

# Monday Paper

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## Fixing South Africa's schools

Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price and the director of UCT's Schools Development Unit, Dr Jonathan Clark, penned this article on the crisis in schools for *Leader.co.za*. This was in response to the nine key challenges facing SA, as identified by Trevor Manuel and the National Planning Commission. Though the authors acknowledge that historic and endemic under-funding have contributed to the poor performance of township and rural schools, they ask why our poorer neighbours manage to outperform us.

It is important to acknowledge that there is a multitude of causes that have contributed to the failure of public schools, not least of which is an all-pervasive set of societal factors. Children who are hungry, or whose lives are challenged daily by domestic or community violence, or whose motivation for getting a good education is undermined by their observations that high school graduates are generally unemployed, or whose overcrowded home environment makes studying particularly difficult – these societal factors are important, but there is little the education system can do to alter those in the short or medium term.

That said, we believe that factors internal to the education system carry the major responsibility for the schooling crisis and merit particular interventions, because this can raise the quality of educational provision to black children in this country. In this brief response we focus on: (i) the ongoing changes and amendments to curricula; (ii) the availability of learning and teaching materials such as text- and workbooks; (iii) inadequate organisational support to teachers and the efficacy of the bureaucracy; (iv) the balance of power between the education departments, principals, teachers and unions; and (v) teacher efficacy.

### What, then, can be done?

Turning first to the issue of curriculum, the attempted implementation of outcomes-based education has been a particular failure. It may well be that the revised grade and subject-specific curriculum and assessment plans (CAPS) are an attempt to do just that – implement OBE; however, an unrealistic implementation timeframe and inadequate support programme leaves us worried that these latest reforms will also falter.

One understands the pressure to deliver curricula fixes sooner rather than later, in view of the tragedy of losing yet another cohort of school leavers – but we will compromise much more and over many more years if we don't finally do it properly. We



should rather address the 'lost generation' (who we have failed over the last decade) with specially designed and dedicated programmes to equip them for the world of work, while taking the time required to design and implement the new CAPS properly. This will take time, firstly, because of all the preparatory steps required, such as getting agreement on content and approach; multiple iterations and reviews in the process of writing the curriculum statements; development or retraining of teachers; and the writing, reviewing, publishing and supply of textbooks.

Secondly, the unreliable provision of teaching and learning materials says much about the efficacy of the educational bureaucracy in general, and the continuing failure of the State's provisioning systems in particular. At a recent meeting in the Cape Metropole, a principal of a township primary school made an emotional appeal to the education officials present (including his Circuit Team Manager) because Foundation Phase workbooks were not delivered – as promised – before the beginning of the school year, but only in May. It is important to note that this took place in a province which has one of the best-functioning educational

bureaucracies in the country. Explanations and excuses abound, but this far on from 1994 it is simply unacceptable that the State is unable to set up and run more effective provisioning systems. The failure to deliver such pivotal resources also impacts hugely on the morale of teachers and learners. If the Provincial Education Departments cannot get this right themselves, they should outsource the logistics to the private or NGO sector.

The third factor is the broader inability or failure of the Education Departments to deliver on their core functions – whether this be the supply of learning materials, the provision of libraries or toilets, the repair of windows and leaking roofs, the maintenance of desks and infrastructure, the rapid filling of vacant posts and efficient handling of disciplinary cases, or the support of teacher development. This failure not only compromises the functioning of the schools; it also compromises the relationship between the State (as represented by the educational bureaucracy) on the one hand, and its employees (i.e. the teachers) on the other, because of the interdependence between accountability and support. When the State fails to deliver, its ability to demand accountability of

principals and teachers is undermined.

This takes us to the fourth internal factor: accountability and the balance of power. Holding teachers to account is proving no easy task. As alluded to in the Diagnostic Report, late-coming, absenteeism and an inability to enact the basic functions of teaching are endemic in many South African schools. The behaviour of some teachers in many township secondary schools verges on the anarchic. How do we make sense of this ongoing crisis of authority, which pervades all levels of our education system? And what can be done?

### Schools as sites of struggle

The destruction of relations of authority, which was one of the consequences of schools becoming 'sites of struggle' in the last two decades of apartheid rule, has had the most terrible consequences. Attempts to reconstruct accountability systems and external controls have been further undermined by the power dynamics at play between a seemingly all-powerful teachers' union (SADTU) and the State. Moreover, SADTU's influence in the promotion and appointment of senior staff and principals who are or were union members creates an

ongoing conflict of interest for those in management positions.

Thus the resolution of the crisis in authority and management in our schools system requires government to restore political authority over schools in ways that will ensure that teachers and principals can be held to account.

Finally, there is overwhelming evidence that many teachers are ill-prepared for their task – in many areas, ranging from subject content knowledge to pedagogical methods and classroom management skills. There are understandable historical reasons for this, and the teachers themselves are usually not to blame. But the problem is pervasive and crippling; and we have no choice but to accept that a significant number of the existing teaching corps are the only agents of change that we have. Therefore we need to do everything in our power to build teachers' capacity to teach better, as well as principals' management capacities. Higher education institutions can play a critical role in this if teachers are willing and funding is made available.

In closing: with the experience of almost two decades behind us we must now take the long view, and accept once and for all that there are no quick fixes. Raising the quality of education in this country will take a generation – but if set on the right path, and with the necessary political will, we can produce steady, incremental improvements.

There is reason for hope. For there are remarkable examples of schools serving poor communities which face all the same circumstantial and historical odds against success as every other poor school, and yet they can and do work. And we know the ingredients of their success: they include credible, visionary and ethical leadership; strong management and internal accountability processes; detailed operational plans; commitment to staff development; and a focus on building a culture of teaching and learning. Perhaps most important of all, our schools need the *mindset* of success. ■



# UCT scientists join sub-Saharan fellowship of women

UCT's Olutayo Boyinbode and Rachel Muigai were among the 10 young women recently named as winners of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Regional Fellowships for Women in Science in Sub-Saharan Africa.

These fellowships, aimed at doctoral students, are in keeping with UNESCO's premise that people are the world's greatest resource, and that innovation and excellence – especially among young women – deserve to be supported and encouraged through the concerted efforts of the international community.

Boyinbode, based in the Department of Computer Science, is focused on designing and implementing adaptive and personalised middleware – computer software that connects other pieces of software to each other – to support different handicapped learners. Computing devices such as sensors, actuators, radio-frequency ID tags, mobile phones and tablet computers will be incorporated by the learning middleware, which will be targeted at both able-bodied and handicapped learners.

Muigai is conducting her research with the Concrete Materials and Structural Integrity Research Unit (CoM-SIRU), where she works on design and construction solutions that will lead to



Solid win: Olutayo Boyinbode (left) and Rachel Muigai have won prestigious and lucrative fellowships for women in science in sub-Saharan Africa.

sustainable concrete infrastructure in South Africa. In particular, her study explores ways to ensure that future

concrete structures have the lowest possible carbon footprint, emissions, energy use and impact on the environ-



ment and society.

