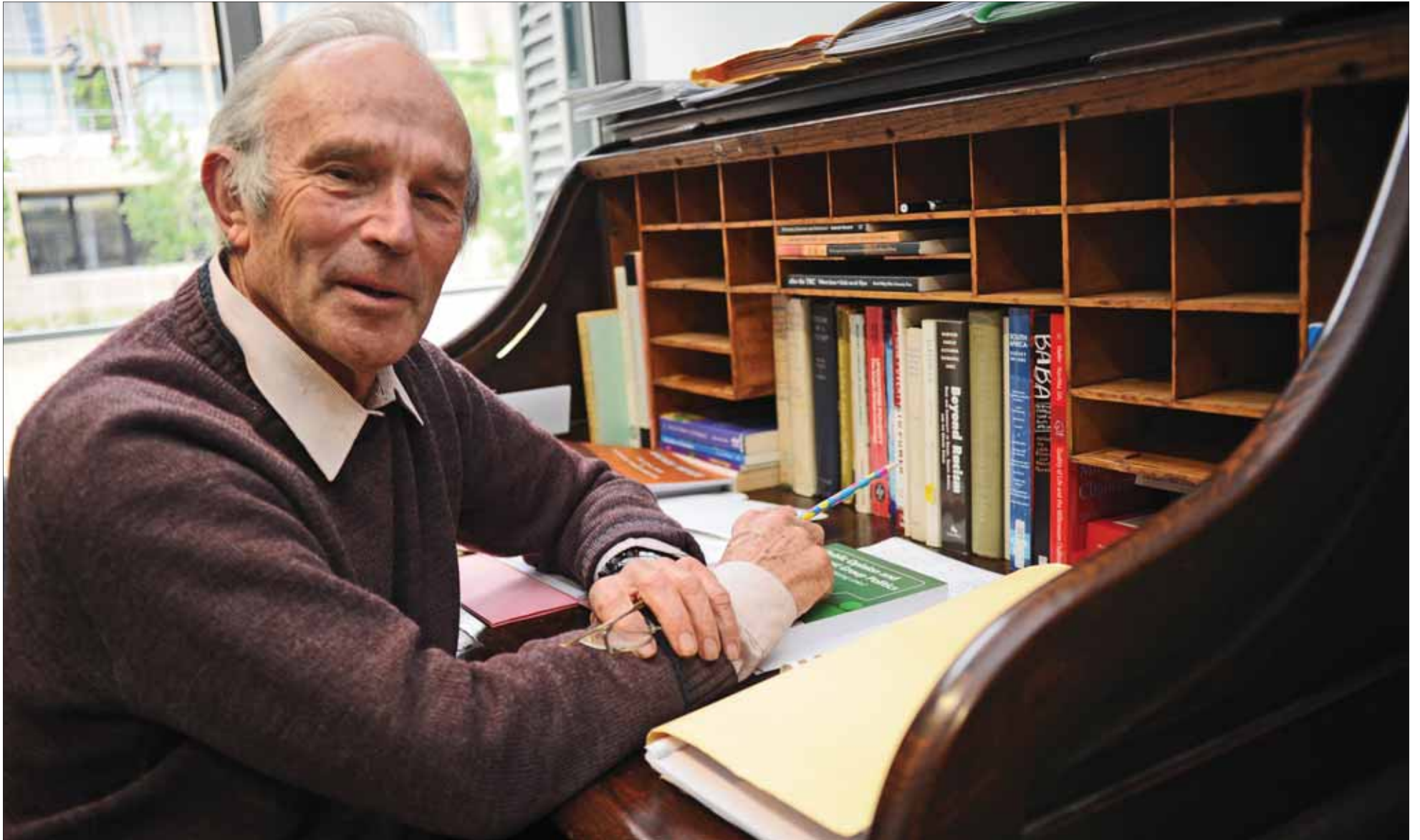


Conference pools SA insights into poverty

The Carnegie 3 conference on poverty and inequality in South Africa, due to kick off next month, has attracted 308 papers, including submissions from 19 South African universities and seven others from around the world, including Princeton and Oxford



Next round: Emer Prof Francis Wilson led the last Carnegie study and has been called on to pull together the Carnegie 3 conference in September too.

The poverty and inequality conference coming up at UCT is designed to kick-start some national thinking on poverty and inequality. Not so much on the scale and nature of poverty and inequality – that much has been done – but on how to start fixing the problem

For a major event put together in a hurry, as has been the breakneck case of *Towards Carnegie 3: Conference on Strategies to Overcome Poverty & Inequality*, to be hosted by UCT from 3 to 7 September, things are going surprisingly well.

The conference, dubbed Carnegie 3 in reference to the two previous studies on poverty and inequality in South Africa that were funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, is already matching or even surpassing its predecessors. The meeting that preceded the study and report that became the *Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in South Africa* in the early 1980s, for example, took around three years of planning and attracted some 300 papers.

The UCT gathering, which by the time it is staged will have gone from concept to conference in around a year, has – since the call for papers went out in May – drawn 308 papers, reports Emeritus Professor Francis Wilson, who led the last Carnegie study and who was called on by Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price to pull together this event as well. That tally includes submissions from 19 South African universities and seven more – Oxford and Princeton among them – from elsewhere in the world.

The deluge reflects the range of interests in the subject, says Wilson. The conference – which for the sake of time will be concertinaed into a phalanx of parallel sessions and miniplenaries – will similarly cover a spectrum of themes; from rural development, early childhood and agrarian reform to the state's obligation to children, barrier regulations and partnership in education.

The turn-out will, in turn, reflect the aim of the conference, which is to bring together peo-

ple from across the country rather than make this a UCT show, says deputy vice-chancellor Professor Crain Soudien.

"We don't see ourselves here in isolation from the rest of the academic community in the country," he notes. "There are really interesting things happening elsewhere in the country, which we would like to be in a relationship with."

Serendipity has also played a hand. A chance conversation with Don Edkins, documentary filmmaker and director of the non-profit organisation STEPS South Africa, has led to the production of a film on poverty in South Africa, which will be among others in a STEPS series to be screened at the conference.

