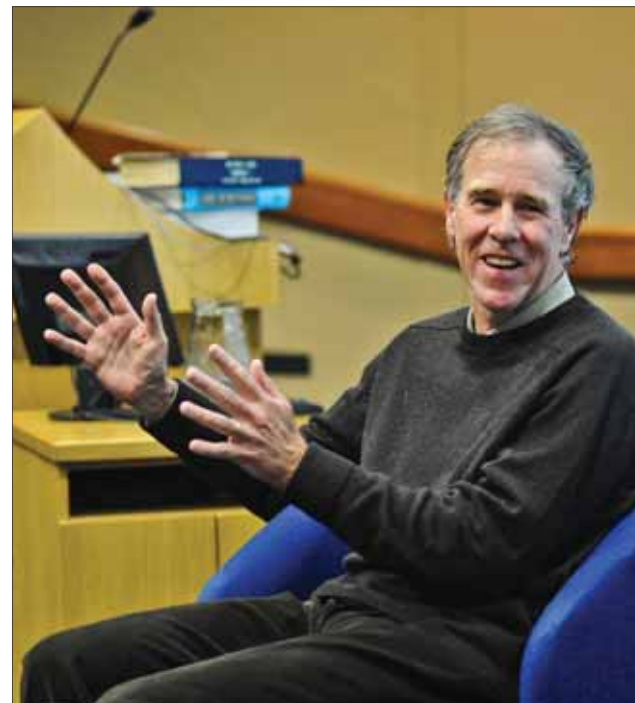


This edition and other editions of *Monday Paper* are available online at [www.uct.ac.za/mondaypaper](http://www.uct.ac.za/mondaypaper). For daily online news at UCT, please visit [www.news.uct.ac.za/dailynews](http://www.news.uct.ac.za/dailynews)

## UCT rules at NRF awards



Triumphant trio: The NRF has made special awards to Profs Kelly Chibale, Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan and Tim Noakes.

The National Research Foundation (NRF) has recognised the superlative work of three UCT researchers by naming them for Special Category Awards at a ceremony in Cape Town on 13 September.

Professor Tim Noakes was honoured with the NRF lifetime achievement award for his pioneering work in sports science research. Professor Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan received the Transformation of the Science Cohort Award for her achievements as a palaeobiologist. And Professor

Kelly Chibale was named the NRF's Champion of Research and Capacity Development at Higher Education Institutions in South Africa.

Chibale made international headlines recently when his Drug Discovery & Development Centre (H3-D) at UCT identified a chemical compound that has the potential to provide a single-dose cure for malaria.

Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price said of the accolades: "These awards celebrate three remarkable academ-

ics whose work has helped position UCT as an African hub of intellectual activity and research: exploring the continent's prehistory, the science behind excellence in sports and the potential of different chemical compounds to cure Africa's diseases. They are part of UCT's platform for nurturing the next generation of academics for many other universities in the country and the continent."

The NRF has also recognised the future strength of UCT through its ratings this year. For 2012, three out

of the four new P-ratings, made to young researchers who are considered likely to become future international leaders in their fields, are from UCT: archaeologists Dr David Braun and Dr Shadreck Chirikure, and Dr Amanda Weltman of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics.

The NRF has awarded two new A-ratings to UCT scholars as well this year – to microbiologist Professor Ed Rybicki and paediatric specialist Professor Heather

Zar. In addition, the foundation has reconfirmed the A-ratings of UCT mathematics' Professor Hans-Pieter Kunzi and environmental engineer Professor George Ekama. An A-rating is given to researchers who are unequivocally recognised by their peers as leading international scholars in their field for the high quality and impact of their recent research.

UCT currently has 380 NRF-rated researchers, including 30 A-ratings and five P-ratings. ■



## Africa a delta for transformation

The annual Steve Biko Memorial Lectures at UCT have become renowned for their grand visions and lyrical delivery.

The 13th rendition, delivered by Nigerian poet, essayist and novelist Dr Ben Okri on 12 September, did not disappoint. And Okri covered plenty of ground in his five-part talk.

Okri, in a lecture for which, he said, he'd made up a title just minutes before entering Jameson Hall – going with Biko and the Tough Alchemy of Africa – spoke of the role that South Africa's anti-apartheid struggle, "one of the greatest struggles of our times", played in his own life and that of others around Africa. It was a fight, he said, that posed some of life's biggest questions; philosophical inquiries from the nature of justice and equality to the very existence of God. He spoke of Biko's life and his relevance today, a

man whose life and writings pose equally "forensic questioning".

Okri also turned to Africa; a continent, he said, that has not always lived up to the hopes of its liberators. He spoke of the "evolutionary shift" freedom forces on people: "They are never quite the same people again." He spoke, too, of leadership, and how a country's citizens must be vigilant and demand more of its leaders: "The people cannot be passive about the single most important thing that affects them, which is the running of their lives."

But so much is possible, Okri said.

"If there is a correlation between experience and wisdom, between suffering and understanding, Africa is the richest delta of possible transformation."

Listen to a podcast of Okri's lecture at [www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia/sound/2012/](http://www.uct.ac.za/news/multimedia/sound/2012/). ■

Hope: Africa, and specifically South Africa, has many lessons it could teach of the rest of the world, said Dr Ben Okri in the 13th Annual Steve Biko Memorial Lecture.

