

Become a recognised think tank for higher education - Ndungane

There were some new faces and some familiar ones when UCT's new Council, elected and constituted, met for the first time on Saturday 28 July.

In office for the next four years, until 30 June 2016, Council re-elected Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane as its chairperson and Debbie Budlender as its deputy chair. The other members elected to the Council Executive Committee were vice-chancellor Dr Max Price (ex officio), Professor Paula Ensor, Jeremy Gauntlett, Lucille Meyer, Trevor Petersen and the sitting president of the Students' Representative Council.

An interview with the chairperson of the UCT Council, Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane

A week or so ago, at the first meeting of the new UCT Council, Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane agreed to serve a second term as chairperson, following his first term from 2008 to 30 June this year. We spoke to him about what convinced him to commit another five years to the university; the challenges of his first term; and what lies ahead in the second.

Monday Paper: What have been the challenges and joys of your first term as chair of UCT Council?

Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane: The University of Cape Town is a complex entity with many facets to its life, and one of the greatest challenges on my appointment as chair has been gaining an overall understanding of the workings of the university. This has necessitated the reading of a vast amount of documentation which, given busy schedules, has been taxing at times. In this regard, not always receiving meeting documentation in advance of Council meetings has added to the burden. Undoubtedly, one of the highlights of my tenure as chair of Council has been working with so many gifted people, not only those who sit on the Council but also those who act in a support capacity within the university. Having this support base has made my time as chair a great deal easier, and for this I am grateful.

MP: What's made you decide to stay on for another term; what's the appeal?

NN: To be frank, there was some consid-

erable arm-twisting before this decision was taken. I agonised a lot about whether to go on for a second term as there are competing demands on my time, and having served a first term I was more acutely aware how demanding being the Chair of Council is. In the end there were a number of reasons that I accepted the second term. In the first instance, the place that the university found itself at the time required continuity in the position of chair. This, coupled with my passion for education and the commitment of the university to provide future leadership of calibre and integrity, prevailed.

“Undoubtedly, one of the highlights of my tenure as chair of Council has been working with so many gifted people.”

MP: Is this second term one of consolidation or are you starting on fresh new projects?

NN: I suppose that it is a little of both. I believe that we, as a Council, have achieved much in the last four years, and so there is a need to continue to build on those early achievements. We do, however, live in a world of constant change and challenges and we will look to embrace these changes as part of my next term. The university is committed to excellence and this is reflected in our being the only university in Africa that is ranked in the top 200 universities globally. What we would like to see is UCT achieving greater heights in terms of its core business – that is, research, teaching and learning. Our objective is to constantly improve our global ranking, as the long-term benefit for both the university and for South Africa at large will bode well as we look to the next generation of leadership for this nation. Our role as Council is to create the enabling environment that will see the University of Cape Town achieve new heights in academic excellence and governance.

MP: Is there anything on the UCT horizon that you are particularly looking forward to, projects that are going to be worthy or of note?

NN: We do not believe that we as a university have all the answers, and will actively interact with universities from around the globe to tap into best-practice models and enhance the effectiveness of UCT. We are committed to enhancing the reputation of the university as an academic research facility, and believe that we need to be broadly collaborative in order to achieve these goals. In order to achieve these targets we will need investment, both from government and from a broad cross-section of donors, but we believe that building on the excellence of the university will have long-term benefits not only for this country but for academic advancement on a global stage.

MP: What challenges lie ahead for the university?

NN: The question of transformation in South Africa is also a key responsibility at this university. We are a part of Africa and we need to be deliberate in making a contribution in the development of Africa as a whole. Africa's star is rising, and we would want this university to play a leading role in the development of graduates who leave this university and engage as future leaders within this continent.

MP: What are your early thoughts on the make-up of this new Council?

I am impressed by the diversity of experience available on the council and the commitment of the council members to creating an environment within UCT which will allow a flourishing of academic excellence, transparency and good governance. Collectively, we support the vice-chancellor and his academic team in achieving the strategic objectives of the university in terms of excellence in research, teaching and learning. However, our role as Council does go beyond this support role to one of looking for new ways in which the university can make an impact; not only academically, but socially, and by becoming a globally recognised think tank for higher education. ■

The full breakdown of the new Council is available at www.uct.ac.za/about/governance/council/members



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New campus IT shop to open

In August a new IT shop, Bluepeach, will be opening its doors on the Cissie Gool Plaza on upper campus.

Staff and students will be able to buy IT goods and software for their personal use, leveraging the huge buying power of ICTS to offer highly competitive pricing and educational discounts on many items.

It will be run by a vendor who was selected following a tender process led by ICTS and the Finance Department. The vendor currently supplies some of the largest computer retailers in South Africa, and will thus be able to offer students frequent specials, as well as items such as shop-soiled merchandise and shop demo models at near-cost price.

Initially proposed as a means to support the Student Laptop Initiative, the shop will act as an order and pickup point for the initiative, and will have all the models on show for customers to try out before buying.

In addition to sales, the vendor will offer basic installation of any components purchased; and a technical specialist will offer advice and assist in facilitating repairs.

The shop will be open in normal business hours during the week, and will be open during vac periods. Details regarding the launch date and launch specials will be posted on the ICTS website. ■

Crime hurts so justice should heal - Braithwaite

Vice-Chancellor's Open Lectures are meant to benefit the community, and leading criminologist Professor John Braithwaite's contribution on 26 July, *Restorative Justice: Republican vision and justice as a better future*, did just that.

Based on many years of research, his address offered important lessons and ideas on how South Africa could address crime. (UCT has prioritised its contribution to addressing crime by establishing the Safety and Violence Initiative, among other projects).

Braithwaite, of the Australian National University, touted restorative justice as the way to go. It's a concept that dates back thousands of years, but has not been fully exploited in some parts of the world.

Restorative justice focuses on the needs of the victims and of the offenders, as well as on the community affected, instead of satisfying only abstract legal principles or punishing the offender.

