

INTO THE STREAM

Can't make it to grad? Well, why not watch it all online? For the first time, UCT will stream – live – the three June graduation ceremonies, at www.uct.ac.za/students/graduation/. Viewers will need the latest version of Adobe Flash (<http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>) to view the live feed.

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

Praise for scholar's South African translation of epic

A retired UCT professor recently completed a ten-year labour of love, with his publication of *The Iliad of Homer: A Southern African Translation*. After featuring in a front-page article in the *Wall Street Journal*, the book has caught the attention of both international and local media, who want to know what a nearly 3,000-year-old epic might have to say to South Africans.

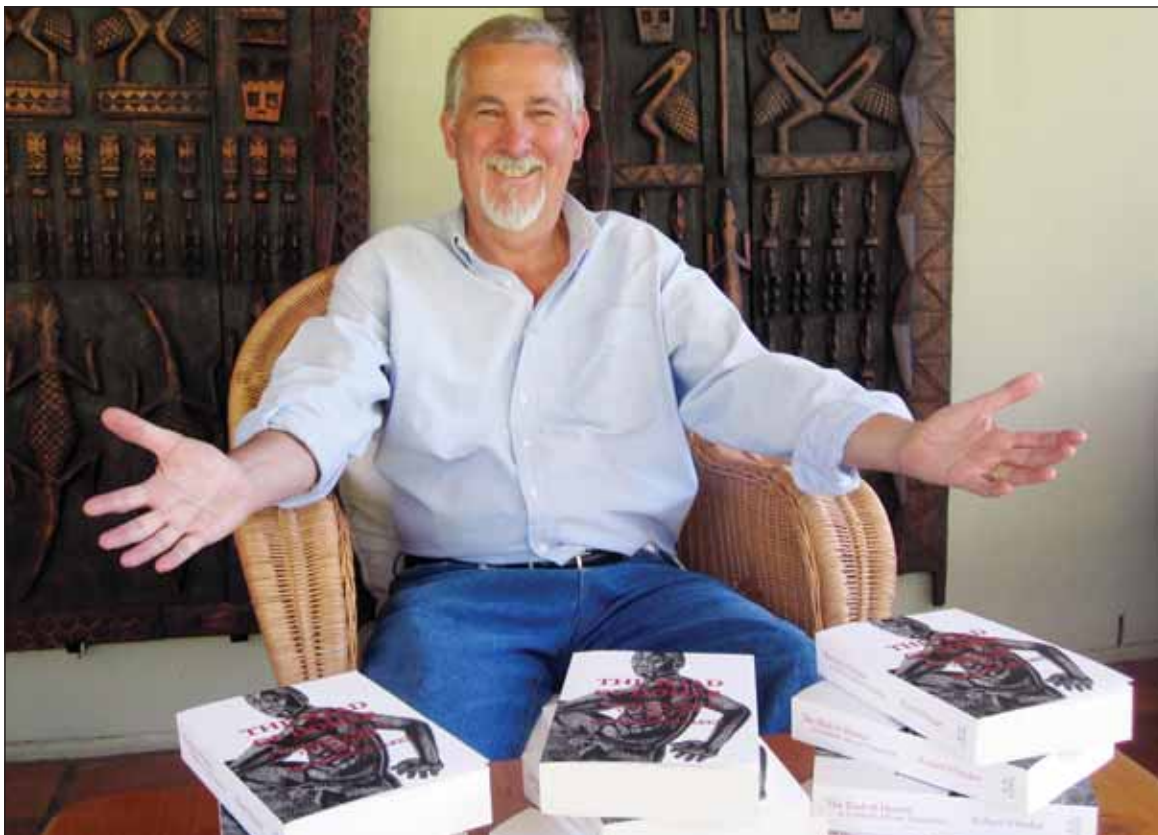
Homer's epic of Troy, the *Iliad*, has been translated into English scores of times over many centuries. So why yet another translation? Emeritus Professor of Classics Richard Whitaker says that his version of the epic is different, and meets a need.

After decades teaching the *Iliad* in English to South African students, Whitaker says he became dissatisfied with the imported American and British translations he and his students had to use, since no others were available.

"I began to feel there were elements in the poem that could appeal directly to South African readers. And also, that local English now had a register and range of its own that should be represented in translation of 'the Classics'."

And so he set to work directly from the Ancient Greek, producing his own poetic translation of the 15,000-line epic. *Muti, induna, indaba, kraal, kloof, assegai, lobola* and *amakhosi* – all these are words that find a place in his version of the *Iliad*. Instead of reflecting the world of European elites as earlier translators had done, Whitaker tried to mirror a world closer to home.

"In my view," he says, "there has been a kind of 'cultural inflation' in translations of Homer, with their 'palaces', 'princes' and 'kings'. I see the Homeric world as something smaller-



Emer Prof Richard Whitaker spent a decade on his careful translation of the *Iliad* of Homer for South African audiences.

scale – much more like a tribal world of small warring communities headed by chiefs, than one of royal courts and sovereigns."

Whitaker also tried, in his translation, to pay tribute to South Africa's powerful tradition of oral praise poetry. Like great local leaders of the past, the warriors of Homer's world

also had their memory kept alive by a purely oral tradition. So Whitaker translates the Greek words usually rendered into English as 'fame' or 'glory' as 'praises' and 'praising' instead.

Although Whitaker had primarily local readers in mind when he produced his translation, he has been

surprised (and delighted) by the international interest in his work. South African newspapers and radio stations have interviewed the translator, but it was the US *Wall Street Journal* of 11 November 2012 that got in first, with a long, front-page article on his Southern African *Iliad*.

The *WSJ* was followed by the

Daily Telegraph, and any number of online news services, from *Moneyweb* and the *Middle East North Africa Financial Network*, to the *Greek World Reporter* and *Hindustan Times*.

It seems that this local version of the *Iliad* has something to say to non-South Africans as well. Washington-based British writer and former journalist Simon Barber comments on the *Wall Street Journal* website: "Speaking as a Cambridge-trained classicist who has spent the past 30 years writing... about South Africa, I cannot recommend Whitaker's translation too highly, and not simply because of its South Africanisms. This is a great translation, *finish and klaar*. As for the South African vocabulary and idiom, words like *inkosi, indaba, induna* and *impi* actually take us much closer to what Homer was singing about than their English equivalents."