And if the gathering was not able – as was originally aimed – to feed into the National Planning Commission's (NPC) National Development Plan 2030, all is not lost; instead, that document, presented by NPC Minister Trevor Manuel to President Jacob Zuma on 15 August, will now feed into discussions at

the conference (and the subsequent work) as to how the Plan should be implemented in the years ahead.

The conference itself, all the brainpower and know-how present notwithstanding, will not come up with all the answers or even tackle every question in detail, says Wilson. It is merely phase one of what is planned to be a longer two- or three-year process of the third Carnegie Inquiry.

Wilson, for one, trusts that the conference will at the very least get people across the country and across disciplines talking to each other. And get others thinking about the issues in new ways.

"This is a kick-start conference," he says. "I do think that there is room for cross-disciplinary challenges, and I'm hoping it will provide more inter-disciplinary knowledge."

PODCAST: Listen to Emer Prof Francis Wilson speaking on the upcoming conference at <http://www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia/sound/2012/>. ■



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Hard work pays off for champion teacher

His “excellent” results – achieved against all the odds – kind of speak for themselves.

But there was a lot more said about teacher Phuti Ramarope when the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED) presented him with this year’s Stella Clark Teacher’s Award on 13 July.

Between 2008 and 2011, Ramarope’s grade 12 learners at Sinthumule Senior Secondary School in Thilwavirusiku, Limpopo, obtained a remarkable 100% pass rate in physical sciences. In life sciences, for which Ramarope teaches grades 10 to 12 at the school where he is also a deputy principal, every one of his matriculants passed in 2008 and 2009. The pass rate dropped to 82% in 2010 (when the subject came last in the national results), but picked up again last year, to 92%.

Ramarope’s achievements call for elbow grease, though.

As Hilda Khunoana, the first-year UCT chemical engineering student and former learner of Ramarope’s who nominated him for the award, put it, Ramarope stands out for the “love, passion and knowledge” he has invested in his teaching.

“Every weekday he would be at school teaching before school starts, teaching during study time and sometimes he even goes beyond study time until six o’clock at night to motivate even the weakest learners,” said Khunoana. And on Saturdays Ramarope would be found at the school and at other schools in the district helping more learners.

That was not all.

Teaching subjects that require practicals at a short-staffed school with no laboratory or library means Ramarope has to improvise. He had no problem stashing laboratory lizards and rats in his home refrigerator.

He would tell his learners to think on their feet as he does.

“I always tell my class not to wait for teachers to do experiments, but to go out there and improvise.”

Also, he finishes his syllabus early, motivates his learners to aim for a better mark so they can be eligible for bursaries, and encourages learners to ask questions until they fully understand the lessons.

The award, in its seventh year, is made in remembrance of the late Stella Clark, who was a senior lecturer



The winning team: VC Dr Max Price (right) congratulates the winner of 7th Stella Clark Teacher’s Award, Phuti Ramarope, and his nominator, Hilda Khunoana.

in the Language Development Group in CHED until her death in 2005.

The award was established through donations from her family, friends and colleagues from South Africa, the UK, the US and Japan.

Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price said the accolade is important because UCT depends on the school system for its students, and teachers are key in influencing learners to aspire to come to the university. It also links the university

with the most remote schools in the country.

“This is our small signal of appreciation to excellent teachers, and to the teaching profession in general,” Price said of the Stella Clark Award. ■

Women’s Day: Law programme lures graduates into academia

The Faculty of Law is reshaping its gender profile, courtesy of its recent fundraising efforts.

Over the past few months the faculty has appointed three women – including two of its graduates – on the back of its *Law 150* campaign.

The three new appointments are Thabi Chanetsa, who lectured on the law of evidence in the first semester and is now teaching modules for the E-law course in the second semester; Salona Lutchman, who joined the faculty as a lecturer of law of succession; and Sufia Singlee, teaching labour law and business law.

The trio were among the five beneficiaries of the faculty’s Academic Scholarships Programme (ASP) in 2010. As part of the ASP, which aims to attract graduates back into academia, participants were required to work as research and teaching assistants for a year on either side of an overseas LLM.

Chanetsa did her LLM in international business law at University College, London, in the UK, Lutchman hers in international legal studies at New York University, in the US, and Singlee hers in human rights and social justice at the University of New South Wales in Australia.



Returning to the fold: Sufia Singlee, Thabi Chanetsa and Salona Lutchman have completed their LLM studies and have now joined the academic staff in the Faculty of Law.

They all passed with distinction, and had the time of their lives.

Chanetsa says that she “thoroughly enjoyed” her courses, although she soon discovered that the LLM coursework load was not for the faint-hearted. “There were many late night tears,” she reports.

Lutchman described the programme as “an extremely rewarding academic experience, and I learnt as much from my peers as I did from my professors”.

Singlee added: “Other than being

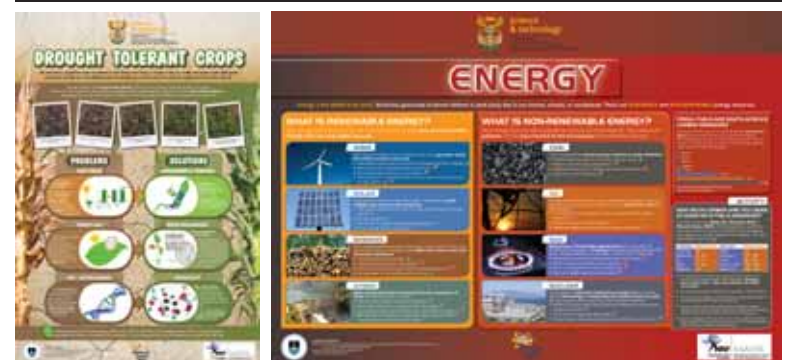
a rigorous academic experience, my studies allowed me the opportunity to engage with and learn from people from all parts of the globe.”

One of the other two awardees opted to return to a law practice, and the other one went back to KwaZulu-Natal.