For instance, a restorative justice

setting may require offenders to repair the harm they've done – by apologising, returning the stolen goods, or rendering community service – provided they agree to change their behaviour. In so doing, it reduces crime and punishment, and therefore gives people more freedom, Braithwaite noted.

"It is about restoring the victims, the offenders and the communities," observed Braithwaite. "It's a future-oriented concept that invites people to take active responsibility to put things right going forward. As crime hurts, justice should heal."

In fact, Braithwaite believes that 95% of prisoners could have been dealt with in other "productive" ways (such as restorative justice) which empower people, with punitive options.

South Africa's own Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) is a good example of restorative justice. However, while the TRC was effective, it had many imperfections too, Braithwaite noted.



Future-oriented: *Restorative Justice* is about restoring the victims, the offenders and the communities, Prof John Braithwaite said at the Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture. Download the podcast at www.uct.ac.za/news/lectures/vc_lectures

The TRC couldn't deal with the scope of the healing needed by so many victims of apartheid atrocities in just three years, he said.

"That was not a productive way of justice as a better future".

Rather, a permanent TRC was needed to deal with different dimensions of justice, he suggested.

Evidence shows restorative

justice, in some contexts, could help resolve gang conflicts, a problem that continues to plague the Western Cape. Such a system could also be considered in schools, Braithwaite added.

"What I'm hoping for are conversations where people are more cynical about the counter-productive punitive justice system and are open to restorative forms of justice." ■

Palaeobiologists must "excite and invite"



Bone to pick: Prof Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan with Derek Hanekom, deputy minister of science and technology, during the latter's recent visit.

Be proactive in exposing decision-makers like him to their work, Derek Hanekom (deputy minister for science and technology) urged palaeoscientists during his recent visit to the palaeobiology lab at UCT's Department of Zoology.

Hanekom was at UCT to meet with Professor Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan, head of the Department of Zoology; Professor Danie Visser, deputy vice-chancellor responsible for research; and Professor Anton le Roex, Dean of Science. Also at the meeting were Professor Judy Sealy of the Department of Archaeology, archaeologist Associate Professor Becky Ackerman, geologist Dr John Compton and forensic anthropologist Professor Alan Morris, all part of the UCT palaeoscience group.

Hanekom says the South African government recognises South Africa's geographic advantage in the palaeosciences, which is evidenced by Cabinet's approval of the South African Strategy for Palaeosciences this year. The aim of the strategy is to develop the discipline through the building of human capital, resource support, and by engaging the public on all spheres of the field, among other goals.

Hanekom maintained that the onus is on the researchers to "excite and invite" governmental stakeholders and the public about the work they do. He also advised them to engage officials and the broader public on media platforms that they are currently using, such as Twitter and Facebook. ■

Here's looking at you



Portrait of a stalwart: Sir Frank Berman, Chairman of the UCT Trust (left), presented a caricature portrait of former vice-chancellor and UK Trust board member Dr Stuart Saunders at Saunders' home in Cape Town.

As a parting gift, the UK registered charity, the UCT Trust, commissioned a caricature portrait of former board member and former vice-chancellor, Dr Stuart Saunders, set against a backdrop of iconic London landmark Big Ben, a London taxi with the registration plate UCT1, and Table Mountain in the background.

Having celebrated his 80th birthday in 2011, Saunders retired in May 2012 from the Board of the UCT Trust, which he established in the early 1990s while vice-chancellor. Over the past two decades, Saunders has been the trust's linchpin, spreading UCT's name in Great Britain and Europe, forging relationships, and

helping the trust to raise over £20 million for the university from foundations, companies and individuals.

A physician, Saunders was vice-chancellor from 1981 to 1996, during the darkest days of apartheid. He was pivotal in driving the university's policy to provide education of international excellence and to be a leading research university. In 2002 Saunders was awarded The Order of the Baobab, a national honour for South Africans for distinguished service to their country.

At his final trustees' meeting, Saunders said that he was privileged to have been associated with the trust, and proud of the trust's accomplishments and continuing work. ■



Strumming beauty: James Grace strokes the hand-made guitar he acquired recently from a renowned Australian luthier.

Unique guitar "a joy to make music on"

Classical guitars are not only capable of producing breathtakingly beautiful sound; they are also instruments of exquisite elegance. All the more so when the instrument has been handcrafted by a master luthier who produces only four to six instruments per year.

This is the kind of masterpiece James Grace (head of classical guitar studies at UCT's South African College of Music) acquired recently. His handmade six-string classical guitar was produced by Jeff Kemp in a remote town near Armidale, halfway between Sydney and Brisbane, Australia.

Grace says Kemp played his CDs in the workshop

while he was making the guitar so that "he (Kemp) could try and recreate the same type of sound I was used to". Grace is no stranger to Kemp's craftsmanship. He bought one of Kemp's guitars in 1995, second-hand.

His latest acquisition cost upward of R100 000.

After he fetched the guitar from Australia, all he wanted to do was to start playing it.

"It felt a bit unfamiliar, but after spending a few hours just exploring the different sounds I could get from the guitar, I started to get used to it, and it became a joy to make music on," says Grace. ■

The Spear, *City Press* and fundamentalism

Ferial Haffajee cautioned early that she was going to start her delivery of UCT's 47th TB Davie Memorial Lecture on an unconventional note, especially in the light of how it was to conclude.

Addressing, on 1 August, easily the best-attended TB Davie Lecture in recent memory, Haffajee, editor-in-chief of *City Press* Newspaper, began by listing some of the country's recent success stories. She moved from Olympians Chad le Clos and Cameron van der Burgh, Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu, and South Africa's impressive economic performance to supermarket giant Shoprite's rising star, the greater number of matric passes, and the groundbreaking human geneticist Himla Soodyall.

But that's just one side of the story, Haffajee said. On the other there's an undemanding 30% pass mark for matriculants, poverty, black-outs and blueouts (when water supply gets cut off), wide-scale corruption and a shocking national audit that shows that most of those employed by the public service are ill-suited to their positions.