How does the translation relate to Whitaker's earlier literary research?

"I feel as if I have come full circle," he says. "In 1989, in my inaugural lecture at UCT, I spoke about Homer and oral poetry and their relation to South Africa. Now, in 2012, my Southern African translation of the *Iliad* is basically a creative reworking of these same issues."

(For more about *The Iliad of Homer: A Southern African Translation*, go to www.southernafrianiad.com.) ■

Ndebele takes top post at UJ

Former UCT vice-chancellor Professor Njabulo Ndebele has been appointed as chancellor of the University of Johannesburg (UJ).

Ndebele, who was inaugurated on 16 November, took over from businesswoman Wendy Luhabe, who had served as the newly-created university's first chancellor since 2006. UJ hailed Ndebele for his contributions to higher education in South Africa and beyond.

"In Professor Ndebele, we have found someone with exceptional leadership qualities

and a demonstrated commitment to values such as equity, diversity, economic development and corporate citizenship that are so important to us," said Professor Roy Marcus, chairperson of the UJ council. "We see him as a leader who will assist UJ in moving forward to the next plateau of excellence in teaching, research, community outreach and innovation.

"He is someone with proven success in bringing about partnerships with the government and industry, and someone who can help further

our standing as a premier African city university."

The appointment is not Ndebele's first honour from a South African university this year. In April, the Durban University of Technology presented him with an honorary Doctorate of Technology Degree in Arts and Design for his contributions to education, literature and public service.

Ndebele served as UCT vice-chancellor and principal from 2000 to 2008. ■



To cap it all: Prof Njabulo Ndebele has been inaugurated as chancellor of the University of Johannesburg.



2012
"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."
Dr. Seuss



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5 Rustenburg Ave, Rondebosch



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NEWS IN PICTURES

1 Professor Ingrid Fiske of UCT's Centre for Extra-Mural Studies has won the 2012 South African Literary Award for English poetry. Fiske, who writes under the name Ingrid de Kok, was lauded for her book *Other Signs*, her fifth collection of poems. These annual awards are an initiative of the wRite associates, in partnership with the National Department of Arts and Culture. Since the inception of these awards in 2005, no fewer than 101 authors have been honoured.

2 Professor Francis Petersen, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, is one of the many luminaries from the public and private sector recently appointed to the board that will govern the implementation of Cape Town's World Design Capital 2014 programme. The 13 board members were chosen out of 103 nominees through a rigorous selection process coordinated by the Cape Town Partnership and headed by an independent selection panel.

3 Emeritus Professor Lionel Opie, former director of UCT's Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa, will receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Stellenbosch. Other prominent figures to be honoured by the university include former president of Mozambique Joaquin Chissano, and Gill Marcus, governor of the South African Reserve Bank. Honorary doctorates are awarded to individuals "who have made an outstanding contribution to the promotion of a branch of science, art, culture or in service to the community in his/her field".

4 UCT has ambitions not only to lead in the field of research, but also to become one of the top teaching and learning institutes nationally and internationally. This was the message conveyed by

Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price at the 2nd Conference on Teaching and Learning at UCT. This year's theme was *Difference in Teaching: Teaching for difference*, and the day-long conference saw many in-depth discussions related to teaching and learning taking place.

5 The creation of a single currency must be backed up by an economic union. This was the advice reluctantly given by Alexander Stubb, Finnish minister of European affairs and foreign trade, on a recent visit to UCT's Department of Economics. He was responding to a question about the lessons Africa could learn from the introduction of the euro as the official currency in 17 of the 27 member states of the European Union.

6 Professor Dan Stein (right), head of UCT's Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health and director of the Brain-Behaviour Initiative, was recently awarded one of the most prestigious awards for scientific research in Southern Africa; the South Africa Medal (Gold) from the Southern African Association for the Advancement of Science (S2A3). Associate Professor Landon Myer of the Centre of Infectious Diseases Epidemiology and Research in the School of Public Health & Family Medicine received the British Association Medal (Silver), which is also awarded by this association. This is not the first time Stein's efforts in his field have been acknowledged by S2A3; in 2001 he was the recipient of the silver medal.

7 Picking up a new language as an adult is one of the riskiest spaces one can enter, said Associate Professor Sue Shay, deputy dean at UCT's Centre for Higher Education and Development (CHED) at the recent 'graduation' of the latest group of staff

members and students to complete the Masithethe isiXhosa course. "It requires a tremendous amount of humility," Shay said. "It requires a good sense of humour, and in many ways you are asked to become children again."

8 In 2012 the UCT Choir, a student-run ensemble, experienced one of its busiest and most memorable years. From the Jammie Plaza and Baxter Theatre, to the Cape Town city centre and the Garden Route, the 30-person choir has performed extensively, exposing its singers and its audiences to a rich variety of a *cappella* pieces, from early classical to contemporary genres, both sacred and secular.

9 Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price hosted the last staff welcome function of 2012 on 19 November at his residence, Glenara. Price encouraged new staff members to get involved in committees and activities outside their departments to create a greater sense of community at UCT. He also expressed the hope that they would find UCT a place at which they would enjoy working.

10 Associate Professor Iain MacDonald of UCT's School of Actuarial Science has won the Sichel medal, a highly-prized accolade from the South African Statistical Association (SASA), for the best peer-reviewed paper by a South African statistician. The award was for MacDonald's paper, *Some Non-Standard Stochastic Volatility Models and their Estimation Using Structured Hidden Markov Models*, published in the *Journal of Empirical Finance*. It was the second Sichel medal for MacDonald after he became the first academic from UCT to win it in 2008, and it was the fourth to come to UCT in the past five years following awards to Professor Linda Haines in 2009 and Dr Melvin Varughese in 2010. ■

Course unites economic drivers

Experts from South Africa's three key economic provinces and national government departments converged in Cape Town last week to explore the challenge of regional economic development.

The week-long meeting was hosted by UCT's Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice (GSD), in collaboration with National Treasury's Technical Assistance Unit and the Economies of Regions Learning Network (ERLN), a collaborative effort between the Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape economic regions.

