

Pink? This edition sees Monday Paper going pink in anticipation of Pink Week on campus from 8 to 12 October. A week-long schedule of events has been planned for the annual event, which promotes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights. Details will be available on the website during Pink Week.

1 – 14 October 2012

Vol. 31#15

Newspaper of the University of Cape Town



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)

# Architect brings new twist to Venice show

At a blue ribbon international festival of art, cinema and architecture in Venice, a UCT architect is not only exhibiting his own handiwork, but also that of some Eastern Cape women who have rethought an influential Picasso piece



Wall to wall: *The Keiskamma Guernica*, created by 50 women from the Eastern Cape, forms part of Prof Jo Noero's exhibition at the Venice Biennale. (Image courtesy of the Keiskamma Art Project.)

UCT's Professor Jo Noero is the only African who has been invited to exhibit at one of the architecture world's most illustrious showcases - the 13th International Architecture Exhibition, which forms part of the Venice Biennale currently on in Italy.

The exhibition comprises 69 projects by architects, photographers, artists, critics and scholars, and runs from 29 August until 25 November

in Venice, Italy. The Biennale is one of the world's major arts exhibitions, and its various exhibitions – including the famed Venice Film Festival – is said to attract some 300,000 visitors.

Renowned architect Sir David Chipperfield, the director of the exhibition, personally invited Noero, of UCT's School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, to exhibit at the Biennale. His pieces will sit

alongside those of some of the world's top architects, including Bernard Tschumi, Rem Koolhaas and Herzog & de Meuron.

Noero's exhibition, *Common Ground/Different Worlds*, takes the form of a 9.4x3.5m hand-drawn plan and a 7.8x3.5m tapestry.

The hand-drawn plan is that for the Red Location Precinct, a historic shack settlement in Port Elizabeth, and illustrates a new cultural centre

in a part of the city that was devastated by apartheid spatial planning. The site includes Noero's award-winning Red Location Museum of Struggle, for which he received a National Award of Merit in 2007.

The tapestry, in turn, was made by a co-operative of 50 women from the Eastern Cape. The piece, which is usually found in the foyer of the Red Location library, is exactly the same size as Picasso's canvas paint-

ing *Guernica*, although the theme is different – if the original is about the tragedies of war, the *Keiskamma Guernica* tackles AIDS/HIV and its impact on South Africa.

"The work shows that good art can achieve common ground between different cultures," Noero said. "It also shows how an idea can survive translation and become a potent expression in a different context." ■

The number 13 is usually considered unlucky.

But not when you're UCT's Professor Valerie Mizrahi, and you have been named as one "13 of the world's leading basic-science researchers" to receive the prestigious and princely Senior International Research Scholar (SIRS) awards, made by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) in the US.

Winning the award is more than a matter of luck, though. They are made to "support outstanding biomedical scientists working outside the United States who have made significant contributions to fundamental research in the

## Coup for TB researcher

biological sciences", according to the HHMI.

Mizrahi, director of UCT's Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM), was selected for her work on *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the organism that causes human tuberculosis.

"Scientific research is a global endeavor, and these grants will provide an opportunity for these highly creative and accomplished scientists to explore new avenues of biomedical research,

and to mentor promising early career scientists across the world," said HHMI president, Robert Tjian.

The awards are certainly generous. Each HHMI senior international research scholar will receive a grant of \$100,000 per year for five years.

But it's not the cash value of the award – her third from the HHMI – that matters so much, says Mizrahi.

"It's a tremendous and singular honour to be selected as one of this group," she comments.

More than that, it allows Mizrahi, per the aim of the award, and the other 12 recipients – hailing from Australia, Canada, Europe and Latin America – to serve as mentors to HHMI's network of international early career scientists. (The HHMI had this year unveiled a new initiative, the International Early Career Scientist Programme.)

"What inspired me is the focus on mentoring early career scientists," Mizrahi says. "That's where my passion is and that's what I want to throw my energy into." ■



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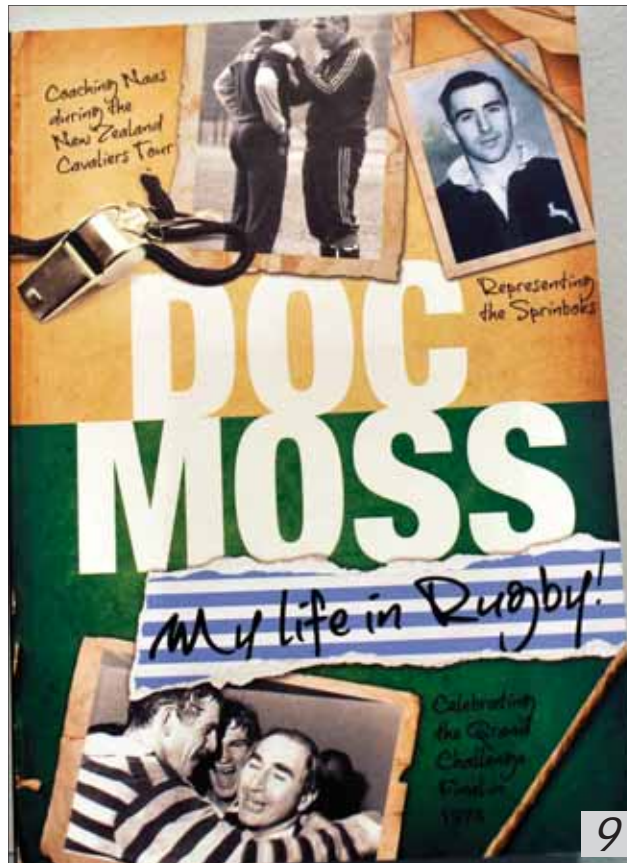
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## News in pictures • News in pictures • News in pictures • News in pictures • News in pictures