Commented Professor PJ Schwikard, dean of the Faculty of Law: “A 100% success rate would have been wonderful, but I am very pleased with a 60% result for academia and a 100% for South Africa as a whole.” ■

Library exhibition on Rhodes Memorial

UCT Libraries is celebrating one of Cape Town’s iconic landmarks, Rhodes Memorial, with an exhibition in the Chancellor Oppenheimer Library on upper campus, using material sourced from various collections housed in its Special Collections. Cecil John Rhodes, imperialist, politician and mining magnate, purchased large swathes of the eastern slopes of Devil’s Peak, which he bequeathed to the South African nation. One slice was used to create the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, another became the site of the University of Cape Town, and the remainder now forms part of the Table Mountain National Park. Rhodes’ foresight has given Cape Town an area of pristine beauty right on its very doorstep. The intention of the curators, Mary van Blommenstein of the Irma Stern Museum and Bev Angus of UCT Libraries Special Collections, is to look at Rhodes Memorial as a work of art. The monument was designed by Sir Herbert Baker, while George Frederick Watts sculpted Physical Energy, the horse and rider, and John Macallan Swann was responsible for the lions and the bust of Cecil John Rhodes. Rudyard Kipling provided the inscription below the bust. The curators hope the viewers will visit this exhibition and look with new eyes at this monument, which has been an integral part of Cape Town’s landscape for a hundred years. The Rhodes Memorial Centenary 1912–2012 Exhibition runs from 20 August to 20 November in the Chancellor Oppenheimer Library: Research Wing Lower Level. ■



Posters provide potted science lessons

They are colourful, provocative and educative – and a great asset to local science teachers. The four posters, produced by UCT’s Faculty of Science as part of the National Science Week, highlight the importance of science in people’s daily lives; and more importantly, attract the country’s youth to pursue (and remain in) science-related studies and careers. The posters augment the faculty’s strong outreach programme, workshops and Science Day. Over the past six years, they’ve contributed 22 posters. This year’s topics are *Drought-Tolerant Crops* by Professor Jill Farrant and Keren Cooper; *Energy: Renewable and Non-renewable Energy* by Kirsten Scott and Dr Rachel Wynberg; and *Chimango Hara: Fishing Responsibly* by Dr Lynne Shannon and Associate Professor Astrid Jarre; and *Hydrogen: Fuel of the Future* by Dr Clive Oliver. ■

School of Public Health turns 40



Happy birthday: Director Prof Leslie London (right) cuts the cake as staff and former students celebrate the 40th anniversary of the School of Public Health and Family Medicine.

Staff (past and present) and former students recalled milestones and highlights as they celebrated the 40th birthday of UCT’s School of Public Health and Family Medicine (PHFM) in August. Proceedings were led by the long-serving Professor Margaret Hoffman, now honorary research associate in the school’s Women’s Health Research Unit. She described the changes to both the names and roles of the PHFM since its inception in 1972, when the first chair in comprehensive medicine was created. Today the staff complement is more than 150 – up significantly from the six who started at the school in 1972, reported Hoffman. Postgraduate students number over 250, and a wide range of research activities across the field of public health have been consolidated.

Sport and exercise medicine physicians commissioned for top Paralympics study

Top UCT sport and exercise medicine physicians, Professors Wayne Derman and Martin Schwellnus, have been commissioned by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) to conduct pioneering research on injuries and illnesses suffered by athletes at the 2012 Paralympic Games, to run from 29 August to 9 September in London.

As part of a collaboration with the University of Brighton in the UK, the University of Calgary in Canada and the University of Utah in the US, Derman and Schwellnus, of the Clinical Sport and Exercise Medicine Research Group at the UCT/Medical Research Council Research Unit for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine (ESSM), will monitor each of the approximately 4,500 athletes at the competition with the aid of an electronic surveillance and online data-capturing system that they've developed specifically for this purpose. Additional data will be harvested for a period before and for two weeks after the event.

Team doctors and other medical personnel at the Games' polyclinic will record details of athletes' gripes using a number of parameters. The doctors will then collate and analyse this data, says Derman, who will serve as the chief medical officer of the South African Paralympic team.

"This is the first of this type of study in the world, really," he notes.

"It's a big feather in our cap under our affiliation as an International



Paralympic pioneers: Profs Wayne Derman and Martin Schwellnus will lead a first-of-its-kind study at the upcoming Paralympic Games.

Olympic Committee (IOC) research centre," adds Derman, alluding to the accreditation recently conferred on the Clinical Sport and Exercise Medicine Research Group led by Derman and Schwellnus.

Schwellnus explains that the

"beauty" and "uniqueness" of the study is that the researchers will be able to track injuries and illness in Paralympians on a daily basis. It will be the first time that the latter will be done at the Paralympic or Olympic Games.

"The reason for all of this data collection is really so that we can use this information to plan a variety of different prevention strategies in the future," says Schwellnus. "We really want to reduce injuries and risk of illness. This has never been

done for disabled athletes."

This data, says Schwellnus, will be used as a springboard for a longitudinal study to investigate the broader relationship between long-term injuries and illnesses and athletes' particular disabilities. ■

Childhood self-control key to crime prevention

Enhanced self-control during childhood could reduce government expenditure on crime control and education.

These findings by Drs Terrie Moffitt and Avshalom Caspi were presented at a public lecture hosted by UCT's Safety and Violence Initiative. Moffitt and Caspi, both psychologists, are involved in a long-term study, which has been tracking the development of the 1,037 babies born in Dunedin in 1972.

Children with poor self-control are more likely to commit crimes as adults.

"Of those with the lowest childhood self-control, nearly 50% had been convicted of a crime," reports Caspi. In the classroom these children require more "teacher effort" compared to their more self-controlled peers. ■

UCT puts baboons in good CARE

Last year, UCT decided that it would no longer use wild-caught baboons for medical research.

This decision was inspired by the Senate Animal Ethics Committee's (SAEC) resolution some time ago to move away from such research, as part of its commitment to aspire to the current standards of best international practice in research ethics.

In the wake of this decision, UCT – although it has not been involved in either the trapping or housing of research baboons – made the additional commitment to purchase 11 female baboons that were intended for research purposes. UCT then transferred these animals to a baboon sanctuary, the Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education (CARE), near Phalaborwa in Limpopo, where they will live for the remainder of their lives.

UCT also provided financial and logistical assistance to make this possible.

