

# Monday Paper

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# Dawn of a new knowledge age – Serageldin

Information is being shaped by extraordinary advances in technology, says library director

Professor Ismail Serageldin's vision of a very-near future would chill a technophobe to the bone.

In his Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture, titled *The knowledge revolution and the university of tomorrow*, and delivered at UCT on 25 July, Serageldin described a world that is far removed from the one in which the Ancient Library of Alexandria flourished – the high-tech, ultra-modern reincarnation of which, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt, he now directs. It is a future, instead, spawned by exponential advances in technology, most notably the internet.

"I believe that we're now on the cusp of a profound knowledge revolution, in the very structure of knowledge," he said. "It's the biggest thing since the invention of writing."

Serageldin spoke of changes to the way humans create, perceive and access knowledge. No longer, for example, will knowledge be constrained in a codex, the modern format of books, sheets bound together between a cover, words almost set in stone (until the next edition, at least). Instead, in this age of e-readers, iPads and Wikipedia, texts will constantly change and be updated.

Serageldin foretold of a semantic web – one step up from our current Web 2.0 – in which machines rather than humans will unpack the meaning of information, and perform tasks on behalf of their human users. (Only in pure maths and philosophy, he suggests, will humans have the upper hand over machines.) Image and text will eclipse the past reign of text only, Serageldin said – the human brain, after all, does better at processing visual information.



Cusp of a revolution: Prof Ismail Serageldin, director of Egypt's Bibliotheca Alexandrina, spoke on the digital future at the Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture. ([http://www.uct.ac.za/news/lectures/vc\\_lectures/](http://www.uct.ac.za/news/lectures/vc_lectures/))

A new mathematics, perhaps only 40 years away, will have to be forged to describe the complexity and chaos of systems – such as weather patterns – that scholars and computer scientists alike are now struggling to grasp and pin down. And forget about silos; the boundaries between disciplines will be blurred at best, and pluri-disciplinarity will be the order of tomorrow.

Gone, too – bibliophiles may want to hold on to something here – will be books as we know them. As already epitomised by the 'bookless'

engineering library at the University of Texas in San Antonio in the US, where every book and journal in its on-site collection is only (yes, only) available online. (Serageldin illustrates this with a picture of a bank of empty shelves in the library.)

Not surprisingly, all this will change the way universities operate and the way students learn, said Serageldin. Continuous learning will take over from a once-off stint at a university; there will be a rise, rather, in self learning, distance learning, lifelong learning, and part-time stu-

dents. And many kinds of institutions will have to offer this broad-based schooling.

But even in this open market of institutions, centres of excellence will be required, especially in developing countries, said Serageldin. "[Centres of excellence] make all the difference between uniform mediocrity and the ability to transform a society and go forward."

So hold on to your hats, he advised.

"The change is happening with incredible speed," he closed. "It's

the dawn of a new age, and we must embrace it."

But while frightening for some, not all saw Serageldin's lecture as a cautionary tale.

"I think what Professor Serageldin talks about [is] that one of the roles of libraries now is to filter," said Joan Rapp, soon-departing executive director of UCT Libraries, "to find out what can be appropriate for learning and young people and universities. And I think that's as an exciting future for libraries as the past has been." ■



## Inside • Inside • Inside • Inside • Inside • Inside • Inside

The debut edition of the Groote Schuur Community Gazette is a supplement to this edition of Monday Paper. This is the newsletter of the Groote Schuur Community Improvement District (GSCID). The GSCID, in association with UCT and commercial property owners, addresses 'crime and grime' in the

communities of Newlands, Rondebosch, Rosebank, Mowbray and parts of Observatory. The GSCID is in phase one of their operation: the commercial corridor or business district that runs through these suburbs. In phase two, operations will extend into the residential areas. ■

# A-rating for student leader programme

UCT's Emerging Student Leaders Programme (ESLP) is a "brilliant" initiative that has largely been rolled out as intended, and should be continued.

However, the programme lacks certain components, such as self-assessment, community involvement and experiential activities, because it spans such a short period of time, and needs to be lengthened.

So said MPhil graduate in programme evaluation Stella Kyobula-Mukoza in her seminar, *A Formative Evaluation of UCT's Emerging Student Leaders Programme*, hosted by the Department: Student Affairs in July.

The week-long ESLP was developed in 2008 and implemented a year later to enhance students' leadership skills, on the understanding that after graduation they would be entrusted with leadership positions across all sectors of society. The programme promotes the values of good citizenship, the culture of human rights, sensitivity to the environment, and respect for diversity and difference.

Using both the theory and the

implementation evaluations, Kyobula-Mukoza, under the supervision of Dr Suki Goodman, head of UCT's Department of Organisational Psychology, investigated whether the structure, organisational features and activities of the programme are aligned to established best practice, and whether it was delivered as intended.

According to Kyobula-Mukoza, 90% of international best practices were present and the programme has targeted the intended beneficiaries.

Even though communication, presentation and interpersonal skills are acquired through the programme, Kyobula-Mukoza recommended that participants also be equipped with skills for delegation, creative thinking, and managing meetings and conflicts.

"We also propose that journal-writing be integrated into the programme to allow for self-awareness and reflection," Kyobula-Mukoza suggested.

The evaluation was welcomed by staff of the Department: Student Affairs, who assured the audience that they are considering implementing some of the recommendations. ■



Best practice: (From left), Cathy Sims of Career Services; Edwina Brooks of DSA, Jerome September of DSA, Dr Suki Goodman of the Department of Organisational Psychology, and (front) Kyobula-Mukoza.