**1** Prof Yosuf Veriava observed that a number of concerns about the role of medical practitioners emerged from the historical process surrounding the death of black consciousness icon Steve Biko. Veriava was delivering the inaugural Frances Ames Memorial Lecture, titled *Frances Ames and the Biko Doctors: Responsibilities of medical practitioners*. Ames led a team of six doctors, including Veriava, who challenged the medical establishment and the apartheid government over Biko's death in 1977.

**2** UCT researchers and their partners are making use of a newly developed website to promote and create awareness of an emerging research field. This website was developed by the Consortium for Health Policy and Systems Analysis in Africa, or CHEPSAA, to encourage a wider understanding of the relatively new research field of Health Policy and Systems Research and Analysis. This field “encompasses all the issues that underpin the delivery of good quality, efficient and equitable health care”.

**3** Marking Deaf Awareness Month in September, Cyril Axelrod, a deaf-blind priest, candidly shared with the UCT community how he deals with this disability in his everyday life.

**4** Student Eliab Malefahlo's (second from left, with Leon Perigrino and Bernard Saules) quest for education was boosted

when G4S Security, service providers of UCT's Campus Protection Services, handed him a brand new bicycle. The bike will replace Malefahlo's dilapidated two-wheeler, and comes in handy for his daily trips from Surrey Estate, where he lives, to the university.

**5** Delivering the latest Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture at UCT on 25 September, a day after the Heritage Day, Emer Prof Paulin J Hountondji of the National University of Bénin argued that Africa needs both heritage and progress. He added that its people don't have to choose between the two.

**6** Grade two learners and volunteers from SHAWCO and the UCT Underwater Club enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon of activities at the Save Our Seas Shark Centre in Kalk Bay. The children, it's reported, thoroughly enjoyed watching the fish, sharks and other animals in the Shark Centre's aquarium before a quick visit to the Dalebrook Beach to explore the rock pools.

**7** Advocates for children's rights from UCT's Children's Institute came out in favour of a kinship grant for children who are being cared for by relatives. They were reacting to a recent High Court ruling, which may result in grandparents who look after their orphaned grandchildren no longer qualifying for foster child grants.

**8** In a joyous celebration, the Education Development Unit (EDU) in the Faculty of Commerce hosted its annual Saville Foundation awards ceremony, a testament to what the programme and its students have achieved. Nontobeko Tshabangu (second from right, with Tim Low, Assoc Prof June Pym and Investec's Setlogane Manchidi,) won the Investec Student of the Year award for her dedication and contributions to EDU and its students.

**9** Former Springbok coach Dr Cecil Moss officially presented vice-chancellor Dr Max Price with a copy of his new book. *Doc Moss: My life in Rugby* is a treasure trove of memorable moments from his time as a UCT medical student through his career as the head rugby coach of UCT, Western Province and the Springboks.

**10** Sakkie Janse van Rensburg, executive director of Information, Communication and Technology Services (ICTS) at UCT, is one of the top 10 candidates being considered for the Visionary Chief Information Officer Award. The award, now in its fifth year, recognises an executive who heads up ICT strategy in an organisation and has demonstrated visionary leadership in using technology to support and grow business. It is presented by the Computer Society South Africa (CSSA), in association with ITWeb, the Gordon Institute of Business Science and Gartner Africa. ■



# Students paint and weed and think

Who said university studies can't be hands-on?

Certainly not those behind the short course Service, Citizenship and Social Justice, part of the UCT Global Citizenship: Leading for Social Justice Programme run through the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED), sponsored by UCT and now in its third year. Commonly known as GC, the programme springs from UCT's commitment to enhancing graduate attributes, by encouraging students to become "engaged citizens" willing to think critically about issues of global import, social justice and inequality.

To take the leap from thinking to doing, 50 students recently spent two Saturdays at the community project, Mothers Unite, in Lavender Hill. There they first explored some of the theoretical classroom issues – community service, voluntarism and development – before getting to the hands-on part, painting the containers that serve as Mothers Unite's classrooms, laying carpets, covering books, weeding and repairing leaks in the roof. They also fashioned jewellery boxes out of recycled cooldrink bottles.

The students certainly took the experience to heart.

