



# Monday Paper

3 – 16 October 2011

Vol. 30#15

Newspaper of the University of Cape Town



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# Go, going, green!



Part of the Green Campus Initiative (GCI), Green Week kicks off at UCT on 3 October and heralds a full programme of events on campus. To mark the week, *Monday Paper* has gone green, and so, too, has UCT's website ([www.uct.ac.za](http://www.uct.ac.za)).

During Green Week, the GCI will promote a couple of new projects, testimony that the five-year student-driven initiative is growing bigger – and better. Among these the Consumer Activism project, which teaches students and staff to be 'consumer conscious' by buying products that promote sustainability, and to know their rights as consumers.

"The Consumer Protection Act is a fantastic piece of legislation, but a lot of people don't realise their rights in that area," said Kate Pallett, GCI's head of marketing.

The theme of this year's Green Week is Cop 17, hinting at the United Nation's Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Durban in November and December this year.

Ridelink, one of GCI's most successful projects (800 students signed up for the carpooling project, and 75% of the reserved parking bays are always full in the mornings), gave birth to Bikelink, an initiative to encourage students to use bicycles to come to campus. Although still in its infancy, the idea is to improve cycling paths to campus, and to get the university to rent out bicycles to students at cheap rates.

Sustaining and extending the GCI's work to the broader communities also took another positive turn when some of the organisation's

former members launched the Trash-back Recycle project, incentivising recycling collection in Hout Bay.

Pallett said the GCI is also collaborating with UCT management, the City of Cape Town and other student bodies, such as Ikey Tigers, to promote environmental sustainability. The GCI is also a member of the Bluebuck Network, a student-focused body for organisations involved in environmental and sustainability work.

Other Green Week events include a talk on nuclear energy, the screening of a documentary on environmental issues, music performances, and an awards ceremony for staff and students. (For more information, go to [www.uct.ac.za/about/initiatives/greencampus/projects/](http://www.uct.ac.za/about/initiatives/greencampus/projects/)) ■



## UCT steps up 'green star' initiatives

From installing meters and retrofitting lights, to conserving certain areas and incorporating 'green star' features into buildings, UCT is making significant strides in creating an environmentally friendly institution.

The green star rating is a tool developed by the Green Building Council of South Africa, based on the Australian Green Building Council tools, to provide the property industry with an objective measure-

ment for green buildings. It also recognises and rewards environmental leadership.

To attain a green star rating, UCT has incorporated 'green' features into Obz Square residence, the new School of Economics and the new Student Administration Building on the middle campus. The concept of green star ratings, particularly for educational institutions, had not been formulated at the time that these buildings were designed, explained

John Critien, executive director of the Properties & Services Department.

He said buildings under consideration (the new engineering building, Snape, Centlivres and the new lecture theatre), will respect the concepts contained in the university's sustainability plan.

Among other steps towards sustainability, UCT is installing meters in many buildings as a first step to monitoring energy use, and has com-

pleted a report on the university's carbon footprint, published in the SA Journal of Energy. UCT has also retrofitted low-energy bulbs, which now make up 85% of the lighting in campus buildings.

Critien noted that conservation areas in middle campus had been reserved for the Cape Rain Frog.

"This is one of their remaining habitats, and these frogs are an important early indicator of climate change."

The Cottage below the Bremner Building has been renamed Breviceps Cottage, to acknowledge the importance of these frogs. (*Breviceps* is a genus of microhylid frogs). The Cottage is in the Green Belt, adjacent to the vice-chancellor's residence, Glenara.

Another project is a bio-digester that is being tested at Leo Marquard Residence, which generates gas that can be fed back into the cooking process. ■

# Quality leadership key in health sector - Motsoaledi

Speaking at UCT recently, Minister of Health Dr Aaron Motsoaledi said sound leadership is critical in addressing the problems facing the health sector in South Africa.

In his talk, *Shaping Leaders in Health*, Motsoaledi outlined why leadership in health “is now needed more than ever in South Africa”. Among his department’s main goals are to increase life expectancy (which has plunged dramatically over the past years), decrease maternal mortality, combat HIV/AIDS, and decrease the burden of disease.

The event was hosted by the Health Sciences Student Council to “encourage, reaffirm and redefine the role and importance of dynamic and relevant leadership in the health sector”. It also highlighted the potential of students to become the ‘agents of change’ as future health professionals.

South Africa suffers from a “quadruple burden of diseases” in HIV/TB, maternal mortality, non-communicable diseases, and violence and injury, said Motsoaledi.

The challenge is the country’s shortage of doctors, he said. In response, the government plans to expand the number of medical schools.

“As leaders, we are looking forward to you coming and helping to solve this big mess. It needs people like you... very dedicated people,” Motsoaledi told students. ■



Someone like you: Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi encouraged UCT health sciences students to take on leadership roles in addressing national health challenges.



Mobile-wise: UCT’s Prof Gary Marsden conducted a workshop at the African Conference on Software Engineering & Applied Computing.

## Conference to boost African ICT research collaboration

Computer Science academics gathered in Cape Town in September to explore research collaboration in information technology improvements among African scholars. The inaugural African Conference on Software Engineering & Applied Computing (ACSEAC) was hosted by UCT in conjunction with

Microsoft, Google and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. It saw African and international experts from 19 countries sharing ideas, problems and solutions on computer science research through a series of technical sessions, tutorials and workshops. Among them were Professor Gary Marsden (who con-

ducted a mobile interaction design workshop) and Honorary Professor Judith Bishop (who presented a keynote address) – both of UCT’s Computer Science Department. The conference was the brainchild of Joseph Balikudembe (PhD, 2009). Next year’s ACSEAC conference will take place in Kenya. ■