"They're so big, I'm just a room Number"



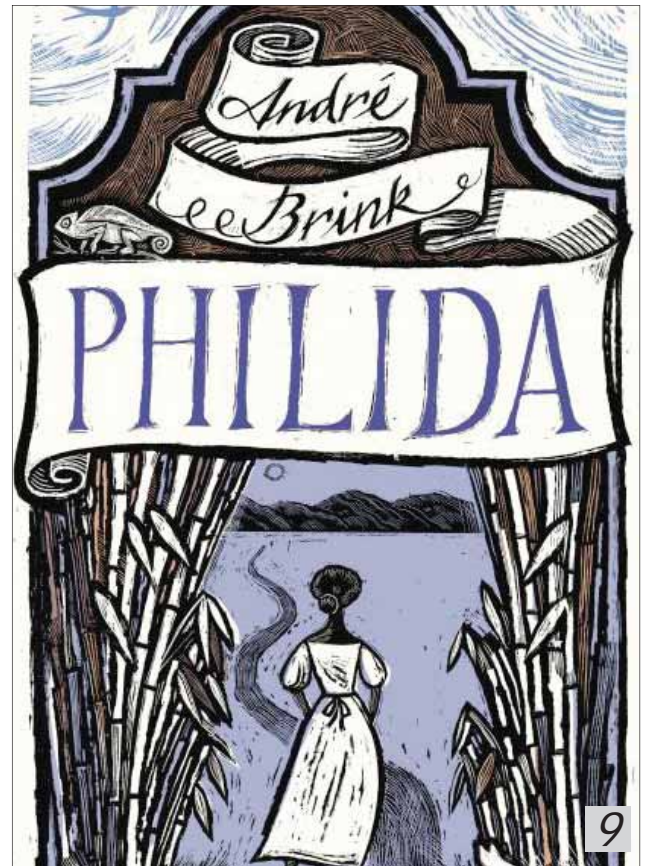
"They're so small they know my grandmother's middle name"

**Little Scotia**  
GUEST HOUSE  
[www.scotia.co.za](http://www.scotia.co.za) / [scotia@new.co.za](mailto:scotia@new.co.za)  
tel: 021 686 8245 / fax: 021 685 1887  
5 Rustenburg Ave, Rondebosch



"Just Right"





## News in pictures • News in pictures • News in pictures • News in pictures • News in pictures

**1** Family, loved ones, friends, old comrades, colleagues and students sang the praises of the late Dr Neville Alexander at a memorial service hosted by UCT and the Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa (PRAESA), the initiative he launched at the university in 1992. Speakers commented on the many aspects of Alexander, but “principled” was the common adjective among their observations. That was illustrated, said PRAESA director Carole Bloch, by Alexander’s unflinching commitment to mother-tongue education for young learners; until recently he still went out on Saturday mornings to read to children attending PRAESA’s Vulindlela Reading Club in Langa.

**2** Global experts on open access and knowledge-sharing recently shared their views on the developments and trends in this rapidly evolving area at a UCT seminar hosted by the Scholarly Communication in Africa Programme (SCAP). The Open Access Strategies for African Institutions seminar was a precursor to the upcoming Berlin10 Open Access Conference to be held in Stellenbosch in November this year.

**3** Two teams of students from the Introduction to Space Technology course took up the Cansat challenge in which they designed and built a pseudo-satellite, weighing at most 350 grams, with the dimensions of a standard coldrink can. The two CanSats, which were launched on a rocket into the sky, had to collect acceleration, velocity and altitude data and transmit it to the ground in real time.

**4** Grade-four learners from Sun Valley Primary near Noordhoek stroke a crayfish during a school outreach organised by UCT’s Marine Research Institute, or MA-RE. One hundred and thirty learners

took part in the outreach at the John Day Zoology Building, which was meant to illustrate the vital importance of our oceans and open their minds to a possible career in marine science.

**5** The annual Learners’ Open Day of UCT’s Division of Human Genetics, now in its fourth year, is becoming a hit among school kids. The hundreds of grade-11 learners who attended the latest edition certainly appeared to enjoy the workshops, discussions, hands-on sessions and simulations.

**6** Dawood Hattas’ work for his PhD on plant chemical defences won the best poster presentation award – his first – at the recent annual conference of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa. Hattas, senior technical officer in the Department of Botany, gave a paper and a poster presentation on his research, which looks at the plant compound known as tannin.

**7** As the first winner of the academic excellence award at the inaugural South Africa Youth Awards held by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), UCT postdoctoral researcher Peter Malatji sets a fine example for aspiring academics and community workers. Malatji, who admits to being from a “difficult family background”, recently handed in his PhD thesis in chemical engineering.

**8** UCT cardiologist Dr Mpiko Ntsekhe has been elected as a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology (ACC), for his outstanding contribution to the field. As an ACC fellow, Ntsekhe, of the Department of Medicine, joins a select list of South African cardiologists who are international leaders in their field.

**9** Prof André Brink, honorary professor and research associate in UCT’s Department of English Language and Literature, is hoping that it’s third time lucky for him after his book, *Philida*, was nominated for the Man Booker Prize. It’s been a while since Brink’s last nomination – he was up for the coveted award in 1976 and 1978. Winners will be announced in October.

**10** UCT recently held an exhibition – *Spring Queen – the staging of the glittering proletariat* – to showcase the ongoing story of the Spring Queen. Every year since the late 1970s Cape Town garment and textile factory workers have participated in Spring Queen – a fashion competition in which they represent their respective factories. The exhibition was curated by Dr Siona O’Connell of the Centre for Curating the Archive.

**11** The Wolfson Memorial Colloquium, held recently at the Wolfson Pavilion, is set to become a regular fixture on the UCT events calendar. The theme for the inaugural event was *Generating Knowledge Against Poverty*, and speakers from various disciplines were chosen to cover a range of health areas relevant to people living in poverty. Photographed here are VC Dr Max Price (left), Dean Marian Jacobs and Baron Peter Piot.

## News in brief • News in brief

The 2012 African Theatre Association annual international conference at UCT turned out to be a thought-provoking four-day event. This year’s conference theme, *Querying Africa: Disease, metamorphosis and unconventionality in African theatre and performance*, created a platform for interrogating how African theatre and performance has ‘infected’ social orders. ■



# UCT climbs world rankings

UCT's international reputation has been firmly cemented in two new rankings.

Results from the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings for 2012/13, released on 11 September, place the university at number 154. This means UCT has climbed two places, up from 156 in 2011, and seven up from spot number 161 in 2010.

The QS system also ranks UCT as the only university in Africa in the top 200 and seventh in the top ten BRICS universities (universities

from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).

Five South African universities made it into the top 700.

