

Monday Paper

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Grad Edition



Pg 2



Pg 5



Pg 8

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Grad numbers up for mid-year ceremony

June graduation ceremonies are typically smaller than the December versions (for which staff in Student Records are grateful!) but this year's June numbers are still up on the same period last year, if only marginally. Here's a quick rundown:

- Provisional grand total for diploma, bachelor's, master's, honours and doctoral graduands across the six faculties: 1 336. That's up from the 1 293 in June 2010.
- Faculty of Commerce: 670 graduands; including 49 honours and 71 master's qualifiers – compared to 686 last year.
- Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment: 88 graduands. That's down from 106 in 2010, but still includes a rise in master's graduates, from 2010's 57 to 60 this year.
- The Faculty of Health Sciences boasts the biggest jump, with 144 graduands, compared to 95 in 2010. That's thanks in part to a substantial jump in master's numbers, from 45 last year to 69 for 2011, at last count.
- Things are pretty consistent in the Faculty of Humanities, which will cap 217 graduands, versus 224 in June 2010. There's a noticeable drop in doctoral graduands – down to seven from last year's 21 – but the numbers still include an impressive 111 master's graduands.
- Faculty of Law: 102 graduands, compared to 2010's 77. As was the case last year, master's graduands (63) will take up most of the seats.
- Faculty of Science, 115 graduands. No big changes from last year's 105, but master's graduands will jump by 10 from 53 last year to 63 this year. Also, the faculty is second only to health sciences in doctoral numbers – 20 at the time of going to press, compared to health sciences' 21.

Two educators to be honoured this week

UCT will present two of the year's four honorary doctorates during the June graduation ceremonies to recipients who are familiar with the university and the graduation podium in Jameson Hall. Education icon Stella Petersen completed three degrees and a teaching diploma at UCT, while Emeritus Professor Martin West capped thousands, if not tens of thousands, of students in the selfsame venue over his 17 years as deputy vice-chancellor here.



Honours roll: Stella Petersen and Emer Prof Martin West will be honoured by UCT at this week's graduation ceremonies.

Stella Petersen

Petersen, who will receive an honorary doctorate in education, completed a BSc in botany and zoology, an MSc in science, a senior teaching diploma and a BEd degree at UCT over the early to mid-1940s. Her academic achievements won her a prestigious international educational fellowship to the US, where she became the first South African to study at Syracuse University in New York, earning a master's in education in 1949.

Petersen has been described as a deeply revered and respected community figure, and was renowned for her dedication as a teacher, and the high standards she set her learners. On returning from the US she found her first teaching post in Uitenhage in the Eastern Cape, before returning to Cape Town for a stint at Harold Cressy High School, then returning to her alma mater, Livingstone High School. (The two Cape Town schools,

both affiliated to the Unity Movement, would earn prominence both for their outstanding academic track records and for political activism.

"Among these schools," wrote UCT deputy vice-chancellor Professor Crain Soudien in a 2006 paper, "Cressy, Trafalgar, Livingstone and South Peninsula were prime targets of the apartheid regime and the Cape Town City Council."

Petersen would stay at Livingstone until her retirement from her last position as a biology teacher in 1970. By that time she had become one of the school's legendary educationists, committed to the school's learning ambitions and its anti-apartheid ethos.

Her teaching didn't stop there, however. Until 2005 she served as an educational officer in the environmental centre of Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, where she was recognised for her contributions to conservation awareness.

Emeritus Professor Martin West

West will receive an honorary doctorate in literature, awarded in particular for his role in the university's governance and transformation during a turbulent period of transition. West retired from UCT in 2008 after serving with distinction for 17 years as a deputy vice-chancellor, and later as vice-principal. He served under four vice-chancellors, and made vital contributions to changing governance at UCT during the first decade of a democratic South Africa.

West also held the student affairs portfolio for over a decade, successfully managing a time of great change as the student body became more representative. He played a major role in the transition of the university's residences, the unification and development of sport on the campus, and in the shift in student politics from mainly protest to a system of co-operative governance.

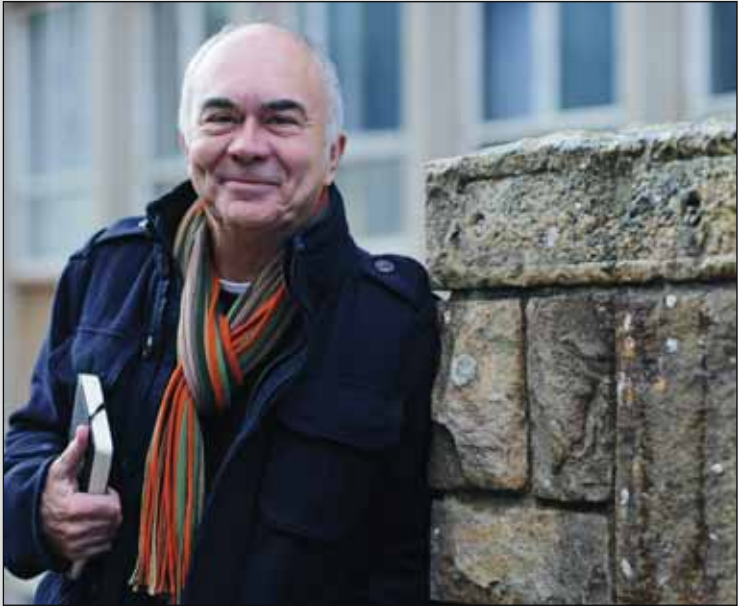
He also set up an International

Office, which significantly developed the international component of the student body, and played the key role in the creation of the Science, Humanities and Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPIA) programme, a partnership that allows young academics from seven other African universities to conduct research at UCT.

West's 44-year-long association with UCT goes back to 1964, when he started here as a student. He joined the staff in 1971 as a lecturer, and became a professor of social anthropology in 1978 – at just 30, he was the youngest academic to hold a chair at UCT. He is a former director of the Centre for African Studies and president of the UCT Staff Association, and also served as deputy dean of the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities in 1989.

In 2008 he received a Vice-Chancellor's Medal for his outstanding service to UCT from then-vice-chancellor, Professor Njabulo S Ndebele. ■

Noero paints SA history red



Seeing red: Prof Jo Noero has won the university's Creative Works Award, for his design of the Red Location Museum in Port Elizabeth (below).

Professor Michael 'Jo' Noero, of the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, is the winner of UCT's Creative Works Award for 2011, an honour that will be presented to him at a graduation ceremony this week.

The award is made specifically for Noero's design of the Red Location Museum of Struggle, located in Red Location, New Brighton, in the Eastern Cape. One of the oldest settled black townships of Port Elizabeth and a prominent anti-apartheid struggle site, Red Location has been the home of some of the country's leading political figures, including Govan Mbeki and Raymond Mhlaba.