## Greenblatt on ‘coloniality’ of archives



Archives old and new were the topic of discussion at *Negotiating Wonder and Taint: An afternoon of conversation with Stephen Greenblatt*, a gathering with the famed cultural theorist hosted recently by the Archive and Public Culture (APC) research initiative. Here the APC’s Professor Carolyn Hamilton (right),

with Dr Sandra Young and Mbongiseni Buthelezi of the Department of English Language and Literature, joined Greenblatt (second from right) to muse about the origins and nature of archives, and the often troubled role these archives – “steeped in the coloniality of their formation”, according to Young – play in scholarly

life in South Africa. One starting point for the conversation was Greenblatt’s 1991 *Marvelous Possessions*, a collection of essays in which he looked at the ways in which Europeans of the Middle Ages and the early modern period represented non-Europeans in archival travel narratives, legal documents and reports. ■

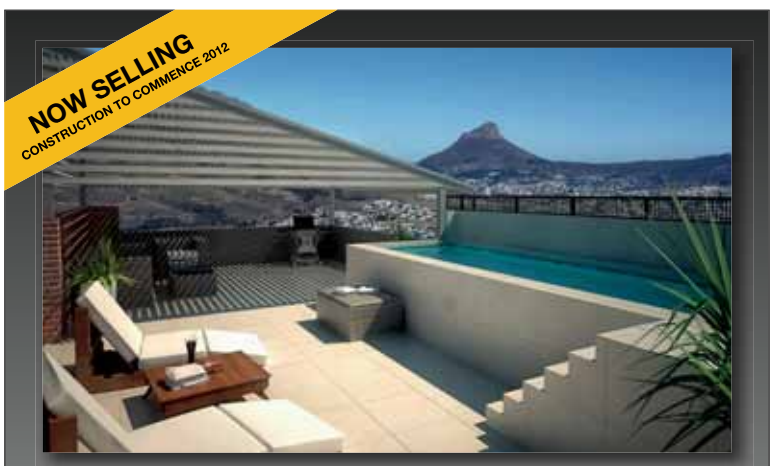
## Honorary degree for Chair of Council

Walter Sisulu University (WSU) has conferred an honorary Doctorate in Philosophy on UCT’s Chair of Council and former Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Njongonkulu Ndungane. “This is in recognition and appreciation of his deep involvement in campaigns to abolish the debt of developing countries, combat poverty, tackle HIV and Aids, promote the Millennium Development Goals, and champion programmes relating to historic schools,” said WSU spokesperson Angela Church. Ndungane was born in Kokstad in 1941. The anti-apartheid activist graduated from Lovedale High School, Alice, in 1958. In March 1960 he was involved in anti-pass law demonstrations while a student at UCT. He was detained as a political prisoner and imprisoned on Robben Island for three years (1963 to 1966). On his release, Ndungane



served a two-year banning order restricting him to the magisterial districts of Cape Town and Wynberg.

While in prison, Ndungane received a call to serve God in the ordained ministry. He was ordained as a priest in July 1974. ■



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# Students walk the talk in carbon trading

Carbon emissions trading across international borders has been a messy, contentious business, not least because not all countries care for the idea.

But as Anthony Dane (a master's student in economics at UCT) found in a recent project, it works better when everyone's on board and keen to cut their emissions. Dane and his supervisor, Dr Martine Visser, recruited 60 students – 56 stayed on until the end – for a five-week exercise in personal carbon trading, specifically for carbon dioxide emitted during transport, be it by car, bus, carpooling, mini-bus, train, bicycle or other.

The students had to provide individual baseline emission numbers after the first week, and then commit to cutting their emissions over the following four. When they couldn't, they had to pay a penalty, a mutually agreed-on R3.39 per kg carbon dioxide equivalent, or kgCO<sub>2e</sub>, a measure of how much global warming a kilogram of the



*Baby you can drive my car: UCT students pile into a VC Beetle, demonstrating the importance of car pooling - and doing their best to limit their carbon footprint.*

greenhouse gas might cause.

Or, alternatively, they could buy carbon credits, cheaper, from those

who did manage to reduce their emissions. In trading, that price averaged out at around 40c per kg-

CO<sub>2e</sub>, Dane reports. In many ways, the exercise reflected what happens internationally, he says.

Some students, by their own admission, over-reported their baselines, if only so it would be easier to cut emissions, and save – or make – money. And, like many countries, some students found it easier to cut emissions than others; for example, some were unable to use public transport simply because it wasn't available.

There was one dramatic departure from the international picture, however, for which critics of carbon trading have pointed out that, overall, emissions are not being reduced. In contrast, the students in Dane's project cut their emissions by 34% in total, or 1 870gCO<sub>2e</sub>.

That, he calculated, works out to three round trips, by car, between Cape Town and Johannesburg.

"Where it differs from what happens internationally," he says of the project, "is that there was buy-in from everyone, in that the participants wanted to take part, and they were all committed to reducing their emissions." ■

## Spivak on feminism and the critical tradition

Renowned literary critic and theorist Professor Gayatri Spivak drew a sizeable crowd when she delivered a Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture at UCT on 27 September. Spivak, who holds the title of University Professor at Columbia University in the US, spoke on *The Tradition of Critique and Feminist Writing*. Critical thinking, she began, requires an "awareness of the subjective structures of production of the thinking". It's a rule of thumb Spivak would apply, throughout her lecture, to a number of texts, includ-



ing – cautiously – to South Africa's Women's Charter for Effective Equality of 1994, and the writings of 18th century feminist philosopher Mary Wollstonecraft. ■

## Researchers celebrate publications and funding milestones

The year 2010 was a busy one for UCT researchers, as reported at a recent function hosted by deputy vice-chancellor Professor Danie Visser and the Research Office.

Firstly, the Research Report 2010 chronicled some of the year's highlights, including UCT's standing as the country's top producer of accredited research publications.

In turn, vice-chancellor Dr Max Price drew attention to other landmark achievements, such as the growth in the university's research income to R760 million, and a 20% jump in the



number of research contracts. (Thanks in no small part to the hard work of the university's researchers, they were both at pains to point out.)

Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, president and CEO of the National Research Foundation, also spoke of the organisation's continued efforts to provide the best possible support to the country's researchers. And guest speaker Dr Lee McIntyre, research fellow at the Centre for Philosophy and History of Science at Boston University, spoke of how the natural sciences can be applied to the study of the world's social problems. ■

## Researchers and their supervisors celebrate

The UCT Research Associateships, awarded annually to "excellent student researchers", have become sought-after funding sources for the university's master's and PhD ranks. "The purpose of the associateships is to align reward and recognition of the research undertaken by master's and doctoral students, and their supervisors, with the university's strategic objective to be research-led," explained Linda Vranas, director of the Postgraduate Funding Office. Recently the Postgraduate Centre & Funding Office celebrated the 2011 allotment with the 22 'Research Associates' who will benefit from the award this year. Seven master's students each received R30 000 towards their research, while 22 doctoral students collected R45 000 each. ■

## Information bill protest

When members of the UCT community joined the Right 2 Know campaign's march to Parliament on Saturday 17 September to protest the passing of the Protection of State Information Bill in the National Assembly, they put their weight behind a broad groundswell in civic society. Although the march has been hailed as a victory, a decision on the Bill is not yet final.

Among those who addressed the throng at Parliament were the vice-chancellor, Dr Max Price; president of the Students' Representative Council, Amanda Ngwenya; former minister of intelligence, Ronnie Kasrils; and the leader of the Treatment Action Campaign, Zackie Achmat. One by one the speakers raised their objections to the bill, which went before the National Assembly on Tuesday 20 September.

"We must oppose at each turn those who make that struggle [against the repression of civil liberties] meaningless," said Ngwenya.

"This campaign, this coalition of students, of citizens, of NGOs, even of political parties, this campaign has changed the original bill, and we have won victories, and we must realise



*Mass action: Protestors filled the streets of Cape Town as they marched on Parliament.*

how strong we are and that we have the strength to win the last victory," said Price.

Among the marchers were academics, students and PASS staff from the Graduate School of Business, the Faculty of Law, the International Academic Programmes Office, the Departments of English and Sociology; even the UCT Rugby Club, among others.

On the eve of the march, UCT's Senate issued a statement decrying the bill, noting that it would appeal to

Parliament to include, among other things, a clause that would allow for classified information that conceals wrongdoing or maladministration to be exposed in the public interest. Senate also raised concerns about the lack of an appeal mechanism other than to the minister who classifies the information. Senate would also appeal directly to President Jacob Zuma, the statement said, to refer the bill to the Constitutional Court for pre-promulgation certification, should Parliament not make suitable amendments. ■

## Saunders' contribution to Kopano and UCT honoured

Kopano Residence hosted an alumni dinner on 24 September in honour of its former warden and former UCT vice-chancellor Dr Stuart Saunders.

Part of Saunders' 80th birthday celebrations this year, the event brought back a number of former residents, including registrar Hugh Amoore, who was the Master of Ceremonies, and former Chair of Council Geoff Budlender, the guest speaker.

The dinner also bridged the gap between the generations of Driekoppen and those of Kopano, said the warden, Professor Evance Kalula.

The residence was originally named Belsen, after the Bergen-Belsen Nazi concentration camp in north-west Germany, as the residence initially housed students who had



*Honoured: Kopano Residence hosted an alumni dinner in honour of former warden and former UCT vice-chancellor, Dr Stuart Saunders, who turned 80 this year.*

served in World War II. The name was changed to Driekoppen to mark the beheading of three slaves in the Mow-

bray area in 1724, but was changed to Kopano after the watershed year of 1994, as a celebration of unity.

The event was also intended to symbolically denote the theme Change and (positive) Continuity, with which Saunders' career at UCT is associated.

"This emphasis is significant, given the controversy that followed the name change from Driekoppen to Kopano," Kalula added.

Some did not support the name change, arguing that it was wrong to throw away tradition for the sake of change.

At the event, Saunders received a book, a collection of tributes from the university community to him, compiled by the Development and Alumni Department. ■

# Schools Development Unit – a decade on

The Schools Development Unit (SDU) had their extended '10th birthday' celebrations in September (although they're really 11 this year).

Established formally in 2000, the unit's objective was to build on the pioneering work done by groups such as the Teaching and Learning Resources Centre, the Mathematics Education Project and the Life Skills Project, initiatives fostered by UCT in the 1980s to "effect transformation in South African schools". These projects would take on new life and shapes in the SDU.

The SDU is an integral part of the School of Education, concerned directly with professional engagement, explains director Dr Jonathan Clark – its basic aim is to develop quality teaching and learning in the fields of mathematics, the sciences, literacy and life skills. A major area of involvement is in teacher professional development, with formal qualifications playing a big role – the unit presently offers a range of university-certified Advanced Certificates in Education (ACE) programmes. In addition to on-campus tuition, teachers participating in the ACE programmes are provided with school-based support to assist them in "translating the learnings of the lecture theatre into their own classrooms", says Clark.

The SDU also offers a small, but growing number of university-certified short courses that are tailored to meet the subject-specific needs of practising teachers. Producing quality teaching and learning materials has also been a key component of the unit's work.

Over the years the SDU has been involved in a range of school-based projects in primary and

secondary schools across the province. The recently completed Rural Education Project (REP) worked with foundation and intermediate phase teachers in 38 rural primary schools. Closer to home, the Mathematics and Science Education Project (MSEP) is an ongoing project that operates intensively in five local secondary schools.

"While all these interventions have been underpinned by a belief that building teacher efficacy lies at the heart of professional engagement, the need to engage in broader curriculum and whole-school development work is factored in to all project design and implementation," says Clark.

The SDU has also developed strong links with the Western Cape Education Department (WCED), and aims to work in close co-operation with departmental officials.

For the past few years the SDU has been the service provider responsible for the administering, marking and analysis of the annual grade 3 and 6 numeracy and literacy tests conducted in all primary schools in the Western Cape.