The complex operation required, among other things, intricate contractual arrangements, import and export permits from the Western Cape and Limpopo, tests on the baboons for TB and other infectious diseases, the building of special high-volume cages that are adapted to allow the gradual integration of the baboons into a group or groups, and, of course, sophisticated transport arrangements.

The settlement of the baboons at CARE was completed early this year – and the baboons are doing very well. Three have already been integrated with each other, and CARE's intention is eventually to form one large group of about five to six baboons, and smaller groups of two to three.

Deputy vice-chancellor responsible for research, Professor Danie Visser, said that "the inspiration for what has turned out to be a great success story came from the former chairperson of the SAEC, Dr Elisa Galgut,



On the move: Baboons settle into life at the Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education in Limpopo.

of the Department of Philosophy; Associate Professor Mike Picker of the Department of Zoology was centrally involved in realising the project; while the director of the Animal Unit, Dr Bert Mohr, took responsibility for

getting all the logistics in place; and a great many other people assisted in one way or another to make this idea a reality".

To learn more about the work of CARE, see www.primatecare.org.za. ■

Call for applications for a PERC Associateship

PERC is a mid-career programme based in the Research Office. This call invites applications for an associateship valued at R150 000.

The successful applicant will be expected to contribute to work with the PERC coordinator to pursue the programme's goals by promoting research collaboration with colleagues

and institutions in Africa (outside of South Africa) and/or in the global South and/or engaging in interdisciplinary collaborative research. All permanent academic staff are eligible.

The grant is specifically intended to be used for the purposes of buy-out to allow the successful candidate to devote time to furthering the aims of PERC insofar as they are

expressed in her/his research activities.

For further information, please contact Dr Robert Morrell, PERC co-ordinator, at robert.morrell@uct.ac.za, x2433.

Application forms can be obtained from Judith Rix at Judith.Rix@uct.ac.za and completed forms should reach her electronically on or by Friday 7 September. ■

Bring law to govern class actions, urges scholar

Class action is a headache for authorities. On the one hand, it is often regarded as the last resort for large groups seeking relief for the infringement of their human rights and freedoms. On the other hand, critics see class action as a threat to big business.

But, as Professor Wouter de Vos demonstrated recently in his inaugural lecture, *Is a Class Action a Classy Act to Implement outside the Ambit of the Constitution?*, such a route is a must in this day and age.

Although there is no legislative framework within which class actions can be conducted, said De Vos, litigants have successfully sought relief in courts to enforce constitutional rights in particular. But the law is not so clear on class actions filed to enforce non-constitutional rights.

A case in point was the 2010 class action filed by the Children's Resources Centre, Black Sash, CO-SATU, the National Consumer Forum and five private individuals against major bread producers Pioneer Foods, Tiger Consumer Brands and Premier Foods, after the three companies had been found guilty, in 2006, of participating in a cartel to fix the price of bread. But the case was dismissed because, according to the High Court, the class had not been properly identified. The court also found that there was no contractual basis for the



Class act: Prof Wouter de Vos believes the time has come for government to introduce legislation that would pave the way for class actions in South Africa.

applicants' claim, no personal injury had been alleged, and there was no delict (ie no negligence), among other reasons for dismissing the case.

But De Vos believes the judgement could be the foundation for further development of a non-Bill of Rights class action for damages.

He noted that the law is lagging "dismally" behind other jurisdictions in this field. He suggested that the

government should adopt the English opt-in style of group action – which prevents courts from making awards in favour of members of a large group who have taken no steps to be part of the proceedings – as a more cautious approach, if it is reluctant to take a full-blown route.

"The law cannot ignore the needs of the mass-oriented society of today, which is characterised by

mass production and mass supply of goods and services by huge corporate enterprises, mass transport, and an all-powerful government that is involved in all spheres," De Vos explained. "These activities generate events that can cause similar harm to large numbers of people. These people can only obtain effective access to justice through a collective remedy such as class action." ■

Recordings promote learning anywhere, anytime

It's the bane of many a student's existence – scribbling down as much of a lecture as possible while still absorbing and understanding often complex content.

Enter UCT's Centre for Educational Technology (CET).

In line with its stated mission to "promote and investigate the integration of learning technologies in teaching and learning at the University of Cape Town and in higher education", CET has been recording lectures at venues around UCT campuses since early 2011. But it's not merely a simple audio recording – the CET approach also incorporates video and a stream of any multi-media presentations the lecturer might want to run alongside the recording.

What inspired this development? Roger Brown, operations man-



On record: CET's recording kit, now in 15 venues around campus.

ager of CET's learning technologies team, explains that while a number of lecturers have had good results by making their own recordings, UCT needed an automated solution which any lecturer could use without need-

ing additional software or technical skills.

Brown says students will benefit from being able to learn and review material in their own time and in a comfortable space. He also noted that while some academics fear that recording lectures would lead to a drop in attendance, international research suggests that the availability of recordings can actually increase student engagement in the classroom.

Students learn that the time in the lecture venue can be spent paying attention to what the lecturer is saying, while listening to a recording afterwards is a handy way to revise.

"Lecture recordings provide an additional learning resource, and act as a safety net for students," he says. "But it is all about the learning strategies that students follow." Stud-

ies show that students who review recordings regularly benefit the most, while those who use them as a substitute for in-person attendance or try to catch up just before exams are likely to lose out.

"We believe that being able to review lectures, in your own time, your own comfort, with your friends, on your own device, is a real benefit to students," notes Brown.

Fifteen venues around UCT campuses, including in the Leslie Social Sciences Building and the Health Sciences campus, are currently fitted with recording equipment. Students registered for courses that make use of the facility can access the recordings through the Vula course site.

With CET possibly looking at expanding operations in 2013, keep an eye out for the new service. ■

Major internationalisation conference hosted by UCT



Changing landscape: Dr Loveness Kaunda and others will welcome delegates from across the globe to UCT for the 16th Annual IEASA Conference.

UCT will host the 16th annual conference of the International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA) from 29 August to 1 September.