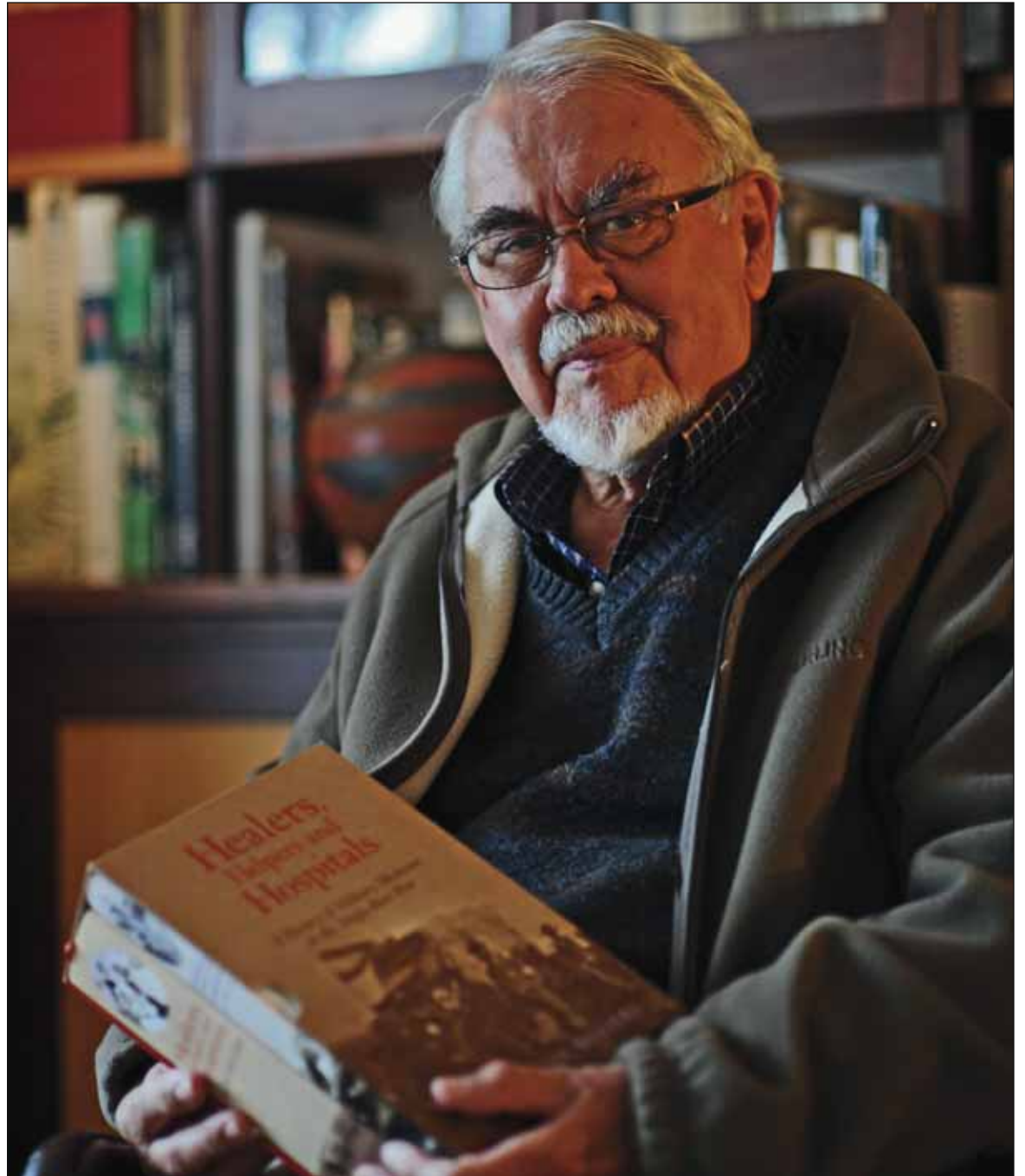
In 1994 Mbeki, Mhlaba, Ernest Malgas and Rory Riordan – all prominent Eastern Cape members of the ANC – undertook to renovate the township and to transform the area into a cultural precinct for the city of Port Elizabeth. The area, envisioned, would include a museum, an art gallery, a library and archive, two theatres, a conference centre, a school for the performing and fine arts, and a large number of low-income houses for current residents.

An architectural competition initiated in 1997 was won by Noero's company, Jo Noero Architects (which became Noero Wolff Architects in 1998). The first building in the complex, known as the Red Location Museum Cultural Precinct, was the Red Location Museum of Struggle, which was completed in 2006.



The Museum has since won many international accolades, including Lubetkin Prize from the Royal Institute of British Architects in 2006. The building – which comprises a series of 12 unmarked, rusted boxes “offering a set of different memories of struggle in South Africa” – has also been exhibited at a number of venues around the world, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

“To build a museum of the apartheid era in the midst of the township that acted as a crucible for the struggle is an extraordinary achievement,” wrote the Lubetkin Prize judges. “The Red Location Museum rises brilliantly to the challenge, using architectural skill of the highest order to produce an unforgettable experience that is both viscerally and intellectually moving.” ■



Prof JC (Kay) de Villiers has won the 2011 UCT Book Award for his work *Healers, Helpers and Hospitals: A history of military medicine in the Anglo-Boer War*. He will receive his award at graduation this week.

Medical focus on Anglo-Boer War takes UCT Book Award

The fields of history and medicine converge in the 2011 UCT Book Award winner, *Healers, Helpers and Hospitals: A history of military medicine in the Anglo-Boer War*.

Written by Professor JC (Kay) de Villiers, who formerly held the Helen and Morris Mauerberger Chair of Neurosurgery at UCT, the two-volume work focuses on that far-reaching conflict, fought at a time when war killed more people through disease than through wounds.

This was a critical period in the evolution of modern medicine, when new techniques such as radiology and anaesthesia had to be adapted

to wartime conditions, while new surgical specialities emerged to meet battlefield needs.

The first volume focuses on the history of health practitioners and organisations on both sides of the conflict, as well as the development of the war itself. Volume 2 digs into the heart of the conflict's clinical issues, such as bullet, shell and (the then-novel) high-velocity missile wounds. Innovations and treatments for typhoid, plague and psychiatric disorders (which were often overlooked) are explained, from the conventional to the colourful – such as folk remedies and maggots.

This work serves not only to

document these important facts, says De Villiers, but also to pay tribute to those who “attempted to honour the tenets of the healing professions”, often very far from home and under trying circumstances.

Two Meritorious Publication Awards were also bestowed on UCT writers. Dr Jeremy Wanderer of the Department of Philosophy received the award for *Robert Brandom*, on the work of the renowned philosopher, and Associate Professor Imraan Coovadia of the Department of English Language and Literature for his novel *High Low In-between*.

The awards will be presented at the June graduation this week. ■



Enabled: Justus Nthitu graduates with distinction for his master's degree in disability studies.

Justus for disabled children

This week Justus Nthitu will become the first UCT graduand to receive a distinction for a master's in Disability Studies, this for his thesis *Teacher's Perspectives on Inclusion of Disabled Learners in Botswana*. He spoke to Monday Paper about his achievement.

What got you interested in disability studies?

