



Monday Monthly

Newspaper of the University of Cape Town

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Obama now, Kennedy then

2013

YUSUF OMAR

When US President Barack Obama took the podium at UCT last month, he was walking in the decades-old footsteps of slain American senator Robert Kennedy, who made his famous *Day of Affirmation* speech on the campus in 1966. But, coming to a very different South Africa, Obama's impact is likely to take on a different shape and timeframe, say experts.

According to Professor Don Ross, dean of the faculty of commerce at UCT, "President Obama's focus on the challenges, responsibilities and opportunities for Africa's young people is accurate and welcomed."

And, he adds, the long-term consequences should not be overlooked.

"The fact that President Obama spoke the words he did here is a fact that can be used to emphasise the unique responsibilities of and opportunities for UCT students, for years to come. After all, we are still invoking the words Robert Kennedy pronounced here almost 50 years ago. We'll be remembering and drawing inspiration from President Obama's encouragement for at least a similar frame of time."

For Dr John Akokpari, senior lecturer in UCT's Department of Political Studies and an international relations expert, Obama's visit to UCT reified the university's status as one of the top universities in Africa.

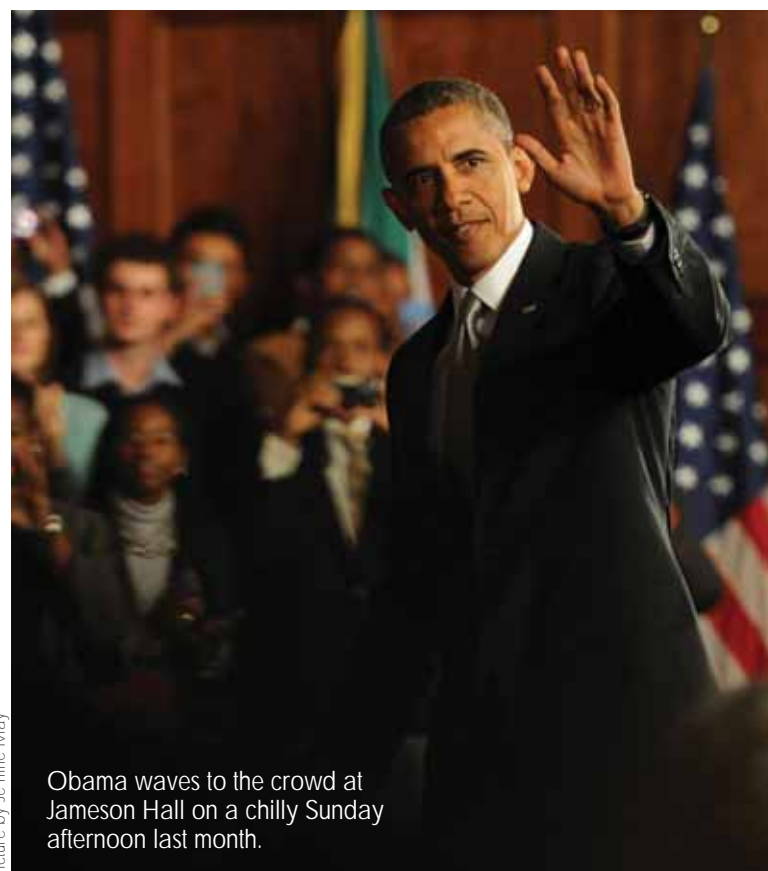
"The long-term effects of Obama's visit are not exactly clear at this point, but back in the United States, UCT is noted as one of the top universities in Africa," says Akokpari. "Having the US

president here means the university is recognised as one of the best universities in Africa. It perhaps positions UCT as a place where US foreign policy will be debated.

"Obama spoke about things such as good governance, which is very important in a country like South Africa," he added.

Dr Max Price, Vice-Chancellor of UCT, spoke ahead of Obama at the event in Jameson Hall on 30 June.

He said, "President Obama's visit to South Africa is rich in symbolism – and this is likely one reason he chose to speak at the University of Cape Town. I suspect his choice of a university platform is also directly related to the more explicit goal of his visit, namely to promote economic relations between the USA and the African continent, in ways that buoy the trajectory of economic growth." ■



Picture by Je-nine May

Obama waves to the crowd at Jameson Hall on a chilly Sunday afternoon last month.



Kennedy addresses the campus community with his famous *Day of Affirmation* speech.

1966

While US President Barack Obama's visit to Africa and UCT could have long-term policy impacts for the continent, former student leader Professor John Daniel believes the effect of Senator Robert Kennedy's visit to UCT was felt more immediately.

Kennedy, a US presidential candidate at the time, visited UCT on 6 June 1966 to address members of an anti-apartheid movement that was growing increasingly weary, says Daniel. Daniel was vice-president of the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) at the time, and was part of the organising committee that brought Kennedy to South Africa.

"I think it had a very powerful short-term effect," relates Daniel. "What it did was to basically revive the sense of morale of the anti-apartheid forces. 1966 was a very bad time. It was only two years after Nelson Mandela and all the other ANC leaders had been sent to prison. The ANC was banned; people were going into exile.

"The government seemed at its most powerful, and here was this leading person who came and he revived the spirit of the resistance."

Kennedy's visit also reminded Daniel and his fellow student activists that they were not struggling

in isolation, and were indeed sending forth the "ripple of hope" that Kennedy mentioned in his talk.

"It reminded us that the rest of the world was behind us and supported us; it lifted the morale, and revived the strength of NUSAS at the time. So, the short-term impact was much greater than the long-term impact."

The size and passion of the crowd that gathered to listen to Kennedy's famous *Day of Affirmation* address was a pleasant surprise for Daniel.

"I think the overwhelming impression I have was of the incredible enthusiasm of the crowd and the size of the crowd," he said. "We weren't sure what kind of reception Kennedy would get. We knew that the visit was very unpopular with the government, who had done their best to stop it, so we weren't exactly sure what kind of reception we would get.

"We were absolutely overwhelmed with the enthusiasm, with the size of the crowd, and the sense of euphoria that this person had brought to South Africa."

That euphoria came at a price for Daniel and

his comrades, however. Ian Robertson, who was NUSAS president and also central to organising Kennedy's visit, had been banned for five years by the apartheid government on 11 May 1966. Daniel says this was an attempt by the National Party government to dissuade Kennedy from visiting.

"They knew that Kennedy had presidential ambitions, and they believed that banning the person who invited him, under the Suppression of Communism Act, might persuade Kennedy not to come and be seen to be associated with a so-called communist.

"Of course, it had the opposite effect. It made him even more determined to come – and of course, the first thing he did once he arrived in Cape Town was to go and see Robertson, who was then living under restriction and who then made a presentation to him.

"So it was negative in that sense, but Robertson obviously left the country soon after that and had a very successful academic career."

Daniel himself was forced into a 23-year exile in 1968, after having his South African passport rescinded.

"I didn't get it back until after 1994," he says. ■

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NEWS IN PICTURES

1 Bound for Edinburgh: Khayeletu Anthony (left) and Dame Janet Suzman (right) share a moment in Lara Foot's award-winning play *Solomon and Marion*, which recently ran at the Baxter Theatre before heading off to the Edinburgh Festival. Suzman's return to stage after 35 years brings life to the story of two injured souls searching for redemption in fragile, post-apartheid South Africa. "I wrote this play with Janet in mind. The tone of her voice was in my head," explains Foot. "The play was motivated by a time in Cape Town when South Africa felt desperate, both politically and socially," she adds.

Picture by Ruphin Coudyzer

2 Hats off: Justice Albert 'Albie' Sachs (left) lights up the set on a recent talk show with American host Steven Ray Goodman (right) for UCT TV. Sachs is regarded as an icon of the freedom movement in apartheid-era South Africa. After being arrested and placed in solitary confinement for over five months, he went into exile in England, and later Mozambique, where he lost an arm and the sight in one eye when a bomb was placed in his car by South African security agents. Titled *Higher Education*, the series being filmed by UCT TV includes interviews with other high-profile guests, such as Dr Mamphela Ramphele and Rhodes University Vice-Chancellor Dr Saleem Badat.