The theme for the conference, to be held at the Southern Sun Cape Sun, will be *Promoting Higher Education Internationalisation Research through International Collaborations, Partnerships and Innovative Teaching*. Delegates will explore different perspectives on internationalisation in higher education in Africa, research, partnerships and leadership issues as well as curriculum, innovation and growing the next generation of global scholars.

Keynote speakers will include UCT's Chancellor Graça Machel; Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price; Dr Damtew Teferra, founding director of the International Network for Higher Education in Africa; Professor John

Hearn, chief executive of the Worldwide Universities Network, of which UCT is a member; and Professor Danie Visser, deputy vice-chancellor responsible for research at UCT. Many local and international scholars and government officials will also speak at the conference.

Among other things, the event will feature a leadership symposium at which Price, as facilitator, and other heads of universities will lead a discussion on issues in higher education internationalisation in Africa. It will also feature a Research Indaba, focusing on internationalisation and research, in which institutional research leaders and policy-makers will share perspectives, following a keynote speech by the Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor.

Among those "thrilled" that UCT is hosting this conference and that

it has attracted so many renowned scholars, leaders, experts and practitioners from all across Africa and the rest of the world, is the director of the International Academic Programmes Office, Dr Loveness Kaunda. She is also pleased that many academics will be attending the conference.

"I hope they will find the topics under discussion highly pertinent to their teaching and research agenda and that they will be exposed to trends and hot topics in higher education internationalisation."

UCT last hosted the IEASA conference in 2004, and much has changed in the internationalisation landscape since then, notes Kaunda. The theme of the conference, she explained, was selected by UCT to reflect the growing role of partnerships and collaboration in advancing internationalisation at South African higher education institutions. ■

By the Book



UCT's deputy vice-chancellor Prof Crain Soudien's *Realising the Dream: Unlearning the logic of race in the*

South African school is a response to the dangers that come with the ubiquity of race, race-thinking and its attendant propensity to subsume the nuances of all other social complexity. It examines how the 'logic of race' is played out in the lives of South African learners.



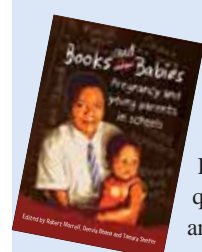
About 320 million years ago a group of reptiles known as synapsids emerged. *Forerunners of Mammals:*

Radiation, histology, biology, edited by UCT's Prof Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan, discusses the origin and progression of the synapsids from their sail-backed pelycosaur ancestor to the reptiles that eventually gave rise to mammals. It showcases the evolutionary history of the synapsids in the Karoo Basin.



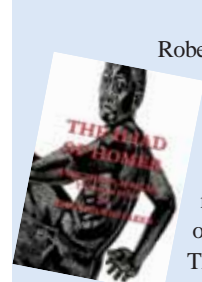
Through empirical research conducted at 37 municipalities across the country, *The Failure of Decentralisation in South African*

Local Government: Complexity and unanticipated consequences, by Andrew Siddle and Prof Thomas Koelble of UCT's Graduate School of Business, finds that municipalities are frequently incapable of meeting the demands imposed upon them by a highly complex model of local government.*



Being pregnant in a South African school is not easy. Drawing on quantitative and qualitative research conducted

in secondary schools in Durban and Cape Town, *Books and Babies: Pregnancy and parenthood in South African schools*, edited by UCT's Prof Robert Morrell with Deevia Bhana and Tamara Shefer, explores how school staff respond to pregnant learners and young parents, and surveys the attitudes of fellow learners towards them.



Robert Whitaker's *Iliad of Homer: A South African translation* is a fresh, wholly new translation of Homer's Iliad. The translation uses many South

African English words such as *amakhosi* (commanders), *kgotla* (assembly), *sloot* (ditch) and *assegai* (spear). The translation will be of interest to all lovers of literature and poetry, and to students of the Classics, of translation, and of comparative literature.

Of icebergs and agency

A deeper understanding of student learning.

This is what she and others are after, explained UCT's Professor Jenni Case on 1 August in her inaugural lecture, *Every Generation has its Struggle: A critical realist perspective on student learning in contemporary South Africa*.

But after 15 years working in student learning and engineering education, there is still so much to learn, said Case, now assistant dean for academic development in the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, and in-house authority on academic development in the Department of Chemical Engineering.

Not that she hasn't picked up a trick or two over the years, said Case. She now understands, for example, that her pursuit of knowledge and understanding demands not just Aristotle's episteme (such as the study of science), but also the domains of techne (craft) and phronesis (loosely translated as ethics).

Her approach has also evolved, and she has now embraced the school of critical realism. Employing the metaphor of an iceberg, Case talked of the 'actual', ie the part of the iceberg that, say, a bunch of men in a rubber duck can see and circumnavigate (objectively observable); the 'subjective' experiences of the men in the rubber duck; and the 'real', ie the entire iceberg, including the much larger chunk of ice hidden underneath the water, the hidden mechanisms that produce what people experience subjectively and observe objectively.

For too long, researchers have either been working at the level of the actual, or – even if insightfully – only on the subjective experiences of

the students. The time has come to change tack, said Case.

"If we want to start to generate insights that can help us truly understand the situation we are in, and to identify what we need to do to get to a different place, we need to go to the level of the real."

Case illustrated her lecture with the stories of two chemical-engineering students from polar opposites of the education spectrum, but who both found the degree an uphill struggle. There's Victor, a black student who came to UCT from a rural school who had to rely on his own wits in his final year of high school when teachers were either on strike or just not around; and Susan, who attended a private girls' school and was enticed into the field after a chat with a very enthusiastic chemical engineer at a careers day.

Attending courses with these and other students, attending tutorials and writing tests side by side with them, Case tried to get a full, real experience of the lives of the students. In doing so, she drew on the theories describing the interaction between structure (the world of material resources, positions and institutions, eg UCT) and agency (the world of human intention and action, eg student choices) of British sociologist Margaret Archer, a doyenne of the critical realist movement.

Case spoke of the structures that have shaped and continue to shape both Victor's and Susan's choices, such as their schooling. At UCT, the demands of their degree, which "decimate" student numbers as the programme continues, further constrain their agency or choices.

