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Monday Paper

17 – 30 October 2011

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Newspaper of the University of Cape Town



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UCT climbs world rankings

UCT has climbed four spots, from 107 in 2010 to 103 this year, on the *Times Higher Education (THE)* World University Rankings (<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings/2011-2012/top-400.html>), released on 6 October.

The university's strong performance, said vice-chancellor Dr Max Price in a statement, is the direct result of the productivity and impact of UCT's research, the university's ability to attract research grants, the quality of its staffing, the international diversity of its staff and students, and the strong perceptions of the quality of its graduates by the international community.

"These factors are part of UCT's strategic goals, and I want to thank all the members of our research, teaching and support staff, who work so hard to make progress in these areas."

The *THE* methodology relies on 13 indicators within five broad categories: teaching, or the learning environment (worth 30% of the final score); research, in terms of volume, income and reputation (30%); citations, which indicate research influence (32.5%); industry income (2.5%); and international mix of staff and students (5%).

UCT also performed well in two other global university ranking systems this year. The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings for 2011/12 (<http://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings>), released in September, placed UCT at number 156, up from 161st place last year. The QS system continues to rank UCT as the only university in Africa in the top 200.

And UCT remained in the top 300 range of the Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) (<http://www.arwu.org>), announced in August.

Prospective students and staff around the world use these rankings to decide where to study and work, said Price. A good showing on these systems helps to raise confidence – not only in the specific university, but also in the quality of higher education



Pink activism: Student Anele Nxumalo, Eugene 'Huge' Brockman (designer of the Gay Flag of South Africa), his partner Henry Bantjies, and student Nokuthula Mpanza celebrate the launch of UCT's Pink Week.

Big up for Pink Week

The overwhelming support of Pink Week, from 10 to 14 October, promoting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) rights, is testimony that UCT students are opposed to the stigmatisation of the LGBTIQ community that still exists throughout South Africa, says Students' Representative Council's Kathleen Taylor.

Taylor was speaking after the launch of the annual Pink Week. After the unveiling of the 'Closet', a symbolic closet placed on Jameson

Plaza to highlight human rights violations such as prejudice and discrimination against the gay community, messages immediately scribbled on it were supportive.

But not everyone is singing the same tune. Most will remember that in 2010 the Closet was set alight.

Lindelwa Khowane, chairperson of RainbowUCT, Pink Week organisers, said such abuses are perpetuated by beliefs that LGBTIQ rights conflict with certain cultural and religious traditions. Neverthe-

less, most people are supportive of RainbowUCT's cause, and the organisation has grown in numbers, he said.

Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price noted that the Pink Week campaign is about recognising that, although South Africa has a Constitution that protects sexual orientation, society still stigmatises homosexuality. He called on students to endorse, support and celebrate Pink Week, and support those who are fighting stigma. ■

ards, said Price. These challenges are not reflected in the major university ranking systems, yet they are faced by every university in this country.

"So when a South African university is able to make progress in meeting local requirements while achieving recognition from its international peers, the reward is that much greater." ■

What Facebook reveals

Students and UCT 'friends' on Facebook were certainly pleased with news of UCT's upward mobility on the *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings. "wow give it up to uct," said one. "that's wsup!," noted another. (We thought we'd stick to Facebook's typically laissez-faire house style.) The university even earned a few words of praise from the writer of *Business Day's* Third Umpire column, who keeps track of what's 'in' (good) and 'out' (not so good). 'In' on 7 October was vice-chancellor Dr Max Price: "While even UCT takes its top place in the *Times Higher Education* magazine's World University Rankings 'with a pinch of salt'," noted the columnist, "at least it bothered to fill out the paperwork." (That, in part, was a gibe at Rhodes University, which had not applied for a ranking and whose vice-chancellor had, in another *Business Day* article, slammed rankings for their "dubious science".)

(UCT gets a brief mention in the *THE* video on the rankings. To view it, please go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyuSVEnRMkM>) ■

that is on offer in South Africa.

"Our reputation also facilitates our many research partnerships with other universities in the country, in other parts of Africa, and in the rest of the world. These partnerships undoubtedly contribute further to our research effort and reputation."

That said, the university recognises that every ranking system has its shortcomings, especially when it attempts to compare institutions across such a wide range of communities, added Price. So, for example, universities in developing countries face challenges that are different

to those of their counterparts in wealthier countries.

In South Africa, one of the primary challenges is to improve access to higher education for potential students from poorer communities, and to bridge the gap between inadequate schooling and high university stand-

Zille woos future business strategists

YUSUF OMAR

“I’ve never seen Bus Strat this full,” texted a fourth-year business strategy student on her BlackBerry during an address by Western Cape Premier Helen Zille at UCT last week.