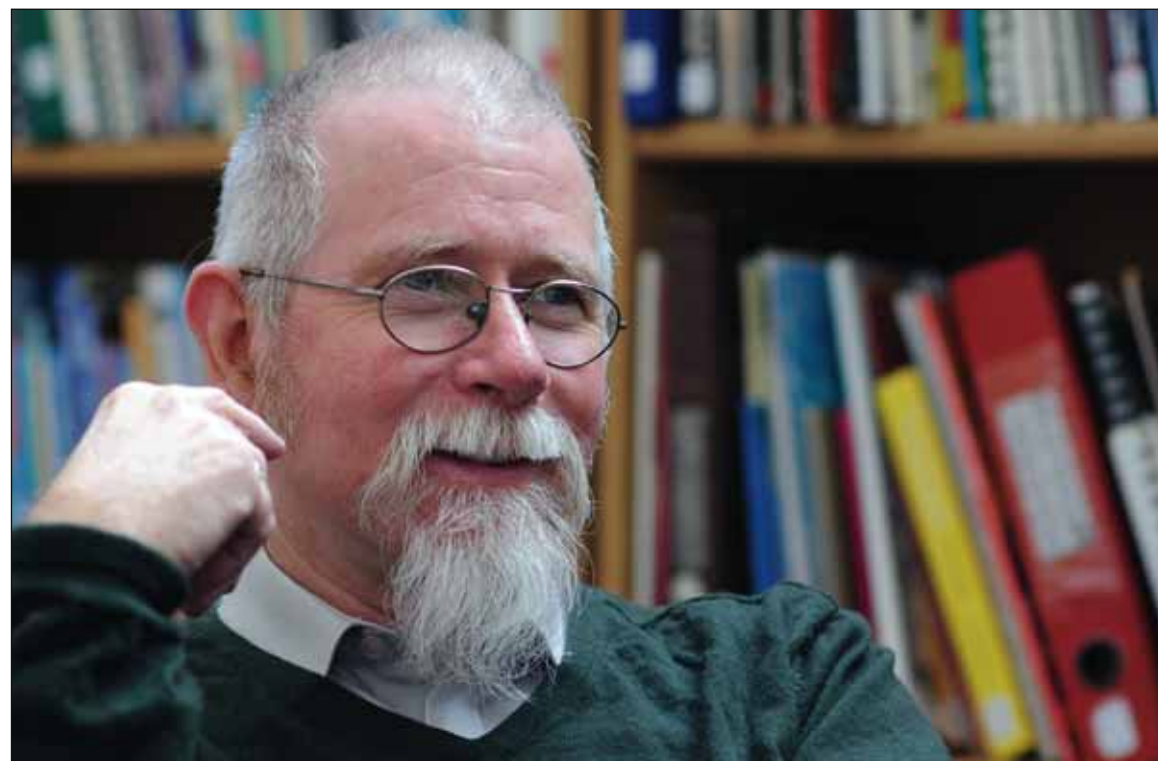
In 2011, the unit also took the reins of 100-UP, a three-year project born out of the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Fund. Under 100-UP, the SDU will provide academic and life skills support to 100 academically strong Grade 10 learners drawn from all 20 secondary schools in Khayelitsha, with the expectation that, come 2014, these students will be prepared for and qualify for a place at UCT. ■

We spoke with director Dr Jonathan Clark on the origins of the SDU, its mission and what keeps the unit motivated.

**Monday Paper: Someone mentioned at the SDU's anniversary event that the Unit had to change gear – politically – after 1994; before then, the unit – in its previous incarnations – was almost in conflict with the policies of the previous regime, while post-1994 it set out to support the new education policies that were obviously more inclusive. Is this still how the SDU sees itself and its role?**

Jonathan Clark: Bearing in mind that the SDU was only constituted in 2000, it's difficult for me to comment about what happened before then, but I think it is fair to say that the organisations (MEP and TLRC) out of which the unit was formed would of course have adopted a broadly oppositional stance to the apartheid state and its educational policies. Since then, things have certainly become a lot more complicated, although I would argue that the unit has always sought to maintain a crucial distance from the state, which allows it the space to engage critically with whatever educational policy is in the offing. This is certainly the case when it comes to issues of curriculum, which are always, in my opinion, quite contentious, and in need of rigorous and honest debate.

**MP: You've hosted a number of events lately concentrating on reading literacy; is this just a coincidence, or were you working towards a theme over recent weeks?**



Then and now - Dr Jonathan Clark, director of the Schools Development Unit.

JC: The focus on literacy is deliberate, for low levels of reading and writing have a profound impact on learning in all subjects. Learners (and teachers) need to understand the content of the subject as well as how to do the subject and, of course, all of this happens through language. Matters are further complicated because in most classrooms, English – the language of learning and teaching (LoLT) – is not the home language of either the teacher or the learners. So, in addition to having to cope with the demands of second-language teaching and learning, the specific discourses of the content subjects have to be dealt with. No easy task for hard-pressed teachers, but fertile ground for meaningful and constructive professional engagement.

**MP: The unit focuses on teacher development; have recent projects like 100-UP, which concentrates on learner development, provided any new insights or called on different skills and approaches?**

JC: Yes, it's certainly true that teacher professional development lies at the heart of the unit's work, but such a focus doesn't preclude more direct engagements with learners who are trapped in schools that are struggling to break out of the cycle of underachievement and failure. 100-UP is a case in point, and what is particularly exciting about this programme is that it encourages us to reach out to the broader university community – over the next couple of years

we'll be working in collaboration with colleagues from other faculties, and in partnership with student organisations. More broadly, it offers hope – for there are secondary schools in the township from which the 100-UP learners are drawn that have never had a matriculant gain entrance to UCT. It's a clear signal, then, of our intention to reach out to township communities such as Khayelitsha.

**MP: Results from the Annual National Assessment must have been worrying and disheartening. What keeps the SDU motivated?**

JC: They are a reminder of just how much work there is still to do! It may be a source of continual

discomfort, but there's no escaping our past and I think we have come to accept just how much we are burdened with the collateral damage of apartheid education – 'failing schools, in a fragile system', as I like to put it. Even here in the Western Cape, the educational opportunities afforded to those attending middle-class schools in our leafy suburbs are a world apart from those available to the children of the urban poor on the Cape Flats. So in essence it's an issue of social justice, and that's motivation enough.