## Tackle knowledge crisis - Mthembi

Alumna Fumani Mthembi pulled no punches when she returned to her alma mater on 27 July to address a Faculty of Commerce Transformation Committee seminar. Mthembi traced her path from a "working class" family to a BCom at UCT, to graduating first in her master's class at the University of Sussex in the UK.

Now teaching African history at Lekamoso Secondary School, Mthembi's talk, *Born Free: Imagining and recreating our education system*, laid bare the shortcomings of primary education, employment

equity (EE) and black economic empowerment (BEE), and suggested how skills and enterprise development sorely lacking in South Africa could be boosted.

The inadequate returns of EE and BEE, Mthembi noted, mean that white men continue to dominate in business, and this is why "young, gifted and black" people are more likely to be embraced as corporate employees than as innovators.

"The market makes better sense of blacks seeking equity than blacks seeking to create new productive assets," she said.

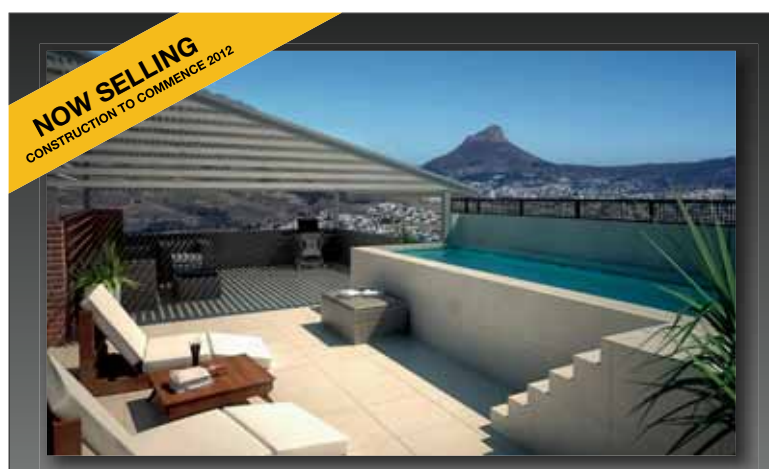
This situation is exacerbated by the fact that entrepreneurship requires access to networks and funds to build profitable relationships, and many young black graduates don't have this access.

Mthembi argued for a new type of education, specifically in the primary education system, which she described as a "cognitive no-man's-land" that doesn't support creative thought, is lacking in synergy and agglomeration, and which is aggravated by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, a widening intergenerational divide and the non-co-operation of

business. The result, she said, is a deepening knowledge crisis.

Mthembi's solution is systematic intervention. "Local research centres need to be established to generate knowledge about their surroundings, and come up with solutions. This is the community knowledge generation, in which people learn by doing." ■

*"The market makes better sense of blacks seeking equity than blacks seeking to create new productive assets" - alumna Fumani Mthembi.*



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## 125 years of women on campus

In this National Women's Month it's worth noting that UCT marks a major milestone in its history this year: 125 years of women on campus.

Women first registered as students in 1886/7. They were four students of the Good Hope Seminary who signed up for Professor PD Hahn's chemistry class at the South African College, in which UCT has its roots.

On 29 August 1887 a special meeting of the South African College Council was held "...to consider an application from the professors to admit lady students..." to the general course in all departments. With Council's approval of this motion, the South African College became a fully co-educational institution for higher education.

Some nine women (the record is not clear on the number) registered in 1887, among them two married women, Jessie Rose-Innes (married to James Rose-Innes, later Sir James) and Mary Sauer (married to JW Sauer and mother of Paul Sauer, former Minister of Lands and leader of the Assembly).

The South African College song, first sung in 1887, had an additional verse written in celebration of the women students. The South African College Debating Society encouraged

women to join, and in December 1894 reported that "Miss Ayers opposed in debate, carrying the evening by 45 votes to 27".

Miss AW Tucker was elected to the first Students' Representative Council in 1906 and in 1913 became the first student to win the Croll Scholarship for 'advanced research'.

Since those early days, women have made huge strides at UCT. Pioneers include Dr Mamphele Ramphele, who in 1996 became the first black and the first woman vice-chancellor of UCT. Former South Africa First Lady Graça Machel was the first woman to be appointed chancellor, this in 1999 when she became the fifth chancellor since the South African College became the University of Cape Town in 1918. She was elected to a second term in 2010.

Honorary graduates have included the late Queen Mother, who was awarded an honorary degree, Doctor of Laws, in 1947. Jane Elizabeth Waterston was awarded a Doctor of Laws in 1929; Lady Lilian Michaelis a Doctor

of Laws in 1948; Maria Emmeline Fuller a Doctor of Laws in 1950; Dulcie Howes a Doctor of Music in 1976; Nadine Gordimer a Doctor of Literature in 1986; Helen Suzman a Doctor of Laws in 1986; and Dr Golda Selzer a Doctor of Medicine in 1987.

In 2010, over half of the just under 25 000 students registered at UCT were women.

The Take-a-Girl-Child-to-Work Day on 8 August initiative by the Communications and Marketing Department forms part of UCT's celebration of 125 Years of Women at UCT. A total of 30 girls in Grades 9 and 10 attended, all from the Centre of Science and Technology, a maths-and-science oriented high school based in Khayelitsha. They not only met UCT women role models, but also engaged with women researchers, scientists and administrators, and toured the campus. The 125 years of women on campus theme is also being celebrated via other vehicles: the annual VC's Concert for staff on 10 and 11 August, and in the *UCT Alumni News* magazine. ■

# UCT makes network debut

A three-day meeting at UCT on the contested politics of 'culture' in July had all the markings of your typical international scholarly gathering – papers were presented, questions were posed, discussions were had, email addresses were swapped.