Invited to share her insights on strategic thinking in government, the leader of the country’s official opposition filled the New Science Lecture Theatre (NSLT) on the morning of Friday 7 October. Zille, quoting famous Canadian ice-hockey player Wayne Gretzky, urged students to “move to where the puck *will be*”, as opposed to where it currently is.

Remembering late entrepreneur

Steve Jobs as a visionary and an inspiration for her own political career, Zille related the (present-day) Democratic Alliance’s journey from being a party that won a mere 1.7% in the 1994 general elections, to one that can now garner at least 20% of votes cast.

Some students would perhaps have picked up that Zille was walking her talk – “creating a space to own”. In between outlining her party’s strategy to win the majority in the National Assembly eventually, a healthy serving of political rhetoric ensured that a good number of the next generation would certainly give more thought to donning blue at the next polls. ■



Embracing the future: Premier Helen Zille spoke of the DA’s strategic plans to win over the country.



Scholarships for musical two

Maudé Montierre and Vuyo Sotashe, both students at UCT’s South African College of Music, were named as the winners of the 2011 Southern African Music Rights Organisation (SAMRO) Overseas Scholarships Competition. Montierre won the scholarship in the western art music category, while Sotashe was awarded top honours in the jazz/popular music category. Each winner receives a coveted R160 000 scholarship, plus a R10 000 travel allowance, from SAMRO’s Endowment for the National Arts, to study music at a recognised international institution. In picture, Sotashe (far left) and Montierre (far right) at the awards presentation with Annette Emdon, chairperson of the SAMRO board, and former president Thabo Mbeki, who presented the students with their prizes. ■



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Contain the risks in peer-to-peer file-sharing

ICTS has prepared this article to highlight Cyber Security Awareness month in October. It will tell you how to stay safe if you choose to use any file-sharing options.

Many South African homes are protected by high walls, security doors, burglar bars and alarms. You could say that, as a nation, we’re very aware of security-related issues. Yet how many of us apply that same level of security awareness to our PCs and to the information that we store there?

File-sharing software, protocols such as Direct Connect (DC++), and peer-to-peer (P2P) sites or networks are fertile breeding grounds for malicious software (malware), spyware and adware. In addition, few users of this kind of file-sharing software know how to secure their PCs against attack, or are simply unaware of the dangers inherent in its use. If you don’t watch out, you could find that confidential work files are accidentally ‘leaked’, or that your personal information is now in the hands of cyber-criminals.

It is risky to use P2P software, but if you are going to use it, at least be aware of its perils and pitfalls and learn how to mitigate the risks.

Some peer-to-peer websites are used by criminals to distribute files or viruses that are designed to look exactly like downloads of songs or movies. Apart from the fact that it is illegal to download copyright-protected material, you are risking your security. Ensure that you install McAfee anti-virus and anti-spyware software – on your work and home machines. And keep it up to date!

Don’t accept a P2P program’s default installation settings. This is like opening a door to criminals, allowing them access to your personal information, files in your folders, and so on. Always manually choose which folders and subfolders will be shared.

The ‘browse host’ feature in

many P2P programmes allows other people to connect directly to your computer and look through file shares.

Take extra care when saving private or important files, so that you don’t accidentally save them to a shared folder. Make sure that you password-protect any confidential files.

In many instances, closing the P2P program (by clicking on the X) doesn’t actually close your connection to that network, and strangers still have access to your shared folders. When you’ve finished using the P2P program, use the program’s Exit function to ensure that you have terminated it correctly.

If your kids (or anyone else) share your computer, make sure that they have their own user accounts. This will limit any damage to your files and information if they are careless with file-sharing. ■

Soccer and gender – worlds apart



The 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa was great. And it wasn’t. In the latest edition of the journal *Agenda*, its launch hosted by UCT’s African Gender Institute and Dr Tanja Bosch of the Centre for Film & Media Studies, scholars and activists from around the country looked at the gender concerns that, while overlooked at the time, went hand in hand with the event. Contributors to the edition, themed *2010 FIFA World Cup: Genders, politics and sport*, covered everything from the country’s sidelined footballing women and how the event deepened poverty among the poor, to the underwhelming education initiatives for sex workers during the soccer spectacle. “The edition explored the World Cup as a masculine event, and questioned whether the mega-event made a difference in the lives of marginalised sectors of South African society,” commented Bosch. ■

Eyewitnesses accounts – perils and pragmatics

It was the advent of DNA profiling in the 1980s that confirmed the scale of a problem that many law courts around the world had long recognised but underestimated – that eyewitness identification frequently leads to miscarriages of justice. This was the message of UCT's Professor Colin Tredoux in his inaugural lecture, *Pragmatic psychology and the perils of eyewitness identification*, in September.