She says that working in a male-dominated field still comes with its

challenges. "Despite having a deep interest in the field, as a woman I'm constantly challenged as to why I want to work in construction," she says.

Fellowship winners will each receive a grant of \$20 000 (over R135 000) to help them complete their studies, and to enable them to raise their profiles, showcase their work, and drive their projects.

"Access to funds – especially in Africa – is, far too often, a barrier to women completing their studies," says Philippe Raffray, managing director for L'Oréal South Africa. "Through the fellowships we aim to remove at least this barrier, and open up a world of opportunities not only to the talented women selected as fellows, but also to the African community and the world at large through scientific research that might not have come to fruition without financial assistance."

Understandably, the fellowships offer welcome financial assistance to both students.

"I'm really very happy to win this fellowship," says Boyinbode. "It will go a long way in helping me tackle the financial constraints I've encountered in purchasing the required equipment for my research, and in travelling to international conferences to present my work." ■

## Obama enthralled young audience on campus

For 45 or so minutes they listened attentively, posed their questions nervously but diligently when prompted, and were the very picture of self-restraint – to be expected when having an audience with the American First Lady and surrounded by cameras, microphones and security personnel.

The moment the formalities were declared over, however, the fetters came off. And the 50 high-school learners who had been invited to UCT to meet with Michelle Obama on 23 June shook off their reserve and swarmed her, delighted.

Obama responded in kind.

"It was very inspiring to meet someone successful who has gone through the struggles that we have gone through, and knowing that we can also be as successful as someone like her," enthused Salama Bavuga-

menshi (17) from the Oude Molen Academy of Science & Technology.

As vice-chancellor Dr Max Price pointed out to the learners in his welcoming talk – and which Obama then echoed – the day was all about them.

"The essence of Mrs Obama's message reinforces a core part of UCT's mandate," said Price; "to provide opportunities to learners with talent and motivation to gain access to a world-class higher education, regardless of their social class and in spite of their poorer schooling."

And that's exactly the message that Obama wanted to leave the learners, all from five local schools: the Cape Academy of Mathematics, Science and Technology in Constantia; the LEAP Science and Maths School in Pinelands; Oude Molen; Sophumelela in Mitchell's Plain; and Spine Road High School, also in

Mitchell's Plain.

Obama urged them to see and embrace the promise in themselves, and encouraged them all to believe in themselves and in what they can achieve. "Getting into a school like this isn't some kind of magical process," she said.

She recounted her own life story, and a little of that of her husband, and held up the example of former vice-chancellor and guest Dr Mamphele Ramphela, who, similarly, had to overcome many obstacles. And she advocated the virtues of visualisation – "see it" – and hard work.

"I can see the same promise in all of you as I do in my own girls," she told the learners. "When I see you, I see them; when I see them, I see you."

Inspirational. ■



Self belief: US First Lady Michelle Obama (right) speaks to learners at UCT, in the company of vice-chancellor Dr Max Price and former vice-chancellor Dr Mamphele.

## News in bytes



Dizu Plaatjies (senior lecturer in African performance at UCT's South African College of Music) and his group, the Dizu Plaatjies Ibuyambo Ensemble, were a hit

at Afrofest 2011, held in Toronto, Canada, on 9 and 10 July. Dubbed a "showcase of the richness and diversity of African culture", the event has run in the Canadian city for the past 23 years, and attracts thousands of locals and visitors. Plaatjies (far right in picture) and his group performed music using traditional percussion instruments from Botswana, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and the rest of Southern Africa.

The South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI) at UCT named Professor Willem Hanekom (right) its sole director on 1 July. This follows the recent decision by Dr Hassan Mahomed to stand down as co-director, a posi-



tion he had shared with Hanekom since September 2009. The change in leadership forms part of a restructuring procedure at SATVI, a months-long process that will also involve an external evaluation with local and international experts in

July. "We believe this change from co-directorship to a single leader is the first step in restructuring SATVI for operational efficiency," said Hanekom.

Matumo Ramafikeng of the Division of Occupational Therapy has been listed among the winners of the inaugural Awards for OpenCourseWare Excellence, announced at the 2011 global conference of the OpenCourseWare Consortium held in the US in May. Ramafikeng won the award – for texts and illustrations in the courseware category – for her user-friendly online reworking, with colleagues in UCT's Centre for Educational Technology (CET), of a course on the Model of Creative



Ability, a conceptual framework model of occupational therapy ([www.uct.ac.za/mondaypaper/archives/?id=8360](http://www.uct.ac.za/mondaypaper/archives/?id=8360)). "For my work to be selected among the many other brilliant works that have been published as open resources is a great achievement, and this has inspired my PhD research topic," says Ramafikeng (middle in picture, with Shahaam Donnelly, left, and Glenda Cox, both of the CET). ■



# Collective learning is the key for future intellectuals

Invented as a symbol of modernity and cultural change, the image of the intellectual is easily parodied.

Renowned sociologist Professor Raewyn Connell of the University of Sydney in Australia believes that although the image of the “dissident, boundary-pushing philosopher of the Paris café, smoking Gauloise cigarettes between attempts at revolution” isn’t accurate, it’s not an entirely absurd image.

“But,” Connell argued in her Vice-Chancellor’s Open Lecture on 20 July, “we need to look more closely at what is presupposed, and who is forgotten, in these stories about intellectuals, if we are to face the realities of the 21st century.”

Titled *Intellectuals in the 21st-Century World*, Connell’s lecture recontextualised the intellectual, firstly as a labour force, and secondly from a global rather than a Western perspective.

Intellectuals, Connell notes, are a workforce, and produce “intellectual labour”.

“Our image of the intellectual tends to focus on great minds and great breakthroughs,” said Connell, “but most intellectual work is routine.” In her research survey, one of Connell’s respondents wrote: “a well-trained monkey can do this work”.

In looking at intellectualism “beyond the global North” Connell used her own discipline as an example.

“The colonised world provided sociology with much of its data about the ‘primitive,’” she said. “A good many sociological texts of the ‘classical’ era were little more than assemblages of anecdotes, the spicier the



Organised knowledge: Renowned sociologist Prof Raewyn Connell of the University of Sydney in Australia delivered the VC’s Open Lecture on 20 July.

better. Sumner’s great work *Folkways*, for instance, ranges from incest and cannibalism to sacred prostitution and child sacrifice.”

But between the Great and Cold Wars, the object of knowledge changed. “The object of knowledge now was the society of the metropole itself.”

This resulted in “academic dependency” in the “global periphery” where knowledge production became “orient-

ed to the metropole, and theories and methods were, with few exceptions, imported from the metropole”.