But more than that, the occasion marked UCT's debut as host of a Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) event. This since, in 2009, becoming the first African institution to join the association of (now) 16 research-intensive universities – of similar size and strength, and with common interests – spanning five continents.

One of those interests is addressing issues of global significance under what the WUN has identified as four 'Global Challenges'. These challenges cover climate change, the globalisation of higher education and research, culture and – the newest of the four – global public health.

"Its key objectives are aligned with UCT's own strategic vision, and we believe that our membership of WUN will help extend our partnership profile and enhance our goal of internationalisation with an Afropolitan niche," said then-deputy vice-chancellor Professor Jo Beall when UCT joined the network.

In July, it fell to the Institute of Humanities in Africa (HUMA) to stage UCT's first meeting of WUN delegates. Titled *Uses and Abuses of Culture*, the gathering aimed, to identify, among other things, points of intellectual convergence as a basis for possible future collaborations.

Which it certainly did. While culture as an academic interest has

generally been thought to be the exclusive turf of social scientists and those in the humanities, the meeting also attracted representatives from the natural sciences, public health and law departments at UCT – in addition to delegates from eight other WUN institutions.

That spread of disciplines under one roof may not be unique, but it is perhaps "unusual", believes HUMA director and meeting host Professor Deborah Posel.

"What participants across this range of fields of study and areas of expertise discovered is their shared interest in researching something they call culture, even if they don't necessarily mean the same thing by it," says Posel. "So conversations about culture become a kind of interdisciplinary glue."

Bringing people together was also a theme at the launch of the meeting, hosted by the vice-chancellor, Dr Max Price (in his capacity as WUN board member), at his residence at Glenara. While 'worldwide' in name, the WUN does not yet include institutions from South America, for example, or other parts of Africa, Price pointed out.

"I hope that the meeting also recognises the need that, if this is about culture, and culture change and globalisation, it is not a project we will be able to achieve without bringing in partners from other parts of the world."

Professor John Hearn (deputy vice-chancellor for internationalisation at the University of Sydney and WUN chief executive) echoed those sentiments, and reported on



Going global: Prof John Hearn, Prof Deborah Posel and Lara Hoffenberg, of UCT's International Academic Programmes Office, at the launch of the WUN meeting on culture. (Listen to the pod cast at <http://www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia/sound/2011/>)

the WUN's discussions with possible partners in Latin America and East Africa. There will be challenges in identifying suitable members; but

UCT, especially, would be key for forays in to the rest of Africa, said Hearn.

"I'm absolutely with you in terms

of how we might build a more effective engagement in Africa, and I think that depends on Cape Town, in terms of being a nucleus for what we do." ■

## New group to grapple with poverty alleviation

It's probably among South Africa's most burning questions: why, in a country of rich resources, are poverty and inequality persisting and even deepening?

With countless groups and individuals striving to address the matter, it remains at the centre of national debate.

UCT plans to tackle the issues through the newly-established Poverty and Inequality Planning Group (PIPG), which hopes to get to the core issues and define poverty and inequality more broadly, rather than merely meeting people's basic needs.

"We are trying to generate an understanding of poverty that is not just about economic survival," explained group chair Professor Crain Soudien. "We are talking about citizenship, about why people are not able to flourish and realise their talents."

This view, Soudien believes, makes the project stand out from other poverty-alleviation initiatives.

Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price committed himself to appointing experts to lead and co-ordinate intellectual projects to enhance the university's impact in addressing problems of public schooling, climate change and sustainable development, crime, poverty and unemployment. Initiatives have been launched in other areas, but the university has been struggling to conceptualise a focus on poverty, Soudien noted. After Price met with the university's Social Responsiveness



Poverty war: The Poverty and Inequality Planning Group will tackle economic survival.

Committee and several other academics late last year, it was decided that a planning group could address the issue.

The PIPG comprises high-profile members from diverse disciplines. It aims to identify all major role players inside and outside the university, including academics, research groups and NGOs who are doing poverty-alleviation-related work, be it in policy or at intervention levels. Then they will be invited to a forum, planned for the end of 2012, to present their work and discuss underlying factors for the

persisting poverty and inequality.

"We don't want to simply present the information, we need to get to the core of what these issues are all about," said Soudien.

The group's work could have a profound effect on the university, particularly on teaching.

"Hopefully, this will precipitate a university-wide awareness of how crucial it is to be clear about how central poverty is to the nature of our society," added Soudien, "and how the kind of leaders that we should be producing ought to be deeply aware of this con-

text. Our teaching, therefore, should be directly relevant and pertinent to this, and be more emphatic than it may have been in the past."

The group recently met Minister Trevor Manuel of the National Planning Commission to present its ideas, and to discuss possible synergies with government. (One of the members of Soudien's team, Associate Professor Vivienne Taylor, is also a member of the commission).

In the meeting, Manuel pointed out that there are linkages between the government's work and that of univer-

sities. He challenged the university to mobilise its resources and to engage urgently with the pressing social issues, and to make its research socially relevant.

As part of a mapping exercise, PIPG is inviting members of the UCT community who work in poverty related areas to indicate what they are doing to engage with the challenge of poverty and inequality through their research, teaching and social responsiveness. A web-based tool for this purpose has been designed.

The purpose of eliciting this information, said Soudien, is to compile information on poverty and inequality-related activities at UCT to share among colleagues working in this area, and to promote collaborative opportunities.

The aim is also to facilitate opportunities for engaging with the National Planning Commission, thus enabling the translation of research into the development of key national policies, and provide the basis for invitations to participate in the forum planned for 2012/2013.