It was the latest in a series of executive short courses presented by GSD following on from the programme run by visiting scholars Professors Francis Fukuyama and Roger Leeds late last year, and the training on local government leadership for the eight metros in March.

Regional economic development – the sustained, concerted actions of policy-makers, businesses and communities to promote economic health – is increasingly recognised as a critical area of intervention worldwide.

In South Africa, however, this has been a neglected area. That is until ERLN, which

has partnered with the GSD, prioritised it to raise living standards and create more employment.

The GSD executive course aimed to put regional economic leadership on the national agenda, according to the GSD's Judith Cornell. It also seeks to consolidate a network of regional economic leaders in three regions to provide a stronger common intellectual base to support regional economic development processes in South Africa.

"The course contributes to this by setting up a dialogue, between leading international and national thought leaders in the field and local public and private sector leaders, to reflect on local and global practice and how regional economic development capabilities can be built in South Africa."

Alan Hirsch noted that courses like this benefit economic development by building multi-stakeholder teams with a common vision of development, teams that can drive processes forward in their regions.

"And in helping national government understand regional economic development more effectively, it can ensure that national government supports it more appropriately." ■



Economic: Alan Winde, Western Cape MEC for finance, economic development and tourism, was impressed with the training on regional economic development at the recent GSD workshop.

Big send-off for retirees



Rich in years: Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences Prof Marian Jacobs (second from left) graduated from UCT in 1971, continued with her internship and studies at the university, and served for 31 years as an employee. She was photographed with (from left) Nisaar Ahmed, DVC Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo, and Miriam Hoosain, ED of Human Resources.

There were some famous and familiar faces at this year's annual Retirees Dinner, held in the stately Smuts Dining Hall to bid farewell to those taking their leave of the university.

Among them were Professor Marian Jacobs, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, and Dr Loveness Kaunda, director of the International Academic Programmes Office International Office.

The retirees have contributed hundreds of combined years of service to the university, with Pat Thompson of the Faculty of Health Sciences having spent 40 years at UCT.

"No matter how long you've been at UCT, you've all played a part to make this institution one of which we are all immensely proud, and one which is internationally acknowledged for its excellence," Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price told the retirees. Price noted that he was "struck" by the calibre of UCT's staff, adding that it takes more than professional skills or academic expertise to make a contribution to an institution like UCT.

"You've all given generously in terms of professional skills; and more than that, you've given yourselves to make this a community, a community which binds people and which

becomes, over time, something of a family – so each can identify with it, and it's not just a place to go to work."

Price urged the retirees to retain their links with the university, and, where there is opportunity, "allow us to benefit from your huge experience".

Responding on behalf of the retirees, Eric Bill Randall said he had spent 37 years at UCT because he was "in the right field, at the tight time, and there were the right people to lead the way."

"Most of the retirees have had rewarding experience at UCT, and most have mixed feelings about leaving." ■

Grant underpins mental health care project in Africa and Asia

The Alan J Flisher Centre for Public Mental Health at UCT is part of a large international consortium, recently awarded a grant of 5,798,000 Euro for the Emerging Mental Health Systems in Low and Middle-Income countries (EMERALD) project.

This will examine health systems for mental health care in six low- and middle-income countries over the next five years.

The consortium, which includes Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda, is being led by Professor Graham Thornicroft of the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, together with partner institutions in each country, the University of Madrid, and the World Health Organisation.

The UCT co-investigator, Associate Professor Crick Lund, said: "This is an exciting new development that

builds on our existing international networks of research and policy partnerships in Africa and south Asia."

They will be developing tools to assess the health system requirements for scaling up core packages of care for mental health in low- and middle-income countries. These include the costs, financing mechanisms, governance structures and information systems needed to provide care, particularly for poor and vulnerable communities in the six countries.

The grant will help build capacity to conduct and communicate research of this nature in these countries. The Centre for Public Mental Health, based in the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, is now conducting research in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and NGOs in eight low- and middle-income countries in Africa and south Asia. ■

Enjoy the summer at UCT

The 63rd annual UCT Summer School will run from 21 January to 1 February 2013.

Summer School, run by the Centre for Open Learning, is a public education programme that offers a range of short courses, open to all, regardless of educational qualifications. These courses are for non-degree purposes and do not involve examinations or certification, though written or practical projects and reading may be required.

For more information, visit www.summerschool.uct.ac.za. ■

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

2013

ACADEMIC & PASS STAFF LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE GUIDE

Seeing the wood for the trees

The annual Staff Learning and Development Resource Guide is a listing of all non-formal job-related training and development resources and activities available at UCT for all UCT staff.

UCT Human Resources Development has decided to stop printing the guide due to its high carbon footprint. Together with cost-savings and the user-friendly functionality of online documents, it makes sense to move to an electronic format.

From 2013, the guide will be published as an online PDF, allowing easy click-through to online booking forms and updated course information.

Download your up-to-date copy from:

hr.uct.ac.za/learning/staff_developmentguide

Major grant for research on HIV-1 and contraception

Professor Janet Hapgood of the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology has received a US\$100,000 Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE) grant, an initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She will pursue an innovative global health and development research project, titled *Determination of Differential Effects of Progestins on HIV-1 Infectivity: Towards choice of progestin for contraception in high-risk developing countries*.

GCE funds individuals worldwide who are taking innovative approaches to some of the world's toughest and most persistent global health and development challenges. Hapgood's project is one of more than 80 GCE Round 9 grants announced in November by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

HIV-1 prevalence in young women of childbearing age is very high in sub-Saharan Africa. Preg-

nancy poses a significant health risk to mothers and babies due to mother-to-child HIV-1 transmission, high infant and maternal mortality, and enormous socio-economic challenges. The choice of contraceptive for young women is a particularly important decision. This choice is complicated by controversial clinical findings that some contraceptives significantly increase susceptibility to HIV-1 infection. Thus a crucial health policy issue is to find the best possible method of contraception that most effectively balances risks with health benefits in these regions.