"It [the course] has elevated my level of understanding of what



Citizenship in blue: UCT students spruce up the facilities at Mother Unite.

it is to be involved in community development," said third-year student Lindiswa Monica Jan. Added Caitlin Tonkin: "I'm really enjoying it because of all the different people that

I've met through it and hearing about their experiences and hearing about what they have to say about community service has made me think very differently about it." And observed

final-year civil-engineering student Uwais Razack, "I think that through the GC programme, you are made to realise the needs of society and acknowledge the prevalent issues such

as inequality and poverty through a much more untainted and raw lens."

For more information about GC, visit [www.globalcitizen.uct.ac.za](http://www.globalcitizen.uct.ac.za).



Three of a kind: (From left) Dr Susan Levine, Prof Gary Marsden and Assoc Prof Bette Davidowitz have been feted for their commitment to teaching.



## UCT lecturers the pick of the teaching crop

Research accolades are common for UCT scholars, but now they're also picking up teaching awards.

A number of UCT winners featured among those honoured in the 2012 National Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards, awarded by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and the Higher Education Learning & Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA), a professional association primarily for educators in the tertiary sector.

Professor Gary Marsden of the Department of Computer Science was named as one of only five academics in South Africa to receive an excellence award. He was commended for

his innovative teaching and learning philosophy, which is aligned with his teaching and assessment methods. In particular he was praised for his "rigorous, robust and diverse" teaching and for his outcomes-based approach, which encourages students "to think like computer scientists" from first-year level.

Associate Professor Bette Davidowitz of the Department of Chemistry and the Academic Development Programme in the Centre for Higher Education Development, and Dr Susan Levine of the Department of Social Anthropology, are two of the nine academics to receive commendation awards.

HELTASA congratulated both of

them on their coherent and inspiring philosophies, which demonstrated up-to-date knowledge of teaching and learning. Their passion for their respective disciplines and their ability to make their subject matter relevant to students were also highlighted.

All of these awardees are past recipients of UCT's Distinguished Teacher's Award, which pays tribute to teaching excellence and acknowledges the primary place of teaching and learning in the university's work.

"It is gratifying to note that our colleagues' contribution to teaching and learning has now been recognised nationally," said deputy vice-chancellor Professor Sandra Klopper in an announcement. ■

## Princeton honours UCT scholar

A two-day symposium in honour of Professor George Philander, an internationally renowned scholar with strong ties to UCT, took place at Princeton University in the US on 7 and 8 September. Philander, a UCT graduate and a professor of geophysics at Princeton, is highly regarded for his contribution to the understanding of the El Niño and La Niña phenomena. He is responsible for naming the latter. He also held a national chair in UCT's Department of Oceanography and initiated the Applied Centre for Climate and Earth Systems Science (ACCESS), which is now a Department of Science and Technology/National Research Foundation centre of excellence. According to ACCESS operations manager, Dr Neville Sweijd, the symposium, dubbed *Philanderfest*, attracted some 200 scientists from different parts of the globe. "Some of the best minds in the field gathered to examine the role of the ocean in linking climate across time and space," he reports. ■

## UCT academic wins award for commitment to education

Associate Professor Annemarie Hattingh of UCT's School of Education is one of the Most Influential Woman in Business and Government (MIW) in South Africa. This, at least, is according to *CEO Magazine*, in which she was profiled after winning in the education and training category. Hattingh has been involved in education for the past 24 years, and her passion is for more women to complete doctoral studies. Thus for the past 10 years she has been involved in a project that assists and encourages women to enter PhD programmes by creating a "community of practice". Hattingh has also agreed to be part of a mentoring programme, run in partnership with the National Youth Development Agency. "These awards are a way of identifying female mentors as much as it is about acknowledging inspirational women," she says. ■

The 2012 staff institutional climate census championed by deputy vice-chancellor Professor Crain Soudien has been launched at UCT.

The purpose of this census is to gather information from all staff members about various aspects of the work experience and climate at UCT. It provides an opportunity for staff to give feedback about their experiences of the working environment at UCT.

This census follows two surveys conducted in 2003 and 2007 and, although it covers the same array of issues, the number of questions has been trimmed significantly so as to encourage participation and engagement. The individual responses are anonymous and confidential and

## Institutional climate census starts

the results will be independently analysed.

Once the findings have been discussed and areas identified for further action, the results and planned interventions will be communicated back to the university.

Further to the feedback from the last surveys and subsequent discussion and debate, a number of areas were identified and a comprehensive action plan was developed. The areas of concern included victimisation, awareness of disability issues on campus, sexual harassment and sexual offences, racism and racial harassment, participation of senior leadership and academics

in transformation initiatives such as Khuluma, respect for and recognition of PASS staff, and gender issues.

A range of initiatives have since been actioned.

Soudien urges all staff to participate in this census, which should take between five and 10 minutes to complete.

"It is your citizenly duty to give us honest feedback on your experiences at UCT so that we can continue to plan and action initiatives and responses designed to create a respectful and welcoming work environment at UCT,"

says Soudien. "It is also very important that we hear all the voices at UCT so as to better understand the concerns and anxieties staff may have, so please commit this short time required to complete the questions.

"I'd also like to call on line managers to actively encourage their staff to participate."

An email containing a link to the survey has been sent to all staff, and in addition paper copies have been mailed to those staff who may not have access to a computer.

