinics and one fixed-site clinic, which provide primary healthcare through the services of about 200 medical student volunteers and volunteer doctors, and 11 SHAWCO tutoring projects in Khayelitsha, Nyanga, Manenburg and Kensington, where 800 UCT student volunteers provide tutoring to learners from disadvantaged schools.

Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za



Surprise honour for top matriculants

Seventy first-year students could not have begun their studies at UCT on a better note than by receiving the Vice-Chancellor's and Achievement Scholarship honours they hadn't even applied for.

The Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships, amounting to R25 000 each, have been offered to 40 freshers in recognition of academic excellence in their matriculation exams.

These scholarships are across faculties, and have been awarded in four categories: to 10 top students who registered from the Western Cape Department of Education (WCED); to the 10 top students that hail from schools that fall under the former Department of Education and Training and former House of Representatives Education Department in the Western Cape; to the

15 best students that registered from the Department of Education (except WCED); and to the five top students who did the national Independent Examination Board exams.

The 30 Achievement Scholarships, in turn, amount to R15 000 each, and are based on developing partnerships with particular school groups or schools in a geographical area. The schools are those

that form part of the Maths and Science Education Programme, in the Mitchells Plain, Khayelitsha, Strandfontein, and Kensington areas, and in Umlazi in KwaZulu-Natal.

Because students needn't apply for the awards, it took them all by surprise.

Tariq Allie-Ebrahim, a chemical engineering student who matricu-

lated from Rondebosch Boys' High School, said it motivated him to work even harder.

"The scholarship and the prestige associated with it mean that I have to continue to work extremely hard to remain in this top bracket of students to justify me receiving the award. It will not lead me to suddenly becoming lazy due to the fact that I am of the special few." ■

Outreach adds value to US students' sojourn

Visiting American students were so impressed by the efforts of a Khayelitsha businesswoman to help her community that they decided to lend a hand.

The 25 law students from the University of Florida, the Charleston School of Law, and the University of Georgia were at UCT in 2010 for a month-long exchange programme. During their stay, they visited Vicky's B&B in Khayelitsha and were impressed by the establishment's contribution to the community. Proprietor Vicky Ntozini arranges goodies for the children in her neighbourhood who, in turn, help out by showing tourists around Khayelitsha.



Fact-finding: Visiting Florida students, seen here on the Look Out Hill in Khayelitsha, have raised funds to support a local B&B's outreach.

"The students were particularly struck by the sincerity of Ms Ntozini

and the value of what she was trying to do for her community, and wanted to

help," said Irena Wasserfall, director of UCT's joint summer programme in the Faculty of Law.

On their return to Florida, the students raised \$1 000 (about R7 000) and this was used to buy school supplies, clothing, books and small gifts as part of Vicky's annual Christmas presents to the needy.

The students have also promised to make further donations when they are in Cape Town this year. They intend to make this an annual tradition as a small gesture of thanks to the South Africans for their hospitality and their contribution to the students' educational experience. ■

eduroam Africa is now live

As a UCT staff member or student you can now access the internet from any university campus that makes use of the eduroam service – just by logging in with your UCT username and password.

eduroam (taken from education roaming) is an international roaming service that allows staff and students to log in to their home university from any subscribed university campus. It has been used in Canada, USA, Europe and Japan for quite a while now, but wasn't available in Africa. At least not until recently, when UCT collaborated with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Rhodes University and the University of the Free State to provide the first eduroam service in Africa.

When you use your UCT credentials to log in to the wireless network of a participating eduroam university, such as Rhodes, an authentication request is immediately sent to UCT. The UCT system automatically verifies your username and password and instantly sends back confirmation to Rhodes University – allowing you to access the internet. This same procedure is used when staff and students from other eduroam-participating universities visit the UCT campus.

Follow the eduroam links on the ICTS homepage to see how to connect to eduroam. For more information on eduroam and participating universities, visit: www.eduroam.org. ■

Squash event another resounding success

There was some good squash on display at the annual Keith Grainger UCT Squash Open, staged at UCT from 4 to 6 March.

No fewer than 56 players – 40 men and 16 women – took part in the event, staged in memory of the late Keith Grainger, a dedicated student servant of the club until his death from cancer in 2001.

As she did last year, Grainger's sister Natalie, the former world number 5 who announced her retirement from competitive squash in December, again took the women's title. But she had to fight for it, pushed to five sets in the final by a determined SA number 2, Milnay Louw. Grainger finally won a seesaw fifth set by 13-11.

The men's competition had a few

surprises in store. In the first semi-final, the national under-23 champion, Thoboki Mohohlo, seeded 5th in the competition and number 15 in South Africa, got the better of top seed and SA number 8 Gary Wheadon by 3-0. In turn, number 2 seed and national 12th seed Zuko Kubukeli, a former chairperson of UCT Squash and erstwhile member of UCT Sports Council, beat the SA number 13, Paul Atkinson, to reach the final.