There are a number of factors; firstly, my experience in working with disabled children. I realised the barriers these children face, especially in schools. To secure admission

they have to be assessed by various professionals who decide on their placement. This is quite contentious. I wanted to contribute to the global debate on education placement for disabled learners. Secondly, I'm disturbed by the disability/charity comparison, especially in my experience in Kenya and Botswana, where services to disabled people are regarded as charity. I question why the majority of disabled people live in poverty.

How does your thesis address this issue?

The study investigated teachers' perspectives on the inclusion of disabled learners in Botswana. This included their views on educational placement for disabled learners and on the types of support needed to include disabled learners. The findings show that teachers lack a clear understanding of inclusive education. The study recommends teacher training and development, and an evaluation of current special education units.

What made you come to UCT?

The flexibility in course structure, which meant I did not have to

forgo my job, so I could still support my family. Equally important was the Recognition of Prior Learning policy, which meant I qualified to pursue a master's degree despite having only a diploma as my highest qualification. And of course, the fact that UCT is renowned for excellence in research.

Where do you plan to go from here?

I would love to further my studies – probably to become a professor so I can influence others through lectures and publications. ■

Graduand designs protocol to detect early hearing loss

Parents and teachers often complain that children never listen.

But it could just be that they can't hear, as UCT clinical educator Tracey-Lee Cloete and many others suspect. Also, everyone agrees that early screening and intervention could avoid a spate of learning and social difficulties.

So Cloete, who this week graduates with a master's in audiology from the Division of Communication Sciences & Disorders, has spent the past two years researching and developing a hearing-screening protocol, based on an existing pool of tests, for Grade-R and Grade-1 school learners; a critical contribution to priority health care, according to the division's Associate Professor Harsha Kathard.

Cloete had to keep context in mind in drafting her protocol. It had to suit both testers (school health workers stretched for time) and subjects (fidgety, not-so-articulate toddlers).

So she ditched the low-tech, flawed options such as voice and rattle tests that can be subjective and unreliable, and proposed a three-step, more hi-tech alternative.

This includes the use of more



An earful: Tracey-Lee Cloete illustrates the use of a machine to measure otoacoustic emissions, a key component in her proposed hearing-screening protocol for young school learners.

objective, if pricey, technology.

There's the run-of-the-mill otoscopy, ie a visual examination of the ear with an otoscope. That's followed by the

measurement of otoacoustic emissions – acoustic sounds generated by the inner ear that can point to faults in the cochlea, the portion of the in-

ner ear essential for hearing – and a tympanometry test that examines the condition of the middle ear and eardrum (aka the tympanic membrane)

by bouncing low-frequency sounds off them.

Cloete then tested her protocol in a small trial with school health workers and about 100 Grade-R and Grade-1 learners in Mitchells Plain.

Results were mixed. The health workers liked the time-saving and precise technology, but her sensitivity numbers (the number of learners correctly identified as suffering from hearing loss, compared to specificity numbers, which correctly identifies those who don't have any hearing loss) stood at only 57-58%. However, that could be because of a delay between the screening test and the follow-up diagnostic test, because of the poor attendance rate.

The protocol, while showing promise, has to be refined, Cloete notes. And costs, she realises, could be a stumbling block, as the machines for the two tests run, to just over R50 000 together.

But that's very little compared to the personal and system costs (lines of people sent to hospitals on the findings of incorrect test results), she argues. "We're saying, yes, the set-up costs will be higher, but in the long term there could be savings." ■

Law expert hones his creative writing

As he is an associate professor of jurisprudence, many would expect Professor Jaco Barnard-Naudé to pursue further studies in his field.

But he had chosen creative writing, and is graduating with his master's, thanks to the encouragement of acclaimed poet Professor Joan Hambidge.

Barnard-Naudé has been writing poetry since his high school days. When he joined UCT he heard about the creative writing course, and that Hambidge, one of his favourite poets, supervises the MA in Afrikaans poetry. He immediately sent in a portfolio of his poetry.

"When I look at the poems I submitted for consideration to be accepted into the course, and compare them to the poetry I wrote under Prof Hambidge's supervision, I am astounded at how much my poetry developed," he said.

His thesis comprises the preparation of a collection of poems over two years with Hambidge and other students, and an academic essay on the relationship between philosophy and poetry in the context of Afrikaans poetry and literary criticism.

Barnard-Naudé is now preparing the poetry manuscript for submission for publication, and hopes to publish the essay as a series of articles in a peer-reviewed journal. ■



Creative mind: Assoc Prof Jaco Barnard-Naudé has sharpened his poetry writing skills, and graduates with a Master's in Creative Writing.



Making contact: Master's graduand Faith Chirinda has made many friends at UCT. This photograph with vice-chancellor Dr Max Price was taken at his installation.

Being here

Faith Chirinda has become a well-known face – and always a happy persona, as far as we can tell – around campus. This week she graduates with a master of social science in social development, and here, especially for Monday Paper, she reflects on her time at UCT.

I came to UCT in 2005 to study towards a Bachelor of Social Science degree in social work. Initially, I just thought I would get my undergraduate degree, get a job and get married. But seven years down the line I am still here, and enjoying the highs of the UCT campus, graduating with a master's degree this week. I should point out that this is not the end of the academic road for me, as I intend to pursue doctoral studies. As an international student I have been exposed to a lot of diversity, and being involved in various student leadership structures allowed me to meet many people from across the world.

Of course I have experienced challenges – mostly financial – but I can say I received plenty of support from the university and my lecturers, who kept me in high spirits during those tough times. Now I have obtained all of my three degrees from UCT, and it is an experience I would not trade for anything. I believe – and am yet to be convinced otherwise – that there is no other university in Africa that can beat UCT. The quality of learning and support that I received were of the highest standard, and now I am ready to face the world as a global citizen. I also had a lot of support from my father, who believes that education is the best inheritance you can give your child, and I owe him much. To my fellow students I want to say: do not give up, press on until you reach your goal, get involved and, most importantly, enjoy your campus days, as university days are the best days. ■

From domestic worker to master's graduand



Turning the corner: Thabisa Xhalisa graduates with her master's this week, having arrived in Cape Town with R50 in her pocket – and few prospects – some nine years ago.

The saying 'education is the key to success' best suits Thabisa Xhalisa's case.

Graduating from domestic worker at the age of 15 to cleaner, to translator and, finally, to becoming a lecturer, Xhalisa has beaten all the odds in her life. This week she graduates with her master's in education.

But her journey has not been a walk in the park.

Having to raise two kids and look after her niece and a cousin following the death of her mother, Xhalisa could well have joined thousands of township youngsters trapped by poverty and circumstances.

"I grew up in poverty and I was tired of it," she recalls. "I did well at school, but had no hope of studying further. At some point I thought I was meant to live in poverty."

Becoming a restaurant waitress was what many young women in her community aspired to after matriculating.

"I did not want that."