Since 1990, Tredoux explained, 273 prisoners in the US – each having spent an average of 13 years in prison – have been exonerated by DNA typing of biological evidence. Seventeen were on death row. In 75% of these cases, the accused had been found guilty, in large part, on the word of eyewitnesses.

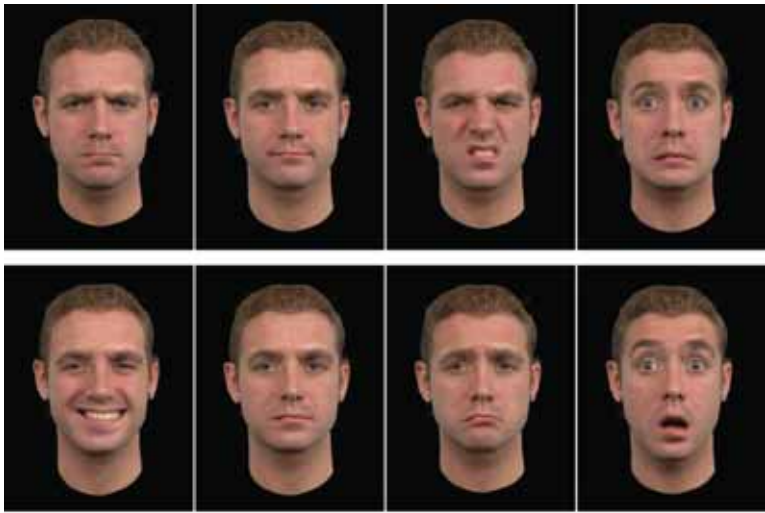
"The testimony of eyewitnesses has long been of considerable importance in criminal cases," said Tredoux early in the lecture, "and it has also

long been clear that mistaken eyewitness identifications can lead to terrible travesties of justice."

Tredoux, of UCT's Department of Psychology, had many examples to cite, including that of Norwegian émigré Adolf Beck, who, in 19th century London, was mistakenly identified as a conman and spent years in prison as a result. Then there's the case of the so-called Eikenhof Three in South Africa, imprisoned for the murder of three people in 1993 but released in 1999.

Psychologists have naturally been intrigued by this phenomenon, what with its questions of memory, perception, and even suggestibility. As a discipline, over the years, psychology has adopted a hands-on approach to the problem, explained Tredoux.

"The approach has been thoroughly pragmatic," he said, "and I can summarise it for you very simply as 'study something you can do something about'."



Face lift: Synthetic faces exhibiting various emotional facial expressions, created with eigenface software developed at UCT under the leadership of Prof Colin Tredoux. (Listen to a pod cast at <http://www.uct.ac.za/news/lectures/inaugural/2011/>)



(From left) Prof Don Foster, Head of the Department of Psychology, Prof Colin Tredoux, and Dean of Humanities, Prof Paula Ensor.

Psychologists have researched and written about many aspects of eyewitness identification, including how eyewitnesses are interviewed by police and how line-ups – mythologised by Hollywood – are put together.

Tredoux has been particularly interested in line-ups, and how fair they are; or, at least, how fair they are meant to be. To be fair, he explained, suspects and 'foils' – the other people in the line-up – have to bear some resemblance to each other.

For his own studies, and inspired by work done in similar fields elsewhere in the world, he has called upon his training and experience in psychology, statistics and computer science.

When using pictures – rather than 'live' people – Tredoux and others have explored the use of computer-generated 'eigenfaces' to create "artificial or synthetic foils". Eigenfaces are constructed by analysing sets of

face images with statistical techniques. New faces can be created by combining the eigenfaces using what's known as a weighted sums approach, where different eigenfaces are given different 'weights' or values, and then added together.

Not only could Tredoux use eigenfaces to measure the fairness of police line-ups, but also to construct better quality, fairer line-ups.

(Along the way, Tredoux and some collaborators won a science photography prize for their eigenfaces – in work not related to eyewitness identification – after creating a set of images of average Irish faces.)

But "pragmatic psychology" has had only "moderate" success in combating the errors of eyewitness identification, according to Tredoux.

He presented, in closing, some controversial considerations about the case of the 'Station Strangler',

thought to be responsible for at least 22 murders in the Western Cape between 1986 and 1994. The identification of the person convicted for one of these murders, Avzal Simons, was itself suspect – the trial judge took a "superficial resemblance to a face composite" into account, the line-up contained members who were not similarly dressed, and only the suspect had a distinctive facial scar. The validity of Simons' confession is also disputed, and biological evidence at two of the murder sites did not match Simons, but did match each other, said Tredoux.