But even so, said Haffajee, the country has always been praised for its robust and healthy media. Time and again the courts have upheld the rights of the press against, notably, pre-press interdicts.

But this no longer matters, she added.

So Haffajee turned to the issue of *The Spear*, the painting by Cape Town-based artist Brett Murray (attending the lecture) that recently caused a furore, most notably when *City Press* was pressurised to remove the image of the painting from its website.



Freedom and faith: The Spear incident has changed her as a person, said Ferial Haffajee.

"I have no doubt that the fight about this was an easy comeuppance for a media with which the governing party is often at odds, because it dislikes the mirror we hold up to our society," she said.

Many then incurred Haffajee's criticism in the lecture – higher education and training minister Dr Blade Nzimande and the Film & Publication Board ("which I saw morph into a political handmaiden") not least among them. If taking down the image was

done in part as an olive branch, the insults and attacks – and the loss of her freedom, piece by piece – that followed have forever altered her views, said Haffajee.

"The upshot of all of this is that I am a changed person. I am less a child of Mandela's generation and more a freedom-of-expression fundamentalist."

Knowing what she does today, she would not have backed down, said Haffajee. Now she would not

seek to reconcile for the sake of a greater good.

It's not healthy, this fundamentalism, she conceded.

"But through this and other episodes in the years of freedom, I have come to understand that this lifeblood is so easily and so quickly undermined that you have to be extremely vigilant to protect its fragility, which – like our dignity – is just paper-thin."

If there is hope, closed Haffajee, it is that there is a growing civil-

society movement showing the way, and standing up to a government that has shaken her faith.

The annual TB Davie Memorial Lecture on academic freedom was established by UCT students to commemorate the work of Thomas Benjamin Davie, vice-chancellor of the university from 1948 to 1955 and a defender of the principles of academic freedom. *Listen to a podcast of Haffajee's lecture at www.uct.ac.za/news/lectures/tbdavie/.* ■

Jammie bus 'architect' retires



Keen interest: Geoff de Wet, former director of Physical Planning, kept a close eye on the renovations of the Jagger reading room.

"I have no desire to open a B&B or grow the ultimate rose or be a game ranger."

Instead Geoff de Wet, newly retired director of the Physical Planning Unit in UCT's Department of Properties and Services, looks forward to "the prospect of designing academic libraries – both new buildings and complete make-overs".

Thus it is fitting that the restoration of the Jagger Library nears completion as De Wet departs from UCT. He found this project "very gratifying" and "a nice way to end my career at UCT". Six other academic libraries in South Africa have benefitted from his expertise. They include Rhodes University, where he was the lead design architect, and the North West University's library for which he did the planning study.

De Wet is working on a paper he will be presenting at a conference in October titled *The evolving academic library in South Africa*. Academic libraries in South Africa operate in such unique circumstances compared to their counterparts in other countries, he says.

"We have to come up with our own unique solutions, and cannot import solutions from other countries".

Also, academic libraries have not changed much since they were built; and library services have changed so dramatically since then that redesigning the space to accommodate the new functions has almost become imperative, he adds.

This avid traveller studied architecture at UCT and started working here in 1992. Though his retirement officially started on 1 August De Wet has been assigned a limited number of projects by the university, one of which is a review of the Access Management Plan; another focuses on the health sciences campus.

One of the highlights of his career at UCT is the implementation of the Jammie Shuttle. His superiors agree with this assessment. Registrar Hugh Amoore going as far as to refer to him as the "architect of the Jammie".

Other highlights for De Wet revolve around buildings that make up part of the Upper Campus Project.

"Each project is interesting and challenging. It's what gets you up in the morning," he adds.

In his free time he hopes to see more of the world. He and his partner, Ros Wilkinson, also an architect, will be building a house on a plot he owns in Betty's Bay. ■

Restoration turns back the clock at Jagger Library

Researchers using UCT's Jagger Library after it reopens on 20 August will not be blamed if, on entering this national monument, they feel as if they're stepping back in time.

They will enter the building, which houses the UCT African Studies Collection, through its original entrance, go up a staircase leading into an anteroom with beautiful mosaic floors and enter the Jagger reading room through the double doors, which originally served as the entrance to this room. Once inside they

will find the set-up more or less like it was before the 1960s, when grand-scale renovations took place.

The tables and chairs they will see are the pre-1960s originals that were used in the library. Power and network points will be conveniently situated near the tables, so that although the appearance of the room might hark back to a bygone era, the facilities will be those of a contemporary library. All books or material will have to be retrieved by the librarians. This was

how the Jagger Library originally operated.

Further behind-the-scenes restoration work will take place after the reopening, but according to Geoff de Wet, former director of the Physical Planning Unit in the Department of Properties and Services, the restoration is 95% complete.

He adds that they could not pass up the opportunity to "turn the Jagger Library back to what it originally was – a quiet, dignified and scholarly place". ■

First woman heads Information Systems



Technological bent: Dr Lisa Seymour is the first woman to head up the Department of Information Systems.

CAROLYN MCGIBBON

Alumna Dr Lisa Seymour (44), who first joined UCT as a science student back in the 1980s, is the first woman to head up an IS department at UCT. This follows her promotion to Head of the Department of Information Systems.

Seymour considers herself lucky to be part of a solid group of academics and administrative staff, and sees her role as one of supporting and motivating her team. As the first woman to head up an IS department at UCT, she says it is possible that women have the edge in the softer skills of leadership as opposed to the predominant task orientation of many male leaders.

Seymour has inherited one of the most entrepreneurial departments at UCT; recent coups include the multi-million-rand sponsorship of the

Samsung Mobile Innovation Lab, it is home to UCT's carbon footprint research through Green IS, and has launched the Postgraduate Diploma for Business and Systems Analysts.