With only R50 in her pocket, two skirts and two T-shirts in her bag,

Xhalisa then left her home town of Knysna in 2002 en route to Cape Town to investigate tertiary education. At first, UCT turned down her application to study medicine as her marks were not good enough. But when she could not afford the R1 000 registration fee at another university, Xhalisa returned to UCT to try again. Advisors at the university suggested she study humanities. But she lacked even the R300 acceptance fee. However, after securing a loan bursary, the R300 acceptance fee was incorporated into her fee account.

"That was the difference between UCT and other universities. Their system is accommodative to even those who have absolutely nothing"

Since then Xhalisa has made UCT her home, obtaining her BA in media studies in 2005, her honours in African languages in 2007, and her master's this year. She intends to do her doctorate, and make a documentary about her mother.

"My life is a replication of hers, but my future is better because I have education." ■

Student parenting a tall order

If studying while working is tough, then adding parenthood into the mix just adds to the juggling act.

Five UCT students – Julie Kahumuza, Rushana Larney, Kuben Ramsamy, Justin White, and Lauren Williams – have experienced that first-hand when they became parents in the middle of their Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration studies at the Graduate School of Business. They pressed on, however, and will graduate this week.

"There were many times I was about to give up during the course, due to late nights and long lectures," commented Larney, who gave birth to her third baby, Imaad, late last year.

But knowing that the course was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and that quitting would let down her family and study group, Larney kept going.

As with the others, it was critical that she manage her time and responsibilities well, she says.

Kahumuza, a mother of four, was better used to the predicament, as she had also fallen pregnant when doing her master's degree four years ago. She gave birth to her son, Cedric, in March.

She believes that a delicate



Beating the odds: (From left) Julie Kahumuza with Cedric, Rushana Larney with Imaad, and Lauren Williams with Ethan, all juggled studies and motherhood.

balancing act is required, but that it needs to be backed up by support from (and sacrifices by) family members.

"It was also important for my group to establish ground rules at the beginning of the course, and understand each other's circumstances," Kahumuza explains. "With this understanding, we were able to design

a strategy that limited our time away from home and work, while still fulfilling the requirements of the course, and ensuring that the experience was beneficial to all."

Tough as it may be, being a parent should not deter anyone from studying, concluded Williams, whose second baby, Ethan, was born early in 2011. ■



Fighting spirit: Dr Jennifer Moodley's PhD thesis calls for effective cervical cancer treatment in South Africa.

Moodley fights to prevent the preventable

Dr Jennifer Moodley tackles her subject with a political activist's sense of justice. Her thesis, *Prevention of Cervical Cancer in South Africa: Opportunities and challenges* is a call to arms to the healthcare system to fight more effectively against this highly preventable disease, which remains one of the greatest killers of women in developing countries.

"In first-world countries, prevention has been highly successful because they have organised Pap smear screening programs," says Moodley. "But in South Africa until recently, cervical cancer wasn't even on the health agenda."

Although policy guidelines for preventing cervical cancer first came out in 2000, its implementation has been a struggle.

The recent development of a vaccine against the human papilloma virus (the cause of cervical cancer) offers great potential for the prevention of cervical cancer in South Africa. Moodley explains that although the vaccine is highly effective, it's also incredibly expensive, and only available in the private sector. It's a frustrating situation that can only be resolved by the government and big pharma negotiating a lower price.

As always, the problem is complex. "Ultimately," says Moodley, "successful prevention of cervical cancer in South Africa requires renewed political commitment, adequate resource allocation and an investment in health systems development."

A senior public health specialist at the Department of Health in the Provincial Government of the Western Cape and a senior researcher at UCT's Women's Health Research Unit in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine, Moodley was recently appointed as the South African lead doctor for Global Doctors for Choice, an international organisation advocating reproductive health rights.

"It is an exciting challenge," says Moodley. "Women's Health is a major interest of mine and I would be really happy if I could make a difference in their lives."

Family is an important part of Moodley's life and she clearly enjoys being involved in the lives of her busy children, Sarah and Udarshan.

With her June graduation, Moodley will share the podium with Women's Health Research Unit colleague Dr Jane Harries, who will also receive her PhD at the ceremony. ■

Women put off their nuptials

According to the doctoral work of Grace Kumchulesi, who graduates with her PhD from UCT's School of Economics this week, the marriage rate of the country's African women is on the decline. The research, which won Kumchulesi a poster award at the May conference of the Population Association of America in San Francisco, US, is based on an analysis of the

marriage rates for African women aged between 15 and 49 years. She found that those rates have dropped from 35% in 1994 to 31% by 2006. One interesting observation from Kumchulesi's analysis was that the odds of marriage for women increase with age – in other words, the older the women, the more likely they are to marry. Kumchulesi hails from the University of Malawi. ■



Trio of triumph for UCT at NSTF awards

Keeping up the university's stellar track record in the event, three UCT scholars – of six nominated – walked away with honours from the annual National Science and Technology Forum-BHP Billiton Awards, hosted in style in Johannesburg last week.

The three are Emeritus Professor Lionel Opie, who received the Individual over a Lifetime Award; Professor Kelly Chibale, named the winner of the TW Kambule National Research Foundation (NRF) award for a senior black male researcher over the past five to 10 years; and Dr Mohamed Azeem Khan, who won the Kambule NRF award for a distinguished young black male researcher over the past two to five years.

Opie, emeritus professor of cardiology and founding director of UCT's Hatter Institute for Cardiology Research, was hailed for his contribution to the improved understanding of the causes of heart attacks, and the more effective use of medication for

heart disease.

Chibale, director of the recently launched Drug Discovery and Development Centre at UCT, was cited for his significant contributions to research capacity and skills development in several key areas critical to the discovery of modern pharmaceutical medicines.

And Khan, a senior lecturer in the Department of Electrical Engineering, was recognised for his contribution to the understanding of industrial energy efficiency and the design of small-wind generator and energy storage systems.

"The University of Cape Town is very proud that our researchers are recognised for the excellent work they do," said Gerda Kruger, UCT's executive director of communication and marketing. "The awards confirm the high calibre of the UCT staff and the significant impact their work makes on society."

"We congratulate the winners and recognise the accomplishments of the other finalists, namely Professor Jill



Triumvirate: Prof Lionel Opie, Prof Kelly Chibale and Dr Mohamed Azeem Khan, UCT winners at this year's National Science and Technology Forum-BHP Billiton Awards.



Farrant of the Department of Molecular Cell Biology, Associate Professor Nonhlanhla Khumalo of the Division of

Dermatology at Groote Schuur Hospital and Red Cross Children's Hospital, and the Department of Chemical Engineer-



ing's Professor Michael Claeys, who led the UCT/SASOL Study Team on Cobalt Fischer-Tropsch." ■

Jumping cockroach leaps into the world's top 10 new species

When you discover the world's only known jumping cockroach, as UCT's Professor Mike Picker and former student Dr Jonathan Colville did, you naturally spend much time thinking of catchy headlines – such as the one above – to mark the event.

And it's time well spent, as this small cockroach certainly has been making headlines. Only this week, for example, it leapt into the Top 10 New Species for 2011, a much-vaunted list compiled by the International Institute for Species Exploration at Arizona State University in the US (<http://species.asu.edu/Top10>).