The deadline for the web-based survey to map out who is doing what in the area of poverty and inequality has been extended to 15 August.

"We are aware of how busy you are, but may we ask that you set aside 20 minutes to complete the survey," Soudien pleaded.

The link is: <https://vula.uct.ac.za/direct/eval-evaluation/4545> ■

# Cape Town to host “2014 World Cup of Jazz”

Professor Mike Rossi, professor of jazz studies at UCT’s South African College of Music (SACM), and students Zeke Le Grange and Darren English, attended and performed at the 21st annual meeting of the International Association of Schools of Jazz (IASJ) in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in July. Delegates from 40 institutions across 19 countries attended the event. At the meeting, Rossi performed, lectured and presented a successful bid to host the IASJ meeting in Cape Town in 2014. The Monday Paper spoke to Rossi on what it means to UCT and jazz lovers to host such an event.

## Why is it such a big deal for UCT – and Cape Town – to host the IASJ conference?

This is the first time in the history of the IASJ, which presents a meeting and a conference each year, that the meeting will be held in Africa. The academic institution of the IASJ, of which the SACM at UCT has been a member for the past three years, consists of some of the most advanced and prestigious jazz education programmes in the world. The opportunity to have future exchanges, collaborations, and opportunities for

students to study and form friendships with top-level jazz artists, educators and students, is extremely valuable in the long run. Raising the international profile of the jazz studies programme at the SACM – and of what UCT has to offer globally – is of great importance.

## What value, do you think, will the event add to the local jazz industry?

There are excellent opportunities to develop friendships and networking with IASJ members from many countries, as well as great opportunities for the public to attend various jazz concerts, workshops and masterclasses.

## How different do you imagine the meeting will be compared to the previous ones?

South Africa has much to offer in terms of its unique music and culture. In a way, this could be viewed as the 2014 World Cup of Jazz!

The musical collaborations that will result from incorporating South African and African musical styles with music from other countries and cultures will be very exciting. A meeting of this nature speaks to the core

of jazz, which today is really world music, as it embraces multiculturalism and democratic values.

## What’s the appeal of Cape Town to world jazz lovers?

Cape Town has become an international destination for jazz. Jazz has its roots in Africa! African and European musical characteristics are some of the basic ingredients that were mixed together with American influences in New Orleans at the turn of the 20th century to help create this music, which is now found in nearly every country across the globe. Visiting one of the most beautiful places on earth is and always has been an attraction to those coming from Europe and North America. Our jazz audiences and students are very supportive, welcoming and knowledgeable, and they appreciate new and exciting events. It’s a chance to connect to the rest of the jazz world, and to what is taking place globally in jazz and jazz education. ■

*Jazzing it up: Prof Mike Rossi, professor of jazz studies at UCT’s South African College of Music (SACM), has presented a successful bid to host the International Association of Schools of Jazz in Cape Town in 2014.*



## Honour for Le Roux



Professor Rochelle le Roux of UCT’s Department of Commercial Law was recently appointed as a non-executive director of the South African Reserve Bank. As opposed to their executive counterparts, non-executive directors are not involved with the day-to-day business of the bank, but rather with the consideration of policies to ensure that the bank complies with principles of good corporate governance. “I expect the position to be time-consuming,” says Le Roux, “but I regard it as a challenge and I am very honoured to have been selected.” It will also fit in nicely with her latest research interest, she says: the purpose of labour law and the meaning of sustainable employment. ■

## Annals of Antarctica just a click away

The story of the Antarctic and its surrounding islands is not just the account of an age of high adventure, teeming with bushy-faced explorers defying the elements, environmentalists keeping count of local fauna, or the occasional star-crossed expedition. There was also a lot of administration.

As revealed in the two digital databases unveiled at the 7th workshop of the history action group of the international Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), a meeting hosted in Stellenbosch at the end of July. These databases make up the (now) electronic annals of South Africa’s role in the exploration of the Antarctic, the only African country to have been involved in the region.

The first exercise is the Antarctic Legacy Project, managed by Stellenbosch University’s Centre for Invasion Biology. There, researchers have made large strides in building a digital archive of the anecdotes, letters, diaries, photographs and other records that tell the stories of South Africans who have worked on or visited the Antarctic and, notably, the two neighbouring Prince Edward islands – Prince Edward Island and Marion Island – since the turn of the century.

In turn, scholars and students from UCT’s Department of Historical Studies and the Animal Demography Unit (ADU) have spent large parts of the past two years digitising the public records of the South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP), overseen by the national departments of Science & Technology and Environmental Affairs and Tourism. The vast majority of these records – about 800 files comprising



*Keeping tabs: Assoc Prof Lance van Sittert, Laura-Jayne Robinson, Alistair Glossop, Thierry Rousset and Prof Les Underhill enjoy the fruits of their labours, the new SANAP database.*

around 70 000 ‘pages’, mostly dating from the 1960s and of an administrative nature – are kept at the National Archives Repository in Pretoria.

So the likes of ADU researchers Laura-Jayne Robinson and Alistair Glossop and Historical Studies’ Thierry Rousset trekked to and from the repository (which keeps strict five-days-a-week hours), dutifully photographing each document, some quite fragile. These were then painstakingly catalogued and added to the growing SANAP library.

As with the Stellenbosch project, it’s far from a complete archive. Countless more files and records are still held by other state departments, the military (hard to get at) and even private companies who’d been involved in SANAP projects, explains Historical Studies’ Associate Professor Lance van Sittert.