In addition, UCT performed well in the Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), released in August this year. The ARWU ranking for UCT remains unchanged – again placing the university in the 200-300 range and as the top university in Africa.

Wits University (Top 400) and the University of KwaZulu-Natal

(Top 500) are the other South African universities that made the list.

“A critical factor in achieving success as a higher education institution is found in the quality of the staff,” said Gerda Kruger, Executive Director: Communications & Marketing Department. “UCT is blessed to have staff of world-class quality who are able to compete and participate at the highest level in the global knowledge economy.”

The university recognises that these rankings may be flawed, but they are not without merit.

“Although UCT is mindful of the criticisms and debate surrounding ranking methods,” adds Kruger, “we are happy with UCT's consistency and continue to strive for excellence in our academic endeavours as well as in our contribution to society as a whole.”

These rankings also serve the university well in many ways, she observes.

“A good performance in the rankings sends the message that South Africans can get a world-class education at home. Further-

more, prospective students and staff the world over also use the rankings to decide where to study and work. Our reputation also facilitates our many research partnerships with other universities in the country, in other parts of Africa and the rest of the world. These partnerships undoubtedly contribute further to our research efforts and reputation.”

The Times Higher Education (THE) World Rankings are expected in October. Last year, UCT ranked in the top 200 on the THE rankings. ■



## Onward and forward

The final session of the conference *Strategies to Overcome Poverty and Inequality: Towards Carnegie 3*, on at UCT from 3 to 7 September, ended on a high note with Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe vowing that government would play its part in overcoming the twin challenges. Emeritus Professor Francis Wilson (in picture), appointed as pro vice-chancellor for poverty and inequality, unpacked the challenges and opportunities ahead. He stressed the need to exploit synergies – there are enough organisations in the country, he said, but “we need more and better networking”. Among the first tasks ahead, he added, would be to find a way to report to the National Planning Commission on the outcomes from the conference, identifying the major themes that need addressing, and seeing what meetings must be arranged over the next three years as the project moves to a third Carnegie study on poverty (and inequality) in South Africa. Download the podcasts of some of the presentations on <http://www.carnegie3.org.za/podcasts> ■



Frontline: Dr Tanja Winkler, speaking to community members in the Langrug community, where she led a project in which UCT students help with upgrades in the area.

## UCT scholar bags engineering accolade

Women's Month ended on a high note for UCT's Dr Tanja Winkler when the Women in Engineering and the Built Environment (WiEBE), a programme based at the University of Johannesburg, honoured her with a national award. Winkler, of UCT's School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics, received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the WiEBE for her innovative teaching methods. A recipient of a research grant from the National Research Foundation's Thuthuka, or Women in Research programme, to facilitate an ongoing project on civil society, poverty, and inner city regeneration, Winkler has made remarkable contributions to the field of urban planning in the country. Together with Liana Müller, her colleague in the master's of landscape architecture course, Winkler has facilitated community-university engagements via a studio-based course that is shared between students from the city and regional planning and the landscape architecture programmes. ■

## Home-grown high-performance computing at ICTS

It's never going to match the big boys, but a mid-level high-performance service offered by Information and Communication Technology Services has become a sought-after commodity among researchers at UCT.

So much so that by September this year, the facility has clocked over 225,000 processing hours, about two and a half years after it opened. It is expected to have gone well over 250,000 processing hours by the end of 2012.

Managed by technical specialists Timothy Carr and Andrew Lewis, the cluster ran its first UCT job – for Dr Ake Fagereng of the Department of Geology – in early 2010. Since then it has been used across 17 departments, using 224 cores (aka processors) and 45 specialised science packages.

The core component of any HPC system is its storage. The ICTS HPC sports an impressive 25TB scratch area – a directory to hold files and directories for short periods of time – for research data analysis, and a further 25TB for archived data.

The service was established shortly after Sakkie Janse van Rensburg was appointed as executive director of Information and Communication Technology Services (ICTS) at UCT. Within a short time of taking office, Janse van Rensburg had convinced the university to fund an HPC node within ICTS.

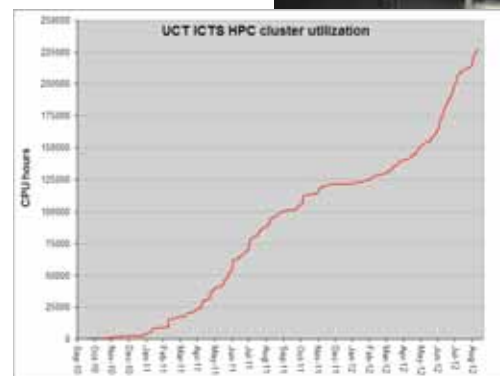
This, he determined, would be a scaled-down complement to, for example, the services offered by the nearby Centre for High Performance Computing, or even the South African National Grid, which pools computing resources from institutions and centres across the country.

“We have many researchers who are either just developing their work or are moving into new areas, and who just need some time on a smaller system at UCT,” says Janse van Rensburg.

Information about what the team is doing can be found on its blog or HPC website at <http://blogs.uct.ac.za/blog/big-bytes> and <http://hpc.uct.ac.za>. ■



Logged in: Andrew Lewis and Timothy Carr run ICTS's highly sought-after high-performance facility.



## Why the Higgs Boson matters

Public interest in physics spiked after the European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN)'s announcement on 4 July that it had detected a particle that looked and behaved like the mythical Higgs Boson particle for which scientists have spent decades searching.

Many have been wondering just what all the fuss is about.

UCT's Dr Andrew Hamilton's public lectures on 6 and 10 September went some way towards shedding light on this memorable moment in scientific history.

Hamilton spent five years working on the ATLAS project at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN, the decades-long experiment to detect the Higgs Boson particle, before joining UCT as lecturer in the



Delving deep: Dr Andrew Hamilton explained the inner workings of the sub-atomic particles that make up matter as we know it, including the much-publicised Higgs Boson particle. View video of the lecture: <http://www.youtube.com/user/UCTSouthAfrica> (category - executive communications & public).