On that pick of new species, the leaping cockroach – or 'Leaproach', as Picker and Colville have named it – joins a leech with enormous teeth, an iron-oxide consuming bacterium discovered on a rusticle from the RMS Titanic, a flat-as-a-pancake batfish that appears to hop along the ocean floor, and a six-foot-long fruit-eating lizard. The list highlights the most exciting species described taxonomically in the previous year.

Picker, of UCT's Department of Zoology, and Colville, now with the South African National Biodiversity Institute, discovered the cockroach by chance (how else?) in 2006 while using a net to sweep vegetation – aka sweep-netting – for long-tongue flies



Discovering duo: Prof Mike Picker (left) and Dr Jonathan Colville have made entomological history again with their discovery of the world's first jumping cockroach or 'Leaproach', which features in the 2011 list of the world's top 10 new species.

Eye-ful: The newly discovered Leaproach.

in the sedge meadows of the Silvermine Nature Reserve.

From the moment they laid eyes on the funny-looking insect in their nets, the two knew they were onto something special. Measuring a modest one centimetre, the creature appeared to be a cross between a cockroach, a cricket and a grasshopper.

"Superficially it looked a bit like a cricket, but not quite," recalls Colville.

A careful microscopic examination back at their lab confirmed that the insect was in fact a cockroach – it boasted the broad, flattened body, the small head covered by the pronotal shield (or head shield), and very large leg bases that are typical of cockroaches. But it's easy to see why an untrained eye might confuse the insect with a grasshopper.

The jumping cockroach has distinctive, grasshopper-like features,

many of which are probably adaptations for jumping. These include the enlarged and muscular hind legs, the hemispherically bulging eyes that allow for a wider view, rough-padded 'toes' for improved grip before and after jumping, and an especially strengthened base for the antennae, which stabilises them during jumping.

Surprisingly, it belongs to the same family as the common household German cockroach – although unlike the German cockroach it is active by day, living side by side with grasshoppers on grass stems.

Four years after their initial finding, Picker and Colville penned their first article on the jumping cockroach in a 2010 paper in the journal *Arthropod Systematics & Phylogeny*. There they officially named it *Saltoblattella montistabularis*. *Saltoblattella* is Latin for 'jumping small cockroach', while *montistabularis* refers to the site where it was first spotted, viz the Table Mountain National Park, to which Silvermine belongs.

"Thus far, it is only known from that single locality, adding to the impressive biodiversity profile of this World Heritage site," says Picker.

The two have also submitted a second paper, with colleague Malcolm Burrows from Cambridge University, which details the jump mechanics of this prodigious jumper. The Leaproach

bears no resemblance to the only other assumed jumping cockroach ever found, the Late-Jurassic *Skok svaba*, whose 160-million-year-old fossil was first described in 2007. In their paper, Picker and Colville argue that the two insects' jumping adaptations most probably developed independently, especially since *Skok* was a stem 'roachoid' – an insect vaguely related to the cockroach and with a roach-like appearance – not on the main evolutionary line that gave rise to modern cockroaches.

There may well be other jumping cockroaches in the Cape, and for that matter in other poorly bio-prospected parts of the world. But Picker and Colville agree that their discovery points to how little is known about Cape fauna, which could even trump the plant riches of the celebrated Cape Floral Kingdom for scale and diversity.

"The Cape has a very spectacular and distinctive Cape insect fauna, which has been under-appreciated up until now," says Picker.

It's not the duo's only world first. They also discovered an entirely new biological order – a whole new kind of insect – known as Mantophasmatodea (or Heelwalkers) in South Africa in 2002.

They're hoping it won't be their last either. ■



Eyes right: Prof Colin Cook, head of UCT's Division of Ophthalmology.

Collaboration to save children's sight in sub-Saharan Africa

Thirty-nine million people worldwide are blind – but 75% of them don't need to be.

To address this global problem, specifically among children in sub-Saharan Africa, UCT's Division of Ophthalmology is the new home for the Southern African headquarters of ORBIS, a multinational NGO focused on treating preventable blindness.

In partnership with UCT and the Red Cross Children's Hospital, OR-

BIS (Latin for 'of the eye') will focus on education, granting fellowships and offering training from foreign specialists in a bid to provide the region with a "sustainable model for paediatric ophthalmology development", according to Joni Watson, business development manager of ORBIS Southern Africa.

"We've had huge support from the division, especially Professor Colin Cook, who has given us advice as well

as free office space at the division," says Watson.

Speaking at the recent Comprehensive Eye Care for Children in Sub-Saharan Africa conference, Cook, head of UCT's Division of Ophthalmology, stressed the importance of the partnership.

"Half of childhood blindness in Africa is avoidable. Early intervention is very important, both in the community and at a tertiary level." ■

Toolkit aids access to health rights

It was appropriate that the toolkit on the right to health was launched on 26 May – right on the heels of local government elections.

A number of human rights violations concerning health, such as the open toilet saga and the killing of protestor UCT alumnus Andreas Tatané, have been linked to poor service delivery by local governments.

And as Pregs Govender, deputy chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission, put it at the launch, the notion of the indivisibility of rights is central to the toolkit. “You can’t separate one right from another.”

The toolkit is a product of the Learning Network, which was established in 2008 by the Health and Human Rights Programme at UCT, the University of the Western Cape, Maastricht University in the Netherlands, Warwick University in the UK, and six local civil society organisations – The Women’s Circle, Women on Farms Project, Ikhaya Labantu, Ikamva Labantu, Epilepsy South Africa and the Cape Metropolitan Health Forum. Linking research,



Human rights activists: (From left) Prof Leslie London, Nicole Fick, Pregs Govender and Prof Noma French Mbombo at the launch of the toolkit on the right to health.

training and advocacy, they developed the toolkit as a practical tool for educating communities on their right to health, how to identify violations of such rights, and how to respond to these violations.

Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences Professor Marian Jacobs said the manual will make a huge difference in the lives of people who did not know their rights, and encouraged people to ensure that it is

implemented.

Professor Leslie London, who led the UCT team on the project, noted that while the toolkit is aimed at South African audience, it is hoped that it can also be adapted for use in other countries in the African region.

The toolkit can be downloaded from the website of the School of Public Health and Family Medicine: <http://www.hhr.uct.ac.za/about/about.php> ■

UCT and Penn State commit to joint research



Partners: DVC Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo (left) and Dr Graham Spanier, Penn State president, at the WUN meeting in China.

UCT and Pennsylvania State University recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Shanghai, China. The setting may not be as unlikely as it first appears – universities from across the globe were represented at a meeting (and AGM) of the Worldwide University Network (WUN).

Both UCT and Penn State are members of WUN, a global network of research-centred universities that UCT joined in 2009.

The meeting in Shanghai offered an excellent opportunity for UCT and Penn State to record their commitment to joint research projects, exchange programmes and

other academic activities, reports Lara Hoffenberg of UCT’s International Academic Programmes Office.