Picture by Michael Hammond

3 Staying in line: Semester Study Abroad students, dressed for the unseasonal warmth earlier this month, queue for registration at the International Academic Programmes Office on middle campus. This is required before international students can register at their faculties.

During the course of last year, almost 1000 students registered for Semester Study Abroad, which is up from the previous year's 844. The highest number recorded over the past few years was 1026 in 2010, when South Africa hosted the Fifa World Cup soccer tournament.

Picture by Je'nine May

4 Lunchtime laundry: Residents of Imizamo Yethu in Hout Bay make use of a washing platform constructed during the June vacation by a team of second-year architecture students, a few key staff members, and members of the local community.

The washing platforms are constructed and maintained by the students and are a way of providing additional services, more dignified places for water collection, and facilities for the washing of clothes. They are constructed in close proximity to shared toilet facilities and are built on an annual basis. This most recent example is the fourth of its kind to be built by UCT.

Picture by Michael Hammond

5 Nobama: One of a handful of protestors waves his flag and clutches his sign on upper campus during US President Barack Obama's recent visit to UCT on an icy Sunday afternoon. The protest was staged to speak out against 'war crimes' allegedly perpetrated by Obama's administration, his inaction on environmental concerns and fracking, and the fact that he did not decline the honour of being a recipient of Cape Town's Freedom of the City Award.

Inside the event on campus, more than a thousand attendees had gathered to hear Obama speaking in Jameson Hall.

Picture by Je'nine May

The race debate

International expert highlights merits of affirmative action

YUSUF OMAR

Was desegregation of American schools in the twentieth century the solution to racism that many thought it would be? Relating how a (white) schoolteacher regaled him and his classmates with tales of “the good old days” on cotton plantations, Dr Earl Lewis says he wasn't convinced.

Lewis, speaking at UCT's VC's Open Lecture last month, argued that affirmative-action policies should continue to be a legal variable for higher education institutions to consider in the admissions process. Lewis is the president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (which has backed more than 600 UCT researchers to date) and previously held high-level academic posts at a number of US universities.

Lewis's lecture, titled *The Ever-Changing Contours of the Affirmative Action Debate in the United States*, painted a picture of the debate using the backdrop of the Abigail Fisher case in the US. The 23-year old Fisher is suing the University of Texas for rejecting her 2008 application to study there, alleging that it was on the grounds that she was white.

If the Fisher case – which was recently sent from the US Supreme Court to a lower court – “goes the way many of us believe it will”, it would be “almost impossible” for higher education institutions (HEIs) to continue to use race as an admissions criterion, says Lewis. In 2003, the US Supreme Court ruled that higher education institutions in the US could use race as one of many variables to assess potential students.

The history of race in the US

The affirmative-action debate started out as a response to years of race-based segregation in the United States, explained Lewis.

“After two-and-a-half centuries of slavery and another century of segregation, the policy remains anything but settled,” he observed, adding that the policy, which first emerged in an ‘analogue’ world, had not kept pace with the flow of information in the ‘digital’ era.

The question remains: “How do we put structures in place to ensure that we can tap the greatest talent – in the most diverse sense – of the nation?”

When state laws declaring separate public schools for black and white students were declared unconstitutional in the Brown v. Board of Education case of 1954, many



Picture by Raymond Botha

Where to from here? Dr Earl Lewis from the USA says it is not enough to say that ‘demography’ will take care of it all.

Paraphrasing the late American civil rights leader Benjamin Hooks, Lewis likened some Americans’ confusion about the difference between equality and equity to an outside view of the starting grid for a 400-metre track race: the staggered start-grid appears unequal, but simply ensures that those on the inside lanes have no unfair advantage.

“In some ways you begin to recognise that there are structures and forms to every race that's run. You create those standard opportunities to make sure that you're not only achieving equality, but that there's equity in the process.”

Social policies needed

Lewis also rubbished notions that “demography would take care of it all”, with global population trends seeming to point in a particular direction.

“If the goal of education is to create not only the opportunity for encounter in a classroom but a learning environment that enhances the likelihood that individuals will be active members of their communities and seek to raise the important questions that make the key discoveries, then we realise that, in some ways, it's just not enough to say that demography will take care of it all.

“We have to have social policies in place that continue to raise the spectre that intentional human action requires structured opportunities for engagement. In this period between now and 2050, the debate will continue to rage in the United States over what should be an effective affirmative action policy.”

He says that no matter how one thinks about the next chapter in American history in the context of the affirmative-action debate, the ways in which the US shapes that conversation will have implications for the rest of the world.

In conclusion, he said, “It's important, as you sit here in South Africa, that you not only pay attention to the questions that are posed, but that you offer your own answers; because, as we look ahead in the twenty-first century, it's a global community that will ultimately help shape the US definition, more so in the next 15 to 20 years than it has ever been understood in my country.” ■

Equity is the process by which we become equal

hoped it would signal the beginning of a truly integrated and diverse US society. But “it was not just enough to have people sitting next to each other: you actually had to develop programmes that required individuals to think in different ways, to interrogate the ideas they held deeply”, maintained Lewis.

Indeed, many urban districts were more segregated now than they were in the 1950s, he said.

While the Brown phase, from 1954 until 1971, was one of the longest in American social history, the “race-conscious affirmative-action” chapter (1971-78) was one of the shortest, he continued.

Equity and equality

The one-tenth of one percent of difference in the human genome that gave rise to the classification of ‘races’ had a disproportionate effect on human history, argued Lewis. Race-based subjugation in the US was not just a matter of physical segregation, but also of the unequal distribution of resources.

“Equity is the process by which we become equal,” Lewis contended.

BRIEFS

» UCT scholars bag three Humboldt Awards

Three UCT scholars were honoured by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation last month in Berlin, Germany. Dr Heather Marco received the Humboldt Alumni Award, while Emeritus Professor Cesareo Dominguez and Professor Daya Reddy received research awards for Physics and Computational Mechanics respectively. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is a prestigious institution that promotes international co-operation between German institutes of higher education and leading academics from around the world.

» Minister's visit a first for UCT Lung Institute

MEC for Health in the Western Cape Theuns Botha embarked on a fact-finding visit to the UCT Lung Institute earlier this month. The visit was a first for the institute, and followed the minister's request to learn more about this hub for pulmonary research in South Africa. UCT established the institute 13 years ago, under the direction of Emeritus Professor Eric Bateman. It is a custom-built research facility that is part of the Faculty of Health Sciences' platform for teaching and learning, but also a separate entity addressing community health needs.

» Yeld steps down as dean, but resumes research

Professor Nan Yeld, the outgoing dean of UCT's Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED), will return to her research career – but not before a well-earned sabbatical. Her decade-long contribution as dean was honoured recently at an official farewell at the Glenara residence of Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price, on 12 June.

» The Baxter Theatre Centre's hit play

The Baxter Theatre Centre's hit play *Mies Julie* came home from a record-breaking international tour to sell-out performances on its home turf. It also amassed 30 international and local five-star reviews, and seven top theatre awards. It has now gone to Ireland before moving on to Finland, the UK, and the USA.

» Prestigious grant awarded to UCT HIV study

A UCT-led study that will look into what it means to be HIV-positive and part of the ‘born free’ generation has been honoured with a prestigious scientific grant award from the International AIDS Society (IAS). The study, led by UCT postdoctoral fellow and medical historian Dr Rebecca Hodes, seeks to improve adolescents' access to antiretroviral treatment and reproductive health care in South Africa.

» Six of UCT's best for Women in Science finals

Six UCT women are finalists in the Department of Science and Technology (DST) 2013 Women in Science Awards. The theme for this year's awards is *The Scourge of Violence Against Women: What is the role of science and research?* The winners will be announced by the Minister of Science and Technology on 16 August.

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Managing malaria

ABIGAIL CALATA

Africa's lead in malaria fight internationally acknowledged

The UCT-led effort to find a single-dose cure for malaria has been named the 2012 Project of the Year by the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV).