Taken together, these two databases will, foremost, ‘globalise’ the

South African Antarctic archive, says Van Sittert, making it available and accessible (it’s online) to researchers across the globe. And it’s attempting to tell thus-far untold stories, be they of coloured whalers of the bygone whaling era, or the growing number of South African women who have been taking their place at the research stations on the Antarctic and the nearby islands.

“We like to think of this as the first click in a quiet revolution,” says Van Sittert.

Even more enthusiastically, the ADU director, Professor Les Underhill, describes the SANAP database as “historian heaven”. “The job that these guys have done is so good,” he says, “that you can see the texture of the paper, so it’s almost as good as being in the archives.”

“All from the comfort of your own home,” adds archivist Robinson. ■

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# Diamonds pinpoint start of colliding continents

Jewellers abhor diamond impurities, but they are a bonanza for scientists. Safely encased in the super-hard diamond, impurities are unaltered, ancient minerals telling the story of Earth's distant past.

Associate Professor Stephen Richardson, head of UCT's Department of Geological Sciences, and Steven Shirey of the Carnegie Institution's Department of Terrestrial Magnetism in the US analysed data from the literature of over 4 000 of these mineral inclusions, and found that continents started breaking apart, drifting, and colliding about three billion years ago. The research, published in the 22nd July issue of *Science*, pinpoints when this began.

"It is astonishing that we can use the smallest mineral grains that can be analysed to reveal the origin of some of Earth's largest geological features," said Richardson.

"Impurities contained in diamonds are perfect time capsules," explained Shirey. "They provide age and chemical information spanning over 3.5

billion years that includes the evolution of the atmosphere, the growth of the continental crust, and the beginning of plate tectonics."

Using work published in more than 20 papers over a 25-year period, Shirey and Richardson reviewed the data from over 4 000 inclusions of silicate and more than 100 inclusions of sulfide from five ancient continents. Crucially, they looked at when the inclusions were isolated by diamonds forming in the deep subcontinental mantle, and the associated compositional trends.

The researchers found that before 3.2 billion years ago, only diamonds with peridotitic compositions formed, and subsequent to the three billion-year mark, eclogitic diamonds dominated.

"The simplest explanation is that this change came from the initial subduction of one tectonic plate under the deep mantle keel of another as continents began to collide on a scale similar to that of the supercontinent cycle today," said Richardson. "This transition marks the onset of modern-style plate tectonics on planet Earth." ■



Hard science: Prof Stephen Richardson's research on diamond inclusions was published in *Science* in July.

## Humans and baboons – developing solutions for Africa

Unlike many wildlife species, baboons may actually thrive in human-modified environments, as a result of the abundant and easily accessible food found in both rural and urban human settlements.

Ironically, it is their similarities with humans – including highly plastic behaviour, a generalist diet, and living in extended family groups – which have enabled them to come out on top in human-wildlife conflict in Africa. Here on the Peninsula they have achieved similar status, and understanding the causes, extent and severity of their conflict with us has provided the impetus for 16 postgraduate research theses in the past six years.

These have been supervised by Associate Professor Justin O'Riain of the Baboon Research Unit at UCT, and an array of international collaborators.

Recently O'Riain used funds from a R400 000 grant from the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Ca-



Looking for solutions: Assoc Prof Justin O'Riain.

capacity (PERC) to host an international workshop at UCT titled *Pioneering sustainable solutions to human-baboon conflict: local answers to a continental challenge*.

International leaders in human-baboon conflict research, including behavioural ecologists, primatologists, social anthropologists, conservationists and wildlife consultants, attended.

The keynote address was delivered by Professor Shirley Strum, of the University of California, San Diego, who has over 30 years of research experience with baboons, raiding behaviour, and conservation in Africa.

The workshop included local researchers from UNISA and the University of Venda, in addition to local conservation authorities (City of Cape Town, SANParks and the Nature Conservation Corporation). Dr Charles Musyoki of the Kenya Wildlife Service, who has extensive experience in managing a diverse range of wildlife conflict situations in Africa, provided the delegates with a practical guide for the application of research findings and theory to conflict mitigation practice.

Among the goals of the workshop were an improved understanding of human-baboon conflict, both locally and in other parts of Africa; devising individual, troop and population level management strategies to reduce

conflict; and establishing a human-baboon conflict network.

The workshop provided an excellent opportunity for an external audit of the research approach and scientific findings of the Baboon Research Unit. The unit received high praise for its comprehensive and inclusive research approach, in addition to their commitment to social responsiveness on the Peninsula and in the Overberg.

The workshop highlighted the urgent need for a better understanding of the human side of the conflict, including an assessment of the current perceptions on the Peninsula towards baboons and their management.

O'Riain is collaborating with social anthropologist Dr Samantha Hurn to focus attention on human-baboon interactions. He has established a human-baboon conflict network that will meet regularly in cyberspace to develop skills appropriate to a most vexing challenge. ■



Indigenous knowledge: (From left), Prof Raewyn Connell, Prof Robert Morrell (Research Office), and Dr Mignon Breier (Research Office) at the seminar.

## Northern exposure

University-based knowledge production is heavily biased towards northern (American and UK) journals, and this entrenches existing inequalities in the knowledge economy, according to Professor Raewyn Connell of the University of Sydney. Presenting a seminar on her influential 2007 book, *Southern Theory*, as part of UCT's Project for the Enhancement of Research Capacity

(PERC) recently, Connell argued that northern dominance could be challenged by intellectuals in the south having the confidence to generate their own theory, by supporting local and indigenous knowledge outlets, and by establishing south/south connections in the production of knowledge. Connell recently delivered a Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture at UCT. ■

## Students share parallels in parallel computing

Brian Willis, first-year master's student, Crystallisation and Precipitation Unit, Department of Chemical Engineering, reports on the high performance computing winter school.