Both universities have a long history of bilateral co-operation, notably in the field of climate change, with Professor Bruce Hewitson’s Climate System Analysis Group leading from the UCT side.

“It is hoped that this bilateral MOU between our universities will lead to an overall strengthening of the relationship, not only bilaterally, but through the WUN network, with other partners worldwide,” says Hoffenberg. ■

Third time lucky in coolest brand category

It’s official. UCT is the coolest brand, voted top in the university and college category of the 2011 *Sunday Times* Generation Next Youth Brand Survey, winning by some margin. This is the third consecutive year that UCT has won the accolade.

Second place went to the University of Johannesburg, followed by Wits, Rhodes, Pretoria and Stellenbosch.

This is the seventh Generation Next annual brands survey. Said to be the country’s largest brand survey, the study keeps marketers in touch with the aspirations of young South African consumers.

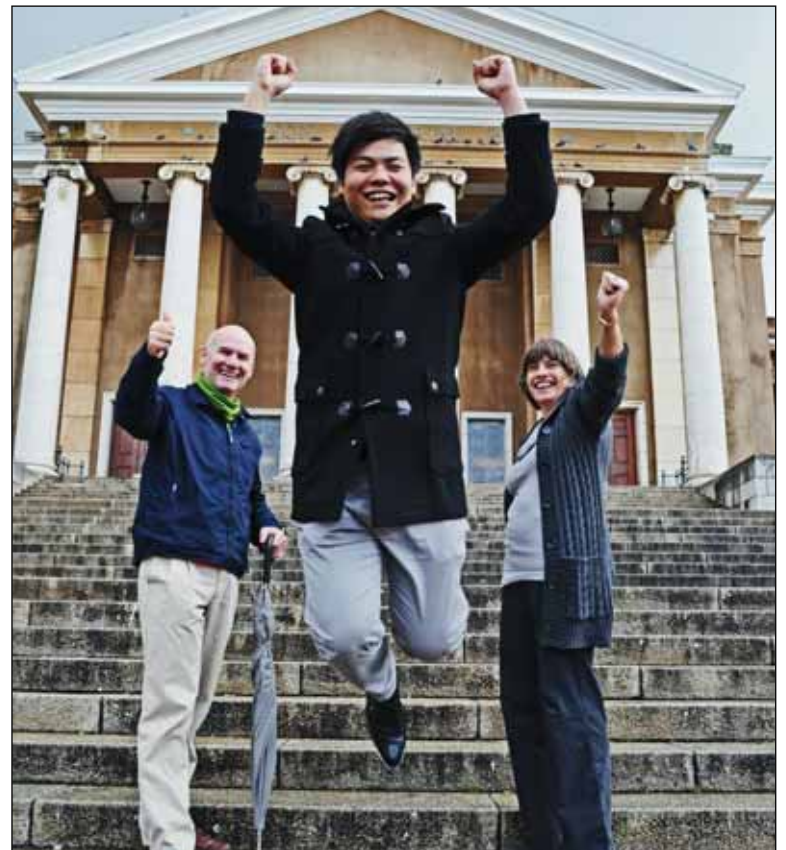
Undertaken in February and March, the 2011 study polled over



Cool place to be: UCT has been voted the coolest brand in the university and college category of the 2011 *Sunday Times* Generation Next survey.

7 200 young South Africans between the ages of 8 and 22 in urban and peri-urban settings in six provinces. The poll included 72 categories, from

careers and social media to fast food, cellular network providers, fashion, shopping malls, soap bars, fragrances and magazine brands. ■



High flier: Yu-Hsiang Lu came third (with honours) in the 2011 South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) Part 1 Board Exam, one of two UCT students placed in the top 10. He was congratulated by Prof Mark Graham (left), HoD of the Department of Accounting, and Prof Alex Watson, head of Learning and Teaching in the department.

UCT makes giant strides towards transforming accounting profession

A significant step has been taken towards the transformation of the accounting profession, reflected in the release on 27 May of the 2011 South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) Part 1 Board Exam results.

UCT recorded a 15% increase in its number of successful candidates and an 89% pass rate for black African students (national average 55%).

Professor Mark Graham, head of the Department of Accounting, said: “UCT’s pass rate for first-time writers was 96%, more than 16% higher than the national average.” He added: “The commitment to transformation of the profession by UCT’s Department of Accounting is without question.”

The UCT pass rate for all candidates was 94% (national average 64%) and 81% (national average 35%) of the university’s repeat candidates passed.

“These pass rates (both UCT and national) show a slight improvement on previous years,” said Graham. “A total of 287 (2010: 249) UCT candidates passed this year. This translates into a year-on-year increase of 15% in the absolute number of successful candidates.”

UCT had the highest absolute number of passes in the exam of all the universities in South Africa, other than UNISA. A stand-out feature was

the success of UCT’s black African, coloured and Indian students.

UCT’s pass rate was 89% for black African students (national average 55%), 93% for coloured students (national average 60%) and 89% for Indian students (national average 51%). Altogether 138 black African, coloured and Indian students from UCT passed the exam (2010: 115), comprising 48% of UCT’s successful students.

Two UCT students came in the top 10: Yu-Hsiang Lu was third (with honours) and Michael Hunt was 10th. Lu said: “there is no real secret to this success – what it comes down to is consistent hard work and a passion for what you do.”

Furthermore, all 11 of UCT’s Academic Trainees were successful.

During 2010 UCT ran a programme, sponsored by Thuthuka (the transformation programme of SAICA), for 30 students repeating the Qualifying Exam. The pass rate for this cohort was 70% (national average 35%). Of the 13 Thuthuka students who wrote the QE for the first time this year, 10 were successful.

Graham lauded his staff and support staff, colleagues in the Education Development Unit (EDU), and those who teach on the Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting for the achievement. ■

Doctoral theses are relatively rare things in the creative disciplines but UCT’s Department of Drama is among those hoping to swell its scholarly output at that level. So recently, 14 of its staff members and students attended a workshop hosted by the Research Office to look into the penning of PhD proposals and ways to integrate performance and practice into a doctoral thesis.

One outside senior academic described the gathering as “truly groundbreaking”.

Drama PhDs challenge conventional model

The aim was to explore “ways of doing things in the creative disciplines”, explained Professor Mark Fleishman, head of the drama department.

Among the issues currently being faced by drama studies is the accommodation of over 10 PhDs being pursued simultaneously in a single department, imposing demands for supervision, reports the Research Of-

fice’s Lyn Holness, who co-ordinated the workshop. A further challenge, says Holness, is to determine what is appropriate for PhD research, which can’t simply be a replica of what was done at master’s level.

There’s also the problem that PhDs in South Africa do not involve a coursework component, requiring that alternative ways be found to support and develop research skills

in those working on their doctoral degrees.

The particular focus of the weekend was the PhD proposal itself, and 10 participants presented their work to their peers. The aim was to help hone the proposals for submission to the Doctoral Degrees Board, and to address the underlying consideration of appropriate supervision.

Two participants nearing com-

pletion of their PhDs also shared perspectives of the process. One of these theses is the first in the drama department to incorporate a creative component.