Professor Kelly Chibale, founder and director of the H3-D drug discovery and development centre, and his team received this accolade at a Malaria Symposium held at UCT earlier this month.

"UCT launched H3-D to focus drug discovery research on the development of an African solution to this largely African problem. Working with MMV and partners from around the world, we have been able to develop MMV390048 into a clinical candidate in record time and provide excellent, world-class training for the next generation of African scientists," comments Chibale.

"We are very excited about the promise shown by MMV390048 against the blood stage of malaria," says Dr Timothy Wells, Chief Scientific Officer at the MMV. "The compound is showing more potency than chloroquine or even artemisinin.

"The development of MMV390048 shows once again that African scientists are rising to the challenge and taking the lead in malaria drug research," he adds.

On African soil

A three-day meeting that brought together the most brilliant minds in the fight against malaria was held for the first time in Cape Town, confirming the African continent's increasing prominence in seeking solutions to its own medical problems.

The historic meeting of the expert scientific advisory committee (ESAC) of the MMV came a year after the committee selected the MMV390048 compound that Chibale and his team have been working on for further development. This compound, the first to be researched on African soil, has entered pre-clinical trials and will



Medicine makers: Dr Kelly Chibale and his team (Dr Diego Gonzalez Cabrera, Dr Tanya Paquet, Dr Ze Han, Dr Aloysius Nchinda and Dr Leslie Street) share a moment in the laboratory where they are blazing the trail in the fight against malaria.

be ready for human testing in March 2014.

The clinical trials for MMV390048 are expected to take place at UCT's new clinical research facility at Groote Schuur, which will be operational within the next couple of weeks and which will officially be opened in October 2013.

Slaying the dragon

Every year, malaria kills between 600 000 and a million people. Of those affected, over 90% are from sub-Saharan Africa and 86% are below the age of five. The malaria parasite is beginning to display signs of drug resistance, and thus there is an urgent need to develop new drugs to treat the disease effectively.

Interestingly, South Africa records 7 000 cases of malaria per year, and 79% of those are imported. Malaria transmission occurs in three provinces: Limpopo, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal.

The MMV390048 compound was uncovered after 35 000 compounds were screened for selective killing of the malaria parasite; the first breakthrough came in 2010, when MMV017007 was found to be effective. The compound – which according to Chibale, like James Bond, had a "licence to kill" – would require too high a dosage in humans, and it wasn't metabolically stable. "Enter compound MMV390048, and the possibility of it having a licence to cure," says Chibale.

There are a number of compounds Chibale and his team can fall back on if MMV390048 does not clear every hurdle on the drug development road. Chibale lauds this journey of drug development as "a tremendous project in building capacity". Ten local scientists were trained during the development of the drug, and Chibale's team has grown from four in 2009 to 22 today. ■

INTERESTING MALARIA FACTS

- » The malaria parasite is transmitted to humans by the female *Anopheles* mosquito when she extracts a blood meal to feed her young.
- » The parasites are rapidly taken up into the cells of the liver, where they multiply and invade blood cells.
- » Current medicines kill malaria parasites at this blood stage. This is when the parasite is at its most abundant – up to 1012 parasites in one person – and the stage that leads to clinical symptoms of malaria.

Source: MMV

Treatment milestones:

- 1632:** Introduction of quinine, which is extracted from a tree native to South America
- 1910:** First case of resistance to quinine is recorded
- 1945:** Chloroquine, a compound synthesised by a German scientist, is used to treat malaria
- 1948:** Proguanil emerged from the antimalarial pipeline
- 1949:** Resistance to proguanil apparent
- 1957:** Resistance to chloroquine appears
- 1977:** Mefloquine, developed by the US Army, is used to treat malaria
- 1982:** Mefloquine resistance develops
- 1979:** Human testing of artemisinin starts in China
- 2009:** Resistance to artemisinin is reported
- 2012:** The MMV selects MMV390048 for further development

Source: MMV

A young girl (age 3) languishes in a hospital in northern Nigeria. She is one of hundreds of thousands of children under the age of five struck down by malaria every year, and although she survived thanks to a medical intervention, many small children die from the disease.

Source: MMV



Tsotsitaal on the table

Pioneering conference explores urban youth language in Africa

YUSUF OMAR

Freestyle rapping, South African tsotsitaal and how language – both wittingly and unwittingly – speaks to one's socio-economic status were just some of the topics explored at a recent pioneering conference convened by UCT.

Thirty-five academics from 25 different institutions on three continents (Africa, Europe and North America) gathered to discuss some of the latest research in a growing field of interest at the African Urban and Youth Language Conference 2013.



From the slums of Addis Ababa comes a unique dialect used by impoverished local youth and frowned upon by some members of the upper crust of Ethiopian society

"Internationally, there has been a recent increase in interest in youth and urban language phenomena," says UCT's Dr Ellen Hurst, the conference's principal organiser. "Youth and urban languages are seen to be at the heart of language change in postmodern societies, and a feature of contemporary diversity in our cities."

Hurst, who lectures in UCT's Humanities Education Development Unit, suggested that Capetonian youths' use of tsotsitaal was often organised along gender lines and continued to be used as an 'anti-language', on the fringes of socially 'acceptable' tongues.

Hurst's research, which explored language use among two self-identifying communities in Cape Town townships (young men and young lesbian women), suggested – among other things – that lesbian speakers use tsotsitaal lexical items as part of their gender performance, but do not create them; that gender performances in peer groups are supported by the choice of lexical items; and that the identities being constructed in the female peer group, while 'streetwise', lean towards 'correct' or standard language.

A host of other topics were explored, many speaking to subculture language groups among urban youth and the relationship between language use and socio-economic contexts.

From the slums of Addis Ababa comes a unique dialect used by impoverished local youth and frowned upon by some members of the upper crust of Ethiopian society. After spending time in the company of young slum-dwellers, or 'Arada' ('the smart'), Mehari Worku of Addis Ababa University studied this tongue, exposing its roots in languages such as Amharic – Ethiopia's official language – and Arabic. This argot, jealously guarded by its speakers, was developed largely to help these young people



Picture by Michael Hammond

Performing toughness online: Frieda Coetzee of UCT argued that adolescent Capetonian users of the instant messaging platform MXit – particularly those living in areas with a powerful gang presence – often 'stage-manage' their online identities to correspond with "locally meaningful" ideas of power and toughness through nicknames, slogans, colours, emblems and lexical items. This occurs regardless of whether these online identities are 'authentic' or not.

identify themselves as separate from a society that "distrusts them and that the Arada, in turn, mistrust", says Worku.

While this way of speaking is not considered a language on its own – the negative connotations are such that young people are sometimes reprimanded for using it – the Arada youths' tongue has already contributed expressions and words to the standard Amharic dictionary.

The conference also featured a keynote address by Dr Peter Githinji of Ohio University and Dr H. Samy Alim of Stanford University, both

speaking to the theme of marginalised languages used by urban youth.

Githinji explored a tongue used by young Kenyans that some see as a threat to 'mainstream' Kenyan culture. He suggested instead that Sheng, the urban vernacular currently in the 'dock', is not a threat at all. In fact, other languages could learn from Sheng's adaptive strategies in order to remain relevant in a "competitive linguistic market", said Githinji.

Alim continued the focus on urban subcultures which are sometimes looked down on by various sectors of society. Having studied myriad freestyle

rap battles in Los Angeles, USA, Alim considered how understandings of 'blackness' and other social understandings were produced by MCs and audiences in these spaces. Alim demonstrated how performers attach new social meanings to race and ethnicity in verbal duels, and also showed how normative ideas of blackness were created and sometimes challenged by non-black MCs and audience members.

The conference was held at the Lady Hamilton Hotel in Cape Town, and was the first of its kind to focus on this particular range of topics. ■

Students and ex-gangsters talk business and smash stereotypes

ABIGAIL CALATA

A course offered at the LSE-UCT July School saw students giving business advice to a group of community members which included reformed gangsters and former drug addicts.