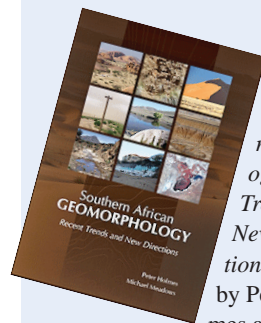
Department of Physics in 2011. So, when the Faculty of Science invited the public to hear the physicist share insights into the Higgs-inspired public furore, it was no surprise that every seat was filled.

Particle physics, explains Hamilton, is understood through two main (and competing) models: the Standard Model, and Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity. The Higgs Boson is a fundamental – and, before 4 July, the only hypothetical – particle in the Standard Model.

“If you want to know how the molecules that make up your body stick together the way they do, how the sun shines, why the sky is blue, why water is liquid in temperatures found on earth, or why we don't fall through the floor, all of the answers are contained in the equation of the Standard Model,” Hamilton summarises. “This whole system, the Standard Model, only fits together if the Higgs Boson is there to make it work.” ■

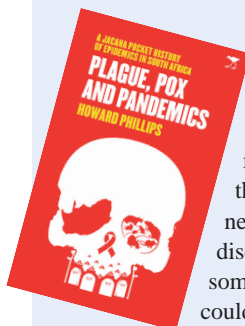


# By the Book



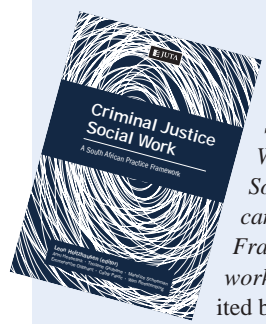
*Southern African Geomorphology: Recent Trends and New Directions*, edited by Peter Holmes and UCT's

Professor Michael Meadows, provides a unique account of the varied physical landscapes of the subcontinent and the landforms that comprise them. It is an academic text, yet one that will satisfy the lay-reader wishing to learn more about the southern African landscape.



Over the last decades, we have seen more than three dozen new infectious diseases appear, some of which could kill millions of people. *Plague, Pox and Pandemics*, authored by UCT Prof Howard Phillips, provides the first look into the history of epidemics in South Africa, probing lethal episodes which significantly shaped this society over three centuries.

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*Criminal Justice Social Work – A South African Practice Framework*, edited by Dr Leon Holtzhausen

from UCT, focuses on the practice of social work in a criminal justice setting. The fundamental objective of this book is to urge a change in the conventional paradigms used to practise social work in the field of criminal justice and promote conversion to a unified paradigm of criminal justice social work. ■

## New unit takes closer look at African cinema

Building on her longstanding interest in the cinematic traditions of the continent, Associate Professor Lesley Marx and her assistant, Alta du Plooy, have been busy promoting the interests of the African Cinema Unit, based in the Centre for Film & Media Studies (CFMS). In July the ACU hosted the Alternative Africa Film Festival, where some “very strange underground and cult films” were screened. Then in August it welcomed local filmmaker Jyoti Mistry for a book launch and screening programme. On 25 and 26 September it will host a screening programme and panel discussion with film director Ross Devenish, and on 12 October UCT alumnus Oliver Hermanus will conduct a Master Class. Stealing the headlines, though, is its new MA in African Cinema, presented through coursework and dissertation, which starts in 2013.

We spoke to Marx briefly about the ACU and its plans.

**MP: What will the ACU look like? And how far along is it?**

*Lesley Marx:* What we’ve done to get it up and running is to have a series of events. (See above.) The nice thing about the Jyoti Mistry book launch was that deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo was there, and gave his verbal and moral support. We’ll see about the financial support when the time comes, he said. We also had Professor Deborah Posel, and I was so grateful to her because we’re trying to create ties with HUMA (the Institute for the Humanities in Africa) and also with the African Gender Institute, with which we had our first partnership in the visit of Ghanaian feminist filmmaker Yaba Badoe. She has been very helpful in giving us leads to key filmmakers in the rest of Africa,



which is one of our main aims – to reach into the continent, to get people to come out here, to organise retrospectives, to have and to attend film festivals, to have and attend symposia and conferences; that’s the kind of big picture down the line.

**MP: What have been the ACU’s roots at UCT?**

*LM:* We’ve already had, running for several years, a third-year course in African cinema. But, of course, one 12-week course running at undergraduate level on films from the whole continent really just gives students a

taste of what African cinema encompasses. It’s just a tiny little taste. Now we have approval to start our MA in African Cinema, though, and that is much more clearly devoted to a higher level of intellectual engagement with the field. The programme will also offer a space for scholars of African cinema and African filmmakers to engage in discussion and debate with teachers, researchers and students. Personally, I have an enormous interest in North African women’s films – I think they’re absolutely fantastic and I think we need to get those filmmakers out here.

**MP: Is there interest among students in African cinema and a Master’s in African Cinema?**

*LM:* We’re developing it. It’s very much a case of early days. I think it’s going to be an appealing degree to students from outside of South Africa, but there is also interest from inside South Africa.

**MP: What kinds of films are you going to be looking at? Just the serious stuff? Not Leon Schuster, I assume?**

*LM:* Well, I think we *should* be looking at Leon Schuster – he is the most commercially successful filmmaker in the country, after all. We want to make the third-year course much more contemporary. We want to position the film texts much more fully in the moment of the students’ own experiences, and get them excited so that they will be eager to explore the astounding worlds of African Cinema from the rest of the continent. Importantly, we also want the MA to explore the incredible archive of films that our libraries already have. [See sidebar.]