Most of Seymour's adult life has been spent on campus, and her journey to the top of the department has been built on a love of innovation and technology. When her high school didn't offer computer studies, she trekked to another school to take it as a seventh matric subject.

It was during her honours year that Seymour's flair for technology came to the fore, as she developed computational molecular models – she was ahead of her time. She learned the hard way, installing all the software herself.

During her doctoral studies, this strong technological bent was evident. She studied the stability of emulsions used in the explosives industry, and

developed a computer model that had a practical application in gold mines.

During the course of her PhD she joined the Information Technology Services Department at UCT, and many will remember her as the training manager for SAP, where she gained first-hand experience about the challenges of human resistance to technological change.

Seymour is a research associate of the Centre for IT and National Development in Africa (CITANDA).

Her life-long fascination with the confluence of technology, people and processes is reflected by Google Scholar, where more than 70 citations of her papers have been recorded.

"In my teaching I strive for relevance. IS is a very practically focused discipline, grounded in the profession, so it's critical that we are always up to date with what happens in practice." ■

Sharpening a new generation of surgeons

Everyone would rest easier knowing that there was an abundance of skilled surgeons prepared and eager to excise, repair or reconstruct whenever the medical need arises.

2006 saw the establishment (inspired by similar developments in the UK) of the UCT Surgical Society, for – and by – students interested in exploring a career in surgery. At the time, interest in the career was seen to be waning.

Sanju Sonbach, then a fifth-year medical student, discussed the idea of a student-run society that would lay the foundations of a surgical career through information, training and interaction with experienced surgeons.

Fast-forward to 2012, and 650 members are hard at work, under the enthusiastic leadership of society president Sean Tromp.

"We provide students with stimulation and interest in a career in surgery," explains society president Sean Tromp. "We provide lectures, workshops and programmes to enhance their knowledge about surgery, as well as the skills they might need in surgery and general medicine."

Consider it "the most advanced job-shadowing you can get", says Tromp.

UCT Surgical Society is currently the only student society of its kind in the country, but is working closely with medics-in-training from other



Stitched up: The UCT Surgical Society encourages membership for "the most advanced job-shadowing you can get". In picture are (from left) Nicola Springer (society member), Astrid Leusink (head of sponsorship), Sean Tromp (president), and James Burger (society member).

institutions to launch similar organisations.

Society patron Professor Delawir Kahn, head of surgery at Groote Schuur Hospital, plays a key role in facilitating society activities, from dispensing technical advice to acting as the interface between the UCT

students and the national surgical associations.

"Things wouldn't be possible without his help," says a grateful Tromp.

New events planned for 2012 include the inaugural 'Top Knife' competition (sit back down, wannabe ninjas), that will see UCT medical stu-

dents (not necessarily surgical society members) test their skills and nerves under the watchful eye of experienced surgeons.

Now, the big question: what's the appeal of surgery?

"It's fun!" says Tromp. "It's just fun." ■

Famed French scholar at UCT

Sometimes words on a page can really come to life. Ask the UCT French Studies students who shared an intimate classroom setting with famed French scholar Dr Denise Brahimi this week.

Brahimi, renowned for her work on contemporary African women writers and a former professor of comparative literature at the University of Paris 7, was at UCT for a short visit as the guest of Dr Vanessa Everson of the French Section in the School of Languages and Literatures. Brahimi is the author of numerous scholarly works, and her visit to UCT coincided with the release of her 'latest' book, *Nadine Gordimer: Weaving together fiction, women and politics*.

This is a translation by Everson of an original 2000 title, which has been described as Brahimi's most sought-after book yet.

The translation is said to give Anglophone readers a chance to explore Brahimi's insights into Gordimer's works for the first time. (Publishers UCT Press hosted a launch of the translation in Cape Town in July.)

While at UCT, Brahimi addressed students in the French Section and presented a seminar on sharing, exchange, dialogue, multilingualism and diversity. ■

New Engineering Building edging closer to completion

If all goes to plan, the Department of Civil Engineering will be moving into UCT's New Engineering Building (NEB) in November this year.

Construction on this building on upper campus started in August last year and should be completed by March next year, when the Department of Chemical Engineering, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment and the Faculty Office are expected to join civil engineering.

The Snape building – currently occupied by civil engineering – will be demolished over the Christmas holiday to make way for a new Teaching and Learning Building (TLB). Construction of this new building, which will house the Department of Construction Economics and Management (CEM) and will include nine multifunctional lecture theatres, a micro-lab, and a satellite



Under construction: When complete, the New Engineering Building will comprise six storeys.

campus of the Library Knowledge Commons, will start at the beginning of next year.

"The civil engineering laboratories as well as a new, spacious teaching laboratory will be housed in the basement of the building. Civil Engineering staff and postgraduate students will occupy the offices in the south end of the NEB," said deputy dean Associate Professor Neil Armitage, during a tour of the construction site earlier this week.

Armitage says that the main gains to the faculty will be the state-of-the-art lecture theatres (which will be part

of the TLB), more space for the Departments of Chemical Engineering and the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics (through the move of CEM), and a dedicated Surface Science laboratory (for the electron microscopes) shared between three faculties and situated between the two larger buildings. ■

Waste to power – it's a gas

A UCT team has been awarded a R2.5m grant by the NRF for SA biogas projects in which they will test alternative energy systems in urban and rural settings

Waste needn't go to waste. As has been shown by a UCT project to convert organic waste into an alternative energy source; a project that has received a R2.5-million grant from the National Research Foundation (NRF) to support research into the emerging biogas innovation sector in South Africa.

As part of this project, the UCT team, led by Associate Professor Harro von Blottnitz of the Department of Chemical Engineering, will be supporting biogas demonstration projects, in urban settings in Cape Town and in rural settings. The work will be conducted in collaboration with the Department of Physics at the University of Venda, which has already developed some expertise in biogas technology in rural settings.