I recently attended the third annual Centre for High Performance Computing (CHPC) Winter School, held from 3 to 10 July at (for the first time) Wits University. I was among the 50 postgraduate students, from diverse academic backgrounds, who took part.

The purpose of the school was to give students like me a concise yet wide-ranging introduction to high performance parallel computing, as well as to the many high performance computing facilities available in South Africa. These are themes we touch on in class, but very rarely have an opportunity to get to grips with. It's essential for our work because the complexities of the models we wish to simulate are ever-increasing. Whether



Brian Willis.

it be for applications like mine, in computational fluid dynamics, or, for some of my friends and peers who attended, in financial modelling, oceans modelling, astrophysics and even biomedical engineering. A number of important topics were covered, including HPC architecture, Hadoop database language, OpenMP and MPI as well as the Cuda GPU programming language. I attended lectures in the mornings, while during

the afternoons everyone was given the chance to implement on the Wits computing cluster what they had learnt earlier in the day.

Impressively, the CHPC managed to bring one of the original developers of the MPI communications protocol, Professor Rajeev Thakur of Argonne National Labs in Chicago, to the school. He lectured for two days on MPI, the most widely used protocol on all the supercomputers around the world, and his expertise and insight certainly shone through.

It was an intense seven-day course, but waking up early on bitterly cold Highveld mornings and arriving back at res only after dark proved well worth it in the end. I particularly enjoyed meeting students from different research backgrounds and hearing how they planned to use high performance computing in their particular field. ■

# UCT issues whistleblower guidelines

UCT's Risk Management Committee has released amended whistle-blowing guidelines to protect people, and the university's operations, assets and reputation, against illegal activities.

The guidelines are applicable to all staff, students, consultants, vendors, contractors, and/or any other parties with a business relationship with the university.

According to the guidelines, anyone with a reasonable basis for believing that an irregular

act has occurred or is occurring has a responsibility to report this immediately.

"Anyone making a report must act in good faith when reporting an allegation, and must disclose all information available to them that is to the matter," the policy reads.

Anyone who acts against a whistle-blower will face legal sanction and disciplinary actions that could lead to dismissal.

Whistle-blowers may choose to remain anonymous, and the university will take

reasonable steps to protect their identities and disclosures, provided they have acted in good faith and that they have disclosed all the information available. However, confidential reporting (identity disclosed) rather than anonymous reporting (identity not disclosed), is encouraged.

The university has vowed to treat all information received via a hotline mechanism as confidential, as long as it remains within the control of the organisation.

Whistle-blowing is not a channel for reporting grievances or general complaints; these must be dealt with in terms of the university's grievance procedures, the university has warned. No employee may be adversely affected because they refuse to commit illegal activity. Disciplinary actions will be taken against those who make frivolous or malicious claims against others. (Please refer to the full policy at [http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/about/policies/whistle\\_blowing.doc](http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/about/policies/whistle_blowing.doc)) ■

## Academy nurtures entrepreneurs-in-the-making

For six years now, the Raymond Ackerman Academy of Entrepreneurial Development at the Graduate School of Business has been doing exactly what its name suggests – moulding ambitious young people, all with a nose for business but short of opportunities, into the next generation of entrepreneurs.

Named after and supported by one of South Africa's most famed captains of industry, the academy has graduated over 300 such young wheelers and dealers since opening its doors in 2005. (There's a second academy at the University of Johannesburg.)

Every year, the academy recruits, in rigorous selection processes, about 30 18- to 30-year olds for each of its two six-month programmes. These students are often those who, as Ackerman noted when he first started the academy, would otherwise have fallen through the cracks, either fresh out of school and



Patron entrepreneur: Raymond Ackerman with graduates from his GSB-based academy.

unsure what to do next, unemployed, or in need of the training.

Over the full-time programme,

these students are then immersed in both the hard and soft disciplines of entrepreneurship. All this at a fraction of

the actual cost of the course.

Students get top-drawer training and enjoy access to the high-quality GSB facilities. They have the opportunity to network with and work alongside experienced business types, notably in the form of MBA students who serve as mentors. And they get to meet their patron.

Necessarily, plenty of attention is paid to the fundamentals of business, even covering essentials such as maths literacy. But as both programme director, Elli Yannakaris, and students testify, personal development is central to the academy.

These life skills are what students appear to enjoy most. "It made me get to know myself better, and made me realise how important it is to have goals and have a sense of where you're headed," said 19-year-old Zahra Luckan, who did the January to June 2011 programme.

Self-styled "business fanatic" and entrepreneur Dean Stuurman, 22, was also able to see where he had tripped up in some of his previous entrepreneurial ventures. "I learned a tremendous amount, especially about stuff I think I had been naive about before, like the importance of HR."

Many graduates have gone on to bigger and better things. Some have continued their studies on the back of their GSB qualifications. (One even went on to study chocolatiering in Switzerland before opening her own business.) The course delivers exactly what it sets out to, says businessman Brehndan Botha, who sits on the selection committee. And it does make a difference in students' lives.

"It's not a wishy-washy course," he says. "And students leave changed and empowered." ■



## African opera stars brighten the North

UCT's opera stars, sopranos Pretty Yende and Dimande Nkosazana, have won international accolades for their standout – albeit short – careers.

Yende shared the joint first prize with US tenor René Barbera in the prestigious annual Operalia, aka

*Sitting Pretty: Alumna Pretty Yende took first place in this year's Operalia competition held in Moscow, Russia*

the World Competition, which was held this year in Moscow, Russia. The organisation's founder, Plácido Domingo, led the award ceremony, during which he received the Russian Order of Friendship for his work in cultural exchange.