**MP: What has motivated you to galvanize the ACU?**

*LM:* We have a generous start-up grant from UCT, and I have developed a stronger interest in African cinema over the years. I’ve always had a deep interest in South African cinema, but because I’ve been teaching on the undergraduate course I became immensely more interested in African cinema more broadly. There’s no shortage of films. It’s escalated immensely over the past few decades – Nollywood [Nigerian cinema] is hhhhuuuuge – so we’re just trying to alert people to the richness of filmmaking on the continent. ■

## Films for Africa!

The unassuming storeroom, a few twists and turns into the Special Collections Library, where the over 3,000 DVDs in the African Film Collection are stored under lock and key belie the value of its precious holdings. Part of the African Studies Collection, these feature films, television shows and documentaries – many converted from stock film, VHS and Betamax format – is second to none to any other collection on the continent. “It’s certainly the biggest film collection on Africa in Africa,” says librarian Beverley Angus, who looks after it alongside senior librarian Sue Ogterop. Some pieces date back to the early 1950s, but run up to some of the latest cinematic



releases. (Yes, even the much-maligned Leon Schuster.) It covers just about every conceivable topic of interest to academics and students alike. In fact, reports Ogterop, researchers from across the world regularly research material. And the film archive, compiled with Ogterop’s film-archivist

husband Freddy Ogterop, is still growing, as Ogterop (Sue) and Angus source films from other collections, donations, festivals and distributors. “You keep your ears open,” says Ogterop. To view the catalogue, visit [www.lib.uct.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/asl/films2011Dec.pdf](http://www.lib.uct.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/asl/films2011Dec.pdf). ■

## UCT on an “upward trajectory”, according to 2011 research report



Research highlights: (From left, back) Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, NRF president and CEO; Prof Salim Abdool Karim, president of the Medical Research Council; Prof Danie Visser, UCT deputy vice-chancellor for research; and (seated) Dr Marilet Stenaert, executive director of the Research Office, at the launch of UCT’s 2011 Research Report.

The new-look *UCT Research Report*, the 2011 edition of which was launched recently, is largely a tribute to the institution’s researchers who play an important role in ensuring that the institution retains its position as the leading research university in South Africa.

In addition to highlighting the achievements of individual researchers, the 2011 report also details a range of interdisciplinary research areas in which UCT is making an impact both nationally and internationally. In a departure from previous years, when the report listed research publications under the different faculties, the 2011 research report is organised according to these research areas, which include poverty and engineering, water management and climate change.

Organising the report in this way is achieving a long-held goal, said Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price, of breaking down faculty boundaries.

Price added that the 2011 report showed that UCT is on “an upward trajectory”. So, for example, funding to postgraduate students increased by 13% to R135 million. In addition, funding to postdoctoral researchers grew by 16% to R44 million.

“In both cases these figures were well above the inflation rate,” said Price. “These are phenomenal growth figures and we are very proud.”

UCT also received the highest publication count subsidy from government, based on over 1,200 units of research publication. UCT hosts 28 national research chairs awarded under the South Africa Research Chairs Initiative, aka SARChI, with a further four awarded under an earlier call by the Department of Science and Technology and the National Research Foundation (NRF). Three of the four P-ratings, for up-and-coming young researchers, awarded by the NRF went to UCT researchers in 2011.

And two A-ratings – marking these researchers as international leaders in their fields – were awarded to Professors Ed Rybicki and Heather Zar, reported Price.

At the launch, hosted by Professor Danie Visser, deputy vice-chancellor responsible for research, Professor Salim Abdool Karim, president of the Medical Research Council and the keynote speaker, congratulated UCT on its impressive research record. He also stressed that the three prerequisites for scientific success are freedom of thought; persistence; and intolerance towards mediocrity.

Publications and faculty profiles appear on the CD attached to the back of the report, as well as online at [www.research2011.uct.ac.za](http://www.research2011.uct.ac.za). Copies of the 2011 research report may be requested from the Research Office. Contact Christina Pather on email at [christina.pather@uct.ac.za](mailto:christina.pather@uct.ac.za). ■



# Creating more sustainable urban futures



Green light: (Clockwise from top left) Anna Taylor, Anton Cartwright, Robert McGaffin and Saul Roux are leading the research projects on a new international partnership for the African Centre for Cities.

The work of four young researchers took centre stage when UCT's African Centre for Cities (ACC) hosted the launch of a major international partnership at the start of August.

The research, to be conducted by Anton Cartwright, Robert McGaffin, Saul Roux and Anna Taylor, all working from the ACC, will be the flagship studies of the new partnership known as the Mistra Urban Futures (MUF) Knowledge Transfer Project. With this initiative, Cape Town now joins four other cities – Gothenburg in Sweden, Manchester in the UK, Shanghai in China and Kisumu in Kenya – under the spotlight.

The aim of the project, managed and funded by MUF, in turn headquar-

tered at Chalmers University in Gothenburg, is to create capacity in these cities, as Professor Sue Parnell from the ACC explained at the launch, to “transform current unsustainable development pathways to more sustainable urban futures”. To this end, MUF has narrowed down concerns under three focus areas – Fair (concerned with justice, social inclusion, rights and access), Green (managing resource constraints and climate change) and Dense (looking at the role of urban qualities and services).

It will be the aim of UCT and the ACC to partner with the City of Cape Town to address these themes, which have long been of interest to both ACC and City policies, projects and programmes.

“So, Cape Town is well situated to contribute towards international debates on the meaning and role of fair, green and dense in addressing urban sustainable development challenges,” added Parnell.

The labours of the four ACC researchers, working with partners across city structures and funded by MUF, will address the MUF themes.

Cartwright will work on issues of the Green Economy, exploring topics such as economic growth, job creation and the role, if any, of economics in the green economy (Green). In turn, McGaffin will focus his attentions on the property market as a driver of urban development and form (Dense). Roux will be concerned

with promoting a sustainable, secure and clean energy supply for the City (Green). And Taylor will study how climate change challenges authorities and policymakers to think about and apply development differently (Green).

“Their work plans and research questions,” said Zarina Patel, the ACC co-ordinator of the project, “allow them to simultaneously provide content for policy positions, while making the decision-making processes and spaces more legible.”

Another element of the programme will be an exchange programme under which City officials will be placed at UCT for a short time. The aim of this exchange is to

expose high-performing City staff to structured academic engagement, during which time they can build their own capacities, expand their horizons, engage with international peers and profile the City's work in internationally recognised journals.