With the focus on globalisation in the 1990s, explained Connell, sociologists began talking about world society, “but they generalised accounts that had already been worked out within the sociology of the metropole. A formless jelly of hybridisation covered the globe, according to texts that usually denied that there was anything like an

imperial power centre”.

But what can be done about it?

“One important step is simply to recognise this history – a hidden history in most disciplinary cultures. Another step is to recognise a wider history. Many different patterns of intellectual life have existed in the world beyond the imperial metropole.”

Connell argued for a “mutual learning process” – a relation between knowledge systems that is neither sub-

ordination nor external co-existence, resulting in a “collective learning”.

“These issues matter,” said Connell. “In a world dependent as never before on organised knowledge, a great deal is at stake in the relationship between the world and the globalised university system that we academics both live in, and make.”

(Download the pod cast or view the video at [http://www.uct.ac.za/news/lectures/vc\\_lectures/](http://www.uct.ac.za/news/lectures/vc_lectures/)) ■

## Staffers had Mandela Day in the bag

Like many institutions and companies countrywide, the UCT community participated in various outreach initiatives to commemorate Mandela Day on 18 July.

Inventor Jo Maxwell, creator of the Goodnight and God Bless Sleeping Bag, was on hand on 15 July to show UCT’s Faculty of Humanities and human resources staffers how to fashion a sleeping bag out of plastic sheets, sticky-tape and many piles of newspapers, all gathered from colleagues in the Communication and Marketing Department. The end results were donated to the Claremont Night Shelter, in celebration of Mandela Day.

The Transformation Committee in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor prepared food to be distributed to children in Blikkiesdorp, near Delft, in collaboration with representatives from the community. And staffers in the Faculty of Law collected non-perishable foods for the Adonis Musati Project, which assists refugees and is named after the young Zimbabwean who died of starvation on the streets of Cape Town while waiting for his asylum papers.



Wrapped up: Using a special technique, staffers in the Faculty of Humanities and Human Resources created sleeping bags for the homeless from newspapers and plastic sheets. Photographed here were (from left) Nurunisa Hendricks, Arddy Mossop, Charmaine van Kradenburgh and Karen Hendricks.

“International Mandela Day today, July 18, honours former president and UCT honorary graduate Nelson Mandela, whose legacy is manifested in a spirit of volunteerism and community service,” said vice-chancellor Dr Max Price.

“These are words we’re well familiar with at UCT; they are

borne out in our socially responsive research thrusts and through the work of our students in various volunteer organisations such as Ubunye and SHAWCO, which is one of the largest student volunteer organisations in Africa. I commend them for giving up 67 minutes today to make a difference to our communities in need.” ■

## Distinguished alumnus Jeffrey Jowell knighted

UCT law alumnus and trustee of the UCT Trust in the UK Jeffrey Jowell has been awarded a knighthood in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list, in recognition of his services to human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Jowell is director of the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law in the UK, a centre devoted to the study and promotion of the rule of law through comparative research, discussion and training.

Jowell also practises at the Bar at Blackstone Chambers and is professor emeritus at University College London (where he was Professor of Public Law, dean and vice-provost).

After graduating from UCT in 1960, Jowell studied further at Oxford and Harvard, and for the past 35 years has been professor of law at University College London (UCL), and a practising member of the English Bar.

One of the UK’s leading public lawyers, with numerous publications

in constitutional, administrative and planning law, he has been visiting professor at universities all over the world, and has received a number of honorary degrees, including from UCT and the universities of Athens and Paris. Jowell has advised on the constitutions of a number of countries, especially in the Commonwealth and the former Soviet Union.

“He maintains close links with his alma mater; for example, as dean of UCL’s law faculty (and with Professor Hugh Corder) he initiated academic and student exchanges between UCL and UCT that still continue,” said Professor PJ Schwikkard, Dean of the Faculty of Law.

“He has also embodied the spirit of his honorary professor tenure, and so it was most fitting that he delivered the first Rabinowitz Lecture, titled *The rule of law and the power to prosecute*, as part of the faculty’s celebrations of 150 years of teaching law.” ■



# UCT efforts add up for learners and teachers

The recently-released results from the 2011 Annual National Assessment (ANA) had many cringing.

This study by the national Department of Basic Education on numeracy and literacy levels among six million foundation phase (grades 1-3) and intermediate phase (grades 4-6) school learners around the country showed, among other things, that a mere 12% of grade 6 learners could score 50% or more in mathematics. Grade 3 learners did marginally better, but even there only 17% managed a score of more than 50% in their numeracy assessment, while 31% scored more than 50% in the literacy test.

In light of those numbers, interventions such as the Mathematics & Science Education Project (MSEP) and the 100-UP programme, both run by the Schools Development Unit (SDU) in UCT's School of Education, come as a counterweight.

MSEP, a collaboration between UCT and the Western Cape Education Department, sets out to improve the quality of classroom teaching and learning in key subjects such as mathematics and the sciences in the five secondary schools participating in the

project. Assistance is also given in the areas of school management and ICT integration. And alongside the work with teachers, there's a support programme for grade 12 learners too.

In turn, 100-UP, launched in 2011, focuses on learners. In this programme, over the next three years a total of 100 academically-strong grade 10 learners from all 20 secondary schools in the township of Khayelitsha will participate in activities that will equip them with academic and life skills that will better prepare them for university studies.

And over two weeks in the July holidays, learners from both projects had a taste of university life while they took part in two residential holiday school programmes hosted by the SDU. The MSEP programme ran from 4 to 6 July, while 100-UP was staged from 11 to 13 July.

During their stay the learners enjoyed orientation sessions, lived and dined in student accommodation, went through admission-application exercises, and received tips on academic writing, among many other activities.

But it's not just learners who get



Numbers that small: Roger Mackay, a maths education specialist with the SDU, runs a revision session with learners.

to spend time at UCT. The SDU has just completed the winter holiday block teaching on a number of the Advanced Certificates in Education (ACE) programmes. More than 250 teachers, many of whom are primary

school teachers, are registered at UCT for these two-year part-time programmes.

"It is these teacher professional development programmes that lie at the heart of the unit's work,"

says SDU director Dr Jonathan Clark. "And it is here where we are confident that we will be able to make a positive impact on numeracy and literacy performance in schools throughout the province." ■



Reflections: (From left) Profs Fred Hendricks, Lungisile Ntsebeza and Jimi Adesina share some thoughts on the life and work of Prof Archie Mafeje.

## Mafeje's intellectual legacy explored

As pointed out in the citation for the honorary doctorate awarded posthumously in 2008, and in the UCT statement and formal apology made to his family that year, Professor Archie Mafeje is still widely considered an influential scholar in African studies.

But, as raised at a recent conference hosted in his honour at UCT (part of the university's apology) Mafeje's scholarly legacy is still "deliberately ignored and marginalised by academics at UCT and elsewhere in South Africa", according to conference co-ordinator Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza of the Department of Sociology. It also became clear at the conference that many are still not satisfied with all aspects of the apology.