The win does not signal of a break for Yende, who is already scheduled to appear at La Scala in Milan, Italy (where she is now

based), in productions of Verdi's *Aida* and Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Nkosazana was the stand-out performer at the traditional final concert of the Riccardo Zandonai International Competition for Young Opera Singers, held at the Auditorium San Giuseppe in Trento, Italy, on 5 June.

Competing with over 150 singers from all over the world, Nkosazana

took not only the top spot, but also won the Special Prize sponsored by Cia Opera of São Paulo, Brazil, as well as the MusicaRivaFestival Special Prize.

Now based in Oslo, Sweden, Nkosazana is scheduled to appear at the next MusicaRivaFestival (a perk of her special prize) at Riva del Garda in Italy, and in an opera in São Paulo, Brazil. ■

## News bytes

• "Water is the new oil" is currently a catchphrase in the mining world, and also the basis of Dr Dyllon Randall's award-winning lecture, which took the top spot in the South African leg of the Young Persons' World Lecture Competition. Sponsored by the international Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining network, the competition's final round takes place in São Paulo, Brazil, on 29 September. Here Randall, of UCT's Crystallisation and Precipitation Unit, will compete for the big prize with his lecture, *Pass the Salt: Recovery of water and salts from mining brines using Eutectic Freeze Crystallization*.

● A collaborative research project between UCT's Department of Computer Science and the University of Nairobi (UoN) in Kenya, which aims to develop 'micro solutions' for drought monitoring, is beginning to bear fruit. Recently, UCT doctoral student Muthoni Masinde, her supervisor Dr Antoine Bagula and collaborators from ICTP-Italy and Libelium-Spain ran a workshop at the UoN's School of Computing

and Informatics on the use of the technology on which the project is based, namely wireless sensor networks (WSNs). These networks are made up of a scattering of hundreds – even thousands – of sensors that monitor environmental conditions in a particular area. At the workshop, the UoN's Professor Lucy Irungu, deputy vice-chancellor for research, production and extension, hailed the collaboration and the opportunity for UoN to benchmark itself against UCT.

● Women are smarter than men when it comes to career choices, according to career consultant Andrew Bramley. Delivering a talk, *Career Transitions - A practical approach to career change and job hunting in South Africa* at the latest Alumni Leadership Forum of the Development and Alumni Department on 20 July, Bramley noted that women often make good career decisions in their 20s and early 30s, while men often resolve their careers when nearing their 40s. However, there are people in their 50s who are changing their careers.

● In June, 37 UCT students travelled to Guangzhou, China, for the university's first Chinese language



summer camp. The group – pictured here in Tiananmen Square – included six international students. The camp is the first marquee event since UCT rolled out a credit-bearing course in Initial Mandarin in February this year. The trip was made available with substantial help from the Chinese Language Office International (Hanban), the headquarters for the nearly 700 international Confucius Institutes – including the one at UCT – and Confucius Classrooms it oversees. In picture (above) are Palesa Mathibe and Alli Appelbaum (left and middle).

● Business magazine *African Business Review* has, in its July edition, listed UCT's Graduate School of Business (GSB) as the best business school in Africa. On its list of top 10 business schools on the continent, the magazine hailed the GSB for its innovation and "clear set

of values". No fewer than five South African-based business schools featured on the list. In November 2010, the GSB was also named the best business school in Africa, for the third consecutive year, at the Eduniversal Global Convention in Prague, Czech Republic.

● Two UCT scientists were among the 14 international experts who recently launched the new Washington DC-based Vaccine Research Foundation, which will campaign for increased funding for vaccine research against infectious diseases. Co-founders Professor Gregory Hussey, director of Vaccines for Africa, and Professor Willem Hanekom, director of the South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative, share the foundation's belief that the minimal funding of vaccine research is "shortsighted". "The impact of colliding HIV and TB epidemics in South Africa is devastating," said Hanekom. "Vaccine development is hampered by inadequate resources. The foundation has a critical role in reversing this situation."

● Members of the Surgical Gastroenterology Unit in the Department of Surgery at UCT and Groote Schuur Hospital made a clean sweep

of the awards at the combined Association of Surgeons of Southern Africa and South African Gastroenterology Congress, a gathering that attracted around 1 800 delegates. Dr Marc Bernon was awarded the



first prize for his paper, *Prospective randomised trial comparing self-expanding metal wall stents with plastic stents in the palliation of malignant obstructive jaundice*; Dr Christopher Price came second for his paper, *Combined palliative stenting for malignant biliary and duodenal obstruction*; and Galya Chinnery received the third prize for her paper, *Civilian low velocity gunshot wounds of the pancreas: Analysis of 219 patients treated at a level 1 trauma centre*. In picture, Professor Jake Krige (far left), head of surgical gastroenterology, congratulates winners (from left) Chinnery, Bernon and Price. ■

EVENTS

# UCT INAUGURAL LECTURES

•**Prof Harald Winkler** (Energy Research Centre) – 17 August  
 •**Prof Steve Reid** (Primary Health Care) – 24 August.

**Philosophy Society Meeting** Date: Tuesday 30 August @ 20h00, Speaker: Dr Greg Fried (Philosophy, UCT). Title: Hume on Miracles. Venue: LS3A, 3rd Floor, Robert Leslie Social Science Building.