The reality, said Case, is that the

observed student learning outcomes are no "matter of historical accident". As designed, the course only graduates a few who go on to very successful careers – "the role of the undergraduate programme in student development seems limited to learning to work hard and survive".

"There are a number of problems with this position, not least of which is that it takes the current outcomes of the programme for granted. Fundamentally, it plays into credentialism, which sees the value of the degree in instrumental terms focused on a piece of paper."

The scope for student growth and action in this programme is "extremely limited", Case added. And today, especially in the context of South Africa and its desire to grow its number of black graduates, change is required.

"Thus we need to envision a university programme with a significantly enlarged space for the development of student agency," said Case.

There have been positive developments in the undergraduate programme at UCT, she pointed out. This includes the recording of lectures that are then made available to students; the rollout of initiatives to build "corporate agency" among students, including peer networks; and a 'Chem Eng Bootcamp'.

But only so much academic development can be done within the current programme structure, observed Case. As a result, for the past four years she and colleagues have been conceptualising a new undergraduate curriculum, with a new first-year course scheduled to launch in 2013.

This will include a "coherent strand of project work" that will



A case for change: In her inaugural lecture Prof Jenni Case spoke of how the undergraduate programme in chemical engineering will need a philosophical overhaul if success rates are to improve.

run from first to final years. More bootcamps are also lined up to help students either catch up on their work or gear up for the final examinations.

"In this way, very ambitiously, we want to allow for students to use more of the calendar year to work towards

success in the programme," closed Case, "and we want to significantly increase the number of students who can complete in regulation time."

Listen to a podcast of Case's lecture at <http://www.uct.ac.za/news/lectures/inaugural/2012/>. ■

Professor Martin Wittenberg is not one for dry data.

Quite the contrary, as Wittenberg illustrated in his inaugural lecture, *Economics and Transformation: Measurement, models, maths and myths*, delivered on 8 August, and as his former boss, Emeritus Professor Francis Wilson, testified immediately after. So even if Wittenberg's business – as director of UCT's DataFirst – a unit "devoted to survey research in Africa" – is data, he's been at the coalface plenty of times.

Take the point – August 1987 – at which he started his lecture. A young leader in the United Democratic Front, Wittenberg is on the lam from the security police. At the same time, however, he is doing a master's degree in local governance at what was then the University of Natal, fascinated by the "dysfunctional" apartheid state.

In Pietermaritzburg, for example, a mishmash of government types operate concurrently, and often in competition. Access to services is determined by the administrative structures in place in the particular area, and also, in black communities, by whether the local authorities are headmen and chiefs or perhaps landlords. The state and police also try and set up their own strongholds in these areas, recruiting locals who have something to gain from the existing structures.

Out of this "mess", said Wittenberg, would arise the protests that would finally help to topple the apartheid state. So forget any notions of a functioning, modern state being in place, he added.

"There were bits of it that were

Road map needed for Promised Land



Balance of power: In his inaugural lecture, Prof Martin Wittenberg (middle) tracked the state of South African poverty and inequality via a number of surveys. In picture are Dean of Commerce, Prof Don Ross (left) and Emer Prof Francis Wilson, pro vice-chancellor for poverty and inequality. Listen to a podcast of Case's lecture at <http://www.uct.ac.za/news/lectures/inaugural/2012/>.

functioning . . . but the system as a whole was a complete and utter mess. So the task in 1994 was not to transform an existing, functioning state, but to create a new state out of all these bits and pieces that were there to begin with."

Wittenberg then took a detour in 1993, by way of the Projects for Statistics on Living Standards and Development, a household survey collected under the direction of Wilson and UCT's Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU). (According to that study – and, for the purposes of his lecture, Wittenberg presented a graphic showing people arranged by size according to their income

– South Africa was a very unequal state. The poor, who barely reach the waistline of the 'average' South African, are dwarfed by the super-rich, some taller than Table Mountain, or even with their heads in the clouds.)

By 2008 the picture hadn't changed much, according to the first wave of the National Income Dynamics Survey, or NIDS, conducted again by SALDRU, but led by Professor Murray Leibbrandt and Associate Professor Ingrid Woolard.

"And if you're used to thinking in terms of Gini coefficients [which measure income disparity], in some senses the 2008 picture may even be slightly more unequal than the 1993 picture,"

said Wittenberg.

(One oddity of such surveys, explained Wittenberg, is how often the better-off groups of society think they're just average or even poor. Even the super-rich will sometimes think about themselves as average.)

These surveys show that South Africa is a society characterised by persistent poverty (although the state's social grants have made some inroads), high levels of unemployment and continuing inequality. Anomalies in the surveys – showing, for example, an increase in unemployment over the post-apartheid era – create a problem in that those who analyse survey data, like the people in

DataFirst or even Statistics South Africa, are accused of exaggerating unemployment and poverty numbers.

(Instead, the numbers and service-delivery protests would suggest that the country is once again sitting on a powder keg similar to that in Pietermaritzburg in the 1980s, cautioned Wittenberg.)

There are lots of possible explanations for the persisting pattern of inequality in South Africa, he explained. These range from inequality traps (a big unskilled group are unable to work themselves up and into a smaller skilled and well-compensated group) to a new elite that is loathe to change institutions, such as government, that allow them to feather their own nests.

Wittenberg then turned to the inaugural lecture delivered by his father (in the UCT audience) in August 1987, in which the latter, an Old Testament scholar, explained how even the kingdom of Solomon and his giant temples and fortifications were built on slave labour and inequalities. And while there were those who sang the praises of wise Solomon, Wittenberg senior had recounted, there was also resistance.

So, too, resistance may come in South Africa, noted Wittenberg.

"Today, we are not in a state of bondage, but we are certainly not yet in the Promised Land."

It is now for the country's academics to decide if they are praise singers (whether of the status quo or for a free market), or whether they will "critically reflect" and challenge those in power to change how they govern. ■

Women's safety and health issues at work

Globally, the workforce has changed in the last 50 years. Though men still outnumber women in the workforce, the percentage of women working has increased steadily, from 34% in the 1950s to 60% today.

Women are now marrying later in life, staying in school longer, delaying childbirth, and having fewer children than in previous years. More women are choosing to continue working, while also balancing their traditional parenting responsibilities.