Some theory is needed to balance out the 'gumboots and all' approach of psychology, he proposed. And that theory should go further than offering a 'black box' explanation, telling us why changes in procedures used to elicit identifications should yield more accurate results. ■

UCT joins global support project

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu has joined UCT students and staff, local civil organisations and high-profile individuals to create *It Gets Better – Cape Town* and voice their support for sexual minorities.

This collection of 18 videos makes up the first South African contribution to a global video campaign targeting sexual minorities who experience discrimination in secondary schools and beyond. Contributors include the captain of the UCT rugby team, the deputy editor of the *Varsity* student newspaper, members of the UCT Students' Representative Council, and university staff members and students.

It Gets Better – Cape Town was launched for free viewing on YouTube on October 11. Later this month, part of the collection will be screened at the *Out in Africa: South African Gay and Lesbian Film Festival*. (Visit youtube.com and search for 'it gets better – Cape Town').

The director and producer of the series is Andrew Barry, a master's in education student at UCT. "I want sexual minorities in Cape Town to know that there are individuals and organisations who will support them," says Barry.

It Gets Better was launched in the US in 2010 by American syndi-



Master's student Andrew Barry.

cated columnist and author Dan Savage, with his partner Terry Miller. They were responding to the suicide of a number of students who were being bullied in school. The videos, targeted especially at young people who are considering suicides, explain that their lives will "get better".

Since the first video, the *It Gets Better* project has become a worldwide movement, inspiring more than 25 000 user-created videos that have been viewed more than 40 million times.

Creators of *It Gets Better* videos include US President Barack Obama, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, UK Prime Minister David

Cameron, actress Anne Hathaway, entertainers Adam Lambert and Ke\$ha, Facebook, Google, and staff at Apple Computer.

The *It Gets Better – Cape Town* team shares unique messages of hope and solidarity for sexual minorities.

Tutu states: "If you experience discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, I want you to know that *It Gets Better*. There are people and organisations throughout this wonderful land that will support you. We should support one another as an act of true ubuntu."

Each video is unique in that each speaker gives a different message along the lines of the central theme. ■

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

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Professor Chris Saunders

Research Associate, Centre for Conflict Resolution, Cape Town

SPEAKER

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History Department, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban

DISCUSSANT

Emeritus Professor Raymond Suttner

University of South Africa, Tshwane

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UCT hails loyal long-service staffers

On 6 October, the vice-chancellor, Dr Max Price, presented the annual Long-Service Awards at a dinner, an occasion on which the university can fête all those UCT staffers who have served the university for 15, 25 and 35 years. In the spotlight below are the four long servers with 35 years' service, Trevor Adams (Animal Unit), Peter Jaftha (Animal Unit), Rhoda Joseph (Upper Campus Postal Services) and Donald Solomons (Department of Molecular and Cell Biology). We also feature pictures (right) of those who've notched up a quarter of a century in UCT's employ and attended the dinner. Congratulations to all! (To view all the photos, please go to http://www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia/photo_albums/local/)



Rhoda Joseph, Upper Campus Postal Services.



Donald Solomons, Department of Molecular & Cell Biology.



Trevor Adams, Animal Unit.



Peter Jaftha, Animal Unit.

Rhoda Joseph

A member of our busy postal services team, Rhoda Joseph knows more than her fair share of shortcuts around our campus.

Joseph started her working life in the old Student Union cafeteria, where the Molly Blackburn Hall is today.

Students of that era remember the doughnut machine Joseph manned. She also worked in the cafeterias on other parts of campus: at Hiddingh Hall in town, in the old School of Education building where Kramer Law Building stands today, and even in the old Bat and Cat in the Sports Centre when it first opened.

"I met many students," Joseph says. "I even remember the Registrar, Hugh Amooore, riding his bike to campus."

When the catering services were outsourced, Joseph joined Properties and Services and was deployed in the PD Hahn Building as a cleaner. And when the cleaning services were outsourced she moved to the mailroom as a postal messenger on upper campus.

Sun, wind or rain, sometimes dressed in weatherproof clothing, she knows all the nooks and crannies of the campus and is still learning new shortcuts to ensure the mail is delivered quickly.

Donald Solomons

Fresh out of school in Oudtshoorn, Solomons came to UCT to begin work as a cleaner in the former Microbiology Department.

By 1988, two promotions and several merit awards later, he undertook full responsibility for all activities in the Plant Growth Rooms, five such facilities in the department where plants are propagated for research.

Solomons takes care of all the planting for the students and for the migration of plant viruses studied in the laboratories. These are diseases such as tobacco and maize streak virus. Research on plant viruses has been conducted by UCT for many years, dating back to Professor Barbara von Wechmar's work in the mid-1980s for the Maize and Wheat Boards.