And, it turns out, these are the very people they were told to avoid at all costs at the start of their programme.

The irony of the situation was not lost on Professor Harry Barkema, from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), who presents the course. Barkema related that at the beginning of the course, entitled *Business Model Innovation at the Base of the Pyramid: Cape Town and beyond*, the students, many of whom were in Cape Town for the first time, were given safety tips, "not knowing that a week later some of them would sit across from the very people they were warned against," he says.

The July school saw UCT and LSE



Picture by Michael Hammond

Business connection: Athlone resident Gary Saaiman hopes his contact with students from the UCT-LSE July School will result in a sustainable business model for his idea to use technology to improve services in Bridgetown, the area in which he lives, and elsewhere.

partnering for the first time to offer a range of short, university-level courses running over two weeks.

The field trip to the RLabs

(Reconstructed Living Labs), a community centre in Bridgetown, Athlone, gave the students the chance to apply what they are learning to real-

life situations. They were tasked with coming up with business models for five social enterprises that are being developed at the RLabs, where digital and social media are used to link people to help solve problems, transfer skills and teach entrepreneurship.

According to Barkema and his UCT counterpart Dr François Bonnici, the people who are being advised by the students are looking for ways to use technology to address specific challenges in their communities. One of these projects hopes to provide an online platform upon which bargain-hunting consumers can load details of the location of good deals in their area.

"Thus, instead of retailers informing people of their specials, consumers take back some of the power, and communicate to the communities in which they live where the best deals can be found," says Bonnici.

One of the social entrepreneurs, Bridgetown resident Gary Saaiman,

says the students bring a fresh perspective to his endeavour. "They are exposing me to things I haven't considered before. The process helps me see different angles."

Darius Meadon, an ad agency strategist taking part in the course, believes the interaction is a good combination of different skill sets. "The community entrepreneur brings community knowledge and passion, and we bring the skills to commercialise her project."

Ehae Longe, a law student from Nigeria, says the course has opened her eyes to how poverty is different in different contexts. "This means there is no one solution to the problem. Solutions must be tailor-made to suit the different instances of poverty," she adds.

The next phase in the project will see the students presenting their business models at the RLabs – not only to each other and their lecturers, but to the Bridgetown community in Athlone, too. ■

The long fingers of inequality

Land issues in SA a hundred years on

ABIGAIL CALATA

Rural South Africans are still among the most oppressed in South Africa, with little hope of relief in the foreseeable future. This seems to be the consensus among top researchers, as land issues fall under the spotlight a hundred years on from the legislative milestone of 1913, when the notorious Natives Land Act was passed.

The act dispossessed black people of their land and restricted them to 7% of South African land, even though they made up 70% of the population. In 1936 the percentage was increased to 13%; it would remain there until 1994.

But, says UCT's Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza, despite the advent of democracy, rural South Africans remain disenfranchised, in terms of both land ownership and governance. Ntsebeza, the NRF Chair in Land Reform and Democracy in South Africa, criticises the current government for not doing enough to free South Africans from the legacy of the Natives Land Act. He regards the policies and laws dealing with land issues as being "shockingly" inadequate. He argues that instead of bringing about the dismantling of what he calls "tribal authority", the current government is merely entrenching it. Tribal authority (now referred to as 'traditional leaders' exercised "enormous power" during apartheid in that they could decide who in the former homelands could occupy land and who could not. The land rights in the former homelands were held by the state.

Statistics suggest that the current government's 'willing buyer, willing seller' policy to ensure the transfer of land from white to black ownership has reaped little reward. Only a small percentage (less than 10%) of agricultural

land has ended up in black hands, and a mere 49% of the land reform projects are sustainable, according to a report by the National Treasury.

For Paul Weinberg, senior curator of UCT's visual arts archive, representation of land in the visual arts has masked the ongoing tensions around race and land ownership. Specifically regarding nineteenth-century imagery, Weinberg says that photographers offered "an idealised, romantic view of South Africa" where indigenous people are portrayed as "benign curiosities" and which confirmed European "claims to the continent, region and country".

Discontent is also not the sole preserve of black rural dwellers.

At a conference on land held at UCT earlier this year Dr Mamphele Ramphele, former vice-chancellor of UCT, highlighted the high incidence of white commercial farmers fleeing to neighbouring countries in search of a livelihood. According to Ramphele, there are currently only 36 000 commercial farmers in South Africa compared to 100 000 fifteen years ago. She also noted that 50% of the commercial farmers in Zambia were from South Africa.

And like Ntsebeza, Ramphele feels that the legacy of the Land Act will continue unless tribal authorities are stripped of their power.

For researcher Margareet Visser, from UCT's Labour and Enterprises Policy Research Project (LEP), lack of access to land should not be viewed in isolation from other points of tension in rural areas.

Lack of access to land was not what motivated farm workers in the Western Cape to strike last year, she points out. They wanted a higher wage. She says that these strikes – which she researched in great depth for a project she was working on – show that land ownership alone does not account for the growing dissatisfaction among rural South Africans.

"Although land is an important factor in providing income and food for all South



Farming in Merebank, a suburb of Durban KwaZulu-Natal, circa 1980s.

Picture by Jeena Rajagopal

Africans, ownership of land cannot be viewed in isolation. Land reform is also about reforming water policies; reforming inadequate agricultural policies; and reforming value chains," she adds.

She maintains that workers will keep on being exploited as long as they do not own the means of production. "While land is an important means of production, it is by no means the only one. Another equally important one is water. Without access to capital it is very difficult to make the means of production work for you," she says.

Visser points out that as difficult as the situation is for black rural dwellers, their white counterparts who still own large tracts of land face their own set of difficulties.

"The hard reality is that many commercial farmers in South Africa operate on an overdraft facility. While farm workers find themselves at the lowest end of the (value) chain – and hence are the worst off – farmers are in a relatively weak position themselves."

Research by the LEP found that farmers (who do not pack their own fruit) receive only 18% of the final retail price for a carton of table grapes, while supermarkets get 42%.

Also, she explains, the South African government does not adequately subsidise commercial farmers compared to the rest of the world. "The level of state subsidisation



Picture by Paul Alberts

of total farm income in South Africa is 5%, on a par with Australia, as opposed to 68% in Switzerland, 58% in Japan, 33% in the EU and 16% in the USA."

These various perspectives illustrate the deep complexity of land issues and ownership in the post-apartheid South African state, and one is left wondering if it is a case of 'the more things change, the more they stay the same'. ■

A man directs a herd of cattle along a dirt road in Nyanga Township. Nyanga, Cape Town, Western Cape, 1996.

Hungry cities

'Don't take the city out of the food security question'

YUSUF OMAR

The battle for access to food is often felt most keenly in African cities, yet traditional approaches to food security, with their focus on the production end, seem unable to respond to this challenge. So said UCT doctoral student Gareth Haysom, who presented his research at a recent seminar entitled *Food Security and Place-Based Governance – Alternative food geographies and the city*. He points out that solutions to the growing problem are spoken of in purely agricultural terms, without taking spatial issues into account – it's more complex than that.

"The discourse it is in is a reductionist paradigm; it's just about whether there is enough food or not," he said. The reality about why some people can pick and choose between various delicacies while others starve is far more nuanced and has much to do with the dominant economic and geographic system, he continued.

Instruments to measure food security ask questions mostly pertaining to who has food and who doesn't, he said, but none tackle questions of *why* people have no food.

Food, said Haysom, has become a commodity, with markets favouring the producer over the consumer. The focus is on growing 'enough' food, but the chain of how food gets to consumers and how consumers engage with products on the shelf is "very seldom" engaged with.

The places where food insecurity typically have the most devastating effects – cities, and particularly African cities – are thus overlooked in these traditional approaches to the problem. The local scale is the critical point at which food security needs should be addressed, Haysom added.

"How do cities engage with this problem when the food question doesn't vest with the city?" he asked. With many of the people affected by food insecurity residing in cities, the focus on the rural sector when addressing the problem limited cities' powers to bring about significant change.