**MP: Your website includes the following comment: "The SDU changes schools for good." What would you consider the unit's finest achievements over your tenure?**

JC: When it comes to formal professional development activities, a large number of teachers (more than 300) have successfully completed one of our ACE programmes over the past two years; and we've also initiated, and grown, a substantial short-courses programme. Our ongoing involvement in the province's programme of grade 3 and 6 systemic testing is something we can also be most proud of – it's a huge operation, administering, marking and processing tests of learners in the over 1 000 primary schools across the province. That we have been able to continue our work at both the primary and secondary levels of schooling (and going forward, at the interface of the two), focusing where it matters most – at helping teachers at the chalkface – is, of course, the point of it all. There are many strings to the SDU bow... ■



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## Reading and literacy

Recent events hosted by the Schools Development Unit had a central theme tying them together. At *Making Reading Enjoyable in the Junior School Classes: Nurturing a culture of reading*, three local teachers – including Koelsum Bibi Ghansar



from Starling Road Primary School (in picture) – spoke of the innovative, fun and sometimes wacky ways they've tried to do just that.



Literally a day later, on International Literacy Day (better known as 8 September), the Mathematics and Science Education Project (MSEP) hosted its Reading Festival prize-giving for learners from three project schools – Thandokhulu, Sophumelala and Harry Gwala. With Deputy Minister of Transport Jeremy Cronin in the attentive audience, students had a chance to read aloud the

poems and stories they'd penned as part of the project. (Asanda Ziwane, in picture, left, of Harry Gwala, took the poetry award.) Literacy was also a red-letter concern for Professor Brahm Fleisch, of the Division of Education Leadership and Policy Studies at Wits University, when he spoke at the SDU's belated anniversary event celebrations, his lecture titled *Changing Schools for Good: What the future holds for teacher professional development in South Africa*. Fleisch drew comparisons between the vastly different ways literacy is taught at former Department of Education and Training schools, at traditionally white schools, and at private schools. ■

# De Vos asks for nuanced take on race in SA

Even the Constitutional Court doesn't always get race quite right, suggested Professor Pierre de Vos in his inaugural lecture, *The Past is Unpredictable: Race, redress and remembrance in the South African Constitution*, delivered at UCT on 14 September.

De Vos, who holds the Claude Leon Foundation Chair in Constitutional Governance in the Department of Public Law, started his lecture off close to home, though – UCT's admissions policy (one of the countless issues he's covered in his many media commentaries and in his [in] famous blog, *Constitutionally Speaking*). If the university has taken a beating in the media and in various corners of the country for this policy, which uses race as a proxy for disadvantage, said De Vos, it's because its critics have overlooked the reality that the issues of race "continue to permeate every aspect of both public and private life" in South Africa.

So the paradox and conflict remain – despite the Constitutional commitment to non-racialism, problematic racial categories are still "inscribed" in the country's law books and policies. And ironically enough, those categorisations, while ostensibly used for purposes of redress, can easily perpetuate the inequalities and race-based hierarchies of apartheid.

The Constitutional Court, too, has not always taken sufficient care when bandying those racial categories about. Especially when tackling the issues of race and redress, said De Vos.

So, the Constitution prohibits unfair discrimination on the basis of a range of criteria – race included. On the other hand, it does not prohibit the use of race when addressing the "effects of past unfair discrimination or when addressing the lingering effects of racial discrimination and racism", he pointed out.

The Constitutional Court understands the need for race-based corrective measures, but also appreciates that there are limits to such corrective measures. (And that redress can be a win-lose thing, where one group benefits at the expense of another.)

But while race-based measures of redress are required to address the effects of past and ongoing racism and racial discrimination, this must be done by having "regard to South Africa's past", a past that not all South Africans always see in the same light. A little more finesse, more "nuance", is also required when dealing with the country's history, said De Vos.

"Neither attempting to sweep the past racism and racial discrimination and its ongoing manifestations



*Race ahead: According to Prof Pierre de Vos, South Africans – and the courts – need a more nuanced look at racial issues. (Listen to a pod cast at <http://www.uct.ac.za/news/lectures/inaugural/2011/>)*

and effects, which continue to haunt our country, under the carpet; nor reducing or simplifying the story of our past to one in which human beings only existed as markers for their racial identities."

This will mean, argued De Vos, renouncing simple "grand narratives", whether the one of a dark and treacherous Africa populated by "corrupt, untrustworthy and lazy"

Africans, on one hand, or another – which the Constitutional Court has embraced, according to De Vos – of a "heroic and noble anti-apartheid struggle led by the ANC against an evil apartheid regime".

Both threaten to reduce individuals to mere symbols or representatives of a particular racial or language group, said De Vos. Instead, South Africans should embrace

"many small micro-narratives that recognise the individuality of each person".

"Like Jacob Dlamini did in his book *Native Nostalgia*, we want to tell stories that humanise our lives and particularise our experiences; without airbrushing away the past, and without denying the lingering effects of ongoing racial injustice around us," he said. ■

## Cape Town a melting pot of slave history

While not without its troubles – Irish republicanism, the rise of Russian communism, the first hints of uprising in India, a world war – George V's rule of the British Empire from 1910 to 1936 would, on the face of it, have come too late to have much to do with slavery as it's traditionally understood. Even less, then, with slavery in the early Cape colony.

But even if it's not that straightforward, there is in fact a connection, as explained by Professor Nigel Worden in his inaugural lecture, *The Global Cape: Breaking the boundaries of the early Cape colony*, which he delivered on 21 September. It's all about the study and origins of history as an academic discipline, argued Worden, who since 2009 has held UCT's King George V Chair of History. (He was first promoted to full professor in 1997, but had never delivered an inaugural lecture.)

History, as an academic discipline, was really only developed in the mid- to late 19th century, most notably in the German state of the period, Worden explained. "Just at a time when nationalism was at its fore."