The ACC and the City of Cape Town share a common vision, observed Belinda Walker, mayoral committee member responsible for environmental and spatial planning for the city.

“We are already seeing benefits with the work that is being done and the researchers from the ACC are bringing academic rigour to the process, which gives us a unique perspective on our work and our ideas.” ■

## ‘Knowing the enemy’ a necessity in the fight against TB



Professor Valerie Mizrahi's enthusiasm and passion for her subject, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* – better known as the bacterium that causes tuberculosis – was evident as she chronicled her journey as a TB researcher in an inaugural lecture delivered on 22 August.

Mizrahi, director of UCT's Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM), shared some of the highlights of her career and in the process paid homage to her students and collaborators in the fight against the dreaded disease. Dr Max Price, vice-chancellor, described Mizrahi's inaugural lecture, titled *Knowing the Enemy: Understanding the survival and subversion strategies of Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, as a “celebration” instead of an “ascent to professorship”.

Mizrahi stated that the tubercle bacillus, aka TB, is “the enemy by virtue of what it has done to humanity”. Worldwide there are 1.5 million TB deaths and 9 million new cases are recorded each year.

“A sobering way of thinking of what we are up against is that there is a death from tuberculosis every 20 seconds.”

She calculated that in the time that it took her to deliver her lecture, no fewer than 200 people worldwide would have died from the disease. And yet, drug-susceptible TB is curable.

Both her parents are tuberculosis survivors, said Mizrahi, but the real reason for her continued involvement in the field was that it is “just an incredibly exciting field to work in and it is the science which has inspired me”.

Mizrahi, who completed a doctorate in chemistry, is interested in how the tuberculosis bacterium survives in the hostile

environments it encounters in the human host, and how it builds resistance to drugs.

The bug survives its hostile environments because it does not react to adversity in the same way that other organisms do, she explained. Instead of succumbing to the stresses imposed by its environment, the tubercle bacillus can turn the “stress to an advantage”. Mizrahi recalled how in an experiment former student Helena Boshoff deliberately damaged the bacterium's DNA, only for it to respond by mutating and becoming drug-resistant.

Another survival mechanism the bacterium employs, in an environment with a severe lack of oxygen, is “holding its breath. In the absence of oxygen TB can survive – but not divide – by respiring on nitrate”. This, according to Mizrahi, “might underlie the great difficulty we have in killing this bacillus with drugs that target actively replicating organisms”.

In closing she remarked that one of the reasons she returned to UCT, where she obtained her doctorate, was to become more directly involved in tuberculosis drug discovery.

“There is an urgent need for new TB drugs. Ten years ago there were no drugs in clinical development, now there are 10, but we must continue to fuel the pipeline for new drugs.

“In a country with one of the worst TB problems in the world, it is up to us to shoulder our responsibility to tackle it.”

She ended by describing her fellow researchers as “among the leading TB scientists in the world”.

Listen to the podcast of Mizrahi's lecture (<http://www.uct.ac.za/news/lectures/inaugural/2012/>) ■

Fighting fit: The inaugural lecture of Prof Valerie Mizrahi highlighted her contribution, together with collaborators and students, to the ongoing fight against tuberculosis.



# A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE ICTS FRONT OFFICE

The IT Helpdesk service does not currently offer telephonic IT support to undergraduate students. So what do they do when they are having computer troubles? Where do staff members with IT problems go if they want quick, face-to-face service? They go to the Information and Communication Technology Services (ICTS) Front Office, which is situated on upper campus and is staffed with knowledgeable people such as Ruan Vosloo (right in picture) and Nizaam Amlay. We asked these two Front Office staff members about their typical week.

## What is a typical week in the office like?

“Most of our time is spent assisting students and staff in setting up their wireless connections, changing their passwords and advising them on IT-related matters,” they say. The Front Office also provides a fax service allowing staff and students to send and receive faxes. “The time that the Front Office is busiest fluctuates from day to day. People come in whenever it is most convenient for them, so we’re mostly busy during lunchtime,” says Amlay. “I would say we get on average between 100 and 200 queries in a busy week. On a busy day we get between 20 and 40 queries, and on a quiet day between 10 and 20.”

## What are your most common support queries?

With the introduction of the eduroam wireless network across campus, the most frequent help requests are now for setting up wireless connections on mobile devices, mainly phones and laptops. “The second most common query is for password changes, which we handle by directing users to the password self-service page at password.uct.ac.za, which they can access from one of the self-service PCs in the room,” says Vosloo. Another frequent request is to assist with setting up anti-virus programmes on people’s computers. The team installs McAfee, which is free to all students and staff at the university. They also act as a drop-off and collection point for staff equipment when machines are to be sent to the ICTS workshop for fixing or upgrading.

## What are the highs of the job?

“I love helping people and solving problems,” says Vosloo. “It’s very satisfying to tackle a complicated issue and make someone’s day better by assisting them.” The Front Office staff members all enjoy the social nature of the job and get a kick out of meeting and interacting with different people all the time.

## And the lows?

“It can be challenging to deal with people rushing into the Front Office in a panic, when they have urgent work to complete and don’t know what is wrong with their equip-



ment. We are under a lot of pressure to aid them as quickly as possible,” notes Vosloo. “Not being able to help someone, no matter what you try, is frustrating. Some days the office is jam-packed from 10am to 3pm, which can be pretty exhausting.”

## What are the toughest requests you’ve had to deal with?

There have been requests to repair broken hardware, like cracked screens or completely broken devices that are in terrible shape, which is un-

fortunately not a service that we offer. The team has even had requests to get wireless connections to work when there aren’t even wireless capabilities on the device. They say that the tough problems usually come when people have older devices, hardware or operating systems. “Even after exhaustive research, it is sometimes impossible to fix the problem, and the tough moment is when you have to turn someone away because you were not able to fix their issue,” observes Vosloo.