The surveys can also be found at <https://vula.uct.ac.za/direct/eval-evaluation/7856> (academic) and <https://vula.uct.ac.za/direct/eval-evaluation/7857> (PASS). ■



# Web Renewal Project to reboot web development at UCT

Soon everyone at UCT will have access to a user-friendly web content management system (WCMS) to create and manage their websites.

The need for such a system is being addressed by the Web Renewal Project. This project forms part of the wider Enterprise Content Management Programme, which is concerned with the management of all forms of institutional information.

The Open Source software Drupal has been chosen as UCT's new WCMS. No specialised knowledge and coding skills are required to use it. All web content managers will be trained to set up websites and manage them using this system.

The project also identified a need for improved web governance to ensure the reliability and quality of UCT's web presence. Three web policies were written and have been ratified by Senate. They stipulate, among other things, that all web content must have designated owners and content managers, and must be up to date at all times. (The policies can be viewed at [www.uct.ac.za/about/policies/](http://www.uct.ac.za/about/policies/).)

Drupal will be launched with two pilot sites – the Faculty of Humanities site and a site for the Department of Law. The pilot phase will be completed by February 2013.

It will be followed by the migration of all UCT websites into Drupal where technically possible. This process will run over a period of three years starting in 2013. The migration of the UCT sites hosted on the aging, insecure web server – called Groa – at Information and Communication Technology Services will be prioritised. The migration will be funded by the Communication and Marketing Department.

Interim measures have been put in place to accommodate those who wish to set up websites before Drupal is made available to the UCT community. For information about these as well as the Web Renewal Project, contact Rethea Deetlefs at [webmanager@uct.ac.za](mailto:webmanager@uct.ac.za). ■



## UCT heading for IP Telephony

It's full steam ahead for UCT's Telecommunications Renewal Project, which aims to move UCT from the traditional telephone system to a more modern Internet Protocol Telephony (IPT) system.

The multi-year project is being driven by the university's Information and Communication Technology Services (ICTS) department, which reports that the new telephony environment has been implemented and IPT is already

being rolled out in specific areas. Once the Telecommunications Renewal Project is complete, UCT will operate within a revolutionary communications environment that integrates phone calls, teleconferencing, and video conferencing with application sharing, video streaming, and instant messaging.

Part of the new project is the installation of new telephone handsets which connect through the university's data network, rather than tra-

ditional telephone lines. These phones – which will replace the existing handsets – will run on Microsoft's Lync platform. This unified communication platform is also compatible with mobile devices and with Outlook, UCT's new email system.

In addition to an array of voice and data-related telephony capabilities, the university's IPT solution also offers convenience – allowing users to easily set up their own video confer-

ences and voice conference calls, and to direct calls to voicemail or other numbers based on their availability. Once migrated to the new solution, users will be able to move their phones between offices themselves without having to call telephony technicians or incur costs.

For more information about the new telephony environment, visit the ICTS website, navigate to Phone & Fax | Phones, and select the Telephony Services at UCT link. ■



## Are you cyber safe?

Internet penetration in South Africa has grown over 100% in the past four years and it is almost certain that a percentage of the students coming to campus each year encounter the internet for the first time at university.

This means that many people are still finding their way in the digital space. As technology and infrastructure become more freely available, and with the staggering rate of technological development, a lot of people feel lost online and can become easy prey to those with sinister intent. Cyber criminals are always one step ahead of the curve, and spend their time searching for and exploiting vulnerability wherever they find it, particularly among average citizens who remain largely un-

ware of the risks out there.

In line with other global organisations, Information and Communication Technology Services (ICTS) will be promoting cyber security awareness this October, by running a Cyber Safety Month campaign.

ICTS wants UCT to be a Cyber Safe Zone and the department believes that is vital for everyone at UCT to understand how important online security is, and just how vulnerable they could be if they remain uninformed of how to protect themselves.

Many people are unaware, for example, that their Twitter, Facebook, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are at risk if they don't have strong passwords and that hackers can hijack these accounts and use them

to send out spam emails, steal identities, or even obtain banking details and empty bank accounts.

With just a few simple cyber self-defence tools, anyone can be safe online and not have to worry about being targeted, and it is ICTS's aim to showcase the most important of those tools during this campaign.

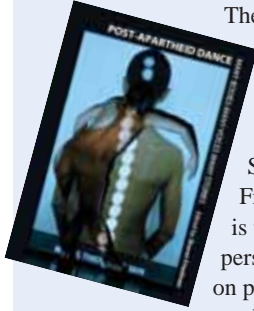
ICTS would like to encourage staff and students to visit the dedicated Cyber Safety website page ([www.icts.uct.ac.za](http://www.icts.uct.ac.za) | Antivirus and security | Cyber Safety Month) for regular updates throughout the month of October, as well as keeping up to date with their new Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/icts.uct](http://www.facebook.com/icts.uct). ■





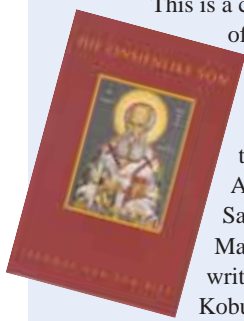
## By the Book

*Post-Apartheid Dance: Many Bodies Many Voices Many Stories*



The intention of this work, edited by UCT's Sharon Friedman, is to present perspectives on post-apartheid dance in South Africa by South African authors. Beginning with a historical context for dance in SA, the book moves on to reflect on the multiplicity of bodies, voices and stories suggested by the title.