History as a subject would underpin that nationalist impulse, he said, its purpose to build up a nation's historical credentials.

"The subject of history was seen as being a necessary part of the construction of a nation state. It was important that a nation state has its own archives, its own collection of documentary material, which are by



*Talking history: Celebrating the inaugural lecture of Prof Nigel Worden (third from left) were deputy vice-chancellor Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo; Professor Paula Ensor, dean of the Faculty of Humanities; vice-chancellor Dr Max Price; Assoc Prof Richard Mendelsohn, deputy dean; and deputy vice-chancellor Prof Danie Visser. (Listen to a pod cast at <http://www.uct.ac.za/news/lectures/inaugural/2011/>)*

definition the product of a government of a particular nation."

That rule of thumb would also apply, no less so, to the British Empire.

Which explains the establishment of the King George V Chair of History at UCT's forebear, the South African College, in 1902, just at the end of the South African War. The incumbent was expected to make a special study of the history of the new nation coming out of that divisive conflict.

(Because that history was likely to be partisan and partial to the British version of the story, the Victoria College of Stellenbosch, which would later become Stellenbosch University,

rebutted with a rival chair in history in 1904.)

But the study of a country's history was an isolated affair, said Worden, elevated and taught separately from the history of other places. (The university he worked at in Scotland went so far as to set up its own department of Scottish history.) So, too, the history of South Africa is often treated as distinct from the history of the rest of Africa and the rest of the world.

Universities, whether in the teaching or researching of history, have also fallen into that model. As Worden himself has, he confessed.

But Worden, in his study of slav-

ery in South Africa and Cape Town, has had a conversion of sorts over the past decade.

Inspired by other scholars, he became interested in the links between slavery in the Cape and elsewhere. Slave practices here, he now argues, often reflected slave practices in other corners of the world. (In parts of Asia, for example, slaves would be freed after working off a debt; in one document discovered by Worden, a Cape slave beseeches his owner, after 10 years of such indentured labour, to be released from his obligations. His request was turned down.)

The link between Cape history and

other countries and regions was clear, if unexplored.

"Here were signs of the impact of places from which many of the slaves at the Cape had come, but about their previous lives – in Madagascar, or in South East Asia, or in India, or in Sri Lanka – we were completely ignorant," Worden said.

Retracing those lives and stories was not easy, though. Records were few and far between. ("The nature of slavery is that it ruptures life experiences.")

Over the years, however, Worden has been able to piece together some stories from official documents and archived correspondence, be they about the Cape Slave Uprising of 1808, the networks between the Cape and the slaves' homelands, Malagasy refugees, or the social mobility of women slaves.

"The Cape, at least as far as this period is concerned, was not a closed world, it wasn't an isolated bubble, it wasn't just an outpost of Europe," said Worden. "It was an Indian Ocean and Southern Atlantic settlement in all its diversity, and it was connected directly to the networks of these regions."

And as his further study has shown, the social aftershocks of that period have been felt through the subsequent ages, its social and racial orders extending into later periods, even today.

Fertile ground, Worden suggested, for the teaching and study of a new kind of history. ■

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF George du Plessis, chief technical officer and workshop manager at the Department of Zoology, and his assistant, Granville Faulmann.

### What they do on a day-to-day basis?

It's a job short on dull moments, and Du Plessis and Faulmann are veritable Jacks of all trades, so many and diverse are their functions. One day the duo can be found manufacturing or repairing equipment for students and researchers, another modifying cupboards in their wood and metal workshops. Although their workshop is a mechanical and woodworking facility, Du Plessis, a qualified signals electrician, also repairs electronic equipment like heater baths or laptop power supplies. They also make and repair animal traps to catch rock lobster, crabs, birds, snakes, moles, and other creatures for zoology practicals. The two also service and maintain the department's five aquaria (four salt water and one fresh water. Fresh sea water is collected every fortnight from the Marine and Coastal Management (MCM) depot in Sea Point, using a one-ton water tank trailer. They make up to eight trips to the MCM aquaria over two days. They also join sea and land field trips to help students with their research. The pair must also ensure that the department's three vehicles and three trailers are always in tip-top condition. Both have Professional Driving Permits.



Jacks of all trades: George du Plessis (back), chief technical officer and workshop manager at the Department of Zoology, and assistant Granville Faulmann check water quality in the zoology aquaria.

### What challenges do they face?

Students come knocking at their door for help with projects. "We work on a first-come, first-served basis, and we try to prioritise and juggle things to assist everyone timeously," Du Plessis says. "But sometimes their assignment deadlines are tight and they can be

demanding. That can be challenging."

### What are the highs and the lows of the job?

Their job is never boring. "In one month I could be skipping the MA-RE boat on the second-year 'Life in the Sea' field camp, turning

something on the lathe or collecting specimens," says Du Plessis. Another highlight is the fact that they join different field camps. Not only are they responsible for all the field camp vehicles, but also for packing the equipment needed. On the marine field camp, Du Plessis puts on his catering hat: calculating the

amount of food needed for the five-day camp, setting up the kitchen (they're also dab hands at braaiing), and skipping the 7.2m boat. Faulmann also uses skills learnt from a stint in the Teaching Methods Unit to help iron out glitches that the lecturers have when setting up the audio-visual components for field camp lectures. The two are also on standby, day or night, for any emergency related to their work, such as water overflows from the aquaria, or faulty machines.