Firstly, as Professor Fred Hendricks of Rhodes University argued, UCT had inflated the perception of state pressure that led the university to back out of his appointment as senior lecturer in the Department of Social Anthropology in 1968. There were further snubs in the 1990s, when the university offered Mafeje a fellowship considered to be out of keeping with his seniority, and later did not appoint

him to an advertised professorship, a process that led him to believe he had been treated unfairly.

Professor Jimi Adesina, also of Rhodes University, observed that universities were the cultural pillar of apartheid and colonialism, but did not have their day of reckoning, having passed on any blame – as in the case of Mafeje – to the state.

This discussion formed only the introductory part of the recent two-day conference. The bulk was dedicated to exploring Mafeje's scholarly legacy, including his work on the land question, gender issues, post-independence statehood and development.

Too often Mafeje has been used as "a symbol rather than as an intellectual", noted Ntsebeza. In the rest of Africa, Mafeje's work is widely respected and studied. Not so in South Africa.

"If people say they are taking his scholarship seriously, then where is the evidence? You look at the course outlines and who they prescribe, and if the name doesn't appear – and it doesn't, in many, many instances – then they are not taking him seriously." ■

## TB Davie lecture – Honouring academic freedom

On 4 August UCT's 46th TB Davie Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Professor Nadine Strossen of the New York Law School. Here we glance back on the founding of the lecture series, its founder, and those who have spoken out against any infringement of academic freedom.

The annual TB Davie Memorial Lecture, a highlight of the UCT calendar, is named after former VC Thomas Benjamin Davie, who led the university during the crucial development years post-World War II, from 1948 until his death in 1955. He is remembered as a fearless defender of the principles of academic freedom, and this legacy continues in the memorial lecture series.

Davie courageously championed the cause of academic freedom and university autonomy, defining academic freedom as the university's right to determine who shall be taught, who shall teach, what shall be taught and how it should be taught, without regard to any criterion except academic merit.

The policy of successive Nationalist Party governments since 1948 was to entrench segregation through legislation. The first such legislation dealing with universities, the Extension of the University Education Act, No 45 of 1959, was enacted by Parliament in the same year.

Controversial in its mandate, the Act provided that no black person who was not registered as a student in one of the existing – mainly white – South African universities when the Act came

into operation on 1 January 1960, might attend that university without the written consent of the responsible minister.

From the time it was first mooted, UCT opposed the draft legislation that became the Extension of the University Education Act.

On 12 December 1956, the Council passed a resolution opposing academic segregation on racial grounds in principle. On 7 June the following year, members of the UCT community marched through the streets of Cape Town to protest the introduction of the Act.

UCT was joined by Wits University, contesting every step the government took to place this plan on the statute book, as did many other political opponents and organisations. Nevertheless, the Bill became law in 1959.

That same year, former chief justice and UCT chancellor Albert van de Sandt Centlivres delivered what would be the first TB Davie Memorial Lecture.

Years later, in 1983, the government introduced a Bill to repeal both sections of the Extension of University Education Act regulating the admission of students to universities. At the same time, however, amendments were proposed to the Universities' Act to allow the minister to set conditions subject to which other population groups might be admitted.

The amending bill was vigorously opposed by UCT, Wits, Rhodes and the

University of Natal. Nonetheless, the Bill passed into law as the Universities' Amendment Act, No 83 of 1983, and the provisions allowing the minister to set conditions regulating admission became law.

In November 1983, the minister decided not to exercise the power to set racial quotas. He did, however, set a condition: that African people would require the written consent of a minister to register for undergraduate degrees and diplomas in medicine, paramedical programmes, nursing and surveying. In 1985 the minister withdrew this condition, and in 1991 the offending clause in the Universities' Act was repealed.

Today, the TB Davie Memorial series is managed and organised by the university's Academic Freedom Committee, who invite distinguished speakers to talk on a theme related to academic and human freedom. In the "classic expression of freedom of speech and assembly", UCT's policy is that its members will enjoy freedom to explore ideas, to express these and to assemble peacefully. ■

*Note: Prof Nadine Strossen has written, lectured and practised extensively in the areas of constitutional law, civil liberties and international human rights. As president of the American Civil Liberties Union from 1991 to 2008, she became the first woman to head that nation's largest and oldest civil liberties organisation.*

## 2012 TB Davie Memorial Lecture: Call for nominations

The Academic Freedom Committee invites UCT staff and students to submit nominations for the 2012 TB Davie Memorial Lecture. The TB Davie Memorial Lecture, as elucidated above, is an important event in UCT's calendar, and an opportunity to affirm and clarify the values of academic freedom in our

contemporary context, and stimulate debate on issues related to the university.

Nominations should not exceed three pages and should include a brief curriculum vitae of the nominated speaker and a motivation for the nomination. Nominations should be submitted to Denise Benjamin (den-

ise.benjamin@uct.ac.za), Bremner Building, UCT, by Monday, 8 August.

For the 2012 lecture, only nominations of lecturers based in South Africa will be considered. The AFC budgets on a three-year cycle, in which a lecturer based in South Africa will be invited at least once in each cycle – in this cycle, in 2012. ■



# Master's course in Muslim personal law is a first

From July, UCT will offer South Africa's first university course in Muslim Personal Law and Human Rights at master's level – one of four courses that make up the Faculty of Law's interdisciplinary master's degree in human rights.

Muslim personal law is highly topical in South Africa, especially in light of Cabinet's recent approval of the Muslim Marriages Bill for consideration in the parliamentary process. This draft legislation is made possible by section 15(3)(a) of the Constitution, which enables the state to enact legislation that recognises and/or regulates religious marriages or religious personal law systems, among other things.

It also raises pertinent and complex questions relating to conflict between human rights, in particular the relationship between gender equality and religious freedom, as well as issues involving legal pluralism.

The course is designed to address such issues in a systematic fashion. The first part of the course will ex-

plore the religious, ethical and moral underpinnings of Muslim personal law, paying particular attention to the sources of Islamic law and the different Islamic schools of thought. This will be followed by a consideration of prevailing theories of legal pluralism, including the different ways of incorporating Muslim personal law into secular legal frameworks.

The course will undertake a comparative study of minority and majority Muslim contexts, including (but not limited to) the current debates in South Africa regarding the Muslim Marriages Bill, the controversies that surrounded the Shari'a arbitration tribunals in Canada, and the role of a secular judiciary in interpreting Muslim personal law, as evidenced in the Indian context.