Contraceptives can be administered in many different forms, including as injectable compounds, orally, as patches on the skin, and in the form of long-acting intra-uterine devices. The actual hormones used, which include synthetic derivatives of the natural hormone progesterone, also vary widely in different types of



New insights: Prof Janet Hapgood's research into the effects of progestins on HIV-1 infectivity is being supported by a Grand Challenges Explorations grant, an initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

contraceptives. The research project proposed by Hapgood aims to provide insight as to which is the safest progestone derivative for contraceptive use by women in high risk areas for HIV-1 infection.

Contraceptive hormones act by binding to special 'receivers' or receptors inside the cell. These receptors then determine the subsequent actions of the hormone. The proposal is based

on findings from Hapgood's group that different contraceptive hormones used in sub-Saharan Africa bind to different subsets of receptors inside the cell to result in differences in the way the cells can mount a defence against the HIV-1 virus.

Hapgood proposes that this may result in some – but not other – contraceptives actually lowering the ability of the body to defend itself against

the virus. The project involves using human cervical cells from voluntary donors and manipulating them in the laboratory, by adding the virus and contraceptives and then measuring markers of the cells' defence mechanisms, as well as markers of viral infectivity. The results will be clinically relevant and suggest which contraceptives will pose the least possible risk of increasing HIV-1 infection. ■

Two UCT researchers will lead major new projects into rheumatic heart disease and the establishment of an Africa-wide bioinformatics network, part of the newly founded Human Heredity and Health in Africa Consortium (H3Africa).

The UCT studies will benefit from inaugural grants – which will be distributed among nine African projects – recently announced by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Wellcome Trust, who together have committed to injecting a total of \$55 million (nearly R450 million at current exchange rates) into the consortium over the next five years. This is made up of two grants – a commitment of \$25 million from the NIH and £13

UCT scholars to helm big African health initiatives

million (or \$20 million) from Wellcome – plus awards have been made towards the development of an African bioinformatics network and two pilot biorepositories: banks that will hold biospecimens for future scientific investigation.

Together, these investments will spur research into major health concerns around the continent. That money will go towards studies into kidney disease, diabetes, heart disease, obesity, tuberculosis and African sleeping sickness.

The two UCT projects are led, respectively, by Professor Bongani

Mayosi, head of the Department of Medicine, and Associate Professor Nicola Mulder of the computational biology group in the Institute of Disease and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM).

Mayosi will oversee the work of the RHDGen Network, which will conduct research into the genetics of rheumatic heart disease, a complication of untreated *Streptococcus pyogenes* pharyngitis, which affects 3% of school children in Cape Town. Rheumatic fever – which follows infection by *S pyogenes* in 3 to 5% of susceptible individuals – damages heart valves, and is considered the most common cardio-

vascular disease of children and young people in developing countries.

In turn, Mulder will serve as principal investigator for the establishment of the H3ABioNet, a pan-African bioinformatics network that will be led by her group at the IIDMM. The network – which will receive \$12 million over the five years – will incorporate over 30 institutions with computational expertise in 17 African countries, and will provide critical computational infrastructure and hardware, human resources, tools and computational solutions.

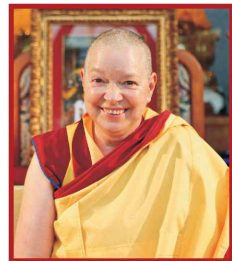
The H3Africa initiative, formally

launched in 2010, is designed to help develop expertise among African scientists, foster increased collaboration among African investigators and build the infrastructure for genomics research in Africa.

"H3Africa aims to transform the way science is conducted in Africa, by creating a sustainable research infrastructure and catalysing the use of advanced genomic technologies to improve our understanding of a variety of diseases," said NIH director Dr Francis Collins.

In addition to funding for projects at Stellenbosch University and the University of the Witwatersrand, grants were also made to institutions and researchers in Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Uganda. ■

Public Talk with Internationally renowned Buddhist Teacher Gen-la Kelsang Kunsang



will be speaking on **Wisdom and Compassion for Everyday Life**
Cape Town: Thurs, 6th Dec, 6:30pm - 7:45pm

at Rustenburg Girls' High School
Camp Ground Road, Rondebosch

Tickets: R50 in advance / R60 at the door



Register online:
www.meditateinsa.org
everyone is welcome

Non-Profit Organization 014-445

UCT palaeontologists open cold cases

The fossils of pre-historic animals, often found in bits and pieces, are jigsaw puzzles that have to be pieced together, calling for lots of study and deductive reasoning.

Palaeontologists in UCT's new Department of Biological Sciences have recently been applying their sleuthing skills to two fossils dating back hundreds of millions of years. In the first of two studies, published online in the US-based *Journal of Vertebrate Palaeontology*, honours student Tobias Nasterlack, working with postdoctoral research fellow Aurore Canoville and palaeobiologist and head of department Professor Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan, picked and prodded at the skeletal remains of a toothless mammal-like reptile known as *Cistecephalus*.

In so doing, the team hoped to glean insights into the lifestyle and habits of this 40cm-long creature, which lived 255 million years ago in the area now known as the Karoo. Was it, as has been debated, aquatic, amphibious, a tree climber or – the more popular theory – a burrower?

"Bone microstructure is a powerful tool that enables deductions about the lifestyle of extinct animals," explains Canoville.

What they have been able to observe from the adults' thick-walled



Bone collectors: Nick Fordyce with Prof Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan have made some eye-catching discoveries about some of South Africa's prehistoric creatures.

bones, for example, is that they are similar to those of many digging animals of today; suggesting that *Cistecephalus* was not a tree climber, but rather a burrower.

In a second study, published in the South African Journal of Science, honours student Nicholas Fordyce, working with Chinsamy-Turan and Roger Smith of the Iziko South Africa Museum, has shed a light on a 253-million-year-old murder mystery. His research pointed the finger for the killing of a plant-eating reptile known as a dicynodont – specifically one named Mamafura, whose partial skeleton was discovered in 1984 – at a suitably vicious-looking carnivore

known as *Aelurognathus*.