Another obstacle to solving the food insecurity crisis is that the phenomenon is spoken about using a predominantly Northern discourse, which does little to appreciate the nuances of the challenge in the global South, said Haysom. While there are possible lessons to be taken from experiences in the North, these

need to be adapted to Southern cities' unique contexts.

In addition, the problem is typically addressed in an 'aspatial' manner, and – with a few exceptions – the particulars of city living are not taken into consideration sufficiently when solutions are developed.

Alternative approaches

Different methods are needed to successfully tackle food insecurity, and Haysom described four of the dominant so-called 'alternative' food geographies. The first, informed by an "activist ethic", focuses on production issues, arguing that organic crops be favoured over genetically modified produce, and rejecting developments such as biofuels and "corporate agriculture".

An "end-user focus" typology that Haysom says is "best described as the food justice movement" prioritises food safety, sovereignty and quality, and favours small and family-run farms over globalised food corporations. Next, the "green focus" aims to ensure that consumers' rights to safe and nutritious food are protected, but tends to work within the "existing overall system" without questioning its basic logic.

Finally – and Haysom argued that this is the most useful – the "spatial focus" group is concerned mainly with the relationship between place and scale, and how food governance operates on a local scale. By focusing on food democracy and the "replacement of food within its social, cultural, economic, geographical and environmental contexts", this method "enables new and novel ways of imagining food systems", said Haysom.

Role of the state

After studying 176 such food policy structures in the United States and 64 in Canada, Haysom concluded that those systems offer opportunities for Southern cities to learn some lessons and then adapt them to local contexts.

In the US, the city governance structures and independent actors both played a role, while in Canada, national legislation allowed cities to play a greater role in tackling food challenges within their boundaries. The focus in Canada was on the right to food and how cities react to their residents' right to food.

"They had started engaging with groups in the city that dealt with this issue," said Haysom, adding that this sparked wide-ranging discussions with various actors in the food production and distribution channels.

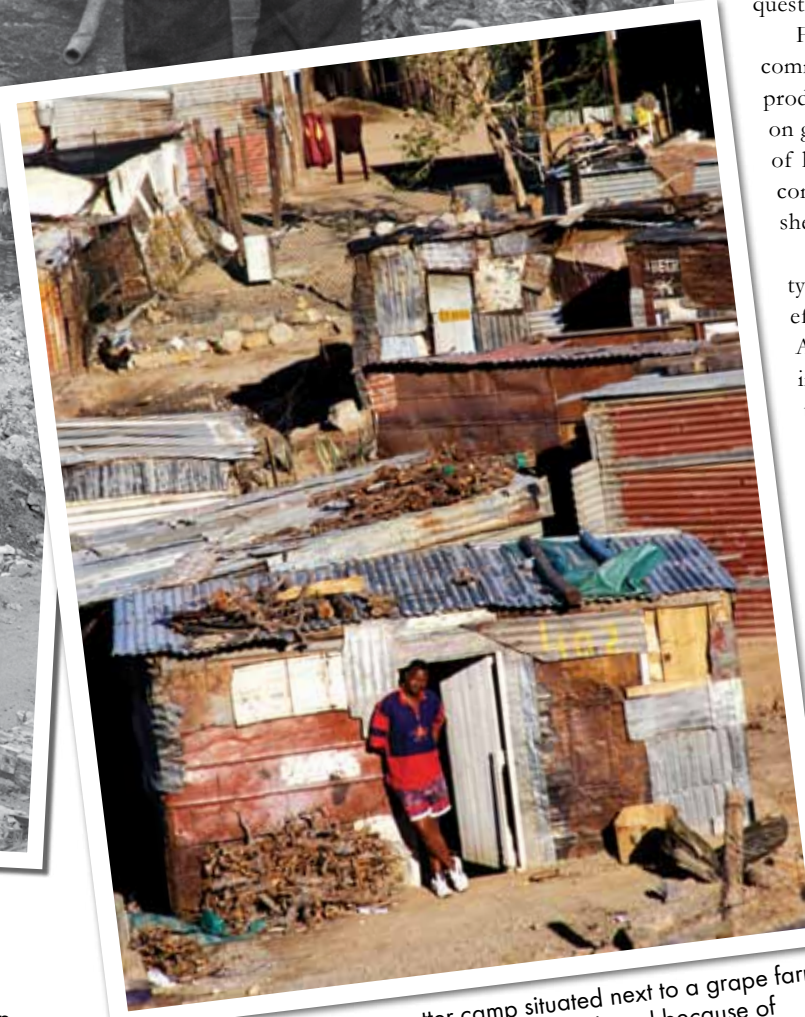
"There was a really strong focus on the city doing more to ensure people had enough of the right kinds of food."

Ideally, he concluded, African states would play an active role, collaborating with other players in the food process, providing funding and observing their "legal obligation to take all reasonable means possible to uphold the right to food". ■



Picture by Ryan Jacobs

Women take cover as riot police open fire during the De Doorns labour dispute. Western Cape, 2012.



Picture by Paul Weinberg

A resident stands in a squatter camp situated next to a grape farm in the Hex River Valley. The settlement developed because of employment opportunities on the surrounding farms. Hex River Valley, Western Cape, 1998.

Fast, faster, fastest

Cheetahs are fast, but springbok are faster over the long haul. Why? What causes muscle fatigue in the hunter, while the hunted keeps going? And how can high-performance athletes benefit from the research?

HELEN SWINGLER

“Ever seen a horse on a treadmill?” asks Dr Tertius Kohn in the laboratory he’s established for advanced study of single skeletal muscle fibre physiology and function.

Negative.

“Camels?” he adds encouragingly. “There’s also lots of money in racing camels.”

Not much is known about mammalian skeletal muscle. Of the roughly 5 000 mammal species documented, only nine species, mostly domesticated, have been studied at this level.

Far less is known about muscle physiology in wild animals – at the pinnacle of athletic performance, thanks to muscles uniquely adapted for survival over eons.

All this is a new focus area for the UCT/MRC Research Unit for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine (ESSM), where Kohn is a senior research associate.

Kohn began a masters (later upgrading to a PhD) under former Springbok gymnast Professor Kathy Myburgh at Stellenbosch. They tackled a question many were asking: why did East African runners dominate endurance running?

“We didn’t know if it was nature or nurture that separated black runners from whites,” said Kohn.

What they found was astonishing. South African black runners had more fast-twitch muscle fibres, but less lactic acid in the blood. This went against what was being taught in exercise physiology and biochemistry.

Setting genetics aside, Kohn speculated that East African runners were merely training harder. He then trained a mixed cohort of runners. Their muscle and lactate profiles started mimicking those of the East African runners. And they became faster.

Is it merely a question of training, then?

“I don’t know,” he says. “It’s too early to tell.”

But he’s planning to find out.

Kohn’s interest in muscle performance was piqued when he first saw a horse on a treadmill at a university in Uppsala, Sweden.

The thought then crossed his mind: why stop at horses?

It was after meeting ESSM’s trailblazing director and co-founder Professor Tim Noakes



Horse power: When Dr Tertius Kohn first saw a horse on a treadmill in Uppsala, Sweden, his mind opened up to the possibility of muscle research on wild animals. The muscle biopsy site on the horse pictured here is visible on the left buttock, while the cannula inserted into the neck draws blood for lactates research.

that Kohn was recruited to UCT in 2007 as a postdoctoral research fellow. He soon realised that his toolbox of muscle techniques didn’t equip him to understand contraction in single muscle fibres.

springbok can outrun a cheetah at almost 100 km/h. And why the lion is king of the jungle.”

Using antelope and lion muscle, Kohn started a new chapter at ESSM. He was particularly interested in muscle fibre type,

Antelope were different. Given their dark red muscle, Kohn assumed they’d have lots of slow-twitch fibres. However, their fibre proportions were similar to a lion’s.

“But the difference is that the fibres are unique – they can withstand fatigue.”