The first two of these demonstration activities are small-scale biodigesters operating solely on food waste. These are already operational at UCT's Leo Marquard Hall residence and at a community food garden in Khayelitsha. Two more facilities are expected to be installed over the next 12 months: one by the University of Venda and one in an informal setting in Cape Town.

A biodigester, or anaerobic



Waste not: Assoc Prof Harro von Blottnitz checks the Leo Marquard biodigester.

digester, generates methane gas (a versatile fuel) when organic waste products – say the leftovers from a meal, as at Leo Marquard – are added to a sealed, water-filled chamber containing certain anaerobic bacteria (so called because they live without atmospheric oxygen). These bacteria then ingest the organic waste and

release methane as a byproduct.

The methane is captured and diverted to a traditional gas hob, where it is used for cooking.

Another byproduct of this process is liquid slurry that contains high volumes of nutrients suitable for fertilising crops, as is happening in a project run by the UCT

student chapter of Engineers without Borders (EwB) in Khayelitsha (see Monday Paper 31#10). Earlier this year members of EwB designed and donated a biodigester to the Siyazama Community Allotment Garden Association (SCAGA), the first large-scale community garden in Khayelitsha. The methane runs a

gas cooker in the SCAGA kitchen, while the fertiliser is used in the gardens.

EwB's volunteering work is backed up by PhD student Rethabile Melamu, one of the authors of the proposal to the NRF, titled *Towards a Technology Specific Innovation System for Harnessing Waste-Based Bio-energy*.

The award was granted through the NRF's Global Change, Society and Sustainability Research Programme, which addresses the challenges of "science and technology for global change", with a focus on climate change.

"Africa is still waiting for its green revolution," Melamu and Von Blottnitz noted in their proposal. "Previous studies have established that bio-energy from waste materials is cheaper and greener. In Africa, lots of organic waste is either not treated at all, or under-utilised."

For their inspiration, the authors turned to the German biogas industry and the widespread use of biogas installations in Asia. They aim to develop an understanding of these success stories to help step up implementation of bio-energy projects in South Africa. ■

Medal to UCT concrete researchers



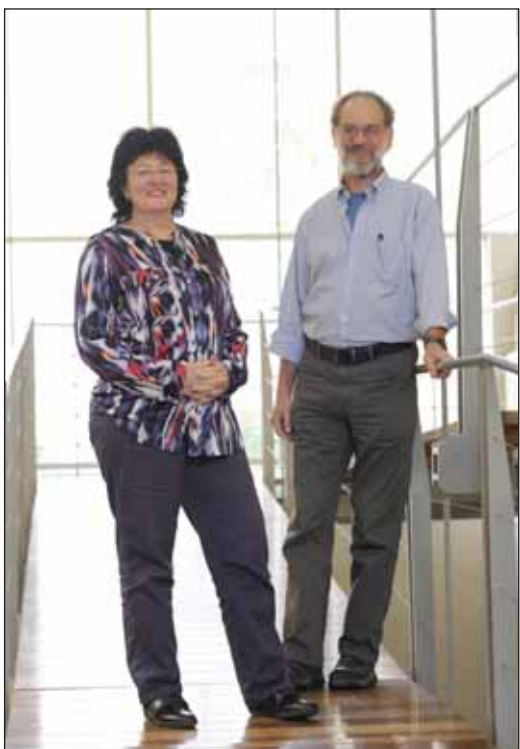
Concrete evidence: Prof Mark Alexander, Mike Otieno and Dr Hans Beushausen show off their winnings for an article they published on corrosion-assessment methods for application in cracked concrete.

A team of UCT researchers has scooped the prestigious Wason Medal for Materials Research for 2012 from the American Concrete Institute (ACI).

Academics Professor Mark Alexander and Dr Hans Beushausen and PhD student Mike Otieno of the Department of Civil Engineering received the honour for their paper, *Suitability of Various Measurement Techniques for Assessing Corrosion in Cracked Concrete*, which appeared in the ACI Materials Journal in 2010.

The bronze medal award, which the ACI can but does not necessarily award annually, was founded in 1917 by Leonard Wason, past president of the ACI. It's awarded to a paper that presents either original research work on concrete materials and their uses, or a discovery that advances the state of knowledge of materials used in the construction industry.

Fulbright specialist shares on HIV vaccines



A meeting of minds: Prof Bertram Jacobs, Fulbright Specialist Award winner, with his UCT host, Prof Anne-Lise Williamson of the IIDMM.

UCT was the obvious choice for Professor Bertram Jacobs when he won the Fulbright Specialist Award.

Jacobs, a professor in the Centre for Infectious Diseases and Vaccinology at Arizona State University in the US, has a special interest in HIV education and vaccines – and a long-standing relationship with Professor Anna-Lise Williamson, who holds the national chair in vaccinology at UCT's Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine. Thus, when it came to choosing his host institution, he didn't have to think too hard.

The Fulbright Specialist Programme enables American faculty members to engage in short-term overseas academic endeavours. In his time at UCT – about a month, over July and August – Jacobs plans to lecture on HIV vaccines, mentor post-graduate students on vaccinology and HIV, and provide training in HIV prevention.

"Some of my activities so far included meetings with students and faculty members to discuss HIV vaccines," he reports. "I have also been to Khayelitsha to tutor secondary school students, and have been working with UCT graduate students on implementing HIV-prevention education in the township."

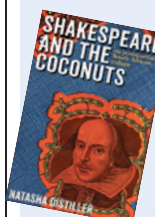
Williamson, in turn, welcomes the opportunity to have a scholar of Jacobs' stature – a virologist with extensive expertise in vaccinology – on hand to share his experience and knowledge with those at UCT and the IIDMM.

"It is valuable and intellectually stimulating to have international experts giving seminars and interacting with researchers, including postgrad students," she says. ■

By the Book



The authors of *Where's the Chicken? Making South Africa Safe*, UCT's Dr John Cartwright and Prof Clifford Shearing, use the peaceable and practical solution to a dispute about chickens between neighbours as a modern-day parable to show that ordinary South Africans have the answers to creating a safer South Africa. They explain that such episodes demonstrate that the most viable solutions to societal ills are often inexpensive and don't consume resources.