## What are the funniest queries you get?

“People sometimes come in here in a panic, with serious looks on their faces and they say they have tried everything and nothing works,” says Vosloo. “When we have a look at their computers, all that’s wrong is that their wireless was turned off or num-lock was off or something equally small was wrong, and we soon have them laughing about it. It is always very satisfying to see them leave happy.” ■

## Award takes to the road



*Life: An image from Life under Democracy by Dale Yudelman, winner of the Ernest Cole Award.*

At first glance it may seem an unusual sideline for a university library, but UCT Libraries has thrown its weight behind a new photography award, the Ernest Cole Award.

And on 5 September, the fruit of its investment, the inaugural Ernest Cole Award Exhibition, took place at the Wits Art Museum in Johannesburg. The opening included the launch of the book *Life under Democracy*, by the first winner of the award, Cape Town-based documentary photographer Dale Yudelman, who won in 2011.

In addition, the winner of the 2012 award, Ilan Godfrey, honoured for his documentary series *Legacy of the Mine*, was also announced.

A closer look at the exhibition and award shows that perhaps it is not such an odd venture for UCT Libraries.

The Ernest Cole Award, explains Paul Weinberg, senior curator for the Visual Archives project at UCT Libraries and award co-ordinator, has been established to stimulate creative work in photography in Southern Africa. The award offers the winning photographer R150,000 with which to work on a photographic project of their choice with



*In the hole: A shot from the Legacy of the Mine series by 2012 winner Ilan Godfrey.*

emphasis on human rights and social change.

“It’s an extension of UCT Libraries’ investment and interest in archives and heritage, and support of South African photography,” observes Weinberg.

Yudelman’s and Godfrey’s winning works fit the bill for the award. Shot on an iPhone, Yudelman’s *Life under Democracy* is said to explore the life of ordinary South Africans today. In turn, *Legacy of the Mine* explores the consequences of mining on South Africa’s land and people.

The award is named in honour of photojournalist Ernest Cole, who worked for Drum magazine and whose 1967 work, *The House of Bondage*, which recorded the lives of black people under apartheid, was banned. The award was co-founded by famed South African photographer David Goldblatt, and has been made possible by the generous support of the Peter Brown, Gavin Relly Educational and Kirsh Family Trusts, and Orms.

The exhibition will run in Johannesburg until 24 September, then moves to the KZNSA Gallery in Durban, and then the AVA Gallery in Cape Town. ■



*Healthy path: UCT staff were pampered and educated at this year’s Wellness Fair.*

## Wellness Fair promotes healthy living

Mind and body. These were the concerns of UCT’s annual Wellness Fair, hosted on the university’s upper campus from 4 to 6 September.

Staged by the Human Resources Department, the event, in its eighth year, has been more than just encouraging staff to take more proactive roles in their own health and well-being. Taking a more hands-on approach, staff could ease the stress away with a neck and shoulder massage, but also do screenings for blood pressure,

cholesterol, diabetes and body mass index (BMI), do an HIV test and view fitness demonstrations.

The Wellness Fair also gives the university a sense of the main health problems affecting its community, and allows it to plan its programmes accordingly. Based on a screening, for example, staff can be referred to relevant internal and external service providers, such as the Organisational Health and Wellness Office, says Margie Tainton, HR’s remuneration and policy manager.

“We believe that individuals can play more meaningful roles in promoting their own health, preventing their own and their families’ illnesses, and participating positively in the treatment of such illnesses when they arise. We try to plan interventions to address those health conditions – mostly lifestyle-related – based on the claims experience information received from our medical aid provider.”

During the event, a variety of health and wellness specialists showcased their products. ■



**EVENTS**

**Seminars and Lectures and Meeting**



When: Wednesday, 19 September 2012 at 17h30. Speaker: Professor Jean-Paul Van Belle, Department of Information Systems, Faculty of Commerce. Title: 'Penguins and Suits: Perspectives on Open Source Software from a Discipline in Flux'. Venue: Lecture Theatre 1, Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus, University of Cape Town

When: Wednesday, 17 October 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

**BOOK DRIVE:**

Sophie le Roux (School of Languages & Literatures) is coordinating a book drive to benefit a new school library in the Kylemore community of Stellenbosch. The library is being built by the Stellenbosch Rotary Club who requires assistance with donations of books for all the ages in both English and Afrikaans, as well as a small range of Xhosa books. For additional info, please e-mail: [sophie.leroux@uct.ac.za](mailto:sophie.leroux@uct.ac.za). Alternatively, deliver books to the Beattie Building Foyer, on Upper Campus. Drive Ends: 8 October 2012

**VACANT POSTS**

**EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:**

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

**Lecturer, Department of Psychology,** Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 21 September 2012

**Research Officer:** Scientific Computing Research Unit, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 28 September 2012

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

**Senior Lecturer/Lecturer:** Economic History, Department of Historical Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 1 October 2012

**Research Development Dissemination Coordinator,** Alternative Admissions Research Project (AARP), Centre for Higher Education Development, Closing date: 12 October 2012

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

**Senior Internal Auditor,** Internal Audit, Closing date: 17 September 2012  
**Credit Controller,** Student Debt, Student Fees Office, Closing date: 24 September 2012

**Recruiter/Counsellor,** Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 28 September 2012

**Junior Attorney/Candidate Attorney,** UCT Law Clinic, Faculty of Law, Closing date: 28 September 2012

**Programme Manager:** Afrobarometer Capacity Building Network, Centre for Social Science Research, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 28 September 2012

**Operations Manager:** Alternative Admissions Research Project (AARP), Centre for Higher Education Development, Closing date: 1 October 2012

**Logistics Coordinator,** Alternative Admissions Research Project (AARP), Centre for Higher Education Development, Closing date: 1 October 2012

**Director:** Postgraduate Studies, Department of Research & Innovation, Closing date: 7 October 2012

**Manager:** Office of Research Integrity, Department of Research & Innovation, Closing date: 12 October 2012

**Facility Coordinator (Radiotherapy),**

Department of Radiation Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 31 October 2012

**POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY: EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:**

**Administrative Assistant,** Office of the Ombud, Closing date: 20 September 2012

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# Be Smart For Your Heart

Dietetics students Kudzai Vere, Simon Wallis and Nicola Walters urge UCT students to look after their cardiovascular health.