*Onsienlike Son*



This is a collection of 66 sonnets about Christian saints, from the Patriarch Abraham to Saint John Maximovitch, written by Dr Kobus van der Riet, an orthodox priest studying towards his postgraduate diploma with the Library and Information Studies Centre at UCT. It is believed to be the first work of Orthodox Christian hagiography in Afrikaans.

*The Unbearable Whiteness of Being: Farmers' voices from Zimbabwe*



Rory Pilosoff's examination of farmers' voices – in *The Farmer* magazine, in memoirs, and in recent interviews – reveals continuities as well as breaks in their relationships with land, belonging and race in Zimbabwe. His focus on the Liberation War, Operation Gukurahundi and the post-2000 land invasions is said to frame a nuanced understanding of how white farmers engaged with the land and its peoples, and with the country's political changes of the past 40 years.\*

\*Published by UCT Press

# Cape Town - The Home of Biodiversity



*Leaping to the rescue: Tresor Mvumbi (left) and David Gwynne-Evans are spearheading the charge to save endangered flora and fauna species through CASABIO, an NGO that emphasises the need for public participation.*

The Cape is home to one of the most biodiverse yet threatened floral kingdoms in the world. It is therefore fitting that five UCT students are behind a web application aiming to revolutionise the way flora and fauna are documented.

Championed by botanist David Gwynne-Evans, who recently submitted his doctoral thesis in systematics, the NGO CASABIO is affectionately referred to by him as "the Home of Biodiversity". His idea is a web-application that uses crowdsourcing to increase our knowledge of organisms, and ultimately the ability to conserve them.

At the core of this initiative is software he calls a "biodiversity engine" because, he says, "it is an entire platform designed to efficiently and easily associate information with images of biodiversity".

Anyone with a digital camera may submit pictures to this biodiversity engine where they will form part of a comprehensive species catalogue. Gwynne-Evans emphasises "anyone", because in a continent still bedevilled by limited bandwidth, he says, the ability to work offline and exchange information using physical media like flash drives and hard-drives is critical.

CASABIO stands out from other online biodiversity websites, he adds, because it has "at every stage been designed to minimise user-effort, and maximise associated information".

"For the first time that I am aware of we stand a chance of explicitly documenting the 'web of life' in nature," Gwynne-Evans enthuses.

Tresor Mvumbi, a computer science student at UCT who has developed the user-interface for the

system, is looking to develop a semantic (natural language) search interface for CASABIO as part of his master's studies. Mvumbi says the whole idea is to involve both the public and scientists in the conservation process as much as possible.

"It's a kind of social network; a bit like Facebook for organisms where people can post comments, tag pictures, and engage with each other through a common passion for nature."

Twelve years in the making, CASABIO will begin as a trial around Cape Town before expanding across the country and continent. The public launch of the biodiversity engine is scheduled for early November.

For more information visit [www.casabio.org](http://www.casabio.org) or contact Gwynne-Evans on [capebio@gmail.com](mailto:capebio@gmail.com). ■

## Open-source software the way to go – Van Belle

In UCT's Faculty of Commerce, where he heads the Department of Information Systems, Professor Jean-Paul van Belle is known for wearing shorts.

But at his inaugural lecture on 19 September he was in a suit, which neatly fitted his topic, *Penguins & Suits: Perspectives on open-source software from a discipline in flux*.

In his address, Van Belle argued that open-source software – software that is freely available and grants the rights to use, modify and distribute the code under the same conditions without being discriminatory – should be adopted more widely by society, businesses and individuals.

He believes that open-source software has a big contribution to make in Africa and in the developing world in general, particularly in the BRICS countries (South Africa, with Brazil, China, India and Russia).

These countries hold few software patents.

"Because we are disadvantaged in terms of an existing body of patents, we can use open-source software to



*Open access: Prof Jean-Paul van Belle said in his inaugural lecture that open-source software can improve the quality of life in the developing world.*

build on software without paying for royalties; thus, it is a great platform for innovation," he explained.

Mark Shuttleworth, for instance, built his company on open-source software tools, Van Belle added.

The government, he said, spends more than R4 billion per year on software licences, with most of that money

going to overseas companies. The adoption of open-source software could divert foreign-exchange flows into the country and bring much-needed macro-economic benefits.

"There is a strong argument for using open-source software," he said.

A director-in-waiting for UCT's Centre for Information Technology and

National Development in Africa, Van Belle has been involved in a number of research collaborations that back his viewpoint.

In one case study, when Pinelands High School replaced its intercom system with a computer-based intracom in 2004, the school saved a lot of money; on top of that, they were able to install a PC in each classroom.