And single fibres from lion, though smaller than human fibres, produce three times more power.

After publishing these results in *The Journal of Experimental Biology*, Kohn received emails from all over the world. Coaches wanted to know if humans would be able to train their muscles to develop this unique fibre type.

Kohn thought, why not?

He’s aiming to find these potential enhancers, harness their capabilities, and determine whether high-intensity training can change the muscle of high-performance athletes towards a ‘wild animal’ phenotype.

“A human running at the speed of a cheetah?” Kohn muses. “Was going to the moon not impossible a hundred years ago?” ■

“They tackled a question many were asking: why did East African runners dominate endurance running?”

“I needed something to measure their performance,” he explains. To do this, he set up the ESSM muscle laboratory – and then realised that wild animals, not humans, were at the pinnacle of athletic performance. But there was no research on wild animals.

“I wanted to know what enables a kudu to leap over three-metre-high fences, and why a

determining the slow-twitch (endurance) and fast-twitch (speed) fibre proportions in these animals.

Lions showed white muscle with lots of fast-twitch fibres (mostly a type rarely seen in human athletes). Energy-wise, this explains why they and cheetahs are fast off the mark, but don’t have the metabolism to sustain their speed.



Picture by Jerine May

Unimpressed: Dr Cyril Karabus, pictured here with Prof Heather Zar of the School of Child and Adolescent Healthcare (SCAH), didn’t mince his words when he criticised the government, media and hospital officials of the UAE recently at a UCT event celebrating the achievements of students of SCAH.

Keeping Karabus up to date

ABIGAIL CALATA

As he has an association with the University of Cape Town that stretches back 56 years, it comes as no surprise that retired Dr Cyril Karabus still regularly attends meetings held by the university’s School of Child and Adolescent Healthcare (SCAH).

Karabus, an emeritus associate professor at UCT, returned to Cape Town in May after being detained in Abu Dhabi for nine months on charges of manslaughter and fraud. The case, which attracted

international outrage as a miscarriage of justice, made headlines across the globe, and particularly in his home city of Cape Town.

Within a week of his arrival home, Karabus – a paediatric oncologist who graduated from UCT in 1957 – began attending the SCAH’s weekly oncology and haematology meeting on Tuesdays, as well as the clinical meeting on Wednesdays. He attends the meetings “to keep up to date with the latest developments” in his field.

Speaking at an SCAH event recently, he launched an scathing attack on the authorities in the

United Arab Emirates (UAE), calling the government there “a dictatorship”.

“There is a lot to be criticised about the regime, but it doesn’t happen there because it really is a dictatorship, and the dictators control the press and the airlines. Dictators presumably also control the hospitals, even though they are supposedly run by foreign companies,” he stated.

Karabus was officially welcomed back to UCT at this event, held at Red Cross Children’s Hospital in celebration of the achievements of students of SCAH. ■

ARVs aren't enough to stop the pain

If pain is such a problem for people living with HIV, why is it not being treated? asks Romy Parker

Many of us are aware that South Africa has the largest HIV+ population in the world. In recent years, our Department of Health has responded well to the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS with an impressive ARV-rollout programme. However, while ARVs might be decreasing the number of deaths from AIDS, these medications do not fully restore quality of life to those living with the virus.

Even with treatment, pain remains one of the most common symptoms for people living with HIV or AIDS, both in those continuing to live full, productive lives and in those battling with severe illness. Living with pain not only decreases quality of life, but also has an impact on a person's ability to function, concentrate, learn, and participate in society (both as a member of a family and as a worker). In a review of the literature, the first systematic review on pain in HIV/AIDS, we found that 50% of people living with HIV/AIDS have pain. When we explored the types, sites and causes of the pain reported in the literature we found some surprising results. The pain experienced by people with HIV is moderate to severe. This means pain bad enough to interfere with function and with our ability to interact with people. People with HIV/AIDS also experience pain all over their bodies, from headaches to backaches, abdominal pain, foot and hand pain. And in terms of causes, the literature was consistent in reporting that there were no relationships between any of the disease markers and having pain. For example, having a worse CD4+ count didn't mean there would be

worse pain; nor was pain associated with any specific ARV medications, or with specific opportunistic infections. Of particular concern in all the studies reviewed was that the pain was not being treated – patients continued to suffer in silence, with treatment focusing on ARVs and keeping the virus and infection under control.

The systematic review of the literature highlighted the lack of research on women living with HIV – an important gap, especially considering that HIV/AIDS is having a greater impact on women than on men in South African society. There was also very little research exploring pain in different South African populations. So we conducted a cross-sectional study in a group of amaXhosa women living with HIV/AIDS and receiving treatment at a community health centre in the Cape Town metropole. We interviewed over 200 women for this part of my PhD, and found that 74% had pain. Our findings were remarkably similar to those in the literature we had reviewed. There were no relationships between any biological disease markers and pain; rather, pain was associated with psychosocial factors like having less education, and depression. We also found that only two of the women who had pain were receiving the appropriate medication for their pain. Many were receiving mild painkillers, but the majority were receiving no treatment for pain at all.

Why, if pain is such a problem for people living with HIV/AIDS, is it not being treated? Many barriers to treatment have been raised and discussed. Sometimes the barrier originates with the patient. Patients may not tell their carers that they have pain, either because they don't want to bother them when they know they are already overworked, or because



Picture by Jennine May

Dr Romy Parker

they haven't realised that treatment might be an option. The barrier may originate with the carer; sometimes carers don't assess for pain. The straightforward question "Do you have any pain?" is an essential one, which if not asked, results in information being lost, as it may not be volunteered. And after these issues, one of the biggest barriers to treating pain in this group is that the medications that we have to treat pain have not been found to be effective in HIV/AIDS patients. The arsenal that we have simply doesn't work when it is provided.

The inadequacy of medication in treating pain in people living with HIV and the fact that this pain does not seem to be related to disease markers means that we should consider a different approach. In the final part of my PhD we developed

and tested a non-pharmacological intervention to manage pain in people living with HIV/AIDS. Recognising that pain is biopsychosocial – in other words, that the pain experienced can be generated and influenced by biological disease events, psychological events and social events or factors – we designed a peer-led exercise and education intervention to treat pain. This approach has been used in many other chronic diseases such as diabetes and arthritis, and our view was that now that people are not dying from HIV, we should be approaching the condition as we do any other chronic disease. We found that the women who took part in this study had a significant reduction in their pain, and this reduction lasted for 4 months. The women were provided with educational material which encouraged them to

exercise, set goals, and become active participants in their health care. Many questions still remain to be answered, but at this stage it seems that we have found a potentially effective and acceptable method of treating pain in people living with HIV/AIDS. What is really exciting is that this method doesn't require fancy equipment, medicine or special clinics. Moving on from here, we want to test this in a broader group of men and women in both rural and urban communities across South Africa.

- Romy Parker's PhD was titled *Pain in HIV/AIDS: Characteristics, contributing factors and the effects of a six-week peer-led exercise and education intervention*. It was supervised by Professor Dan Stein and co-supervised by Professor Jennifer Jelsma. ■

Land reform and social dynamics a complicated mix

Wage labour has changed the playing field, but attachment to agricultural land persists, writes Dr Fani Ncapayi

Living and working in the Eastern Cape, I've always been interested in land and its effects on changing social relations. This was the topic of my PhD (I graduated in June), in which my focus was on South Africa's former reserves, specifically in Luphaphasi, a communal area in the Sakhisizwe Local Municipality, Eastern Cape.

I examined land and agrarian issues and how these have affected changes in social relations in rural areas, from colonial contact to 2011.

I looked at this from three vantage points: proletarianisation, de-agrarianisation and re-peasantisation, arguing that land has been, and continues to be, vital in the definition of social relations in the rural areas of the former reserves. Empirical evidence supports the argument that land continues to underpin the lives of rural people.

My findings challenge the



Dr Fani Ncapayi

conclusions of the proletarianisation and de-agrarianisation theses, which argue that, since the penetration of capitalism into rural societies, land has ceased to be relevant to the lives of rural people.