These days, although Solomons continues to man the Plant Growth Rooms, he has acquired a different set of skills to provide invaluable support in the Undergraduate Teaching Laboratories in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, as it is now named.

He's seen plenty of change at UCT in 35 years, made friends in many departments and worked under numerous heads of department.

A creative and enterprising individual, Solomons' hobby is sign-writing, which he

plans to turn into a post-retirement career.

He's also a keen rugby supporter and played wing in his early days.

"All of us from Oudtshoorn are fast – we can run like ostriches!" he quips.

Trevor Adams

Adams joined the UCT Animal Unit 35 years ago, on 16 June, as it turns out.

It was his love of animals that brought him to the unit, his first job out of school. It was a good match. While growing up in Observatory and then Heideveld, Adams kept pigeons, rabbits and chickens.

The unit cares for and breeds animals for research purposes. Adams prides himself on ensuring that the animals in his care are healthy and well tended. His vast experience and responsible nature are invaluable for overseeing and training new animal caretakers – there are four in training at the moment – and for solving operational challenges in the unit.

When he began his career, Adams worked with larger mammals such as dogs, baboons and pigs. Fifteen years later he began tending the rats and mice, and now breeds and cares for hundreds of different varieties of mice, providing the sterile and clean environments they need to thrive.

"After the larger animals, mice were small and dainty, and I enjoy working with them."

Peter Jaftha

Jaftha started his career at UCT at just 16, also starting out in the UCT Animal Unit. Over the years he's cared for a variety of animals, building a broad range of skills. His meticulous, trustworthy and responsible nature has made him a pillar of the high-quality animal care in the unit.

During the course of his work, Jaftha has met and worked with many people, young and old. Some would go on to illustrious careers as clinicians and researchers. The late Professor Chris Barnard is a case in point.

"He was very straightforward. 'Do your job properly and don't mishandle the animals' was what he once said," Jaftha recalls.

He never envisaged he would be at UCT this long, and looks forward to a few more years working here until he retires. Any words of wisdom to youngsters starting out in the work environment? Patience and hard work, he advises. "Don't make the mistake of hopping from one job to the next."

An active soccer player in his heyday, Jaftha now supports his favourite teams, Ajax Cape Town and Liverpool. ■

Long-service awards, 25 years



Amiena Adams, MRC/UCT Liver Centre.



Jenny Boyes, Vice-Chancellor's Office.



Dilshaad Brey, Libraries: Law.



Marlene Hyland, EBE: Finance.



Brenda Kamies, Upper Campus Postal Services.



Junaid Lucas, UCT Libraries: Health Sciences.



Goodman Mlungu, Department of Chemistry.



Yasmin Mohamed, UCT Libraries: Government Publications.



Arddy Mossop, HR Support: Faculties.



Glen Newins, Department of Mechanical Engineering.



Amanda Noble, UCT Libraries: Bibliographic Access.



Patricia Norris, Law Clinic.



Graham Rothquel, Leo Marquard Hall.



Miranda Waldron, Electron Microscope Unit.



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REPORTING FROM AFRICAN WAR ZONES: TALES FROM THE IVORY COAST AND LIBYA


CHAIR
Nkpile Mabuse
Correspondent, Cable News Network (CNN), Johannesburg

SPEAKER
David Smith
Africa Correspondent, *The Guardian*, Johannesburg

SPEAKER
Andrew Harding
Africa Correspondent, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Johannesburg

Date: Tuesday, 25 October 2011 • Time: 17h30 – 19h00
Venue: Centre for the Book • 62 Queen Victoria Street • Gardens • Cape Town
RSVP: Lavenia Benjamin • Email: lavenia@ccr.uct.ac.za
Tel: (021) 689-1005 • Fax: (021) 689-1003 • Website: www.ccr.org.za

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



CENTRE FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION
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Shirley Whitmore, Department of Geological Sciences.



Anthony Wozniak, Department of Electrical Engineering.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF the Maintenance Unit, the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Hiddingh and lower campuses

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

Staffed by electrician Anton Johnson, plumber Ferdi Andreucci, and handymen Casper de Wet and Patrick Witbooi, it is fitting to conclude that the team is an anchor for the faculties they work in. Their task is simple: ensure that UCT has a supply of electricity 24 hours a day, and that everybody is working in a safe and secure environment. They are responsible for maintaining all 'plants', and conducting preventive and general maintenance functions in air-conditioning plants, electrical substations, switch rooms, boiler rooms and generators. To do that, some members have to be on standby after hours and over weekends.

What challenges do they face?