The co-convenors of the new course are Professor Abdulkader Tayob, who holds the National Research Foundation Chair in Islam, African Public and Religious Values in the Faculty of Humanities; and Dr Waheeda Amien, a lecturer in

the Faculty of Law and a leading member of the Recognition of Muslim Marriages Forum, which is a South African-based network of individuals and organisations who are campaigning for the legal recognition of Muslim marriages in South Africa. She is also a co-founder and trustee of Shura Yabafazi ('Consultation of Women'), a group that engages in issues relating to Muslim personal law.

Dr Muneer Fareed, a visiting lecturer at UCT and a member of the Fiqh Council of North America, the highest Islamic legal authority in the US and Canada, will co-present the course with Amien. Fareed's speciality is Islamic Law, and he is a trustee of the American Learning Institute for Muslims – a specialised academic institution where scholars, professionals, activists, artists, writers and community leaders come together to develop strategies for the future of Islam in the modern world.

In 2012, Muslim personal law will also be introduced as an elective in the Bachelor of Laws degree at UCT. ■



New courses: Dr Waheeda Amien is the co-convenor and co-presenter of a new master's course in Muslim personal law.

## Architecture partnership for a public space in Monwabisi Park



Building Africa: Attending the signing were (top, from left) Piet Barnard and Dr Robert Morrell of UCT, and (front, from left) Monwabisi Park representative Ntombiyakhe Zepe; SUN representative Dr Kathryn Ewing; and research project team leader Dr Tom Sanya.

Design and Making Through Community Participation is a new collaboration between researchers in UCT's School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, SUN (Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood) Development, and the Monwabisi Park community of Khayelitsha to execute participatory design and construction of a public space in the area.

"We aim to investigate design as a way of knowing," said UCT research team representative Dr Tom Sanya, at the official signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 31 May. "One of our main objectives is to make a contribution to global understanding of design knowledge with our unique African circumstances as a point of departure."

Funded by the Carnegie Corporation through the UCT Research

Office's Programme for the Enhancement of Research Capacity (PERC), the project is an avenue for proactive Afropolitanism, in which simultaneously with fulfilling the above academic aims, a local community (in this case, the informal settlement of Monwabisi Park in Khayelitsha) will benefit from a design and build project.

The MoU makes this possible by giving UCT researchers access to the community and the possibility of tapping into the extensive urban planning and design work that has been undertaken by SUN in the area.

"This is an important moment for our programme", said PERC co-ordinator Dr Robert Morrell. "The agreement brings UCT together with a community organisation to look at a new way of exploring social issues in developing Africa." ■

## PRIME time for new project

UCT's Centre for Public Mental Health recently hosted the inaugural meeting of the £6 million, six-year PRogramme for Improving Mental health care (PRIME), a project that sets out to identify and test ways to deliver high-quality primary mental health care in five low-resource countries. (<http://www.uct.ac.za/dailynews/archives/?id=7691>)

The meeting took place in Cape Town on 27 to 30 June, as researchers from partner organisations in Ethiopia, India, Nepal, South Africa and Uganda brainstormed the project's first steps in the inception phase, which runs from May 2011 to April 2012. Organisations such as the

World Health Organisation – whose clinical guidelines, the mental health Gap Action Plan, will form the backbone of PRIME – and the Centre for Global Mental Health (incorporating the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, London) were also represented.

Much of the discussion centred on the project's district demonstration sites, where models for primary mental health care services will be implemented and evaluated in each of the host countries. PRIME partners hope to use lessons from this experience to make concrete recommendations for the scaling up of

mental health care in other low- and middle-income countries.

Despite the diversity of partners (including Ministry of Health representatives, epidemiologists, clinicians and health economists), everyone proved to be reading from the same script, reports UCT's Associate Professor Crick Lund, who serves as CEO of PRIME.

"The meeting went extremely well," says Lund, "and there was a great sense that people have a common vision and are pulling in the same direction."

PRIME is funded by the UK government's Department for International Development (DfID). ■

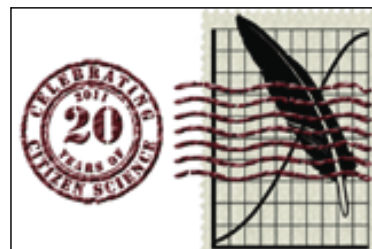
## Happy birthday to 20-year-old demography unit

In June 2011 the Animal Demography Unit (ADU) hosted a 20th anniversary celebration – in the form of a programme of presentations – at the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, one of the many such events they have lined up for the year.

This includes the Digital Biodiversity Week from 23 to 31 July, where the ADU will toast the countless 'citizen scientists' who have helped build the unit's digital biodiversity databases, which now hold some 15 million records.

The ADU was founded as the Avian Demography Unit in 1991. It changed its name in 2008 to better reflect the range of its work, which is focused on animal diversity. Alumnus and ADU director Professor Les Underhill explains how the unit came into being:

"I graduated with a PhD in Mathematical Statistics in 1973. I first rebelled against the totally non-applicable statistics I did for my PhD (38 years on, all I can say is that I solved an abstract problem no-one has ever



Happy birthday: Citizen scientists are the backbone of the ADU.

had in reality), and did research in a branch of statistics called 'ordination,' which was actually used by researchers in many disciplines.

"The focus steadily moved towards applications of statistics in biology, especially data related to birds.

In 1991 the University Research Committee established the Avian Demography Unit, which was responsible for a series of bird mapping and bird monitoring projects. The name rapidly became a misnomer, because we extended our domain beyond birds to the frog atlas, then reptiles and butterflies."

The anomaly, says Underhill, was finally resolved only four years ago, when the name was changed to 'Animal Demography Unit'.

"In the first years the ADU's focus was on data collection and curation. It took a few years for enough data to accumulate for postgraduate-worthy projects to develop. The first postgrads to emerge who could really say: 'I used ADU data' were MSc Vincent Parker (1995) and PhD Anabela Brandao (1998); the total number of ADU-supervised or co-supervised PhDs is 22, and MScs 18."

(The pdfs of all the theses since 2000 are on the ADU website, <http://adu.org.za>) ■



# Top young South Africans – UCT's rated

From current to former students and staff members, UCT is well represented in the 2011 Mail & Guardian's 200 Top Young South Africans You Must Take Out to Lunch, with no fewer than 19 UCT-affiliated names listed, at last count.

These standout young South Africans were chosen, according to the paper, for their impact, their creativity, and the resonance of their values with the project of building the South Africa everyone wants to live in - vibrant, prosperous, equitable, diverse and hungry for the challenges of growth and change.

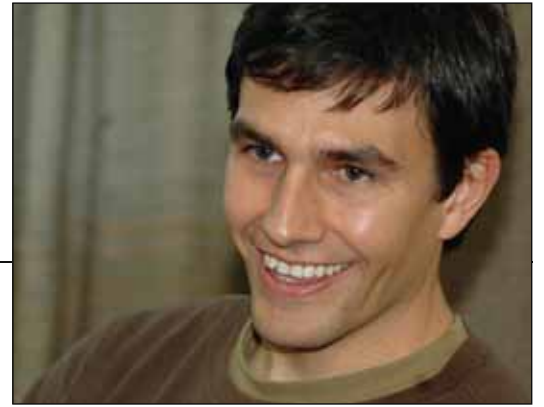
Nominees must be 35 years old or younger and boast individual accomplishments with the proven ability to take leading roles in their respective fields, have the recognition of their peers, and be willing to give back by volunteerism and leadership either in the community, in business or in government.