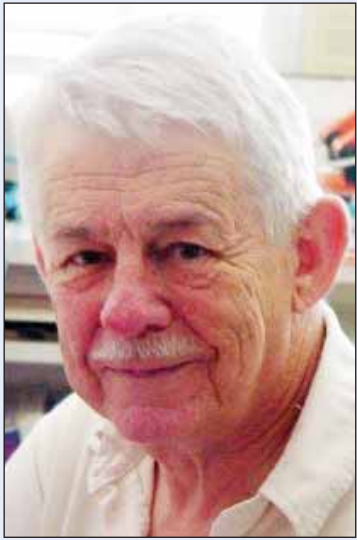
Cost-saving seems to be a key driver for many open-source software users, particularly NGOs and small, medium and micro enterprises.

Awareness and technology immaturity were the main barriers, he's found.

Van Belle said open-source software is one example of a larger "open trend" in the world. The introduction of sources such as Wikipedia, Wikimedia and WikiBooks, as well as open-access journals and open data in academia, is a case in point.

"The dream is to have a world in which every human being can have access to information. I think we are getting there. It's a wonderful dream to have, and technology is making it possible." ■





A gentleman: The late Emer Prof Frank Brooks.

## UCT to celebrate life and achievements of pioneering physicist

UCT has lost a dedicated academic, who was considered a pioneer in the physics and application of neutron detection and spectrometry.

Emeritus Professor Francis Dey 'Frank' Brooks, 80, of the Department of Physics, died on 30 August, a few days after suffering a fall. He was born on 9 December 1931 in Pretoria and studied physics at Rhodes University. After a working in England for a while, he returned to South Africa in 1964 to take up the newly created chair of nuclear physics at UCT. He held this position until his formal retirement in 1996.

Brooks' research will be particularly remembered for his application of the technique of 'pulse shape discrimination', which allows the identification of different types of charged particles in certain scintillator detectors by means of the characteristics of the scintillation decay.

"Frank's teaching mirrored the way he thought about research," says Associate Professor Andy Buffler, head of the Department of Physics. "His lectures were extremely well structured, often supported by carefully hand-written notes, which he always made available to students."

In the course of his career Brooks supervised 19 MSc and 18 PhD students. He also served as head of the department between 1979 and 1983.

Brooks will be remembered as "a trusting and unassuming colleague, a loyal supervisor, a passionate educator, an innovative and intuitive researcher, and, above all, a gentleman". Buffler further described Brooks as "a meticulous writer", who "cared passionately about producing scientific prose which was both succinct and accurate".

Brooks is survived by his wife, Kathleen, his children Louise, William, Peter and James, and eight grandchildren.

The physics department will host an event to celebrate his life and achievements on 26 October at 16h00 in the RW James Building. ■

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SISEKO THOMAS, SUPERVISOR OF THE UCT FITNESS CENTRE

### What does a 'normal' day look like?

Together with floor instructors Skin Lusu and Bulelani Mlakalaka, as well as receptionists Richard Langley, Ashanti Mguga and Maureen Pietersen, Thomas' job is basically to keep the members of the UCT Fitness Centre fit and happy. It's all about ensuring that the 2,000 daily visitors, mainly students, to the centre train in a conducive environment. This means the squash courts, the volley ball court, the climbing wall, the pool, the gym and bathrooms are always tidy and the equipment is functioning. Although they are not personal trainers, the staff must help members to use the fitness machines properly.

### What are the challenges of the job?

As expected, dealing with a mainly student clientele has its own challenges. For instance, there are those who would rock up at the centre without membership cards and expect to be allowed entry. Some would come dressed in attire not suitable for a gym, but still insist on working out. Others would complain about the music. If aerobics instructors, who are mainly students, don't turn up for lessons, members often

take out their frustrations on the staff. "We get a lot of curve balls from students," Thomas says. "But it's nothing we can't handle."

### What are the highs of the job?

Thomas says he is passionate about fitness and sharing what he knows. Nothing makes him happier than witnessing members benefit from his wealth of fitness knowledge.

### And the lows?

That will always be those who don't achieve their goals, be it losing weight or getting fit, often due to a variety of reasons, including eating habits. It also can be hurtful for Thomas and his colleagues when gymgoers become difficult for no good reason. And, occasionally, students get injured.

### Any weird moments?

These come aplenty. The weirdest of them all was when a group of about 50 drunken students from the trolley race stormed the facility. They did all sorts of nasty things, from vomiting around and painting the facility to throwing eggs and taking off their clothes to jump into the pool. ■



## Cooking competition stimulates creativity



Foodie finalist: Winner of the Fedics Cook of the Year challenge, Susan Fink, struts her stuff.



Cooking: Mina Andrews, Susan Fink and Bulelwa Tyalimpi vied for top honours.

The rules of the game were simple: think up and cook a three-course meal within three hours, spending no more than R80 per head.

And three cooks from Fedics @UCT, a contractor providing meals to UCT students in residences, got their creative juices and sauces flowing.

The three – Mina Andrews, Susan Fink and Buyelwa Tyalimpi – were the finalists in the Fedics

@ UCT Cook of the Year 2012 Competition, which initially pitted 30 cooks from nine kitchens around the university against each other. The purpose of the event was to encourage creative thinking among the cooks and motivate them.