The researchers came to this conclusion because of the smoking gun found near the scene of the crime: a 3.5cm-long, sharply-pointed, curved and serrated carnivore canine. In *Aelurognathus*'s defence, other forensic evidence – notably the belly-up posture of the skeleton and the mudrock around it – would suggest that *Aelurognathus* had merely come across Mamafura's carcass after it had drowned, and opportunistically fed on it, losing the tooth in the process.

"Fossils provide us with a unique opportunity to learn about how the world and its fauna and flora have changed through time," says Fordyce. ■

From hair-trigger response to co-existence with HIV

The immune system has always fascinated Professor Clive Gray – even from the age of seven, when his mother told him he had little soldiers inside his body protecting him from the flu.

He has since heard a few more versions of how the immune system works, as he explained in his inaugural lecture, *Moving Targets: HIV and the immune system; in search of self-preservation*, delivered at UCT on 31 October.

In his undergraduate studies in the UK, Gray was fascinated by the theory of Nobel Laureate Niels Jerne, who held that the immune system works as a network of antibodies creating a mirror image of the offending antigen. He then became captivated by the central role of the major histocompatibility complex, which allows discrimination between self and non-self, or foreign.

At Wits University, where he went in 1985 for his MSc and PhD studies, Gray developed his understanding of immunological tolerance: a process in which the immune system fails to or ‘chooses’ not to launch an attack on an antigen. Here, he worked on ways to induce immunological tolerance to kidney transplants.

It was at the National Institute for Virology (later the National Institute for Communicable Diseases) that he first ventured into HIV research, in 1994. He then spent three years at Stanford University, where he examined the plasticity of immunity

to HIV. He returned to the NIV and established an internationally respected HIV-immunology laboratory, where he and others explored aspects of T-cell immunity associated with viral control or disease progression.

In his lecture, Gray showed how there is a close relationship between the virus, being a moving target for the immune system, and how the CD4 cell is a moving target for HIV. This tight interplay of moving targets is established at the point of initial infection – ground zero. By studying the immune events during acute infection, valuable insights have been gained into understanding the course of disease.

It would appear that the patterns of CD8 T-cells targeting HIV are all-important. If these cells target portions of the virus that are conserved, then that may help slow down disease progression. However, when CD8 cells target parts of HIV that can mutate – the virus escapes the immune response. Thus, the moving viral target may not be good for the infected host.

Gray later turned to the issue of ‘self-preservation’. This, he explained, is when there is peaceful co-existence between pathogen and host. An example is found in HIV’s primate cousin, SIV. It’s well known that Sooty Mangebeys – a monkey found in forests from Senegal east to Ghana – can live “peacefully” with the virus without disease, Gray explained. It’s

also known that another monkey, the Macaque, succumbs to disease when infected with SIV.

The distinguishing feature is immune activation.

“It is often the case that the immune system does more harm than good when it over-responds,” Gray explained.

Thus a line could be drawn between peaceful co-existence and pathology, the “yin and yang of immunology,” said Gray.

“We are all focused on the yang, which is activation. We’re all looking at immune activation and how this is related to disease.”

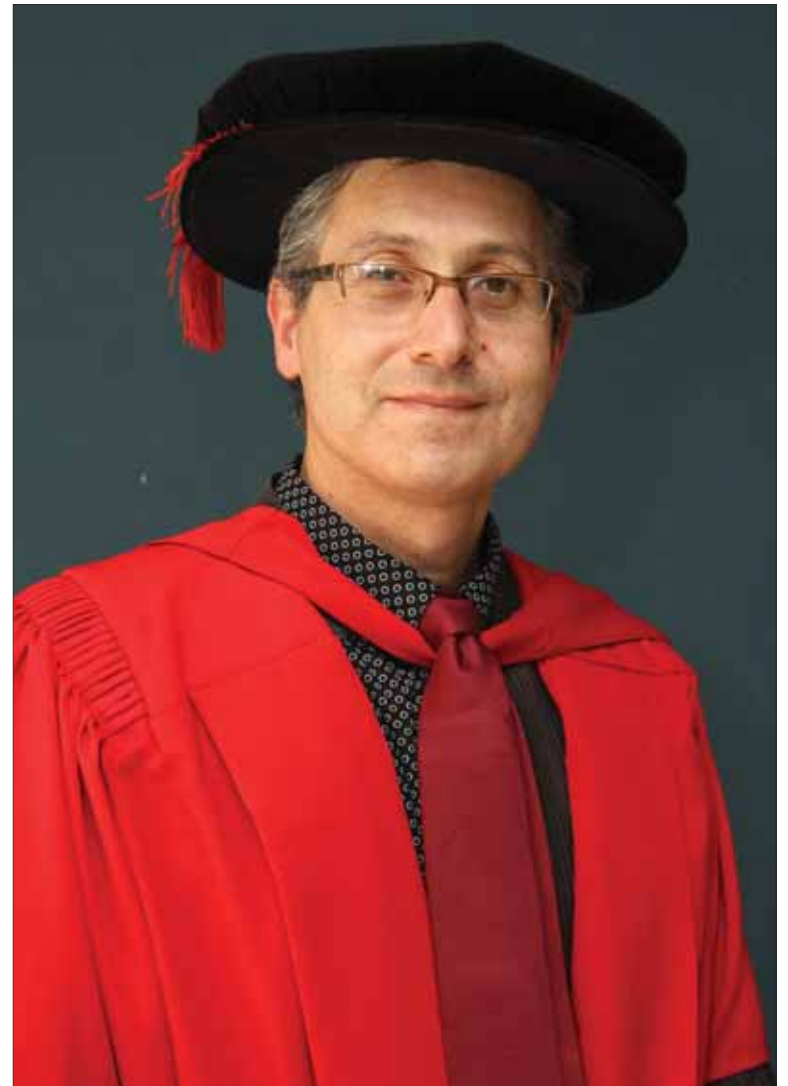
Perhaps, he noted, it’s time to begin paying some attention to the yin. In this case, yin would be tolerance – the ability of the host to survive and function despite infection.

In concluding his lecture, Gray asked whether a vaccine of the future should perhaps induce tolerance rather than activate anti-HIV immunity.

“This may seem counterintuitive; it may even seem heretical to say this,” he concluded.