Among those with UCT connections on the list are: Thomas Brennan, Dave Duarte, Emile Engel, Lara Fairall, Paul Galitis, Umeshree Govender, Zama Katamzi, Tarisai Machuchu-Ratshidi, Goathier Mahed, Mark Horner, Khalid Manjoo, Pumeza Matshikiza,

Elizabeth Mills, Ntobeko Ntusi, Joy Olivier, Traci Reddy, Frans Skosana, Sindison Mnisi-Weeks, Hema Vallabh and Buhle Zuma.

These Young South Africans are involved in everything from the arts and business to civil society and science education. ■

*Making an impact: UCT science graduate Mark Horner has been listed among the Mail & Guardian's Top 200 Young South Africans for starting the Free High School Science Text project with Sam Halliday.*



# Librarian's words stage a notorious comeback

Imagine Dr Colin Darch's surprise when an Ethiopian reporter notified him that a paper he had written for (and presented at) a conference in the mid-1970s had recently reappeared; virtually verbatim – but under someone else's name.

In fact, Darch was told, Tesfaye Habisso – former high-ranking Ethiopian official and Ethiopia's ambassador to Uganda and South Africa – had claimed authorship of the paper. And it had appeared in 2009 under Habisso's name – with no reference to Darch – on the website (www.eprdf-sf.org) of the People's Revolutionary Democratic Front-Supporters Forum (EPRDF-SF), which is sponsored by the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front, one leg of the four-partied alliance that makes up the ruling but oft-criticised EPRDF.

Originally, Darch (now a senior information specialist with UCT's African Studies Library) titled his piece *The Ethiopian Student Move-*



*Memories: Dr Colin Darch with the original copy of his paper, the recent reappearance of which has caused a stir in Ethiopia.*

*ment in the Struggle Against Imperialism, 1960-1974.* Habisso had added only three words to his retitling: *The*

*Ethiopian Student Movement and the Struggle Against Feudal Monarchy and Imperialism, 1960-1974.*

The rest, according to reporter Abebe Gellaw, was "99.6 percent plagiarism".

Darch lived in Ethiopia from 1971 to 1974, working as a librarian at what was then Haile Selassie I University (now the Addis Ababa University) and moonlighting as a news announcer for an independent radio station. Following Selassie's overthrow by the communist military junta commonly known as the Derg ('committee' or 'council') in 1974, Darch moved to Tanzania and the University of Dar es Salaam.

It was here that he wrote the paper – he still has an original mimeographed copy, typos and all – for a 1976 conference. His first conference paper, it was based largely on what he had witnessed at Haile Selassie I University. According to university records, Habisso left the self-same university in 1969.

Darch dusted off the paper only once more: in 2002, when the Addis Ababa Alumni Association asked

if they could run it in one of their publications. (It could have been there, then, that Habisso, as an alumnus, first saw it.)

Darch is more bemused than angered – "astonished, really," he says – by the reported plagiarism. Especially, if Gellaw is right, by Habisso's approach – hardly a word or punctuation mark moved or replaced. (The plagiarism is also slightly ironic, in the light of Darch's academic interests in copyright and intellectual property.)

Since the scandal broke, Habisso has released a statement saying that his version had always been billed as a condensed version of Darch's paper, and that any omission of Darch's name was not of his doing. Darch is not completely convinced, or appeased; he expects the paper to be removed from the website (where it still appears, with the EPRDF-SF claiming copyright), and expects Habisso to issue a proper apology. ■

# Campus mourns respected scientists

UCT is sad to report the deaths of two of its longest-serving and most respected scientists, Professor Johann Lutjeharms (oceanography) and Associate Professor Wolf Brandt (molecular and cell biology).



*In memoriam: Prof Johann Lutjeharms (seen here with the Individual Over a Lifetime Award presented to him by the National Science and Technology Forum in 2008).*

**UCT's Professor Johann Lutjeharms**, one of Southern Africa's leading marine scientists and the foremost authority on the Agulhas Current, died on 8 June after a 10-year battle with cancer. He was 67 years old.

Tributes to Lutjeharms have been pouring in from across the world. Lutjeharms, of UCT's Department of Oceanography, will be remembered and honoured for his academic passion, his prodigious contributions to peer-reviewed scientific literature, and the scores of international awards and other honours he received, as well as for his modesty and the support he provided to young researchers and students.

He served as a visiting academic

at many universities around the world, thus building the international reputation of African marine science and knowledge of the oceans around this continent. He had been an A-rated researcher since 1998, identifying him as an international leader in his field.

Among the many accolades he received was the Order of Mapungubwe (Silver), the country's highest national honour, presented to him by President Jacob Zuma in 2010 for his outstanding contributions to and achievements in oceanographic science. Lutjeharms was also a winner of the 2008 Individual Over a Lifetime Award from the National Science and Technology Forum.

In addition, he was one of only

three UCT academics to have won all three of the university's main forms of recognition for academics: the UCT Fellowship, the Distinguished Teacher Award, and the Book Prize/Meritorious Publication Award.

Internationally he served on working groups of the Scientific Committee for Oceanic Research, the International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, and the International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Ocean. He was also the expert consultant in oceanography for the *Woordeboek van die Afrikaanse Taal*.

Lutjeharms completed his undergraduate studies in physics. In 1971 he received his MSc (cum laude) in

oceanography from UCT. He was awarded the Harry Crossley Bursary, the Fisheries Development Corporation postgraduate overseas bursary and the CSIR overseas bursary to study for a PhD at the University of Washington, where he graduated in 1977.

He then joined the National Research Institute for Oceanology, where he held the position of chief specialist researcher. He was appointed to the Chair of Ocean Climatology at UCT in 1990.

In 1993 he became the founding director of UCT's Centre for Marine Studies.

Lutjeharms is survived by his wife, Ronel, and their children, Maria and Wilhelm. ■

**Associate Professor Frederick 'Wolf' Brandt**, of the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, died on 15 June, two days after his 66th birthday.

Brandt was born in Anderbeck, East Germany, in 1945, and was raised in Namibia. He obtained his BSc and BSc honours degrees in chemistry from UCT, the latter in 1968. He obtained his PhD degree in biochemistry at UCT in 1973, under

the supervision of the late Professor Claus von Holt, on the amino acid sequence of chicken histone F3.

Brandt joined the academic staff of the former Department of Biochemistry in 1974 as a lecturer, and progressed through the ranks to associate professor in 1981.