Instead, I found that while the majority of rural people have become migrant workers since the late 1920s, some did not sever their relations with

land-based lifestyles in rural areas. And – unlike the argument of the de-agrarianisation thesis that rural people diversified in the 1960s – I argue that, from the outset, rural people have responded to the introduction of capitalism by diversifying their livelihoods to include non-agricultural activities.

Although the re-peasantisation thesis argues that in the period of land reform there has been a growth in interest in agricultural land from rural people, and that rural agricultural land users are peasants, most of the residents of Luphaphasi have become wage workers, but have retained continuous – albeit varying – levels of attachment to agricultural land.

The introduction of hired labour by the African farmers and the small landholders in the 1930s changed the character of the peasants; they became small producers who, unlike the peasants that relied on family labour,

used hired labour from tenants.

Unsurprisingly, in the period of land reform the beneficiaries chose to produce for the market, thereby adopting capitalist relations of production. Therefore, they could not be characterised as peasants.

Contrary to contemporary points of view that question the contribution of land reform to the livelihoods of beneficiaries, access to agricultural land through the land reform programme has also brought immense change to the lives of the beneficiaries, who are now able to live on and work the land, which has turned them into farmers and enabled some to accumulate land and livestock.

In addition, land reform has had a marked impact on women. Access to land has seen formerly subservient rural women develop into powerful and respected community leaders. In addition, gender relations have

been radically affected, as women have become decision-makers – even on issues that have traditionally been associated with men, such as livestock rearing. They have also become economically independent and influential decision-makers in the project and community.

Some beneficiaries have diversified their livelihoods by venturing into economic activities, such as rural transportation businesses.

Clearly, land is still important in the definition of social relations in South Africa's former reserves, even in the era of democracy.

- Fani Ncapayi's PhD thesis was entitled *Land and changing social relationships in South Africa's former reserves: the case of Luphaphasi in Sakhisizwe Local Municipality, Eastern Cape*. It was supervised by Lungile Ntsebeza in the Department of Sociology. ■

On the big screen: Surgery is streamed live to students

HELEN SWINGLER

It may have looked like business as usual at the Surgical Skills Training Centre at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital one cool winter morning last month, but for a pair of UCT clinicians hosting a historic basic endoscopy course, it was a red-letter day for academic teaching.

For the first time, the course included the live streaming of an upper endoscopy on a patient at Groote Schuur Hospital.

And so, when head of the Division of Gastroenterology Professor Sandie Thomson made his first move with the tiny but expensive endoscope he held in his hand, he was being watched by many more pairs of eyes than were present in the operating theatre. A group of surgical registrars in training at Red Cross had their eyes firmly fixed on their screens.

This exercise is part of the hands-on training course developed jointly by Thomson and the Division of Paediatric Surgery's new head, Professor Alp Numanoglu.

"Endoscopy is a minimally invasive medical procedure that

examines interior organs. Endoscopes are thin tubes fitted with a light and a video camera, which allow diagnostic tissue sampling and a wide array of therapeutic interventions that reduce the need for major operations," explained Thomson. After the live link, the surgical registrars moved into a practical training session in the Surgical Skills Training Centre. Here they conducted endoscopies on pigs' stomachs, which were specially prepared for interventional endoscopy procedures.

"Endoscopy is largely confined to the major hospitals, which have unacceptably long waiting lists for these procedures. Part of this process is to ensure that we train the endoscopists properly in how to carry out the procedures. Currently, this includes the need to train for new hospitals coming on stream, like Mitchell's Plain," said Thomson.

Numanoglu is the driver and head of the skills training centre. Technology used in teaching does not only involve high-tech equipment in the skills centre, but is also used in distant teaching – such as the web-based education broadcast from the centre.

"The theatres here [Red Cross] are all linked up with lecture rooms. Today we can take surgery to and from many hospitals, such as Groote



Practice makes perfect: Surgical registrars master the use of endoscopes by watching live streaming of an endoscopy at a remote site. Pigs' stomachs are then used in a hands-on practical session during which the students learn how to do it themselves.

Schuur, for as few as six students or to a whole lecture room," said Thomson.

Numanoglu also hosts weekly open-access web-based broadcasts on

paediatric surgery topics from Cape Town, with steadily growing numbers.

"Owing to the time zones, most of our attendees are from Africa and Europe, as well as from the Middle

East. There's no doubt that there is a great need for training in Africa, and this is an excellent way of delivering the knowledge to and from the remote areas," said Numanoglu. ■

Technology the key to graduating more doctors, sharing skills

One of eight medical schools in South Africa, UCT is under the whip to meet health minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi's call for the country to increase its annual tally of 1 200 doctors, a number that's been deadlocked for a decade.

Technology will underpin UCT's plan to graduate more doctors in the long term, extending the reach of clinicians and teachers from operating theatres and wards to lecture theatres and off-site clinical skills facilities.

One way universities like UCT are accommodating bigger student numbers is through off-site training. Like other medical faculties, UCT has been training students 'at a distance' for some years, and is now harnessing innovations in live streaming and conferencing and the growth in global medical teaching networks on the internet.

The live streaming in June of an endoscopy on a patient at Groote Schuur Hospital to a group of surgical registrars at the Surgical Skills Training Centre housed at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital was not only a first for UCT, but illustrates how technology is contributing to clinical teaching (see article above).

"There are some areas where IT plays a great role in ensuring we reach students at remote sites," said Associate Professor Gonda Perez, deputy dean responsible for undergraduate education, operations and IT.

UCT produces an average of 180 medical graduates annually from a first-year intake of 200 students. In 2012 this figure increased by 20 students – short of the faculty's goal of 300 first-year students annually.

"This [goal] can happen only if there is space

– both on the main campus and on the clinical platform," added Perez.

With a deficit of facilities, particularly tutorial rooms, the faculty has come up with novel ways of ensuring students can attend lectures, tutorials and laboratory sessions in relative comfort.

One solution was to introduce video conferencing between its two largest venues. "However, this is a limited solution and in the long term we are looking at the possibility of a new building to accommodate bigger classes," said Perez.

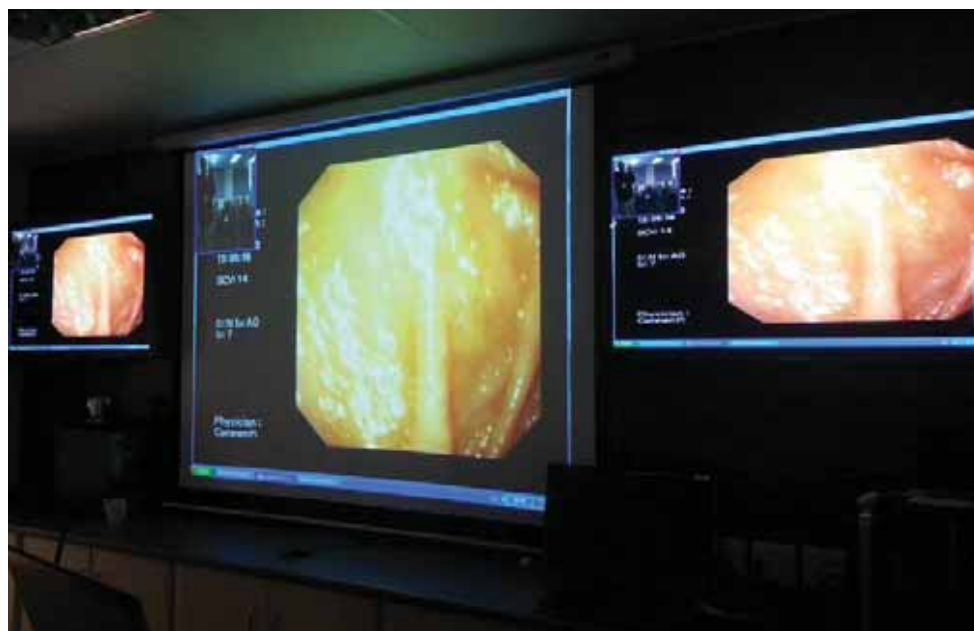
The second area of concern is the clinical

platform. Next year the first batch of additional students admitted in 2012 will reach third year, and the beginning of their clinical rotations.