“What struck me, as one looking at the creative disciplines from the outside, was that while the ‘way of doing things’ here in many cases differs radically from that of other disciplines, there is no less research rigour – which challenges the notion of the conventional model being the only acceptable one,” says Holness. ■

Maths competition sets new records

By all measures, the 2011 UCT Mathematics Competition reached some serious milestones.

For starters, a record 6 636 learners from 134 high schools around the Western Cape took part. Secondly, brothers Gerhard and Pieter de Wet of Drostyd High Technical School in Worcester were among the award winners, the first twins to achieve this. And Grade 12 learner Sean Wentzel of Westerford High School was the toast of the competition's prizegiving ceremony on 1 June, after the announcement that he had recorded perfect scores every year since he first took part as a Grade 8 learner in 2007. Wentzel is the first learner to do so in the 35-year history of the event.

A proud Wentzel attributed his success to a combination of practice, hard work, and a bit of luck. His parents had also laid the right foundation.

"My father [a professor of chemistry and biology] taught me scientific ways of thinking, and my mother [a tutoring accountant] gave me the love of numbers."

Another notable achievement was that of Ashraf Moolla of Rondebosch Boys' High School, who tied with

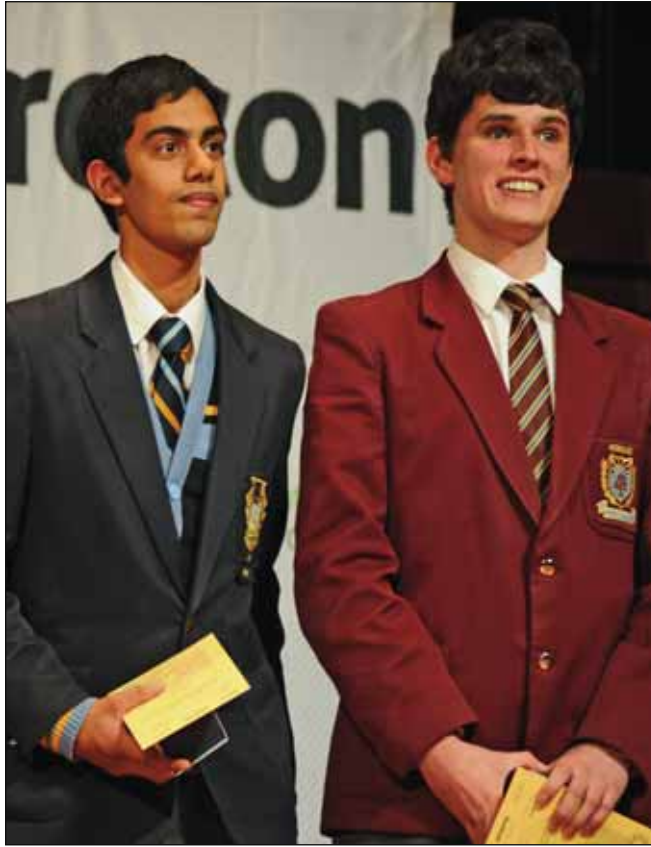
Wentzel in Grades 9 and 11, and was second in Grades 8, 10 and 12. Moolla and Wentzel are part of the South African team that will take part in the International Mathematical Olympiad in the Netherlands in July.

Khadija Brey of Wynberg Girls' High School was the top girl participant in this year's competition.

Speaking at the event, vice-chancellor Dr Max Price dissuaded learners from jumping straight into the "hardest-to-get-into" careers, such as engineering and medicine, at university, advising them to choose generic degrees first in order to be "well-rounded and better-educated" professionals.

Speaking from experience (he first studied medicine and then a BA degree), Price described it as "illogical and irrational" to think that being good at maths makes students a natural fit for such careers. He placed responsibility for that misperception at the door of the country's higher education system.

Most 17-year-olds aren't sure what they want in life, Price said, and should perhaps spend their first three years at university studying for general degrees, while using that time to explore further options. ■



Bright future: Winner of this year's UCT Maths Competition, Sean Wentzel (right), and second-placed Ashraf Moolla will take part in the International Mathematical Olympiad next month.



High honour: Khadija Brey of Wynberg Girls' High School was the top girl participant.

Apprentice programme grows scarce skills



In training: Laureen Kortje, the first female technician in a workshop at UCT, is an apprentice in a new programme launched by the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

MARY HILTON, EBE

Glenn Newins' eyes light up when he talks about his new apprenticeship programme.

Newins, chief technical officer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering workshop, is passionate about training young people and is delighted that UCT has agreed to run its first apprenticeship programme in his workshop. Newins' son recently completed his training in fitting and machining through an FET college, but found it impossible to get an apprenticeship position.

Industry is no longer offering internships to newly qualified artisans and this has left a huge vacuum in the training market, Newins explains. He was interested to see if he could start an apprentice programme right here at UCT.

This would not only assist the young apprentices, but also UCT, where the average age of the technicians in the engineering workshops is around 53 years.

Kirsty Holmes, head of UCT's Staff Learning Centre, got involved and was one of the champions in developing the programme. Also lending support were the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the Human Resources Department, and the dean of the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment, Professor Francis Petersen.

"This will not only assist UCT in growing their own timber, but will also assist the government in their scarce skills programme," said Petersen.

Genevieve Langdon from mechanical engineering played a crucial role in putting all the information together, writing the letters

necessary to motivate for these positions, and communicating with the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority.

Funding was secured from the government's scarce skills programme and the staff development fund. UCT received over 35 applications and selected two apprentices – including Laureen Kortje, the first female technician in a UCT workshop – to start the programme in January 2011.

The apprentices will spend three years in the workshop, where they will gain practical experience and marketable skills on a wide variety of machines.

"This is only the beginning," says Newins. "I hope that the programme will grow and that other workshops around campus will see the benefit of training apprentices." ■

Mellon mentors help out

Running since 2006, the Visiting and Retired Scholars Mentorship Project is a prized initiative in the UCT arsenal to develop and nurture the next generation of scholars. Funded by the Andrew W Mellon Foundation, it taps into a rich vein of international research experience by recruiting retired UCT scholars living in South Africa and a selection of distinguished scholars living overseas to mentor up-and-coming young researchers at UCT. (There are some 40 such researchers on the project's books right now.) Recently, the Research Office hosted its annual project get-together for mentors and protégés. By chance, there are no fewer than four visiting mentors at UCT at the moment – a rare event, according to the Research Office's Wilna Venter – plus three retired scholars. The four visiting mentors are Professor Harold Kincaid of the University of



Marvellous mentors: Deputy vice-chancellor Prof Danie Visser (third from right) welcomed the Mellon mentors (from left) Prof Andy Dawes, Prof Lynn Shaw, Prof George Branch (honorary mentor, 2008-2010), Prof Harold Kincaid, Prof Ojelanki Ngwenyama and Prof Carole Rakodi.