### Wha's the weirdest thing they've encountered on the job?

For a research project on porcupines, Du Plessis once modified a miniature, off-road, radio-controlled dune-buggy so that it could work off a multi-core electric cable, which they had to hard-wire to the buggy and hand-control. He also had to mount a camera on the front, and design an infrared light emitting diode array around the camera so that it could pick up images of the porcupines and their young in their burrows. (The cable was hard-wired to the buggy so that it could be pulled out if it got stuck.) ■



## Alien animals

Unlike for their botanical counterparts, little has been published about the invasion of alien animals into South Africa's ecosystems. Now Assoc Prof Mike Picker of UCT's Department of Zoology has, with colleague Assoc Prof Charles Griffiths, penned what they say is the first book on the alien animals of Africa. *Alien and Invasive Animals: A South African perspective*, published by Struik Nature, puts the number of such creatures – land, sea and fresh water – at about 600 species. (Although the authors concede that this number is probably an underestimate.) In the book, Griffiths and Picker pool their vast research resources to describe 270 alien animal species in detail, the history of their invasion (deliberate or otherwise), and the ecological and economic impacts they have on the country. ■

## UCT singers perform in new gallery



An unusual choral concert, New Music Evening, will be performed by the UCT Singers, directed by Jo-Mari Thorne Burgess on 12 October at the Whatiftheworld Gallery in Woodstock. Their program emphasises currently active local composers and includes choral compositions by Thomas Rajna (above), Peter Klatzow, Hendrik Hofmeyr (all present or past staff members of the South African College of Music (SACM), Peter-Louis van Dijk (an

SACM graduate) and Eric Whitacre. Works by Alvo Part and JS Bach will also be heard.

This crack ensemble, drawn from the student body of the SA College of Music as well as from music-loving undergraduates from other faculties across the whole spectrum of UCT, is trained and directed by founder Thorne Burgess. The award-winning group has already given recitals throughout the Cape, including performances at the City Hall.

"The Whatiftheworld Gallery is a young gallery that provides a platform for a new generation of emerging South African contemporary artists, so it is a fitting venue, for a group of young singers, in which to present a New Music Evening," said Rajna.

The gallery just recently moved to the historic Woodstock Synagogue. (Tickets are R50 and will be available at the door before the concert. For further inquiries call Ross Dorkin at 072 495 5866.) ■

## Baxter fundraiser offer to UCT community



Staff and students are invited to the Baxter Theatre Centre's fundraising Gala Event on 27 October 2011. The evening includes a ticket to David Kramer's new musical comedy *Some Like it Vrot* at 20h00, featuring Marc Lottering and Christo Davids in the lead roles of Smiley and Fuad, characters created by Lottering in his stand-up routines.

Be sure to arrive early, to enjoy complimentary food and drinks from 18h30 until the start of the show.

Also included is entrance to the after-party (from 22h30), where you can meet the cast of the show. More complimentary drinks and snacks will be served. There will be photo opportunities with the stars of the show in the Peroni lounge, and en-

tertainment will be provided by The Black Ties (Chad Saaiman, Keenolee and Lloyd Jansen).

You also stand a chance to win great prizes, such as a two-night stay at the 4-star Lagoon Beach Hotel, a French perfume hamper, a signed Marc Lottering DVD box set, a signed David Kramer CD collection, and posters signed by the cast of the show.

Tickets are R280 at Computicket. Proceeds raised from ticket sales will go towards securing the future of the Baxter. For more information, visit <http://www.baxter.co.za/fundraiser.htm> or contact Fundraising & Campaign Manager Johann Davis at the Baxter, tel 021 680 3983; cell 083 299 2604; fax 021 689 1880; email [johann.davis@uct.ac.za](mailto:johann.davis@uct.ac.za) ■

EVENTS

**UCT INAUGURAL LECTURES**

**Date:** 05 October 2011 **Speaker:** Professor Wayne Derman, Department of Human Biology, Faculty of Health Sciences. Title: Broken Hearts, Spacemen, Wattle Trees and a Man with One Leg. Venue: Sports Science Institute, Newlands, University of Cape Town. Time: Guest to be seated by 17h15 for 17h30

**Date:** 19 October 2011. **Speaker:** Professor Nicola Illing, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, Faculty of Science. Title: Evo-devo: Clues to morphological and functional diversity in bats and resurrection plants. Venue: Lecture Theatre 1, Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus, University of Cape Town. Time: Guest to be seated by 17h15 for 17h30

**Philosophy Society Meeting:** Date: Tuesday 11 October @ 20h00. **Speaker:** Jessica Lerm. Title: Who am I? What am I? Venue: LS3A, 3rd Floor, Robert Leslie Social Science Building.

**Transformation Portfolio at the Faculty of Health Sciences invites you to A talk by Dr Izzeldin Abuelaish**  
Topic: Building a Bridge for Humanity. Date: 20 October 2011  
Time: 13h15. Venue: Wolfson Lecture Theatre. RSVP: nazli.marais@uct.ac.za

**GSB Open Evening** Date: 4 October 2011. Time: Registration from 17h00. Venue: UCT Graduate School of Business, Breakwater Campus, Portwood Road, V&A Waterfront, Room - Faculty Hall

**COURSES:**  
**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:**

- 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:**  
**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

**Lecturer,** Social Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities. Closing date: 03 October 2011

**Lecturer,** Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities. Closing date: 03 October 2011

**Senior Lecturer,** Urban Environmental Sustainability, Faculty of Science. Closing date: 03 October 2011

**Academic Development Lecturer/Senior Lecturer,** Education Development Unit, Centre for Higher Education Development. Closing date: 07 October 2011

**Lecturer/Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor/Professor,** Political Studies, Faculty of Humanities. Closing date: 14 October 2011

**Lecturer/Senior Lecturer,** Archaeology, Faculty of Science. Closing date: 14 October 2011

**Lecturers/Senior Lecturers,** Historical Studies, Faculty of Humanities. Closing date: 14 October 2011

**Lecturer/Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor/Professor,** Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment. Closing date: 14 October 2011

**Lecturer, Numeracy Centre,** Centre for Higher Education Development. Closing date: 17 October 2011

**Lecturer/Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor,** School of Education, Faculty of Humanities. Closing date: 28 October 2011

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

**Senior Library Assistant:** Bibliographic Access Services, UCT Libraries. Closing date: 03 October 2011

**Senior Helpdesk Consultant,** Information & Communication Technology Services. Closing date: 03 October 2011

**Systems Engineers:** Application Support, Information & Communication Technology Services. Closing date: 06 October 2011