His histone sequencing work led to important insights into structure/function relationships, such as the multidomain structure of histones,

with highly-conserved central sequences and more variable N- and C-terminal domains.

Brandt also made important contributions to the area of histone modification, identifying methylation and acetylation sites and their location in the exposed N-terminal tails, central to modern day epigenetics.

In more recent years he studied the biochemistry of polyphenols and their role in plant and yeast

desiccation tolerance. He published 73 papers in peer-reviewed journals during his career, and his histone work in particular has been very well cited.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce, and daughters Julie and Claudia. ■

*Sorely missed: Assoc Prof Wolf Brandt.*





## EVENTS

**Philosophy Society Meeting.** Title: Disagreement. Speaker: Professor Bernhard Weiss (Philosophy, UCT). Date: Tuesday 26 July @ 20h00. Venue: LS3A, 3rd Floor, Robert Leslie Social Science Building.

**Department of Medicine Thursday Forum:** 28 July - Dr Philip Fortgens – "Assay interference in the clinical laboratory: a problem with potential clinical consequences" • 04 August - Prof Brian Rayner – "Difficult to treat hypertension" • 11 August - Prof Paul Willcox - "Best practice: management of MDR and EDR tuberculosis"

**GSB Research Seminar** Title: "The Trickle up Project". Speaker: Dr Diane Holt. Date: Wed 27 July, 13:00 – 14:00. Venue: Syndicate Rm 1, GSB, Breakwater Campus, Green Point. RSVP: tamlyn.mawa@gsb.uct.ac.za • Title: "Contrasting Current Responses of Financial Institutions to Unexpected Events with Lessons from Resilient Ecological Systems". Speaker: Mandy Lebedes. Date: Wed 3 Aug, 13:00 – 14:00. Venue: Boardroom 1, GSB, Breakwater Campus, Greenpoint. RSVP: tamlyn.mawa@gsb.uct.ac.za

## CONFERENCES

**16th Annual IEASA Conference** Promoting Higher Education Internationalisation through International Research Collaborations, Partnerships and Innovative Teaching. Date: 29 August – 1 September 2012. Venue: Southern Sun Cape Sun, Cape Town, South Africa. Contact: Deidre Raubenheimer, Tel: 021 4066167, Email: deidre.raubenheimer@uct.ac.za, Website: www.ieasa2012.cmc-uct.co.za

**Jubilee Congress of the Commission on Legal Pluralism** Theme: Living Realities of Legal Pluralism. Date: 8-10 September 2011. Venue: Kramer Building, Middle Campus, UCT. Contact: Deidre Raubenheimer, Tel: 021 4066167, Email: deidre.raubenheimer@uct.ac.za, Website: www.commission-on-legal-pluralism.com

**African Conference on Software Engineering and Applied Computing** Date: 19-23 September 2011. Venue: Ritz Hotel, Cape Town. Contact: Deidre Raubenheimer, Tel: 021 4066167, Email: deidre.raubenheimer@uct.ac.za, Website: www.acseac.org

**The Department of Religious Studies presents:** The 'people of the Flood' and an Islamic literary revival: Notes on Tijaniyya writings in 20th century Nigeria. Speaker: Dr Andrea Brigaglia. Date: 27th July 2011. Time: 1 p.m. Venue: LS 5.67. Contact: Birgit ext 5818 Birgit. Taylor@uct.ac.za for further information

**The Department of Religious Studies** is hosting a new interdisciplinary seminar exploring the role of the Arts and Humanities in Religious Studies scholarship and teaching. Speakers: Imraan Coovadia, Associate Professor in the English Department at UCT, and Gabeba Baderoon, Research Fellow in the "Islam, African Publics and Religious Values" Project, will present. Title: "Books and the Book" - A conversation between writers, Literature and Religious Studies scholars. Date: 1 August at 1 pm in LS 5.67 - Leslie Social Sciences building. Contact: Birgit 021 650 5818, email Birgit.Taylor@uct.ac.za for further information

## COURSES:

**Placing Design central to Urban Decision Making:** certificate course, Tuesday and Thursday evenings 16 August - 6 September 2011, presented by Prof Fabio Todeschini. For further information please see website www.cpd.uct.ac.za or contact Sandra Jemaar 021 6505793 or email ebe-cpd@uct.ac.za

## Fundamentals of Project

**Management:** certificate course, Tuesday evenings 23 August - 27 September 2011, presented by Prof Paul Bowen and Mark Massyn. For further information please see website www.cpd.uct.ac.za or contact Sandra Jemaar 021 6505793 or email ebe-cpd@uct.ac.za

**Property Development for Beginners:** certificate course, Thursday evenings 25 August - 13 October 2011, presented by Prof Kathy Michell and Mark Massyn. For further information please see website www.cpd.uct.ac.za or contact Sandra Jemaar 021 6505793 or email ebe-cpd@uct.ac.za

**Commercial Property Valuation:** certificate course, 5 - 7 September 2011, presented by Dr Many Mooya. For further information please see website www.cpd.uct.ac.za or contact Sandra Jemaar 021 6505793 or email ebe-cpd@uct.ac.za

## Architectural and Urban

**Conservation:** Skills Development: certificate course, Monday evenings 26 September - 28 November 2011, presented by Dr Stephen Townsend. For further information please see website www.cpd.uct.ac.za or contact Sandra Jemaar 021 6505793 or email ebe-cpd@uct.ac.za

**Principles of Project Management:** certificate course, Tuesday evenings 4 October - 8 November 2011. Presented by Prof Paul Bowen and Mark Massyn. For further information please see website www.cpd.uct.ac.za or contact Sandra Jemaar 021 6505793 or email ebe-cpd@uct.ac.za

## Certificate courses offered by CPD programme in EBE Faculty:

• Multi-Target Multi-Sensor Tracking and Data Fusion: 29 Aug – 02 Sep 2011, presented by Prof Mike Inggs

• Municipal Infrastructure Management: 5 – 9 Sep 2011, presented by Dept Civil Engineering

• Bus Planning and Operations Management: 19 – 23 Sep 2011, presented by Centre for Transport Studies

• Urban Renewal: 3 – 7 Oct 2011, presented by Dept Civil Engineering

• Researching and Assessing Heritage Resources: 10 – 14 Oct 2011, 08h30 - 13h00, Presented by Dr Stephen Townsend

• Transport Modelling: 24 – 28 Oct 2011, presented by Centre for Transport Studies

• Integrated Urban Water Management: 31 Oct – 4 Nov 2011, presented by Dept Civil Engineering

• Local Area Transport Planning, Management and Design: 28 Nov – 4 Dec 2011, presented by Centre for Transport Studies

For further information on these courses please see website www.cpd.uct.ac.za or contact Sandra Jemaar 021 6505793 or email ebe-cpd@uct.ac.za