To keep all the areas going is not child's play, and it sometimes gives the staff grey hairs, as Andreucci puts it. They need to prioritise, and at times have to call in contractors. Sometimes contractors don't have all the necessary materials, and that delays the work. Working with elec-

tricity and gas can also pose a danger to team members. But professionalism and support from the university management makes the job easy and enjoyable, says Johnson.

What are the highs and the lows of the job?

Knowing that their job is a pillar of a world-class institution like UCT makes the team proud to come to work everyday, says Andreucci. This is aided by the good environment and the supportive structures they have to carry out their duties. The lows are when the odd client complains. But the team never allows that to get them down for too long.

What is the weirdest thing they have encountered on the job?

The job has its funny moments. Like the time when, try as they might, they couldn't switch on the power at a new installation. A quick investigation showed that the contractor had installed the circuit breakers on a distribution board upside down – so what everybody thought was 'on' was actually 'off'. ■



A Team: (From left) Casper de Wet, Anton Johnson, Ferdi Andreucci and Patrik Witbooi (front).



Ndebele poem inspires postgrads

Be Gentle is a short poem, just 16 lines. But students weighed down by the demands of academia can find plenty of inspiration from it when they visit UCT's Postgraduate Centre and Funding Office. The poem by former vice-chancellor Professor Njabulo S Ndebele, first published 40 years back in 1971, has been transcribed, framed and mounted in the centre. It's an unusual choice, but, presented with money to purchase a piece of art for the centre, Ndebele's verse seemed ideal. "We wanted something relevant to both South Africa and UCT," explains Linda Vranas, the centre's director. Ndebele (second from left) was on hand when the work was unveiled, as were (from left) Vranas and deputy vice-chancellors Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo and Prof Danie Visser. ■

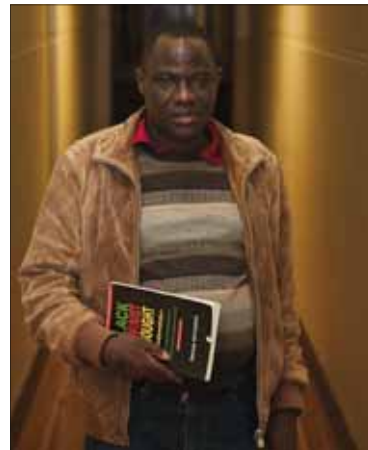
UCT hosts applications olympiad

Western Cape learners dominated the 2nd Computer Applications Olympiad finals, held at UCT from 4 to 6 October, by scooping most of the top accolades on offer. Helen Denny from La Rochelle Girls High in Paarl took the gold medal and the co.za Cares Trophy; silver medals went to Jaco Nortier of Paarl Gymnasium and Sean Wentzel of Westerford High School; and bronze medals were awarded to Erns Labuschagné and Richard Saunders, both of Paarl Gymnasium, and René Engelbrecht from the Hoër Volkskool in Potchefstroom. Thirteen learners from six provinces took part in the finals, which attracted close to 13 000 learners from about 400 schools countrywide in its opening rounds. It is aimed at high school learners (although primary school learners are also welcome) doing Computer Applications Technology at school, and tests learners' proficiency in applications such as document editors, spreadsheets, databases and presentation software. ■



We remember: Dr Reuben Chirambo

Dr Reuben Chirambo, who served as a senior lecturer in the Department of English Language & Literature, died on 6 October at the age of 48, from cancer. Chirambo came to UCT as a lecturer in 2007. He was promoted to the position of senior lecturer in January this year. Colleagues and former students described him as a patient, selfless, devoted and soft-spoken teacher who gave generously of his time, whether he was supervising the work of postgraduates or mentoring undergraduates. Chirambo inspired



a passion for African literature among his students. He was a gifted scholar, specialising in Malawian poetry in particular, but his interests also included postcolonial literature and theory, cultural and literary theory, popular music and society, oral literature, and gender in African literature and popular culture. He is remembered not only for his academic zeal but also for his enormous integrity, his keen sense of humour and his unfailing kindness and respect in his dealings with colleagues and students. ■

RETIREEES' DINNER

The Chair of Council, The Most Reverend Njongonkulu Ndungane, will host a Dinner for Retiring Staff on **Tuesday, 15 November 2011** in the Smuts Dining Hall at 19:00 for 19:30.

Colleagues are all invited to attend the dinner to support the retirees on this very special evening.

The cost of the three-course dinner, which includes a welcome cocktail, red/white wine, will be **R160.00** per person.

To obtain tickets for this prestigious event, please contact Edwina Kannemeyer at **021 650 5671**, or email: Edwina.Kannemeyer@uct.ac.za

Tickets will be available from the **19th October 2011**.

Thank you.