"If you produce food everyday, cooking can be a mundane kind of a job," said Thila Miller, Fedics' regional operational manager. "This is to motivate

our staff and possibly impart skills to other cooks."

The finalists were judged on the taste, flavour, and the presentation of their food, as well as their cooking skills and the kitchen environment.

In the end, Fink, a cook at Tugwell Hall residence, took top honours. Tyalimpi of Rochester House was the first runner-up, and Andrews of the Medical Residence finished third. ■

## Once more to the breach for HR

Once is never good enough for the Human Resources Department (HR), apparently.

Barely two months after their Mandela Day efforts, collecting clothing and blankets for the Ihâta Shelter for underprivileged abused women with young children and the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children, staff returned to the Baartman Centre. This time they came bearing cake and tea.

The event, held at the end of August, was held in honour of woman's month, reports HR advisor Rayaana Savahl, who orchestrated the occasion with colleagues Blanch Claasen-

Hoskins, Nurunisa Hendricks, Candice Marcus, Galiema Parker and Renet Nortje. Fare for the day was provided through the kind contributions of HR staff, retailer Woolworths and packaging manufacturers Merypak and Print.

Proceedings for the day included an introduction to the work of the centre, a song by residents and a sing-and-dance-along with the children, while Nortje also shared a poem with residents. "These were extremely touching and the ladies thoroughly seemed to enjoy it," says Savahl. Each resident also received a goodie bag with toiletries and biscuits. ■



Baby charms: (From left) HR's Renet Nortje, Nurunisa Hendricks and Candice Marcus hang out with some of the younger residents of the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children.



EVENTS

Seminars and Lectures and Meeting



When: Wednesday, 03 October 2012 at 17h30. Speaker: Professor Kevin J Naidoo, Scientific Computing Research Unit, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science. Title: 'The Computational Revolution and how it is reshaping the Scientific Method in Chemistry and Chemical Biology'. 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

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

**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

**Senior Lecturer/Lecturer:** International Law, Department of Public Law, Faculty of Law, Closing date: 1 October 2012

**Senior Lecturer/Lecturer:** Marine & Environmental Law, Department of Public Law, Faculty of Law, Closing date: 1 October 2012

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

**Professor/Associate Professor,** Department of Statistical Sciences, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 22 October 2012

**Senior Lecturer/Lecturer:** Geomatics, School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 31 October 2012

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

**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

**Purchasing Officer,** Faculty Finance, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 2 October 2012

**Part-time Trial Coordinator,** Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 5 October 2012

**Web Developers,** ICTS, Closing date: 5 October 2012

**Administrative Assistant,** UCT Law Clinic, Faculty of Law, Closing date: 5 October 2012

**Site/NGO Facilitator,** Primary Health Care Directorate, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 5 October 2012

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

**Debtors Manager,** Department of Finance, Closing date: 8 October 2012

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

**Systems Administrator:** Bioinformatics, Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 12 October 2012

**Network Manager:** Bioinformatics, Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 12 October 2012

**Student Development Facilitator,** Raymond Ackerman Academy of Entrepreneurial Development, UCT Graduate School of Business, Closing

date: 15 October 2012  
**Student Development Officer,** Academic Development Unit, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 15 October 2012  
**Senior Scientific Officer,** Department of Molecular & Cell Biology, Faculty of Science. Closing date: 15 October 2012  
**Chief Technical Officer,** Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 26 October 2012  
**Chief/Senior Research Officer,** Drug Discovery Development Centre (H3-D), Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 29 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,** Department of Public Health & Family Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 3 October 2012

**Administrative Assistant,** School of Management Studies, Faculty of Commerce, Closing date: 9 October 2012

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**UCT Vehicle For Sale:** The following UCT vehicle is available for sale through a competitive bidding process. Mitsubishi Canter - Colour-Biscuit - CA 479126 - Mileage 66137 - VIEWING To view the vehicle email [Zwelixolile.Mafungwa@uct.ac.za](mailto:Zwelixolile.Mafungwa@uct.ac.za). Viewing is at the temp labs in Maintenance place. BIDDING Only submissions on bidding forms will be accepted. Bidding forms can be obtained from Janice Pretorius, Procurement & Payment Services: [Janice.Pretorius@uct.ac.za](mailto:Janice.Pretorius@uct.ac.za). The closing date for submissions is Friday 16 October 2012, no later than 12h00. Submissions are to be made into the tender box in the foyer at Procurement and Payments, 2 Rhodes Avenue Mowbray. Late submissions will not be

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# Upper Campus Clinic a boon for students

Scaling the peaks of a top-class education at an institution such as SUCT comes at a price, and the daily avalanche of deadlines and other pressures swamps many an aspirant scholar.

Now, the wounded and weary can tend to their ails on the doorstep of the lecture halls and tutorial rooms of upper campus. The official opening of the new UCT Upper Campus Clinic on 18 September drew a collective sigh of relief from students, some of whom have grown reluctant to brave the walk down to the Student Wellness Service headquarters in Rhodes Avenue with sprained ankles or bruised psyches.