## VACANT POSTS

## EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

**Lecturer:** Screen Production and Film & Television Studies, Centre for Film & Media Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 29 July 2011

**Hyman Goldberg Professorial Chair of Biomedical Engineering,** Department of Human Biology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 31 July 2011

**Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer:** Art History, Michaelis School of Fine Art, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 31 July 2011

**Senior Lecturer/Lecturer:** Geomatics, School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 31 July 2011

**Lecturer/Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor:** Engineering Design, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 12 August 2011

**Lecturer, Department of Drama,** Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 15 August 2011

**Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer/Lecturer,** Department of Drama, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 15 August 2011

**Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer,** Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 22 August 2011

**Senior Lecturer/Lecturer,** School of Dance, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 22 August 2011

**Professor and Head of Department of Anaesthesia,** Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 26 August 2011

**Lecturer/Senior Lecturer:** Petrology or Analytical Geochemistry, Department of Geological Sciences, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 31 August 2011

## RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

**Team Leader:** Student Computing Services, ICTS, Closing date: 25 July 2011

**Administrative Officer,** Department of Oceanography, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 1 August 2011

**Senior Research Officer:** Energy Systems Analysis & Planning Programme (ESAP), Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 8 August 2011

**Director:** Cancer Research, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 15 August 2011

**Director:** Children's Institute, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 15 August 2011

**Principal Technical Officer,** Department of Oceanography, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 8 August 2011

## POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

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## GENERAL

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# UCT offers the best careers service

For the second consecutive year, employers of university graduates have named UCT's Career Service and its annual Careers Fair as the best in the country.

This according to the South African Graduate Recruiters Association (SAGRA), which runs an independent survey of leading employers in South Africa. In addition, the SAGRA Graduate Recruitment Survey 2011 (based on responses from 81 of the largest and best-known graduate employers in South Africa) had some good news for university graduates as well, showing, for example, that these organisations are set to increase the number of graduate vacancies in 2012 by 7% compared to 2011. (Starting salaries are also set to increase; or, at the very least, stay at their 2011 levels.)

Recently treated to a makeover, the UCT Careers Service is based in the Centre for Higher Education Development, and provides a suite of services to UCT students. These set

out to realise two main objectives: to strengthen the quality of UCT graduates and equip them to compete in a global workplace, and to help them make informed choices about their future.

Services fall into three categories: information, advice and opportunities. These would include the provision of anything from career magazines to personal action plans, CV review sessions to talks and workshops, and presentations by recruitment companies to the top-rated Careers Fair, where students can rub shoulders with potential employers.

"Employers said that UCT was very organised, and had a consistently high number of good-quality students coming through the careers fair," says Tim Wise, research director of High Fliers Research, the UK company that conducted the SAGRA survey. "They also said there was a great deal of support given by UCT, and that the team at the Careers Service was very friendly, efficient and supportive." ■



Good, better, best: UCT's Careers Fair was voted the best in the country in a recent survey of graduate employees.

## Chemistry, cupcakes and cookies

Mini-lectures, a series of 'tours de chemistry', practical experiments and an intervarsity/interschool quiz are just some of the events that were hosted by UCT's Department of Chemistry in their International Year of Chemistry @ UCT programme, from 23 June to 5 July.

The International Year of Chemistry is a worldwide celebration promoted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to celebrate chemistry and its contributions to humankind, explains department head Professor Allen Rodgers.

"Since UCT's chemistry department is one of the top departments of its kind in Africa, it is appropriate that we participate in this global event by showcasing our achievements, expertise and appreciation of our discipline," he says.

This was the department's first event to specifically target the general public, says Rodgers, including Grade 12 learners as well as tiny tots (who



Tour de chemistry: Tour guides (from left) Aneesa Omar and Kyle Fernandes, with audience members John Bassett and Soraya Allies.

were the target audience in a demonstration featuring chemistry, cupcakes and cookies).

As part of the department's outreach programme, about 100 invitations to attend the event were sent to schools in the Cape Metropole.

Presented by UCT staff and postgraduate students, the free event is part of the department's ongoing outreach programme that includes activities throughout the year, mainly targeting school learners of different ages. ■

## Gold for Kinahan

The Molteno Gold Medal for 2011 has been awarded to Alderman Owen Kinahan for "lifetime achievements in conservation". The medal is bestowed by the Council of the Cape Tercentenary Foundation for significant contributions to the fields it supports, including literature, the visual and performing arts, and conservation of the natural and built environment. He received the Cape Times Centenary Medal for conservation some years ago.

Kinahan who is a member of the UCT Council, has been heavily involved in a range of projects over the last 30 years including, most notably, the restoration and recommissioning of Cape Town's last watermill, the Josephine Mill in Newlands. In 1995 he controversially climbed in "boots and all" on the secretive process to redevelop St Peter's Cemetery in Mowbray. It turned into a three-year commitment and an emotionally taxing period that saw 10 000 exhumations, and the construction of an ossuary and Garden of Remembrance.



During his 15 years as a Cape Town City Councillor he has served almost continually on the Planning Committee and as the City's representative on the Council of the University of Cape Town where he is presently the chairman of the Building and Development Committee.

Kinahan has also been associated with the issue of the City's naming policy. He says "Now we have a good policy which includes the important directive that the City should educate and inform its citizens about the names of our streets, places and buildings." ■

## Graduate and family psyched about win

Dr Catherine Kariuki, who recently completed her MMed in psychiatry at UCT, has won the Novartis Medal as the best clinical candidate in the 2010 College of Psychiatrists of South Africa part II exam. Kariuki received the award at a graduation ceremony in Johannesburg in May.

That made mom and dad – nurse and forensic pathologist-turned-psychiatrist, respectively – very proud. As can be seen in the family portrait shot especially for the occasion.

The pull to medicine was strong for Kariuki. "I was always going to do medicine; I grew up watching Dad," she says. (Funnily enough, her father initially discouraged her from a career in medicine; it's a hard life, he cautioned.)



Family matters: Dr Catherine Kariuki (left) enjoys an award-winning moment with her parents, Dr Francis Kariuki and Mary Kariuki.

Kariuki now hopes to go into practice with her father. There's one hiccup, though – she resides and wants to stay in Cape Town, while

he's based in Pretoria. But a compromise has been struck; she'll fly up for occasional locum work at his practice. ■

## New mediators

Mediation has become the cornerstone of UCT's new approach to disputes and conflict resolution and for that, you need people trained in this practice. So the recent graduation of 27 mediators – the university's first – was a milestone occasion. Mediation is a reconciliation process where bruised relationships are confronted rather than avoided for 'peace's sake', explains the UCT Ombud, Zetu Makamandela-Mguqulwa. ■



Certified: Mediators graduating at the ceremony included (from left) Timothy Layman, Shaminie Chetty, Kirsten Corin, and Sean Devan.