"We are investigating ways to address this to ensure the students' learning is not compromised," said Perez.

Technology allows some courses to be taught, via video conferencing, at remote sites, particularly at postgraduate level.

But expansion is also about reaching the rural areas, and most health sciences faculties have been doing this for a number of years, says Perez. ■



Inside out: A live-streamed endoscopy is one example of how technology is being used to increase the reach of medical training programmes.

Coastal classroom

The health sciences faculty plans to expand the number of sites in and around Cape Town and beyond. To this end, the university has submitted a request to the provincial Department of Health for permission to establish a facility in the Eden District, with the secondary hospital at George as the centre of this hub.

This would follow in the footsteps of the off-site primary healthcare programme at Vredenburg Hospital on the West Coast, which has a video link to the main campus. Students are accommodated in living quarters in the town.

The faculty has invested "quite a bit" in ensuring quality teaching and a good student experience (similar to that in lecture theatres) at this site, adds Perez, and feedback from students and the community has been very good.

Off-site training has also expanded services that are limited in rural centres like Vredenburg, where the faculty has introduced an audiology service through teaching students there.

"We need to provide the right technology. We've seen it work in Vredenburg, where students are placed for four-week to six-week blocks."

EVENTS

Philosophy Society Meeting

Speaker: Jessica du Toit. Title: Can a dog really be a human's (best) friend? Date: Tuesday 23 July @ 20h00. Venue: Lecture Theatre 1, Humanities Building

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

Chair and Head: Division of Nursing & Midwifery, Department of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 29 July 2013
Associate Professor, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 16 September 2013
Director: Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 30 September 2013

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

Trainers/Facilitators (X2), School of Public Health & Family Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 22 July 2013
Advisor: Special Projects, International Academic Programmes Office, Closing date: 28 July 2013

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

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To view the full advertisements and application requirements for each post, please visit www.uct.ac.za and click on "Vacancies"

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Meet UCT's new rugby boss

Experienced Musikanth aims to make a subtle but significant difference.

YUSUF OMAR

UCT's new director of rugby, Kevin Musikanth, is not about to go about dismantling the university's rugby structures "like a bull in a china shop".

"Change is a very, very difficult thing," says Musikanth, who will take over the Varsity Cup side from 2014. "There are a few things that I can't discount. For one, I'm new to UCT, so you can only implement a whole lot of change, or any change, once you understand the place.

"Also, I understand that I'm coming to a very traditional institution that has history that goes way back to before I arrived. My first port of call is to elicit very little change, respect what's there and then see where possibly there are gaps or areas where I, and other people, could make a difference."

Musikanth is currently juggling head-coach duties at False Bay Rugby Football Club with assisting JJ Gagiano in coaching UCT's WP SuperLeague A side. His role as director of rugby will include coaching UCT's Varsity Cup side, appointing coaches for the league team, and overseeing the entire rugby system.

He takes over from 2011 Varsity Cup-winning coach Kevin Foote, and will see out his contract with False Bay until the end of 2013 before

dedicating his days to the Ikey Tigers. Foote left UCT to take up a position as defensive coach with Super Rugby team the Western Force.

"For the moment, it's really a learning curve, as well as making a difference in a subtle way," says the new boss.

That will come as good news to supporters, who are used to seeing UCT teams bringing crowds to their feet with swashbuckling, attacking play. While insisting that there are certain principles that rugby teams "can't get away from", he is keen to continue letting the players express themselves.

"Every team, no matter how good they are or where they are on the log, will always have opportunities to score, and the team that is able to stop those opportunities has an advantage. Having said that, you still need to be able to score.

"I would love to say that teams that I coach put their bodies on the line and defend for a cause. If teams are going to score against us, they must have really worked to deserve that.

"Defence is something that I've definitely seen UCT get better at over the years, but something that I really would want to push."

Musikanth have no doubt about where he wants to take UCT – "you want to win every competition you enter" – but is under no illusions about the task facing him.

"Maties has always had this reputation of being the top rugby university in the country. Tukkies are now also staking their claim to that



Picture by Michael Hammond

No bull in a china shop: 'You can only implement a whole lot of change once you understand the place', says UCT's new director of Rugby, Kevin Musikanth.

mantle, and the reality is that maybe UCT could be doing a bit better. Perhaps through the directorship I can make a positive difference.

"We've got all the skills we need to get to the top."

He is also keen for UCT rugby to keep up with the times, given the greater focus on conditioning and physicality in the past two decades. With 16 years of coaching experience – injuries cut short his playing career at age 20 – Musikanth is well placed to note how the game has evolved.

"There are statistics showing that a forward is sprinting between 17 and 20% of the game and wrestling the rest of the time," he says. "In the '80s and even the early '90s, you would rarely see backline players that were well versed at getting into rucks. It's different now. You need to respect and acknowledge stats and condition your players accordingly."

Hardcore Ikey fans will be pleased that their new head honcho is no stranger to beating the big teams, having slayed both then-defending

champions Hamiltons Rugby Club and UCT's arch-rivals Stellenbosch University during his time in charge of False Bay.

Musikanth's team was an underdog before each of those massive victories, so the Cape Town man is not one to shrink from a challenge. The way Musikanth's face lights up when talking about those games – "I get goosebumps!" he admits – suggests that Ikey fans can look forward to a director who is as passionate about the game as they are. ■

WHAT'S ON

» **The Chester Missing Roadshow.** Date: 23 July – 3 August. Venue: Baxter Golden Arrow Studio.

» Philosophy Society Meeting: Can a dog really be a human's (best) friend? Date: 23 July. Venue: HUM LT1, Humanities Building.

» Philosophy seminar: Harm, human values, & the boundaries of psychiatry, by Professor Jonathan Glover. Date: 24 July. Venue: Humanities LT3.

» Teenage motherhood & schooling in South Africa, by Ian Timaeus. Date: 25 July. Venue: LS3B, 3rd Floor, Leslie Social Building.

» **TB Davie Memorial Lecture: Professor Jonathan Glover.** Date: 25 July. Venue: Leslie Social Science 2D, Leslie Social Science Building.

» **Medical Humanities series: Acclaimed playwright and cultural critic Jane Taylor discusses the historical and psychological significance of organ donation at the inaugural 'Big Questions: Medical Humanities' lecture.** Date: 25 July. Venue: Anatomy Lecture Theatre, Old Medical School Building, UCT, Hiddingh Campus, Orange Street, Cape Town.

» GSB: Extraordinary Speakers Programme. Date: 25 July.

» **SADAKO:** Baxter Theatre Production – with puppets – on the life of Sadako Sasaki, who survived the Hiroshima atom bomb but developed leukaemia ten years later. Date: 30 July – 10 August. Venue: Flipside.

» **Res 4 Res Theatre Festival.** Date: 31 July – 3 Aug. Venue: Rochester Hall.

» Creating your own screencast: CET Staff Development Workshop. Date: 5 and 7 August. Venue: Teaching Lab 1, Upper Campus Student Learning Centre, Level 4, Steve Biko Building.

» A basic introduction to Google (Drive) for teaching and learning. Hosted by: Centre for Educational Technology. Date: 12, 14 and 16 August. Venue: Teaching Lab 1, Upper Campus Student Learning Centre, Level 4, Steve Biko Building.

» **HIV prevalence in South Africa – the 2012 national HIV household survey, by Thomas Rehle.** Date: 15 August. Venue: LS3B, 3rd Floor, Leslie Social Building.

» **HAYANI.** New, acclaimed acting duo explores what the idea of 'home' means in South Africa. Date: 8 – 31 August. Venue: Baxter Golden Arrow Studio.



To celebrate Mandela Day this year, the campus community engaged in several different activities. Find out more at www.uct.ac.za