The term 'coconut' is one of several edible designations used to categorise someone who, due to his or her behaviour or identifications, is considered 'black' on the outside and 'white' on the inside. Beginning with Solomon Plaatje, UCT's Assoc Prof Natasha Distiller in her book *Shakespeare and the coconuts* looks at the development of an elite group educated in English who able to use Shakespeare to formulate South African works and South African identities.



In *Waterlogged*, Tim Noakes, Discovery Health Professor of Exercise and Sports Medicine at UCT, sets the record straight, exposing the myths surrounding dehydration and presenting up-to-date hydration guidelines for endurance sport and prolonged training activities. He takes the reader inside the science of athlete hydration for a fascinating look at the human body's need for water and how it uses the liquids it ingests.



Edited by UCT's Dr Gina Ziervogel with Bruce Frayne and Caroline Moser, *Climate Change, Assets and Food Security in Southern African Cities* comprises 10 chapters that focus on southern African cities, including Cape Town, and explore how climate change impacts asset accumulation and food security for the urban poor.



Mad Dogs and Meerkats: A history of resurgent rabies in South Africa by Karen Brown is the first study of rabies in Africa, tracing its history in South Africa and neighbouring countries from 1800 to the present. It also shows how environmental and economic changes brought about by European colonialism and global trade have had long-term effects.*

*Published by UCT Press.

Microsoft to stop support for Windows XP and Office 2003 in 2014

As from April 2014 Microsoft will no longer provide support, patches or updates for Windows XP and Office 2003. This means that all machines with these older versions installed will not be protected against security or compliance risks.

If you haven't moved over to Windows 7 or Office 2010 yet, now would be a good time to do so. Not only will you ensure that you'll continue to receive all the latest patches and security updates, but you'll also benefit from the useful new features included in the latest versions. For example, the Windows 7 'peek' function allows you to see past all your open windows straight to your desktop, and if you have a number of programmes open on your machine, you can just move your mouse over your taskbar to quickly view and then select the one you want to access.

Before you rush off to upgrade your software, you will first need to check whether your machine is able to handle the upgrade. Generally, if your UCT-owned machine is three years old or older, ie bought before October 2009, it will not be able to handle Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2010. This means you will need to make provision in your 2013 budget for a new machine that is Windows 7-compatible. The ICTS Acquisition Services team can assist you in making the right decision about which machine to purchase.

If you are still using Office 2007, then you should certainly install Office 2010 – not only to ensure that you remain supported, but also for its improved functionality. For information about all the exciting new features of Office 2010, such as the built-in screen capture and customisable ribbon, go to www.icts.uct.ac.za | Desktop Support | Supported Software | Microsoft office | Microsoft Office 2010. And while you're there, remember to book yourself onto one of the many Office 2010 courses listed on the ICTS Training Calendar. Windows 7 and Office 2010 are easy to learn, and will definitely enhance the work that you do. ■



Winter Sun

A unique glimpse of a lesser known corner of campus, illuminated by the winter sun. It shows the head of UCT's first principal, Sir Jock Beattie, on one of four sculpted urns (each with the head of an early UCT notable) that grace the space between the Arts and Maths Blocks. (Photo by Katherine Traut, Communication and Marketing Department.)

Whistleblowing: A year later

It's been a year since UCT's Risk Management Committee released the university's amended whistleblowing guideline document.

These guidelines aim to protect people, and the university's operations, assets and reputation, against illegal activities. The guidelines are applicable to all staff, students, consultants, vendors, contractors, and/or any other parties with a business relationship with the university.

The document states the following:

Anyone with a reasonable basis for believing that an irregular act has occurred or is occurring has a responsibility to report this immediately.

Anyone making a report must act in good faith when reporting an allegation, and must disclose all information available to him or her relevant to the matter.

An employee who acts against a whistleblower who has made a full report in good faith will be subject to legal sanction and University discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

A person making a report may choose to remain anonymous and not disclose any personal details.

The University will take reasonable steps to protect the identity and disclosures of whistleblowers where the whistleblower requests this, where the whistleblower has acted in good faith and where he or she has disclosed all information available to him or her.

All information received via a hotline mechanism will be treated as confidential so long as it remains within the control of the organisation.

No employee may be adversely affected because he or she refuses to carry out a directive which constitutes an irregularity.

Confidential reporting (identity disclosed) rather than anonymous reporting (identity not disclosed) is encouraged. Both confidential and anonymous disclosures must be reported as follows:

Written – to the Registrar's or Vice-Chancellor's Office (P O Box 594, Cape Town, 8000) or Independent Auditors Ernst & Young (Audit Partner Ms T Rookledge, PO Box 656, Cape Town, 8000);

Telephonic – use the University hotline to Campus Protection Services (telephone number 021 685 1245)

The Registrar is responsible for the administration, revision, interpretation, and application of this guideline. The guideline will be reviewed annually by the Risk Management Committee. ■

The hidden side of the Olympic Games

Don't expect a tsunami of swimming records (a lá Beijing 2008) in London, cautioned a UCT exercise physiology expert, just hours before the Olympic torch was lit (and before Team South Africa had racked up an unexpected three golds for swimming and rowing, at the time of going to press.)

Since suits such as swimming attire manufacturer Speedo's LZR Racer, the costume that streamlined the path for 94 of the 96 swimming medals to be won in 2008, have been banned, UCT's Dr Ross Tucker said he had expected a significant drop in performance in the pool at the London 2012 Summer Olympics.

A packed audience listened attentively as Tucker, of the UCT/MRC Research Unit for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine (ESSM), shared insider insights into hidden issues that

have had a profound impact on the nature of the historical games.