Art and environment

COP17, aka the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, scheduled for Durban in November and December, is occupying the thoughts of many South Africans – including our artists and curators, judging by two exhibitions hosted by the Michaelis Galleries and Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts (GIPCA) at the Michaelis Galleries from 24 September to 19 October (www.michaelis.uct.ac.za/newsevents/exhibitions/?viewExhibition=167). Michaelis senior lecturer Virginia MacKenny curates *Threshold*, an exhibition of "environmentally conscious art" showing in the Michaelis Main Gallery, with climate change very much in mind. Running at the same time is *A Conversation with Bolus: Science, sensibility, sensuality*, exhibited in the Michaelis Upper Gallery and curated by Nadja Daehnke. This exhibition not only celebrates the works of amateur botanist Harry Bolus, but also incorporates a selection of contemporary artworks to play off manuscripts, art and objects from the Bolus collections. Artists contributing to the exhibitions include Thomas Mulcaire, Jeremy Wafer, Lucas Thobejane and Lien Botha, whose photograph, *Sociable Weaver's Nest* appears in picture. ■



EVENTS

UCT INAUGURAL LECTURES

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

Date: 26 October 2011. **Speaker:** **Professor Lorna Martin**, Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences. **Title:** "No woman No cry" – a journey into forensic pathology services and violence against women in South Africa. **Venue:** Student Learning Centre Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town. **Time:** Guest to be seated by 17h15 for 17h30

Treasure the Karoo Action Group

Treasure the Karoo Action Group chairman Jonathan Deal speaks about the proposed FRACKING in the KAROO. **Date:** Thurs 20 October. **Time:** 18h30. **Venue:** UCT Kramer 1. All welcome. **RSVP:** admin02@treasurethekaroo.co.za

COURSES:

Certificate courses offered by CPD programme in EBE Faculty:

- 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, 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

Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor, Department of Statistical Sciences, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 02 November 2011

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

Study Nurse, School of Child & Adolescent Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 17 October 2011

Cataloguing & Metadata Librarian, UCT Libraries, Closing date: 24 October 2011

Bequest Officer, Development & Alumni Department, Closing date: 28 October 2011

Communications Officer, Development & Alumni Department, Closing date: 28 October 2011

Senior Research Officer (Renewable Energy), Energy Research Centre, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment Closing date: 28 October 2011

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

Systems Support Administrator, Procurement & Payment Services, Closing date: 21 October 2011

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Strand: Beachfront flat to let. Stunning views. Fully equipped plus linen. 1 bedroom plus sleeper couch. Garage. R450/night for 2. Also monthly. Brenda 0828220607

Claremont: Upper Claremont short term accommodation available immediately secure private suites self catering or B&B see website www.avetorquay.co.za

Lakeside: Quiet location near cul-de-sac, vlei and station (about 1km from Muizenberg); self-contained separate entrance; furnished; secure; internet; bedroom has sliding door to pool and garden area; off-street parking; R3500 pm incl. Will suit postgrad student or staff. Contact larry@webafrica.org.za or 0217887643

Rondebosch: Large one bedroom flat near Rondebosch Common, unfurnished. Walk 5 mins to Jammie Shuttle. Avail from 1 Oct/Nov 2011. R4200 p/m. Call 0834194235.

Kenilworth Park: 3 Bedroom Flat for Sale in Kenilworth Park in secure complex. Ideal for student accommodation. Incl. garage & parking bay. Pool, laundry in complex. Close to shops and public transport. Asking price R700,000.00. Contact: Nicky nixwest@gmail.com / 0845650282

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Bloubergstrand: Stunning upmarket flat to rent in Bloubergstrand. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathroom and 1.5 garage, stunning views. Immediately available 0763120264

Rondebosch-Rosebank: 2-bed room flat, one secure parking, Rondebosch-Rosebank area, walking distance to Lower Campus Shelter Station, DSTV point available, half-furnished, R4800 pm excluding electricity, starting 1st December, contact x2570 or 0829673298

Claremont. House for 6, Huge kitchen, Large lounge. 6 bedrooms. Secure Parking 6 cars. Good security. Pool. Part furnished. Need beds, crocks, pots. R 2900 pppm. 0826625561 or 0216892455 / jmcshelley@gmail.com

Rondebosch: Room in 3-bedroom flat available 1 October or later; furnished if desired. Quiet place. Walking distance to UCT. Close to stores, restaurants and transport [taxi, bus, train]. R1900/month; deposit required. 0822007793

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CD: Artist: Whitesnake title: Forevermore (latest album) price: R130 tel: ext: 4739 Or 0727802784

Book: Title: Land-Marked (Land Claims & Land Restitution in South Africa Author: Cherryl Walker Price: R180 (new) still wrapped tel: ext: 4739 or 0727802784

GENERAL

Brain imaging Study on Social Anxiety: If you experience a great deal of anxiety in social situations (like speaking in public) Please contact: coenie.hattingh@uct.ac.za

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Isaacs for president

A woman will lead the Student's Representative Council (SRC) once again as Insaaf Isaacs of the South African Student Congress (SASCO) takes the reins as president.