Women face different workplace health challenges to men. This is partly because men and women

tend to have different kinds of jobs. Women generally have more work-related cases of carpal tunnel syndrome, tendonitis, respiratory diseases, infectious and parasitic diseases, and anxiety and stress disorders. Social, economic, and cultural factors also put women at risk of injury and illness. For example, women are more likely than men to do contingent work: part-time, temporary, or contract work. Compared to workers in traditional job arrangements, contingent workers have lower incomes and fewer benefits. Like all workers in insecure jobs, women may fear that bringing up a safety issue could result in job loss or more

difficult work situations. They may also be less likely to report a work-related injury.

Within our workforce, immigrant and refugee women are a particularly at-risk group. They face barriers related to their immigrant or refugee status as well as issues in balancing work, home, and family. Compared to native-born women, immigrant/refugee women work in industries and jobs with much higher injury rates. Sexist treatment and gender discrimination in the workplace can affect a woman's physical and mental health. Sexual harassment can lead to or contribute towards conditions such as anxiety,

depression, low self-esteem, alienation, insomnia, nausea, headaches and increased infections.

Balancing work and family tasks can put additional stress on women, who in many families still take primary responsibility for childcare and eldercare. When family and work demands collide, the resulting stress can lead to physical health problems such as poor appetite, lack of sleep, increase in blood pressure, fatigue, and increased susceptibility to infection. It can also result in mental health problems such as burnout and depression.

Learn more about these issues and other issues concerning women

workers at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/women/>.

CANSA

The Mowbray branch of the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA) is advocating that women have Pap smears to tackle the fight against cervical cancer. These tests are typically very expensive, but CANSA is offering the test at R20 per person. The test must be booked in advance and interested women may call the local CANSA office at 021 689 5381. ■

World stage premiere of Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians*

The world stage premiere of South African-born Nobel laureate JM Coetzee's novel *Waiting for the Barbarians*, adapted for the stage and directed by Alexandre 'Sasha' Marine, will take place at the Baxter Golden Arrow Studio, for two weeks only, from 16 August to 1 September nightly at 19h00.

In a dramatic coup for the Baxter, Coetzee's most celebrated novel will be performed as a stage play for the first time, produced by Maurice Podbrey of Mopo Productions. It features a stellar local line-up of eight actors led by Grant Swanby with Nicholas Pauling, Chuma Sopotela, Owen Manamela-Mogane, Chi Mhende, Alistair Moulton Black, Ruben Engel and Anele Situlweni. Set and costume design is by Craig Leo and the musical score is by Dmitri Marine.

Coetzee, who was born in Cape Town, taught at UCT. In 2002 he emigrated to Australia, and he won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2003. *Waiting for the Barbarians* is his third novel; it was first published in 1980, and was chosen by Penguin as one of the Great Books of the 20th Century.

Waiting for the Barbarians carries an age restriction of 14 years. The play previews at the Baxter Golden Arrow Studio on 16 and 17 August, opens on 18 August and runs until 1 September.

Booking is through Computicket on 0861 915 8000, online at www.computicket.co.za or at any Shoprite Checkers outlet. For discounted corporate, block or schools bookings contact Sharon on 021 680 3962, email sharon.ward@uct.ac.za; or Carmen on 021 680 3993, email carmen.kearns@uct.ac.za. ■



Carrying on: Chuma Sopotela and Grant Swanby appear in the stage adaptation of JM Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians*

Warning: Students targeted by criminals

In the wake of the spate of armed robberies targeting students in recent weeks, the South African Police Service (SAPS) have asked the university community to exercise "extreme caution" when approached by suspicious individuals.

On 10 and 12 August, the UCT's Campus Protection Services (CPS), in conjunction with the SAPS and the Groote Schuur Central Improvement District (GCID), distributed flyers to staff and students as well as to members of the public, informing them of the recent incidents and asking them to be more vigilant.

This follows three incidents in one week in early August, in which three students were robbed at gunpoint in Claremont, Ronde-

bosch and Mowbray respectively.

The modus operandi in all three incidents was the same. While the students were walking in broad daylight, they were approached by a vehicle with three occupants, under the pretext of asking for directions. Once they strike up a conversation with the students, they ask them to get into the vehicle, physically take them to the place in question.

En route, these student are held up and robbed of their laptops and cell phones and are forced to withdraw cash from their bank accounts. The suspects then drop off the victims before fleeing. The vehicles used have been a small black car and a white Mercedes Benz.

"We urge students to be on the lookout

for these vehicles, and to immediately report any suspicious behaviour to the police and campus security," read a police statement.

Police have appealed to students not to approach the suspects if they are spotted, as they are armed and dangerous. Instead, they should report their sightings to campus security or their nearest police station.

Students have been asked to be extremely vigilant when walking alone. They should also avoid openly displaying possessions such as laptops and cellular phones.

CPS's Bernard Soules said they had distributed 1 600 leaflets and posters in the residences, and notices had been placed on UCT notice boards and in GCID security horse boxes. The campaign will be ongoing.



Meanwhile, the CPS and police are continuing with their crime prevention exercises, in the Rondebosch area and on campus, including intermittent roadblocks on campus. Students and staff are encouraged to be patient and to allow for a few minutes of extra travelling time in case of temporary delays during road blocks.

If you have any queries, please contact CPS on 021 650 2222/3. ■

EVENTS

Seminars and Lectures and Meeting



When: Wednesday, 06 August 2012 at 17h30. Speaker: Professor David Britton, NanoSciences Innovation Centre, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science Title: 'Nanoscience, Nanotechnology and Nanovation'. Venue: Lecture Theatre 1, Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus, University of Cape Town

Academics Union:

The Annual General Meeting [AGM] of the Academics Union is scheduled for: Date: Tuesday 28 August. Where: African Studies Gallery [next to the Kaplan Centre]. Time: 13h00 to 14h00. Light refreshments will be served

Philosophy Society Meeting

When: Tuesday 28 August @ 20h00. Speaker: Prof Marcel Verweij. Title: Exploiting vulnerable people in biomedical research. Venue: Lecture Theatre 2, Humanities Building

The African Gender Institute (UGI) invites staff, students and members of the public to attend the following presentation of a paper written by Jennifer Radloff and Selina Mudavanhu, both from the African Gender Institute (AGI): Paper Title: "Taking back the Tech": Re-framing digital spaces as feminist activist spaces. A case study of the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women & Children call to action video. Date: Tuesday 21 August 2012. Time: 1pm – 2pm. Venue: Harry Oppenheimer Building, Seminar room 4.01 University of Cape Town. This event is part of the AGI's African Feminists: Talking the Walk programme.