Despite revised swimming attire regulations, expect similar debates to follow the release of Nike's new TurboSpeed outfit for track sprinters, which Nike claims to be able to shave up to 0.23 seconds off a 100m sprint, said Tucker.

Historically, though, doping has proved a "bigger problem" than clothing in terms of competitive imbalance, Tucker explained. Typically, athletes would cheat either by consuming illegal hormones and other prohibited substances, or by artificially manipulating oxygen levels in their blood.

However, Tucker's message of "qualified hope" showed that, thanks to significant advances in anti-doping controls, the tide is steadily turning in favour of clean sport.

"It's a pharmacological arms race; we were losing it before, but now we are winning," he reported happily.

A particularly touchy issue for South African sports fans has been the seemingly unending furore around whether double-amputee sprinter Oscar Pistorius's carbon-fibre prosthetic legs give him an unfair advantage over his able-bodied rivals.

Tucker revealed research that showed that Pistorius's Flex-Foot Cheetah blades do in fact give Pistorius a significant advantage over his naturally-limbed rivals, both in terms of energy expenditure and in the amount of force required to propel the athlete across the track.

He also cast doubt on the evidence given in support of overturning Pistorius's 2008 ban from able-bodied competition. ■



Dr Ross Tucker.

Crime prevention campaign for August

In addition to its planned crime prevention exercises in the next few weeks, UCT crime fighters have appealed to students and staff to come on board to stamp out crime on campus.

And the message is simple: be vigilant, don't leave your belongings unattended, and avoid walking alone after dark. In fact, staff members working late are eligible for an escort service to their vehicles or bus stops by the Campus Protection Services (CPS).

A couple of months ago, the university experienced a spate of vehicle break-ins, armed robberies and theft,

mainly of 'unattended' items. Suspects were arrested in connection with the vehicle break-ins and robberies and three people have been arrested for theft in the past few weeks, reports Steven Ganger, UCT's investigations manager.

One was a Supercare staff member who was found loading a computer tower into the back of a delivery courier bakkie. Investigations proved that the computer tower was stolen from storage in the humanities building. The member was disciplined and dismissed.

In another incident, a contract staff

member was arrested for brass theft from the galleries in the African Study Libraries, and was handed over to the South African Police Service (SAPS). The stolen items were all recovered from a scrap metal yard in Epping, and the member was dismissed.

Lastly, a former student was arrested for the theft of 51 library books. The books were confiscated from a private residence, off campus. The suspect was handed over to the SAPS and the books were returned to the library.

Meanwhile, the Properties & Services Department, in tandem with

the SAPS, will conduct crime prevention exercises, including various and intermittent roadblocks, around the Rondebosch area and on campus over the next weeks.

Students and staff should allow for a few minutes of extra travelling time during this period in case of temporary delays during road blocks. Please remain patient and allow the officers to do their job. CPS and the SAPS will attempt to conduct their prevention exercises with the least disruption possible.

If you have any queries, please contact CPS on 021 650 2222.



EVENTS
Seminars and Lectures and Meeting



When: Wednesday, 06 August 2012 at 17h30 Speaker: Professor Martin Wittenberg, School of Economics. Title: ‘Economics and Transformation: Measurement, Models, Maths and Myths’. Venue: Lecture Theatre 1, Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus, University of Cape Town

Royal Society

2012 marks the birth centenary of Alan Turing, pioneer computer scientist, mathematician and code-breaker. To celebrate this occasion George Ellis, Professor of Complex Systems, Dept of Mathematics at UCT will give a free public talk on ‘On the Nature of Causation in Digital Computer Systems’ 15 August at 5pm at SAAO Auditorium, Observatory. No bookings. For more info go to <http://www.royalsocietysa.org.za/> or call 021.650 2543

Childrens Institute

Title: The invisible epidemics: Impacts of parental HIV/AIDS and child maltreatment on children's outcomes in South Africa by Dr Lucie Cluver. Date: Monday 20 August 2012. Venue: CSSR Seminar room, Room 429, Robert Leslie Social Science Building. Time: 13:00 (Guests to be seated at 12:50). RSVP by Friday, 17 August 2012, to Bee Williams email: bee.williams@uct.ac.za. Please be advised that your attendance at the lecture can only be accommodated if you RSVP

Please note: Seating will be allocated on a first-come-first -served basis.

Philosophy Society Meeting

When: Tuesday 7 August @ 20h00, Speaker: Dr Dylan Futter. Title: Socratic Irony.Venue: Lecture Theatre 2, Humanities Building

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:
Part-time Lecturer: Disability Studies, Department of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, 15 August 2012
Professor/Associate Professor in Transport Planning & Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 20 August 2012
Deputy Dean & Professor: Research, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 31 August 2012
Senior Lecturer/Lecturer (Academic Teacher)in Mathematics OR Applied Mathematics, Department of Mathematics & Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 10 September 2012
Senior Lecturer/Lecturer, Department of Mathematics & Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 15 September 2012

Professor & Head of Department, Department of Mathematics & Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 15 September 2012
Professor/Associate Professor, Department of Oceanography, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 01 October 2012

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)
Undergraduate Administrative Officer, Department of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 6 August 2012
Undergraduate Administrator, Department of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 6 August 2012
Vendor Management Officer, Procurement & Payment Services – Department of Finance, Closing date: 10 August 2012
Research Officer: Scientific Computing Research Unit, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 20 August 2012
Director: UCT Law Clinic, Department of Private Law, Faculty of Law, Closing date: 20 August 2012
Mental Health Counsellor, Department of Psychiatry & Mental Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 31 August 2012

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:
EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:
To view the full advertisements and application requirements for each post, please visit www.uct.ac.za and click on “Vacancies”

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Claremont: House, Three bedroomed, 2.5 bathroom townhouse available for rent in quiet and secure location close to UCT, Cavendish Square, SACS, Herschel and San Souci Schools. Two car garage, outdoor patio, great mountain views R12,500 per month. Contact aopb2003@yahoo.co.uk for more info

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Applications for all registered students now open.