Experience and continuity have guided the seat allocations of UCT's 2011/2012 SRC, as re-elected candidates have been named for the group's senior positions. Isaacs, the current chair of academics, has been named as the new president, and her SASCO colleague Mike Ramothwala, the 2010/2011 media and communications officer, has been chosen as the vice-president: external. Also, Independent candidate Alexander Spoor, now responsible for societies, is the new deputy secretary-general. Siya Songca (independent), who received the most votes, is vice-president: internal, and SASCO's Basani Mkhize is the new secretary-general.

This comes in the wake of SASCO's defeat of the Democratic Alliance Student Organisation (DASO) in the October elections, winning seven seats to DASO's three of the 17 available. (Last year, DASO won six to SASCO's five seats). It's a political battle fought on many fronts. SASCO also took the SRC elections from the Pan African Student Movement of Azania at the University



Hot seat: Insaaf Issacs is the new SRC president, the third woman student to hold the position in the past six years.

of the Western Cape, while DASO trumped SASCO at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

At UCT, independent candidates secured three seats, and the Learn Build Grow (LBG) and Communication Integration Action (CIA) groups received two seats each.

With seats in the committee

increased from 15 to 17 this year, a new portfolio, services and labour, given to SASCO's Kabelo Pule, has been created. And the academics portfolio has been split into two – undergraduate and postgraduate – which went to SASCO members Fadza Chitiyo and Ali Kiyaei, respectively. Fundraising duties have been

added to the entertainment portfolio, which has gone to SASCO's Muhammad Motala.

The rest of the committee is made up of Jeremy Rose (independent), treasurer; Kwadwo Owusu (CIA), transformation; James Laird-Smith (DASO), residences; James Olivier (DASO), day students;

Michael Moss (LBG), societies; Lorne Hallendorff (CIA), sport and recreation; Nkateko Mnisi (LBG), media and communication; and Samantha Ncube (DASO), health, safety and security.

The new committee takes office on 1 November. October will serve as handover and induction period. ■

Science students showcase their skills



MEGAN BECKETT

The Science Postgraduate Students Association hosted its fourth annual Science Symposium to stimulate interest among young scientists and spark collaborations and networks, within the faculty and with potential employers. Over a day of oral and poster presentations, the postgrads represented their

work to a mixed audience, including representatives from sponsors Lasec, Inqaba Biotech, Unilever and Advanced Laboratory Solutions. The day ended with a prize-giving ceremony. In the poster presentation category, Simon Broadley from the Electron Microscope Unit walked away with first prize, Sam Jack from the Department of Botany came second, and Deanne de Bude

from the Department of Astronomy was in third place. The oral presentation category was won by Alistair Potts from the Department of Botany, Philip Southey from the Department of Physics was named runner-up, and Marietjie Kotze, also from Botany, came third. In picture are (from left) Lasec representative Terry Wilson, De Bude, Broadley, Jack, Potts, Kotze and Southey. ■

Conference award for safety specialist

Chao Nkhungulu Mulenga (right in picture), a lecturer in organisational psychology in UCT's School of Management Studies, picked up an award for best paper – and \$250 in prize money – at the 10th International Symposium in Organisational Design and Management. The conference, held at Rhodes University, looked specifically at the human factors in organisational design and management. Mulenga's paper was based on her doctoral research, which investigated the relationship between leadership, work pressure, and health and safety behaviour in the South African construction industry. She found that although top management were key in the development and framing of health and safety policies and procedures, it was the proximal supervisors who really shaped the health and safety behaviour of workers. Mulenga's paper was co-authored with her PhD supervisors, UCT's Prof Jeffrey Bagraim (in picture with Mulenga) and John Smallwood of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. ■



Divers come clean

It's weird what you'll find on a harbour floor. Ask the 40 students who braved the cold waters of Simon's Town on 17 September to clean up the harbour floor of the False Bay Yacht Club. The exercise formed part of the UCT Underwater Club's cleanDIVER 'outreach brand'. Entering the water at first light, the students retrieved over 20 bags of rubbish over the next six hours. Their finds included an entire fire hose, a starter motor, an ID book, several boots, and 21 tyres. The dive was run as part of the International Coastal Cleanup campaign, and partners included SANPARKS and the Plastics SA group, with the club also promoting its principal beneficiary, the Save our Seas Shark Centre in Kalk Bay. ■