It is this line of enquiry that Gray continues to pursue with colleagues at UCT’s Division of Immunology (in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences) and the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine.

For this, he is focusing on new human models in order to examine immune regulation and tolerance mechanisms. ■



New immunology: in his inaugural lecture, Prof Clive Gray spoke of new ways to look at the immune system and vaccines for HIV. Listen to podcast on <http://www.uct.ac.za/news/lectures/inaugural/2012>.

UCT centre beefs up its pursuit of catalysts

‘State of the art’ is a catchphrase that, one suspects, is thrown around way too carelessly.

But by all accounts, two new pieces of equipment recently acquired by the HySA/Catalysis Centre of Competence, in partnership with UCT’s Centre for Catalysis Research, are more than worthy of such exalted praise. The machines are an Isynth catalyst-preparation robot, produced by Swiss company Chemspeed; and the Flowrence high-throughput 16 parallel fixed-bed reactors, a piece of equipment developed by Dutch company Avantium.

Together these two acquisitions, known as high-throughput technologies, are set to beef up the development and testing of catalysts – the substances that underpin hydrogen fuel cells by separating hydrogen from water molecules and fossil fuel, and

then splitting those hydrogen molecules into ions and electrical current – at HySA/Catalysis.

Chemspeed’s Isynth allows researchers to explore the design of not just one but several catalysts at the same time, giving them the freedom to work with anything from gases to liquids to solids, and very small volumes at that. (The Centre’s focus is on catalysts produced from expensive platinum, which of necessity they need to use sparingly.) In turn, on Flowrence they can test an array of catalysts simultaneously – or one catalyst under a variety of conditions – while fine-tuning variables such as temperature, pressure and flow.

As a package, the two instruments will fire up HySA/Catalysis’ ambitions to produce, in a short time, a suite of market-ready catalysts.

“As this type of equipment performs a lot of the time-consuming and repetitive steps usually performed in the laboratory,” says Niels Lüchters, research officer in the Centre for Catalysis Research, “this will free up time for the researchers involved to spend more time on thorough analysis of data collected and work on new, innovative approaches.”

The technologies also put HySA/Catalysis on par with industry and research institutions around the world, observes director Dr Olaf Conrad. The next step, he cautions, is to get the best out of the equipment.

“To really claim a spot among the globally leading catalysis research organisations, we will now have to incorporate the competency in our daily research activities and train a next generation of chemical engineers.” ■



INVITATION

The Annual General Meetings of Convocation & the Alumni Association

The Annual General Meeting of Convocation will be held on **13 December 2012** at **07:30 for 08:00** in the **Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus**, and will be followed immediately after by the AGM of the Alumni Association.

The AGMs will elect the President of Convocation for the next two-year term (the President, Ms Mary Burton, offers herself for re-election) and the seven elected members of the Alumni Advisory Board.

Notices of motion for either AGM must be submitted to the Secretary of Convocation at registrar@uct.ac.za

The agenda for the AGMs, including the minutes of the AGMs held in December 2011, will be published on the UCT website www.uct.ac.za by 2 December 2012.

As coffee and refreshments will be served from 07:30, kindly RSVP to alumni@uct.ac.za by no later than 6 December 2012.

Hugh Amoore
Registrar & Secretary of Convocation

UCT scholars get international recognition in library assessment

Libraries sometimes have to do a little navel-gazing, figuring out the whys and wherefores of what they do.

Two recently-retired librarians from UCT were honoured for their contributions to that contemplation. Former Associate Professor Karin de Jager of the Library and Information Studies Centre, or LISC, and Joan Rapp, former executive director of UCT Libraries, have received 2012 Library Assessment Career Achievement Awards from the US-based Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in the US.

Each year, the ARL recognises individuals who have made “substantial contributions to effective, sustainable and practical library assessment through presentations/publications, methods, service, advocacy and other work”. De Jager and Rapp were two of the four 2012 recipients, the other two winners hailing from Canada and the US.



Lifetime achievement: Karin de Jager (in picture) and Joan Rapp received international honour.

De Jager has been a teacher and researcher at UCT and a pioneer in the field of library assessment and

evaluation for more than 20 years, both in South Africa and internationally. In South Africa, her assessment work has included information literacy, research commons, information technology in libraries, a framework for assessing library quality, and working with public library staff to strengthen the role of libraries in the community.

Prior to joining UCT – she served here from 1998 to 2011 – Rapp had held senior positions in several American university libraries. The ARL commended her on her “optimistic, grounded” view of library assessment.

After braving Superstorm Sandy to attend the 4th Library Assessment Conference in Charlottesville, Virginia, where she received the award, De Jager commented, “The award came as a tremendous surprise and honour. It brings substantial international recognition both to UCT and to me.” ■

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF BENITA SOUTHGATE

Benita Southgate is the principal psychologist for the Counselling Service Unit at the Student Wellness Centre. Southgate heads a unit comprising four full-time and nine part-time psychologists who provide counselling services to UCT students. The team deals with the students' psycho-social difficulties on a daily basis to ensure that the impact on their academic functioning is kept to a minimum.

MP: What does an average day look like?

BS: I start my day with administrative tasks unless a student is in crisis, or we are having to cope with a high demand for service. I then conduct individual therapy, primarily, or a group intervention. I ensure that our protocols are up to date and that clinical procedures are followed. Part of my role is to conduct case overviews with my team. I meet with the psychologists individually once a week and we discuss the students presenting concerns, and intervention strategies, and we monitor risk factors;

or the psychologists may flag a student who might require support in their absence. On certain days we have peer supervision, conduct training or have seminars as part of our continuous professional development activities. I am also involved in presenting workshops aimed at improving the mental literacy of our students, and run an Acute Support Group for students presenting with 'at-risk' behaviour.

MP: What are the challenges of such a day?

BS: The unpredictability and complexity of the concerns students present with. The degree of trauma students experience. High demand for service. Managing a team of dedicated and highly skilled psychologists who are required to balance their autonomy while working within an organisation. The potential for burn-out due to vicarious traumatisation or compassion fatigue. Managing ethical dilemmas and medico-legal concerns.

MP: What are the fun bits of such a day?



Help at hand: Benita Southgate, principal psychologist.