Closing date: 15 August 2012.

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Connecting: Maletsabisa Molapo (left) and Joyce Mwangama (right) celebrated their scholarship coup with Minister of Communications Dina Pule at the inaugural Information and Communication Technology Indaba in Cape Town in June.

Anita Borg scholars beat a strategic retreat

One of the perks of being selected for a prestigious international scholarship is that you get to travel the world, and two UCT students took full advantage recently.

In May, Maletsabisa Molapo, a master's student in the university's Centre in ICT for Development, and Joyce Mwangama, a doctoral student in electrical engineering, were named as recipients of the Google Anita Borg Memorial Scholarships for 2012. A month later, the two were treated to a retreat at the online search engine's Zurich offices.

Molapo and Mwangama were part of the group of 70 young women from the US, Canada, Europe and Africa and the Middle East who received the scholarships this year.

Between the Google product talks and panel discussions (doctoral candidate Mwangama's favourite was a presentation on whether to go into academia or industry after completing a PhD) they toured Google's famed offices, which Mwangama described as more like "a playground than a place of work".

"I was happy to meet many new friends, and interact with many of the Google engineers at the retreat," she said.

The scholarship is named after the renowned computer scientist and founder of what is now named the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology, based in California in the US. ■

International fellowship for postgrad



Making a change: Fatema Thawer-Esmail's award that recognises the contribution of African women to science

UCT doctoral student Fatema Thawer-Esmail was one of 10 African women whose work in the scientific field was recently acknowledged with a major international fellowship, complete with handsome prize money.

The L'Oréal-UNESCO Regional Fellowships for Women in Science (FWIS) in Sub-Saharan Africa is given to women scientists up to age 40 who are working towards their PhDs. The fellowship seeks to remove one of the major obstacles to women pursuing a career in science – access to money.

Thawer-Esmail hails from Dar es Salaam and qualified as a medical doctor in Tanzania before coming to UCT to study dermatology. Here she is a full-time research student, facilitates undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in the Division of Dermatology, and is in the process of completing a clinical-education course.

"This award means a lot to me, being a non-South African studying in South Africa," she says. "It will enable me to complete my PhD by assisting me to cover my research costs."

"Furthermore, it motivates me to encourage other female scientists, both in Tanzania and in South Africa, and to serve as a role model to them." ■

Engineering company builds capacity at UCT



Support structure: (From left) bursary winner Leighton Leukes, bursary winner Janina Kanjee, EBE dean Prof Francis Petersen, Albert Geldenhuys of Aurecon, bursary winner Mpafane Deyi and Prof Alphose Zingoni, head of the Department of Civil Engineering.

Three students are reaping the rewards of a R2-million investment by engineering services company Aurecon into postgraduate civil engineering studies at UCT.

The trio from the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment are the first to receive bursaries from the Aurecon award; they are Mpafane Deyi, a PhD candidate whose research area is in water transport and distribution; Janina Kanjee, a master's student specialising in structural engineer-

ing; and Leighton Leukes, a master's student specialising in structural engineering and structural materials.

"The aim of the programme," explains Albert Geldenhuys, general manager for Aurecon South Africa, "is to encourage black South African students to further their studies in the field of civil engineering."

The gains from the investment will be felt more broadly than just by the students, noted faculty dean Professor Francis Petersen.

"It is critically important that we develop the relevant skills – not only for the economy, but also for the social needs of the country," Petersen said.

In addition to the bursary, each student recipient is assigned to a mentor, who will be available to assist and guide them during their studies.

"It has been an honour to be awarded this bursary," said Kanjee. "It is great to see that industry is prepared to support research and invest in our personal development." ■

#YOVO

IMPORTANT DATES

FACULTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations	6 - 13 Aug
Campaigning	16 - 21 Aug
Voting	22 - 24 Aug
Results	27 Aug

←

→

SRC ELECTIONS

Nominations	14 - 24 Aug
Campaign Week	10 - 14 Sep
Voting	17 - 21 Sep
Results	28 Sep

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Cancel all plans for the weekend of 31 August through 1 September, dear Ikeys.

Nearly 20 years after the last edition was played out in pre-democratic 1993, the (in)famous multi-disciplinary UCT-University of Stellenbosch (US) inter-varsity weekend is back. Busy league schedules and crowd control issues are cited as the main reasons the two fierce sporting rivals have not locked horns in a dedicated sporting weekend since then.

Sports fans will be grateful that

Inter-varsity is back – and it's about more than rugby!

the two universities reckon they have now ironed such bumps out, and the inter-varsity weekend will see Ikey and Matie athletes from no fewer than 26 disciplines facing off against each other.

Friday 31 August begins with cycling sprint trials in Jameson Hall, and moves to – among many others – tennis, squash cricket, a canoe dice on Zeekoevlei Dam and a variety of martial arts demonstrations. The

more bloodthirsty sporting connoisseurs who yearn to see more-than-figurative Matie gluteus getting kicked can rub their hands in glee at the taekwon-do and judo bouts scheduled for the evening.

The two universities' underwater clubs cut the Saturday ribbon with a social dive at Miller's Point in Simon's Town, with fast-paced Ultimate games and the typically bruising rugby clashes drawing the

curtain on what the universities hope will be the first iteration of an annual event.

The first official inter-varsity meetings took place in 1911 when UCT (then known as the South African College, or SAC) played two rugby matches against the Victorian College (now the University of Stellenbosch), with SAC running out 9-0 and 10-0 winners.

In his history of South African

rugby, the late Dr Louis Babrow related one professor's assessment of the inter-varsity as a day when "enthusiasm expresses itself 'in unintelligible noises from dark mutterings' to 'swelling waves of animal cries and nightmarish roars', as our teams hurl themselves at their opponents or crash through in a mighty foot rush. Students are exalted in this glorious contest; may we shout ourselves hoarse as we witness a fluctuation of fortunes."

Are you not entertained? ■