**Key Technology Specialist:** Fuel Cell Stack, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment, Closing date: 07 October 2011

**Key Technology Specialist:** Fuel Processor, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment, Closing date: 07 October 2011

**Clinical or Counselling Psychologists,** Department of Student Affairs, Closing date: 07 October 2011

**Medical Officer (part-time),** Department of Student Affairs, Closing date: 07 October 2011

**Research Officer/Senior Research Officer,** Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment, Closing date: 10 October 2011

**Senior Library Assistant:** Information Services, UCT Libraries, Closing date: 10 October 2011

**Senior Secretary,** UCT Libraries, Closing date: 10 October 2011

**Senior Scientific Officer,** Department of Oceanography, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 10 October 2011

**Librarian:** Information Services, UCT Libraries, Closing date: 10 October 2011

**Principal Research Officer,** Drug Discovery & Development Centre, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 14 October 2011

**Senior/Chief Research Officer,** Drug Discovery & Development Centre, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 14 October 2011

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**London:** Flat swap Lovely 1 bedroom flat available in West Hampstead for the month of December, in exchange for flat/home in Cape Town, preferably Southern Suburbs. I'm a South African healthcare professional living in London but returning for a holiday and wanting to do an exchange. Please email westhampstead-flat@mail.com or SMS me on +44 7981517702 and I'll email you some photos. References needed.

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**Rondebosch:** Fully furnished room in 3-bedroom flat available 1 October or later. Quiet place. Walking distance to UCT. Close to stores, restaurants and transport [taxis, bus, train]. R 1900/month; deposit required. 0822007793

**Holiday accommodation:** 4 days holiday at the Formosa Bay Villas a gold coast resort on Garden route -self catering - dates are in school holidays (except for 10th) 7, 8, 9, 10 October; for 4 people and cost is R3000.00 please email Salma.lsmail@uct.ac.za

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GENERAL

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# SASCO wins SRC elections

The South African Students Congress (SASCO) has defeated archrivals the Democratic Alliance Student Organisation (DASO) to win the most seats in UCT's 2011/2012 Students' Representative Council (SRC) elections.

According to the provisional results released on 26 September, SASCO has won seven seats to DASO's three of the 17 available. (Last year, DASO won six to SASCO's five seats.) Independent candidates secured three seats, and the Learn Build Grow (LBG) and Communication Integration Action (CIA) groups claimed two each.

Three members of the current SRC structure – Insaaf Isaacs, Mike Ramothwala and Alexander Spoor – have been re-elected.

The election poll was 37% this year, slightly lower than last year's 38%, although a record 40 candidates took part.

The winners, in order of the number of votes received, are: Siya Songca (independent), Insaaf Isaacs (SASCO), Mike Ramothwala (SASCO), Kabelo Pule (SASCO), Nkateko Mnisi (LBG), Jeremy Rose (independent), Fadzai Chitiyo (SASCO), Samantha Ncube (DASO), Ali Kiyaei (SASCO), James Olivier (DASO), Alexander Spoor (independent), Lorne Hallendorff (CIA), James Laird-Smith (DASO), Kwadwo Owusu (CIA), Muhammad Motala (SASCO), Michael Moss (LBG) and Basani Mkhize (SASCO). ■



## League win caps landmark season for UCT rugby



Title times two: Dr Max Price (front) joins the Ikey Tigers to celebrate the team's first WP Super League title win in 37 years. (Picture by Peter van As.)

There can be few better illustrations of the expression 'rubbing salt into the wounds' than the Ikey Tigers' historic Western Province Super League win on 24 September, the club's first championship title since 1974.

Firstly, it pipped the mighty Stellenbosch University Maties – all but supreme rulers of the Super League these past years – by just one league point to clinch the title, finishing on 70 points to Maties' 69. The same Maties (secondly) from which UCT snatched the Varsity Cup title this year.

And then, thirdly, the UCT team won the title by beating the Stellenbosch 'second team', Victo-

rians, by 35-29 in their final match of the season. But boy, did they have all the Ikeys fans on the edge of their seats.

The Ikeys needed a full house of points going into the home match – a win plus a bonus point. (A victory alone wouldn't have been good enough, as Maties had outscored UCT by some margin over the season.) And down 5-22 after 30 minutes and 12-22 at half time, the title seemed to be slipping away.

But two tries by wing Mark Winter early in the second half put UCT in the lead (26-22), and three penalties by Nick Holton took them further ahead. A late Victorians

try cranked up the tension, but the hosts held out for a famous title win.

"My boys are all heroes," captain for the day, Don Armand, told the *Cape Argus*.

As at the Varsity Cup final, vice-chancellor Dr Max Price was in the stands to provide moral support.

"It was a thrilling game, a brilliant climax to the year," he said after the match.

Also there to share the moment with the team were Butch Deuchar and Andy Donovan, two alumni from the team that lifted the 1974 Grand Challenge, as the championship was known then. ■



## Humanities' best and brightest

The best and brightest among the final-year students in UCT's Faculty of Humanities were celebrated at the Dean's Merit List function in August. This annual event showcases the faculty's most consistently outstanding students, and also serves to promote postgraduate studies among what amounts to a particularly talented pool of students. Among those hailed by the dean, Prof Paula Ensor (third from left), at the event were (from left) Ziyanda Ndzendze, Douglas Coltart, Tom Harris, Sharna Rheinicke and Seopedi Baitsile. ■

## Community ophthalmic intervention has eye on the future

Postgraduate ophthalmic nursing students joined forces with SHAWCO (UCT's Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation) in September to conduct eye-screening tests on infants and children in the Imizamo Yethu township near Hout Bay. Some 21 infants and children were tested, two of whom were referred for further management. Research shows that while the number of children who are blind has declined globally by 10% over the past 10 years, the numbers have increased by 31% in sub-Saharan Africa, due to population growth, the region's disease burden, and poverty. Una Kyriacos, senior lecturer in the Division of Nursing & Midwifery, said that if visual problems are not detected early in life, children will struggle at school. ■