Alabama at Birmingham, US; Professor Ojelanki Ngwenyama of Ryerson University, Canada; Professor Carole Rakodi of the University of Birmingham, UK; and Professor Lynn Shaw of the University of Western Ontario,

Canada. Professor Andy Dawes, Professor Parkington and Dr Anna Strebel are the Cape Town-based scholars. The visiting mentors stay at UCT for two stints of at least two months each over any given year. ■

UCT impressive - Shanghai team

The Faculty of Law played host to – and dazzled – a three-strong delegation from the Shanghai Intellectual Property Administration (SIPA) in China that visited UCT recently.

The SIPA team were hosted by Professor Julian Kinderlerer, who holds the chair in intellectual property law at UCT, and the faculty's deputy dean (internationalisation), Professor Evance Kalula.

The institutions identified common national ground – as developing countries, both had an interest in creating databases

of traditional knowledge – but also came to an agreement on two specific issues.

The first is that SIPA will recommend UCT as a training destination for IP law (a recommendation that will include a visiting scholarship programme). Secondly, Kinderlerer will represent Africa at SIPA's international and annual IP forum.

"They are keen to have new perspectives as well as a representative from Africa, and for my part I would be very interested to be involved in such a dialogue," said Kinderlerer. ■

'Cash-cow' projects are a new direction for SHAWCO

SHAWCO may be a charity organisation, but lately its projects are focused not only on helping the community, but on helping the organisation to rely less on philanthropy and more on its own means.

An example of this is the recently launched Rags2Riches project, a second-hand clothing shop in Mowbray.

SHAWCO director Varkey George explains that the project "falls within the mandate of improving the lives of the people in the Cape Metropole" by providing affordable clothing and creating employment for "middle-women" who buy wholesale from SHAWCO to resell in their communities. But Rags2Riches also generates income for SHAWCO.

"We normally receive funding from corporates and donors," says Rags2Riches project manager at SHAWCO Eltena Dirks, "and now this initiative will be an added income. All profits made in the shop go towards the greater organisation."

"This is a direction we embarked

on for two reasons," says George. "One was after the harrowing experience of not having funds and having to retrench staff in 2003. Secondly, we need to send out students who can implement community development projects as well as sustain them financially. SHAWCO needs to provide opportunities for good-hearted students to become pragmatic and use business principles to solve social issues."

Rags2Riches is one of a crop of SHAWCO's crop of 'cash-cow' projects. Another is the SHAWCO Saturday School, initially funded and now also receiving fees from middle-income scholars. The SHAWCO Community Transport Services uses the organisation's buses to generate income by providing transport services to churches and schools during downtime. In 2010 SHAWCO also launched a raffle, which generated R25 000 in its first year.

"A seed has been planted," says George. ■



First sale: Moonira Khan, executive director of UCT's Department of Student Affairs, buys the first Rags2Riches item from Varkey George at the shop's opening.

Young filmmakers selected for Encounters festival

Five student filmmakers have been selected to showcase their short documentaries at the 13th annual Encounters Film Festival in Cape Town, from 9 to 26 June.

The films are the result of a semester-long screen production course at UCT's Centre for Film and Media Studies, supervised by visiting documentarian and film director Paul Yule.

"The standard of the films has been excellent," says Yule, "and it has got better and better as each round of films has been made."

Yule's approach is to expose students to the full spectrum of film production, from conceptualising through to the premiere screening. Dividing the 25 third-years into small groups, Yule asked them to direct a short documentary on a subject of their choice. As well as screening the finished product in front of a critical audience – an event dubbed The Big Picture Film Festival – students also have to face a question-and-answer session.

"It's been amazing just how much we have all learnt and grown as aspiring filmmakers, without actually realising it," says Frank Stephens, director of the 10-minute *Cannabis Culture*, one of the films to be screened at Encounters.

"Paul has been a fantastic men-



Documentarian and film director Paul Yule.

tor," says Nadia Horn, director of *Hier's Ek Ook/Here I Am Too*. "He has gone the extra mile by exposing us to industry opportunities. We did not even know that our films would be submitted to Encounters, so it was a really amazing moment when we heard that our films would be sharing the stage with some of the best material on the continent."

Also selected for the documentary film festival are Rustum Jaffer's *Riders of the Night*, Craig Mulligan's *Endless Bummer*, and Lucy Jacobs' *In Repair*. ■

Rowing's development programme hits the water

For some years now, UCT students have been generously volunteering their time and labour to the development programme of Western Cape Rowing.

That alliance dates back to around 2002 when former UCT facilities manager the late Keith Hart was appointed to the organisation's transformation and development portfolio.

This year the UCT Rowing Club goes solo (with some help from Western Cape Rowing). That's thanks to the over R551 000 the club received from the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund in 2010, money earmarked for a three-year development programme to be hosted by the club. Most of the award went to the purchase of 20 rowing machines, or ergos, on which the beginner rowers are being introduced to the sport.

The initiative targets around 40 Grade 8 and 9 learners – 20 boys, 20 girls – from four schools: Lotus River High School in Lotus River, Oval North High School in Mitchells Plain, Wittebome High School in Wynberg, and Zeekoevlei High School in Lotus River.

The learners will spend the first few months learning the sport's technical demands, and will probably only hit



Row that ergo ashore: Coach Rika Diedericks gets beginner rowers breaking a sweat on the UCT development programme.

the water later in the year. (There are also swimming lessons before then.)

The university's students still chip in, as does Rika Diedericks, the former Olympic rower who now coaches the UCT women's first team.

It's not so much that the programme is designed to produce the next generation of South African Olympians, although it could. But it does fit in with the national drive to recruit more young rowers, especially black rowers, explains the rowing club's Kyle Hanck.

"The Department of Sport has tasked different sports to increase their development, and obviously that starts at grassroots level."

UCT students will obviously have to commit some time to the project, but it also requires commitment on the part of the learners.

"It's hard work, and it keeps you busy," says 14-year-old Tyron Losper, after one of Diedericks' lung-punishing routines. "We do it because we love it." ■

Science enthusiasts battle it out

The main hall of Wynberg Boys' High School hall was abuzz recently when the school hosted the Western Cape qualifying rounds – co-ordinated by staff and students from UCT's Department of Chemical Engineering – of the annual MinQuiz competition.

This year 35 schools participated, some travelling from as far afield as

Knysna, Bredasdorp and Wellington. First the learners write an individual multiple-choice test, and the top 10 performing schools (five from each category) are then selected to participate as a team in an oral quiz.

Westerford High School won the platinum category, with Rondebosch in second place and Bishops in third. In the gold category, Huguenote High

School took top honours, trailed by Bredasdorp High School and the Cape Academy.

A team comprised of Ashley Koopman from Spine Road Secondary, Ashraf Moolla from Rondebosch Boys' High, Flippie Van Dyk from Huguenote High and Sean Wentzel from Westerford High will represent the Western Cape at the national

competition, which takes place in Johannesburg in October.

Hailed as South Africa's premier national science competition for grade 12 learners, the event – an initiative of Mintek, South Africa's national mineral research organisation – encourages interest in careers in science, engineering and technology. ■