BS: I cannot recall fun bits, but most certainly meaningful bits! I appreciate the trust and confidence the students have in me and my team. I value the fact that, inevitably, we are

part of their growth and development. I appreciate the support I am able to offer and being that maternal figure who at times could offer a hug (with their permission and at their request) or a

firm word. Most importantly, I value and appreciate the resiliency our students have in being able to excel academically while dealing with significant stressors. ■

African language studies on the African continent

A rather bizarre situation prevails in the studies of African languages: the discipline is dominated by scholars from outside the continent, with only very few African scholars being involved.

In response, UCT recently established the Centre for African Language Diversity (CALDi) and The African Language Archive (TALA).

According to Dr Matthias Brenzinger, who heads both research hubs, the focus of both initiatives is to counter that trend, as well as to work for the return of and availability of crucial data on African language. CALDi's main objective is the study and documentation of African languages.

Linguistics as an academic discipline evolved in Europe, but African languages have featured quite prominently in studies conducted by scholars since the mid-19th century, explains Brenzinger. For a number of reasons, African linguistics is still dominated by non-Africans.

The meagre supply of archives, as well as early grammars on African languages written in Latin, German, Italian and other non-African languages, together with the lack of training in African linguistics at African universities, seems to have caused this situation, at least to some extent.



Dr Matthias Brenzinger.

"There are currently more German universities teaching African languages in linguistics than in South Africa, and there is also France, Japan, the US, the UK and Poland, just to mention a few of the other countries with long traditions in the study of African languages.

For that reason, it is not surprising that most linguists working on African languages are from outside Africa," Brenzinger says.

At UCT, linguistics had previously been part of the Department of English Language and Literature. It was only early this year that it joined the School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics, or AXL, in which CALDi is located. Together with CALDi, TALA has been established, being a member of the global Max Planck Institute Language Archives Network, based in Nijmegen, Netherlands. TALA is housed under UCT's Central Library and Archives, and is the first facility of its kind on the African continent.

Brenzinger noted that a key priority for CALDi will be to engage scholars in more in-depth study and training on the documentation of African languages, and in so doing it will promote linguistic diversity on the continent. In turn, TALA has been created to archive digital language data, such as video and audio files, images and documents.

Together it is hoped that the two will address the current dearth in the study of African linguistics in South Africa and the rest of the continent.

The main aim of CALDi is to attract a

greater number of master's and PhD students into African linguistics who are actually speaking African languages. Most of the more than 2,000 African languages are still widely spoken, and some by many UCT students; nevertheless, they are treasured and studied predominantly by outsiders.

"The CALDi initiative underscores the university's commitment to Afropolitanism", says Brenzinger. "At present, it seems easier to recruit students passionate about studying African language from other African countries.

"CALDi and TALA, however, will hopefully have a positive impact in raising appreciation of African languages in South Africa. The languages spoken on this continent constitute a substantial part of the world's language, and as such are part of the cultural heritage," Brenzinger commented.

Discussions on the return of artefacts to their places of origin have been advocated by UNESCO and other international organisations for decades, but no single mention of the return of intellectual heritage has been put forward yet, says Brenzinger.

"Through TALA and CALDi, we will hopefully initiate and facilitate the return of language recordings and research findings to speakers and their descendants." ■

December graduation story call

In just a few weeks the campus will be walk-to-wall with proud graduands and their relieved families, braving the Jammie steps and the summer torpor of Jammie Hall for a festival of graduation from 12 to 18 December. For a moment, forget how you're going to spend your bonus and put on your thinking cap. Monday Paper needs leads for the December graduation edition. We need to hear about those special grad stories in your department – tales to crisp the cockles of the heart; moms or dads hooding their kids, kids hooding their moms or dads, octogenarians claiming their first degrees, graduands who've grappled with life's odds to nail that qualification. And then there's all that jaw-dropping research, captured in scores of final theses. We want to hear about it. The world wants to hear about it. Send your lead to monday-paper@uct.ac.za, with the gist of the story and contact details. But hurry – the deadline is 30 November.

The dead teach the living



Spiritual connection: The health sciences faculty paid tribute to the cadavers used by its students in anatomical research.

It is a different and emotional event. Recently, second-year medical students in UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences recited poems, performed songs and expressed in words their appreciation to those who have donated their bodies for medical teaching and learning.

The annual Cadaver Commemoration Ceremony, according to Professor Laurie Kellaway, head of the Department of Human Biology, is an occasion to mark the beginning of the students' anatomical investigations – they start working with cadavers in their second year. It is also a "spiritual time" in which to pay respect to the cadavers, "your teachers", Kellaway told students.

"We need to remind ourselves that these cadavers were once human beings who had families, who were loved and missed; and, therefore, accordingly, they need to be given the due respect that we observe today," he said.

The event was attended by the families of the deceased, among others. ■

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

Van Zyl Slabbert Visiting Professorships, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 30 November 2012

Lecturer: African Studies, School of African & Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 30 November 2012

Professor and Director, Energy Research Centre, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 31 January 2013

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

Operations & Administration Manager, Careers Service, Centre for Higher Education, Closing date: 26 November 2012

Senior Secretary (X2), College of Accounting, Faculty of Commerce, Closing date: 27 November 2012

Clinical Research Nurse, Division of Immunology, Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 28 November 2012

Computer Systems Administrator, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 29 November 2012

Senior Research Officer/Research Officers; Law, Race & Gender Research Unit, Faculty of Law, Closing date: 30 November 2012

Web Content Coder, Communication & Marketing Department, Closing date: 30 November 2012

Research Nurse, Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation, Closing date: 30 November 2012

Residence Manager, Obz Square Residence, Department of Student Affairs, Closing date: 30 November 2012

Senior Research Officer, Centre for Catalysis Research, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 3 December 2012

Faculty Planning Manager, Academic Administration, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 3 December 2012

Senior Coordinator: Residences Catering, Department of Student Affairs, Closing date: 5 December 2012

Liaison Officer, Michaelis School of Fine Art, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 5 December 2012

Medical Technologist, IIDMM, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 7 December 2012

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

Administrative Assistant, College of Accounting, Faculty of Commerce, Closing date: 27 November 2012

Laboratory Manager, Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 30 November 2012

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Looking for adults (>30 years) to participate in an MRI study on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. R150 compensation for your time, please go to <http://s.zoomerang.com/s/TRCSTUDY> and complete the survey!