The World Health Organisation reports that globally, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death. Although not the number-one cause of death in South Africa, cardiovascular disease is responsible for 29% of deaths annually.

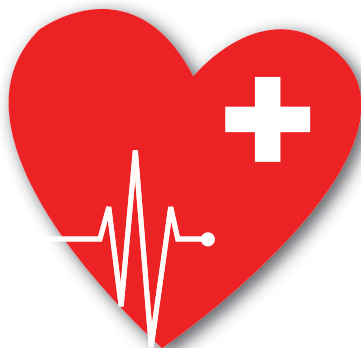
There are many contributing factors that give rise to the incidents of cardiovascular disease, which include one's diet and lifestyle.

September is Heart Awareness month and we are urging the students and staff of UCT to Be Smart For Your Heart by adhering to the three main aspects of our campaign: "Eat Smart, Act Smart and Live Smart".

Adapting one's eating habits is very challenging for most people, and a poor diet, is a risk factor for diseases other than cardiovascular disease.

In order to eat smart, try to have five portions of fruit and vegetables per day. Reduce saturated fats in your diet, which include the "animal fats", by removing visible fat before cooking, and opt for low fat products. It is important to still include fat in the diet; better options would be from plant sources, eg avocados and peanuts, and oily fish like snoek, sardines and salmon.

Incorporating lentils and beans into your diet increases fibre which helps to reduce the absorption of cholesterol into your blood. Not eating fried foods is likely to be a tough



obstacle to a healthy diet; avoid pies, chips and other fried foods, but take a little extra time to make your own healthy alternatives.

Together with Eating Smart, remember to Act Smart by aiming for at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week, which can be divided into 10-to 30-minute sessions at a time. You can take a walk in a park,

do some gardening or play a favourite sport.

Lastly, Live Smart by eliminating bad habits such as smoking and excessive alcohol consumption and ensuring that you have a good outlet for stress such as exercising.

For the rest of the month aim to Be Smart For Your Heart, but most importantly try to maintain these changes for the future to ensure that you live a healthy lifestyle to help prevent cardiovascular disease. ■

#### References

WHO (2011) *Global status report on noncommunicable diseases 2010*. 1-176  
WHO (2011) *WHO noncommunicable Diseases Country Profiles 2011*. 1-207  
Harbron J (2011) *Lipids Lecture*. Division of Human Nutrition, UCT

## UCT gets the nod as 3rd most beautiful university

British newspaper *The Telegraph* has chosen UCT as the third most beautiful university in the world.

Oxford University was first, followed by Harvard. In the photo gallery showcasing the 16 most beautiful universities on the newspaper's website, the university's "mountain setting" is praised above its architecture.

UCT is the only African university to make it onto the list, which includes one of the oldest universities – in Bologna, Italy – in the world. The photo gallery is dominated by European universities.

In what some might consider a slightly ironic twist, UCT, which in the apartheid era was known as "Moscow on the Hill", is one place ahead of the actual Moscow State University. The university, which is the oldest South African tertiary institution and an African leader in teaching and research, moved to the grounds it currently occupies in 1928. The land was donated by Cecil John Rhodes and used to be part of his Groote Schuur estate.

View the 16 most beautiful universities at [www.telegraph.co.uk/education/expateducation/9480575/Beautiful-universities-around-the-world.html?frame=2312100](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/expateducation/9480575/Beautiful-universities-around-the-world.html?frame=2312100) ■

# Students brew up a win

They're not quite the master brewers of lore and television advertisements, but the UCT Brewing Team are no mugs at cooking up a cold one.

So says the panel who adjudicated the South African Breweries/Institute of Brewing & Distilling Intersarsity Beer Brewing Competition late in August. They named the Brewing UCT team – Franc de Flamingh, Shawn Duthie, Kyle Moskovitz, Alex Opitz and Brian Willis – as the brewers of the best overall beer for their distinctively named and "very hoppy" All-American India Pale Ale.

Brewing UCT also walked off with the laurels in the ale category, took second spot in the speciality category for their Tsar Bomba - Russian Imperial Stout; and, just to show off the range of their skills, third in label design, again for the stout.

The team, all master's students in

chemical engineering bar Duthie, who is doing political science, and sponsored by the Centre for Bioprocess Engineering Research in the Department of Chemical Engineering, has been applying itself since its "inferior" showing in 2011, when it made an eleventh-hour call to take part. Since then, the students have brewed close on 20 beers.

For the Intersarsity, held at Wits University from 31 August to 2 September, the team decided to take along some "big beers" – "they're going to be in your face," said Willis – in keeping with the taste buds of the judges there.

The students pushed the envelope with alcohol content as well. The Russian Imperial Stout weighed in 11.3%, well into wine category, according to Willis.

And it's not the team's first suc-



Brew buddies: (From left) Alex Opitz, Kyle Moskovitz, Franc de Flamingh and Brian Willis, along with Shawn Duthie (not in picture), took top honours at the recent beer-brewing intersarsity.

cess for the year. In April another of their brews, a Strawberry Wit Beer, was named the most popular beer among the consumers at the South-Yeasters Brewing Festival, hosted by the SouthYeasters Home Brewers Club.

"Contrary to what many people may imagine when they hear of a brewing team, the time and the effort which goes into making a single brew has given us all a much greater appreciation of beers," notes Willis. ■



## ICTS Training

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#### Word 2010

• Intermediate: 2 - 5 October (am)



#### Excel 2010

• Intermediate: 2 - 5 October (pm)  
• Basic: 23 - 26 October (am)



#### Adobe InDesign CS6

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• Interactive for PDF: (1 ½ days)  
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• Intermediate: 8 - 12 October (pm)



#### Outlook 2010

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• Basic: 17 - 18 October (am)  
• Basic: 29 - 30 October (am)



#### WordPress

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#### PowerPoint 2010

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