Kubukeli kept to his winning ways, edging out Mohohlo in what has been described as a classic five-set spectacle.

UCT Squash extends its thanks to the sponsors of the event: the Grainger family, Harrow, SAB and New Balance, who provided generous prizes.

Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za



Triumphant: Zuko Kubukeli and Natalie Grainger were crowned men's and women's champions, respectively, at the Keith Grainger UCT Squash Open.

Residences wired up and ready to go

During the December vacation period ICTS wired up Rochester House, Carinus Village and Clarendon House, providing network connectivity to approximately 1 080 students.

These three residences are

not owned by UCT, so they were originally excluded from the massive supaTsela project that cabled up the other residences a few years ago. However, discussions between ICTS and Student Housing & Residence Life last year, as well as

a decrease in the cost of network equipment, allowed for a reversal of this decision.

Planning began in early 2010 and funding was made available in October, but most of the work was completed during the end of

year vacation so as not to disturb students during their exams. Satisfied students in these residences can now access ResNet, the residence network, from their rooms as well as any other areas covered by the wireless networks. ■

EVENTS

Department of Medicine Thursday Forums 17 March 2011 - Dr Colleen Bamford (MEDMICRO) - "Untreatable nosocomial infections at Groote Schuur: insights from molecular epidemiology".
 • 24 March 2011 - Dr Mark Sonderup - ("Hepatitis C - 2011 and beyond").
 • 31 March 2011 - Lung Institute 10th Anniversary

Philosophy Society Meeting When: Tuesday 12 April @ 20h00, Speaker: Dr Soran Reader (Durham University, UK). Title: How we need the concept of Need to help us to help. Venue: LS3B, 3rd Floor, Robert Leslie Social Science Building.

GSB Research Seminar. Title: "Ecology, Economy and Empowerment: eco-tourism and the game lodge industry in South Africa," Speaker: Prof Thomas Koelble, When: Wed 16 March, 13:00 – 14:00, Venue: Executive Room, GSB, Breakwater Campus, Green Point. RSVP tamlyn.mawa@gsb.uct.ac.za

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

Pro Vice-Chancellor: Safety & Violence Initiative, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Closing date: 21 March 2011

Senior Lecturer/Lecturer, Health Economics Unit, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 25 March 2011

Lecturer, Department of Mathematics & Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 30 March 2011

Professor/Associate Professor and Head of Clinical Unit: Reproductive Health & Fertility Regulation, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 31 March 2011

Professor/Associate Professor and Head of the Division of Chemical Pathology, Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 20 May 2011

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

Internal Audit Manager, Internal Audit Office, Closing date: 14 March 2011

Research Officer/Assistant Research Officer, Energy Efficiency Group, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 14 March 2011

Assistant Lab Administrator, ICTS, Closing date: 14 March 2011

Office Assistant, UCT Lung Institute, Closing date: 15 March 2011

Laboratory Manager/Technical Officer, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering &

The Built Environment, Closing date: 18 March 2011

Senior Secretary, Department of Astronomy, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 18 March 2011

Webmaster/Application Developer, Faculty of Commerce, Closing date: 21 March 2011

Technician/IT Consultant, Faculty of Commerce, Closing date: 21 March 2011

Commercial Senior Research Officer, UCT/MRC Unit for Exercise Science & Sports Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 31 March 2011

Senior Research Officer, Department of Human Biology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 31 March 2011

Research Institute Administration Manager, IIDMM, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 31 March 2011

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

Student Funding Assistant, Department of Student Affairs, Closing date: 16 March 2011

Financial Aid Enquiries Assistant, Department of Student Affairs, Closing date: 16 March 2011

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

PROPERTY/ACCOMMODATION

Kalk Bay: Charming cottage, inclusive April to December, R4000 monthly, plus telephone, ADSL lines/usage. Open plan living kitchen, one bedroom and study, well equipped. Contact 0724805857

Rosebank: (Ambleside) 1 bedroom apartment, tastefully furnished. Security, parking, pool, laundry. Six-month lease (April- Sept.) to postgraduate visiting academic, non-smoking. R5000 contact 0216850442

Rosebank: House to let from April 1st. 3 bedroomed house in Rosebank close to uct. Off street parking. R7000 per month. bodger2@mweb.co.za or 0723420755.