Students can find the upper campus oasis, organised by the Student Wellness Service, the Department of Student Affairs (DSA) and the Students' Representative Council (SRC), on level 6 of the Steve Biko Building. The clinic is staffed by a nurse and two psychologists to help students negotiate the numerous stresses that pothole the path to success.

All services are offered on a walk-in basis, although the psychologists are also available for pre-booked consultation sessions.

Deputy vice-chancellor Professor Crain Soudien expressed a "big" thank you to those who worked to launch the clinic.

"It's really a gratifying moment for me that we've gotten to this point."

DSA executive director Moonira Khan, reminded those at the launch that the clinic was simply an 18-month-long pilot programme, after which the situation would be assessed. SRC health and safety co-ordinator, Samantha Ncube, used this fact to urge students to use the facility.

"It's only a trial run, so if people don't use this, it's going to go," said Ncube.

The clinic has been operating since 1 August and is open daily from 08h30 until 16h30 during term time. ■



Patient care: Jenny McKenzie (left), resident nurse at UCT's Upper Campus Clinic, has a look at SRC president Insaaf Isaacs at the clinic's official opening.

## Mentoring new generation of politics scholars

The struggle that new students face to adapt to university life is well documented, and, once the annual orientation programmes have run their course, many students are largely left to negotiate University Avenue on their own.

To help the greenhorns come to terms with the university's administrative jungle, the Department of Politics has this year instituted the first department-specific mentorship programme for first-year students in the Faculty of Humanities. The Politics Mentorship Programme (PMP) sees third-year students acquaint the freshers, throughout the first years of their studies, with the department's protocol and quirks, explains Shawn Duthie, co-ordinator of the PMP.

While admitting that keeping mentors and mentees in regular contact with each other is a challenge, Duthie is pleased that many students have already benefited from the programme over the first semester. "We had around 60 students that regularly met with their mentors and the response was that it helped them [cope] with the stress and anxiety of the first year at UCT," he reports of progress made over the first semester.

Thomas Guattari-Stafford, mentor and third-year politics student, says the programme



Settling in: Shawn Duthie (far left, back) has called on mentors (from left, back) Gennaro Inidiveri, Moshin Vali, Farai Majaya and (from left, front) Christy Zinn, Neo Mookodi, Thomas Guattari-Stafford, Riola Kok, Dela Gwala, Lucy Wileman and Neerali Gajjar help first-year politics students settle in to life at UCT.

is designed to allow senior students to impart "institutional knowledge" on to their less-experienced counterparts. He encouraged first-year students to sign up for PMP, which, as of the second semester, switched from being obligatory to voluntary.

"To be honest, we're struggling a little to get to the hearts of the students," explains Guattari-Stafford. "That is, the students that we really need to be mentoring are the ones that are not interested in the mentorship programme. So that's what we have to discuss and try to work out." ■

## New SRC unveiled

The annual freshening up of UCT's top student leadership structure was – more or less – confirmed on 25 September with the announcement of the provisional results of the Students' Representative Council (SRC) Elections for 2012/13.

After students cast their ballots over the voting week from 17 to 21 September, the members of the new SRC are as follows, in descending order from most votes received: Marissa Van Rensburg, Jarred Devar, Lorne Hallendorff, Kgotsi Chikane, Alex Swanepoel, Lusani Nematlali, Chanda Chungu, Darren Brookbanks, Emma Selve, Timothy Winter, Lwazi Somya, Mangi Gondwe, Emily Bate, Keenan Hendrickse, Tom Guattari Stafford, Tarryn Naude and Sarvesh Balkaran.

These 17 students garnered the most votes from the 31 (one withdrew before voting closed) candidates that stood for office.

The election poll of 34.859% met the SRC Constitution's requirement that a minimum of 25% of full-time students vote for the new SRC to be constituted. A total of 6,706 votes out of a 26,057-strong student population were tallied. ■



## Recycling made 'simple, easy and convenient'

The green, yellow, blue and red bins that dotted UCT's upper campus are now but a bright memory.

In their stead, UCT's Green Campus Initiative (GCI) has instituted a (slightly) less colourful two-bin system for students and staff to jet-tison campus life's offal into. Pairs of green- and yellow-capped bins have illuminated upper campus walkways since the beginning of the second semester.

Whereas the UCT community would previously have separated their waste into bins devoted to either cans,

plastic, paper or non-recyclable material, the new system has all recyclable material (cans, glass, paper, plastic, clean polystyrene, etc.) thrown into the green bins, while their yellow brethren swallow non-recyclable waste.

New GCI chairperson Ashleigh Arlot is happy to report that the Properties and Services Department has completed the rollout of the new bins to the upper campus and expect the auxiliary campuses to be fully furnished within six months.

The change, says Arlot, was borne of two factors: first, that Wasteman,

the company that recycles UCT's waste, collects the waste in only two streams anyway, negating the need for four different bins, and, second, that some students, noticing the Wasteman representatives mixing all recyclable waste into one load upon collection, became disillusioned with the system, mistakenly believing their efforts to help keep UCT green to be in vain.

Arlot is confident the move to the two-bin system will herald more efficient recycling habits at UCT.

"It's simple, it's easy, it's convenient for everyone," she beams. ■