**Department of Medicine Thursday Forum:** 11 August - Prof Paul Willcox - "Best practice: management of MDR and EDR tuberculosis"

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

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

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

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

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

**Senior Lecturer,** Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment, Closing date: 22 August 2011

**Academic Development Lecturer,** Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment, Closing date: 22 August 2011

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

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

**Lecturer, Department of Physiotherapy,** Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 9 September 2011

**Lecturer,** Department of Speech-Language Pathology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 9 September 2011

**Pieter Moll & Nuffield Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery & Head of The Division of Orthopaedic Surgery,** Department of Surgery, Faculty of

Health Sciences, Closing date: 30 September 2011

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

**Principal Technical Officer (Dive Unit Manager),** Department of Oceanography, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 8 August 2011

**Senior Technical Officer:** Energy Systems Analysis & Planning Programme, 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

**Senior Scientific Officer,** Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 15 August 2011

**Director:** Children's Institute, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 19 August 2011

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

**Registry Assistant,** Human Resources, Closing date: 10 August 2011

**Administrative Assistant,** Faculty of Law, Closing date: 10 August 2011

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# GCI joins forces to launch national network

UCT's Green Campus Initiative (GCI) was a major player in the new BlueBuck Network's first summit held at Rhodes University during the winter vacation. Established with the University of Stellenbosch's EcoMaties and Rhodes University's South East African Climate Consortium Student Forum, BlueBuck met to discuss future plans, and the forthcoming 17th annual United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Durban in December.

The GCI's Kate Pallett and Dane Rossenrode filled us in on the new network.

## What exactly is the BlueBuck Network?

It's an NGO that co-ordinates groups involved in environment and sustainability work and projects. Any organisation involved in sustainability and environmental work is eligible to join. BlueBuck shares resources, assists new start-ups and helps members link up with each other, while keeping everyone up to date with environmental news.

## Why are the youth specifically targeted?

Students have traditionally been

agents of change and revolution. In the case of a sustainable future, dramatic change in society can be catalysed by youth taking responsibility for the future.

## Is this an attempt to change the behaviour of students?

BlueBuck aims to change student behaviour by enabling organisations like the GCI to start, share knowledge and run effectively. Also, the network acts as a go-to for students, encouraging activism within the general student body.

## What challenges does the network face?

Organising a project long-distance was a challenge. But sharing goals and motivations, despite us being such a diverse group, made it easier.

## What are the future plans?

With the global climate change summit in Durban coming up, we're working hard to get BlueBuck off the ground as soon as possible. We aim to become more representative of the Southern African youth, form a base of knowledge relevant to its members and keep everyone motivated to conserve and sustain our planet.



Joining forces: GCI members who attended the Bluebuck summit were (from left) Richard Parker, Rivonia Pillay, Sam Lee Pan, Rirhandzu Marivate, Kate Pallett, Andrew McNaught, Dane Rossenrode and Nicolas Wiid.

## What incentives do you offer to get involved?

BlueBuck offers an opportunity for some amazing personal growth, as well as a platform to make meaningful change to the world.

## Would you say students are generally interested in envi-

## ronmental matters?

There has been an overwhelming response to the BlueBuck Network. Unfortunately, we're discovering that although most students are informed about environmental issues, they're not informed enough to start dealing with these problems.

## Could a network like this be extended beyond universities?

The network would be effective if applied in areas other than the youth. Generally though, individuals need to be passionate enough to make such networking possible and effective! ■

## Soak up the energy



UCT Sport & Recreation hosted its annual sports programme with 85 children from Gugulethu, selected by the Amy Biehl Foundation. Over four days, sports administrators Peter Buckton and Karl Buckton introduced the kids, aged mostly 11 and 12, to the fundamentals of sports like basketball, hockey, soccer, rugby and volleyball. In addition to learning the basics of these codes, the programme also "keeps them busy", said Phumza Magwza, sports co-ordinator for the foundation. Lending a hand with the youngsters was 19-year-old German student Peter Düking, enjoying a stay in South Africa before he starts his studies at the German Sport University Cologne. ■

## Students hold sway at debating comp



Debating Union chair Matthew Butler-Adam (front) says this has been UCT's best year in debating, and the team's showing at the national student debating championship, hosted by the University of Pretoria from 9 to 15 July, was evidence enough that this may well be the case. Economics master's student Butler-Adam teamed up with BSocSci third-year Daniel Kaliski – 2009 World Schools Debating winner – to win the final debate about whether or not "it was an order" is a legitimate defence in an international war crimes court. The win marked UCT's first victory in the team event since 2007. ■

## Wheels turn for men's cycling

There was plenty to cheer about for the UCT cycling squad that took part in the University Sport South Africa (USSA) competition, hosted by the University of Johannesburg (UJ) at the end of June. Edward Greene (in yellow jersey in picture) won the men's three-day, five-stage road race; Sarah Bonner and Emily Clarke finished fourth and fifth, respectively, in their category; Greig Knox and Bruce Hughes finished first and second, respectively, in the men's mountain bike event; and Emily Clark won fourth spot in the women's mountain bike race. That was enough to earn UCT second place overall, just behind UJ, in the men's team event, while the UCT women also finished second. ■



## UCT pipped for fourth

Vaal University of Technology (VUT) ruled the roost at the University Sport South Africa (USSA) volleyball championships, held at UCT in July. The VUT women beat their Tshwane University of Technology rivals by three sets to love in the women's final. UCT's women's team had to settle for fourth spot after losing to the University of KwaZulu-Natal 0-2 in the 3rd/4th place playoff. In the men's event, VUT cemented their institution's dominance, beating the University of Johannesburg 3-1 in the final. The UCT men didn't qualify for the knock-out stages of the tournament. But overall the hosts didn't put up a bad show, especially as 2011 marked their return to the competition after an absence of some years. ■