Observatory: Accommodation near hospital: spacious 3 roomed character apt, with a difference. Secure parking. Peaceful and charming. R5000/month. Contact doink@intekom.co.za

Private Sale: Two bedroom flat, open-plan kitchen/lounge, separate parking and laundry areas in secure complex including intercom system in WYNBERG. Close to all amenities. Contact 0723689440

Rondebosch/Silwood: Garden cottage, 3 bdrms, 2 bthrms (1 en suite), kitchen/dining, livingrm opening on priv courtyard garden, off street prkg for 2 cars. Will suit UCT students or retired couple. R5600/m 0825759579 or 0833007558

Walmer Estate: 2 bedroom, lounge,

kitchen, bathroom with toilet R3500 for students 0214610125

Tamboerskloof: Top grade garden flat Tamboerskloof. Fully furnished. Six month rental from 16 April. Sleeps up to four. Street parking. tel 0791271500

Claremont: Bright, sunny furnished room available For 1 person(female) Near Kenilworth station and Main Road. 20 min walk to Cavendish. Prefer Christian (to same values) Available now. Plse call Robyn 0836611439

For Sale: Tranquil picturesque country getaway in Barydale with large grounds for sale. The house has two/three bedrooms with an open-plan kitchen to living room opening onto a terrace Size of grounds 2974msq, well kept, loyal gardener, vegetable patch, leiwater and a borehole. R 865000. Contact: tania.katzschner@uct.ac.za, 0836347887

FOR SALE

Household Items: Toaster; Electric kettle; rice cooker; blender; book shelf; washing machine; 2 futon sofa beds with frames; wood dining table; laser printer. Interested? Contact ammorani@gmail.com/0727777528

Music: Avid Music Collector? Need music? Music Source imports vinyl, CD's & DVD's. We can order ALL styles of music. E-mail info@musicsource.co.za. Phone 021-422-5746 or 079-856-8435

Chest of Drawers: Pine Chest of Drawers (5) R950 onco. Contact 0741787100

Hiking Boots: a pair of tan leather hiking boots size 7 men (R300) onco. Contact gadija 0741787100

Wanted: Child Booster Car Seat I am looking to buy a second hand child car booster seat. Catherine x7690, catherine.kaschula@uct.ac.za

Car Seat: Used baby car seat and stroller combo in red/grey for sale. Price R750. Please contact Lisl on 6505704 or email Lisl.George@uct.ac.za

Laptop backpacks: Laptop backpacks for only R150 each. Available in green/lime and black/grey. Call Tawana on 0732978603.

Stroller: MacLaren stroller as new hardly used orange and grey R 750. Contact:tania.katzschner@uct.ac.za; 0836347887

GENERAL

Editing Services: Please contact A. Harold, BA (Hons), MA (Wits); BA (Hons), MA (TESOL) (Cum Laude), HED (Unisa) 0214611483 or 0724140064 or alby01@telkomsa.net

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Biodanza – Dance with Life: Experience the joy of living through the power of movement. Open classes on Thursday evenings in Gardens. Contact Shumi : 0721922261 shumi.chimombe@uct.ac.za Lisa: 0825587106 lisa@lisafirer.co.za

Editing: Start of year Special - Have your thesis, publication, dissertation edited professionally to improve language and style. Free assessment and consultation. Rapid turnaround. Contact Pamela 0723406238 or pamelal1@mweb.co.za

Donation: Epson LX -300+ printer and box of paper to be donated to a good cause. Perfect working order charlotte. honiball@uct.ac.za or call 021-6502634

"Domestic work: Wanted - 1-3 days per week. An exceptional person - diligent, reliable and effective. Contact Professor David Kaplan 0825637052 or david.kaplan@uct.ac.za.

Motor Car Service and Repairs: You buy the parts, work done at your own residence. Excellent service. Please contact Michael 0738015773.

Eagle Transcription and Translation Services: Transcription of audio recordings – Eng/Afr/Xhosa. Research, focus groups, talks, meetings, hearings. Tel.: 0217611866 OR Cell:0848129386

Tutors wanted: South African Homeless Peoples Federation seeks volunteer tutors for underprivileged children. contact Sis Pat 0722355854

Domestic worker: Jackie Mgungunyeka is looking for additional days work. She is an excellent housekeeper, general worker and child minder. She is most reliable and trustworthy. She can be reached on 0827544922. For a reference please email heather.zar@uct.ac.za

Cook and general worker. Roger Mgungunyeka is looking for additional days work. He is a skilled, experienced baker/ confectioner and an excellent general worker. He can be reached on 082-7544922.

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Lucid economist takes the prize

Can one put a value on lucidity? Sir Chips Keswick does, which is why he established the annual Keswick Prize for Lucidity, awarded to a third- or fourth-year student in any technical field for writing the most lucid essay on that subject.

Sir John Chippendale Lindley Keswick (who prefers to be called Sir Chips) has only one condition: that the winner of his R5 000 award write him a clear, jargon-free letter of thanks.

This year, the task fell to economics postgraduate Carl Veller, for his essay on the issues facing policymakers.