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

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

Chair and Head of Department: Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 21 September 2012

Professor/Associate Professor, Department of Oceanography, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 01 October 2012

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

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

Finance Manager, Communication & Marketing and Development & Alumni Departments, Closing date: 26 August 2012

Research Nurse, Lung Infection & Immunity Unit, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 27 August 2012

Mental Health Counsellor, Department of Psychiatry & Mental Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 31 August 2012

Part-time Clinical Research Administrator: Neuropsychology, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 31 August 2012

Section Manager: Law Library, UCT Libraries, Closing date: 2 September 2012 Facility Coordinator (Radiotherapy), Department of Radiation Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 21 September 2012

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY: EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

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Baker breaks new mathematical ground

As the South African Olympic team returned home with a record medal haul, UCT's Liam Baker has claimed his own pioneering slice of Olympiad glory.

The third-year mathematics and applied mathematics student became the first South African to have a problem proposal selected for inclusion in the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO), when his functional equation was one of six used at the 2012 edition of the competition for the sharpest high-school mathematics brains in the world. All 100 participating countries submit problem proposals, and a series of committees hand-pick the six most "original and elegant" submissions, as UCT's Professor John Webb of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics describes.

Webb says that having a problem accepted by the IMO is "very difficult" (not to mention hitting the

mark at the first attempt, as Baker has). Submissions need to be "both new and interesting, with a solution that requires original thinking and mathematical creativity," explains Webb.

Baker, who plans to pursue a mathematical academic career, says he had all but forgotten about his submission until he heard on the second day of the competition – held in Argentina in early July – that his problem was being used.

"For the next few days I was pretty much over the moon about it," says Baker, himself a former IMO medallist.

For those not afraid of a challenge, Baker's problem is as follows:

Find all functions $f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ such that, for all integers a, b, c that satisfy $a+b+c=0$, the following equality holds: $f(a)^2 + f(b)^2 + f(c)^2 = 2f(a)f(b) + 2f(b)f(c) + 2f(c)f(a)$. ■



Thought-leaders: Panellists (from left) Mahlubi (Chief) Mabizela, Judy Favish (hidden) and Timothy McBride helped frame the debate for students at the summit.

Transforming post-secondary education in South Africa

Engage vociferously with each other and government policies and move from being subjects to being active citizens.

These are among the pledges taken by student leaders from seven Western Cape tertiary institutions at the New Hope Summit 2012, an event that aimed to flesh out the role of students in transforming post-secondary education in South Africa.

The summit, hosted at UCT on 4 and 5 August, gathered students from four universities and three Further Education and Training Institutes to grapple with the issue in the context of the national Department for Higher Education and Training's (DHET) green paper for post-school education and training, published in early 2012. ■

August is sustainability month at UCT residences

An awareness campaign focused on sustainability in UCT residences, and centred on the themes of electricity, water and waste, is in full swing.

The Student Housing & Residence Life (SH&RL) Sustainability Month (from 3 to 31 August), is being held in partnership with the Department of Student Affairs and the Green Campus Initiative.

Every Wednesday until 29 August, information sessions centred on the themes will be held at various venues around campus.

According to the organisers, they aim to give UCT students and staff practical tips on what they can do to promote sustainability, specifically at residences. ■

The best: and that's no longer up for debate

Free heads-up: don't pick an argument with UCT's Daniel Kaliski.

With him having been anointed the Best Public Speaker, aka best debater, at the 17th annual National Universities Debating Championship in July, chances are you will come off second-best.

Kaliski, chairperson of UCT's Debating Union, led by example as the Ikeys clashed words with some 26 other university teams at the competition, hosted by the University of Limpopo. Contestants deliberated on an array of issues concerning Africa's well-being through the lens of the theme *Exploring New Frontiers*, including

the limits of freedom of expression, whether governments should actively discourage consumerist lifestyles and, for the Grand Final, whether art glorifying dictators ought to be destroyed in post-conflict societies.

Kaliski's accolade wasn't UCT's only one, the team also receiving the title of Best Speaking Institution, made to the institution that brought the debaters of the highest quality to the tournament.

But it wasn't a one-university show, though. The University of the Witwatersrand clinched top spot overall in the English first-language category, while the University of Fort Hare won the English second-language category. ■



Talk of the town: Daniel Kaliski was named the Best Public Speaker at the recent Universities Debating Championship.



Vice-Chancellor thanks students

Keeping up with his series of get-togethers with staff and students, UCT Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price and his wife, Professor Deborah Posel, welcomed the outgoing student faculty council member (pictured above) to a cocktail event at their Glenara residence on 7 August. Price thanked the students for their "enormously important" contribution to the university over the past year. "UCT is incredibly lucky that ... we have fantastic students rising to the top, volunteering, stepping forward, and making a huge difference to the lives of their peers and colleagues and to the university," toasted Price. ■

Res 4 Res wraps up



High drama: After months of preparation, UCT residence students took to the planks for three nights for the annual Res 4 Res Theatre Festival, in which they showcased their dramaturgical talents.

Review, remix, regenerate.

This was the theme of the 2012 Res 4 Res Theatre Festival that dazzled UCT audiences from 8-10 August at the Little Theatre.

Organised as part of the culture programme of the Office of Residence Life in collaboration with UCT's Department of Drama, Res 4 Res showcases the thespian skills of mostly non-drama students, all living in residence, in a series of short plays.

Audiences tagged along on a dramatic journey from a rural village to Johannesburg and experienced the chilling tensions of a suburban family leaving too much unsaid, as students unlocked their inner actors under the guidance of festival co-ordinators Tanya Heywood and Danieyella Rodin. ■