Feeling depressed? We are looking for depressed males (UCT students and staff) between the ages of 18 and 40 to participate in a 6-week long study at the UCT/MRC Research Unit for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine (ESSM). This study will examine the effects of exercise on depression. Participants will be required to exercise 3 times per week for 1 hour per day at the ESSM facilities that are based at the Sports Science Institute of South Africa in Newlands. If you are currently feeling depressed, and would like to participate, please go to <http://www.uctstudy.co.za> and complete the online consent form and questionnaire.

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Plagiarism still a problem

Plagiarism forms the bulk of student misdemeanours at UCT, according to the latest University Student Discipline Tribunal report.

The report states that 17 of the 22 students who were convicted and sentenced between February and September this year were found guilty of academic dishonesty due to plagiarism.

Perhaps surprisingly, among them are senior postgraduate students, including five who were doing an MBA.

The tribunal report indicates that in addition to rustication (punishing a student with temporary expulsion), students are in most cases required to perform community service.

To identify plagiarism, UCT has employed the services of Turnitin, a commercially-available plagiarism prevention software system that recognises unoriginal work in student papers.

Other offences noted in the report include theft, the possession of dagga and the submission of fraudulent medical certificates, as well as cheating in exams, assault, and sexual harassment. ■

Inventiveness locked in



Lock and key: Handyman Graham Rothie has devised a new way to fix locks at Leo Marquard Hall residence.

Who said you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

Tired of replacing the often-damaged door locks at Leo Marquard Hall residence, handyman Graham Rothie, 63, came up with a simple but lasting solution.

Instead of throwing the locks away, as had been done for the past 11 years, Rothie devised a way to fix them, saving time and money for the university.

The tall residence along Main Road in Rosebank is subject to strong winds, and gusts slam doors shut on a regular basis. That takes its toll on the locks.

"The weakness of these locks is that they don't have much holding them, and they break easily if the door is banged," Rothie explained.

In his own time, Rothie now bolts the damaged locks, tightening their innards with a strategically placed screw.

"These locks will now hold on for a long time," he says confidently.

Rothie has always enjoyed trying and testing new things.

"I like to experiment with things, even at home, and see where I can cut costs." ■

Mbedu aims to effect positive change

Outside of the Olympic Games, the claim goes, no youth-dominated event brings together participants from more countries than the One Young World Summit.

That is why UCT's Mziwamadoda Mbedu was determined to use the summit to represent the views of South Africans as accurately and thoroughly as possible. As a South African delegate among approximately 1,500 international peers at the 2012 instalment of the summit, which ran from 18 to 22 October in Pittsburgh, USA, Mbedu spotted an opportunity to give the South African agenda some air time.

"The summit creates a space for dialogue on possible solutions to many global issues," explains the second-year BCom student. "It mainly challenges world leaders to shift focus and bring the more rapid and ready change

that the world so earnestly desires."

The event focused on six areas: global business, the environment, health, interfaith dialogue, leadership and media. Bill Clinton led the council, with individuals such as former secretary-general of the United Nations Kofi Annan serving as counsellors, along with a number of multi-national corporations. The summit plays an influential role in global leadership, and is not just the average "talk shop", says Mbedu. When Bill Clinton was asked what he thought were the world's three main problems, he listed inequality, instability and unsustainable development.

The summit serves a dual role, primarily. Apart from bringing dialogue and solutions, it creates a platform for individuals to get support for any ideas, projects and movements they may have in mind to improve their

society. This is through the network they create with other delegates, the councillors, the companies associated, and also the organisation itself. This year saw the launching of the social business fund, and everyone was welcome to apply for funding.

"The One Young World Summit is bid for by different cities each year around the world, and we as South Africa have been so fortunate, since the summit next year is going to be hosted by Johannesburg. Hopefully many young people from Africa will be present" said Mbedu.

"There is a change coming in the way we view the world, and many call it a social revolution," he opines, citing increasing pressure on business to holistically benefit all stakeholders, including workers and the environment, as a prime example. Also, there has been mounting oppositions to



Summit participant Mziwamadoda Mbedu.

governments in different parts of the world.

As delegates to the summit continue working once the final session closes, Mbedu is now keen to engage with the UCT community as much as possible. "I need people's views on how we can convince world leaders that there is a need for a change, and

that this change can benefit them," he says. "There is an ongoing forum that continues conversation on these topics, and it's essential that I gather and represent South African views on such matters."

Follow Mbedu on Twitter, @mzwambedu, or email him at Mzwa.Mbedu@gmail.com. ■



Number one: Ra'ees Mahmood (second from left) and Muzzammil Ismail (second from right), of UCT's winning team ACETone, celebrate their victory with (from left) Geoff Rothschild, director of government and international affairs at the JSE; Olympian and event MC Cameron van der Burgh; and Julian Dallamore, brand manager at Liberty Retail SA.

UCT students know their investment beans

It's a whole new investment world out there, and would-be stockbrokers, financiers and bankers will need to know their short-selling from their long-selling.

UCT students appear to be well-primed, with our teams taking the top two spots in the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE)/Liberty Investment Challenge, described as a "game that aims to teach South African learners and students about investing on the JSE, and the larger role that such investment plays in the country's economy".

Team ACETone – Muzzammil Ismail and Ra'ees Mahmood – amassed an impressive capital growth of 73.07% for their Speculator Profile, earning them first

place and an all-expenses-paid trip to the New York Stock Exchange, plus R25,000. In second place was Team Liquid Gold – Katherine Coutras, Hannah de Villiers, Etelka Verheyen and Ashleigh Williams – boasting a capital growth of 25.98% and prize money of R20,000. Team Marktex from Wits University finished in third place.

The competition is a handy way to sharpen their business nous, said Liquid Gold's Williams.

"It allowed us to develop our investment skills and strategic thinking. I encourage other students to enter and grab the opportunity to take part in an initiative of this kind." ■