In handing over the award, Professor Dave Kaplan of UCT's School of Economics noted that although he seldom gave higher than 80% for an essay, Veller had achieved a mark of around 90% for his "clear and succinct" essay. Lucid, in other words.

Sir Chips, a former director of Hambros Bank, is a British businessman and a member of the family that controls Hong Kong company Jardine Matheson.

Chris.McEvoy@uct.ac.za



Single Speak: Carl Veller (left) is the winner of this year's Keswick Prize for Lucidity, presented by Prof Dave Kaplan.

Ikeys surrender log lead to steamrolling Maties



Ikeys captain Nick Fenton-Wells is well-covered by Helmut Lehman (left) and Johannes Reuben (7). (Video link: www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia/stream_video/series/.)

There's some serious thinking ahead for the Ikey Tigers following its crushing 16-37 defeat at the determined hands and feet of Stellenbosch University's Maties in the old rivals' Varsity Cup clash at UCT on 7 March. Gone was the Tigers' trademark running game, wayward went their passes and their set pieces fell to pieces as Maties piled on the pressure and the tackles with a physical, methodical game plan.

All night Maties made UCT pay dearly for handling errors – and there were many. Leading 30-16 but still short of a bonus point and with UCT showing signs of rallying, Maties rubbed salt into the Ikeys' wounds – and bagged that bonus point – with a late fourth try from yet another errant UCT pass.

The defeat knocked UCT off the top of the Varsity Cup log, Maties now setting the pace with 21 league points to UCT's 19. (The University of Pretoria and the University of Johannesburg lie third and fourth, respectively, both on 17 points.)

UCT players and coaching staff looked a little shell-shocked after the match. And there were theories aplenty as to what went wrong: the Maties' sixteenth man (aka the referee), suggested some; the UCT players were too flatfooted, allowing the Maties to run full-steam at them, said others.

"We were bullied," summed up coach Kevin Foote.

But there's no time to dwell on the mistakes, added Foote. "We've got to bounce back from this quickly – we've

got to come out blazing now."

With just two games left, UCT should still be confident of securing a sought-after semi-final berth. But they have two tough games ahead; on 14 March they play Johannesburg at home, and the Monday thereafter, 21 March, they travel to Pretoria to play Tukkies in their last group match.

If UCT can return to their winning ways – and there's nothing from their previous performances to suggest that they can't – a third Ikeys/Maties final in the Varsity Cup's four years is likely to be on the cards.

But Monday's defeat will be a painful reminder to the Ikeys that they will have to shape up if they wish to stop the Maties juggernaut.

Morgan.Morris@uct.ac.za

Round-the-clock dive for conservation

The countdown echoed around the UCT swimming pool complex at 11:59:50 on Saturday 19 February, to end 24 hours of continuous diving. The first pair of 48 divers descended into the pool at lunchtime on Friday, replaced every hour by a new pair. DIVER24 2011, part of the Underwater Club's DIVER outreach brand, is an annual event that raises funds for the work of its principal beneficiary, the Save our Seas Shark Centre, based in Kalk Bay (<http://www.saveourseas.com/sossc-za>).

Lurking at the bottom of a pool for an hour has its compensations. Participants entertained themselves by reading magazines, playing cards,



Ready to go: Opening divers Nicola Thompson and Ashley White, set and ready to start the marathon.

building toy cars, writing messages to each other and watching the swimmers train overhead. A weekend campout on the adjoining lawn added to the atmosphere. Tired organisers said they were proud that in the space of one day almost 50 divers took to the pool and raised money for conservation. (Got to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rcmqcw8uovU> for the event video.) ■

Clean cut for cancer supporters

Alumna Hélène van der Merwe and her children were among UCT staff and students at the medical campus who had their hair snipped, sprayed, cropped or coloured at the annual Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSAs) Shavathon on 4 March.

Their participation in the event, an awareness and fundraising drive for CANSAs, was especially poignant for the family. Van der Merwe's husband, Dr Doug Banks, also a UCT graduate, died of liver cancer in July 2008.

Minutes before having her hair shorn, Banks explained the importance of taking part in the initiative: "My hair is going to grow again, but the hair loss for cancer sufferers is permanent. This is a small thing to show support of cancer victims."

After her husband's death, his friends and colleagues established



Close shave: Students Nichole Groener and Frank Stephens gamely got their locks removed at the CANSAs Shavathon event.

the Doug Banks Renewable Energy Vision Trust, which builds intellectual capital in the field of renewable energy.

Dave Gale, chairman of the board of trustees, said: "The more funds available for cancer research, the more possibilities of finding a cure."

The Commerce Student Council and the Kopano Residence's house committee also hosted CANSAs Shavathon events at UCT. The initiative is growing as more people take part every year.

(Video link: www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia/stream_video/series/) ■