



Monday Monthly



Newspaper of the University of Cape Town

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- **Page 3** “It is incumbent upon students to be absolutely anti-establishment” – read more about students and active citizenry
- **Page 5** SHAWCO then and now: celebrating 70 years of community engagement in the province
- **Page 6** Teen pregnancy, mental health, masculinities and maternal healthcare: read our special focus on reproductive health

Stand and deliver

HELEN SWINGLER

When Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price delivered his installation address to a Jameson Hall packed with dignitaries on 19 August 2008, the watchwords were redress and transformation, academic freedom and integrity, research excellence, and engaged citizenship.

Five years later and into his second term, these remain fundamental goals for UCT.

Price emphasised this in the convivial Baxter Concert Hall setting on 19 August – five years to the day he made his first address – in what was billed as a ‘light conversation’ between himself and Judge Dennis Davis.

Dominating that conversation was a reflection on Price’s first term in office, and some tough questions on progress and the abiding tests that UCT faces barely 20 years into democracy.

Questions from across campus

The floor was opened to questions from academics, PASS staff and students, underscoring what Price called for in his first address: that universities should offer spaces which encourage new ideas, controversy, argument and challenges to orthodoxy.

The forum setting in the Baxter was certainly unorthodox, reminiscent of the set of Davis’ award-winning television current affairs programme *Future Imperfect*, which the UCT alumnus and

poverty and inequality. The appointments of four pro vice-chancellors to tackle these issues have laid a solid foundation for the next five years.

Much work has also been done on equity across the staff and student bodies and on financial aid to students, to ensure UCT is able to attract the best candidates and develop its research thrust and its efforts to become an Afropolitan institution with strong international networks.

Members of the audience, and in particular representatives of students and staff, were invited to pose questions from the floor, delivering an interactive and in-depth discussion on the state of UCT. Davis also had a slate of questions sent by email.

He tackled Price on state intervention in the autonomy of universities, the judiciary, constitutionalism and academic freedom, particularly in the wake of the Protection of Information Bill.

“We rose to that,” said Price, “with campaigns and by joining the public march. The Bill was substantially amended.”

Price’s first term has been marked by civic engagement at many levels.

Race and equity

Race and equity dominated the conversation, given the perennial tension between diversity, equity and the university’s institutional culture.

While UCT had made much progress, these areas remained high priorities, said Price.

The thorny issue of separating teaching and learning was mooted. Price said the university was

considering appointing academics who would teach and not be expected to conduct research at a high level, and others who would plough their energies into research and whose burden of teaching would be alleviated.

Research high

As a research-led university, UCT had reflected a growth in publications, citations and money raised for research contracts, and in its centres of excellence.

“Our track record in research is very good,” Price said. “However, we don’t get money for being a research-led university.”

Much of UCT’s research is carried out on soft funding, as national funding is shrinking.”

Davis raised the question of money and ethics.



Picture by Michael Hammond

New ground: Judge Dennis Davis in conversation with VC Dr Max Price in the Baxter Concert Hall, where Price reflected on his first term in office and the challenges expected in his second five years at the helm.

“Does the university take money from anybody?” he asked.

“Not tobacco companies,” Price said.

“So beer is okay?” Davis quipped. “But our being a green university, will we take money from polluters?”

Transforming the campus

Transformation dominated the conversation in many guises, but pointed questions were asked about UCT’s student and staff complements, with Davis asking how a Eurocentric, white institution could call itself Afropolitan.

“Transformation is a huge question and I believe we are nailed unfairly and unfairly criticised,” Price said, citing figures pointing to a rise in black student enrolment (and a shrinking number of white students).

Bound up in this was the university’s “race-informed” admissions policy which, said Price, had been criticised “to the left and to the right” and was now under major review.

“We can’t move backwards from what we’ve achieved,” Price said. “The trend is irreversible. We are becoming a more black university.”

New information on applicants would provide more in-depth information that could be weighted to determine disadvantage.

Price denied, however, that UCT was

becoming a class-based institution – a “non-racial bourgeoisie”, according to Davis.

“What’s your vision, what’s your ideal context on the non-racial issue?” he prompted.

“We concentrate on numbers too much,” said Price. “That’s one side of it. We also have to focus on institutional climate.”

Challenges ahead

“What are the key challenges for the next five years?” Davis continued.

“The threat to our source of income,” said Price. “Government is reviewing its funding formula; more of the pie is being distributed to historically disadvantaged institutions. Even the NSFAS formula is against us.”

Online learning also posed a threat to traditional class-based teaching and learning, Price said.

And his worst moments?

“Trade unions,” said Price. “When the Academics Union threatened to strike, we negotiated through the night to come up with a solution.”

It was Chair of Council Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane who left Price with his biggest challenge for the next five years: “Take this university to where it has never been before.” ■

“Much work has also been done on equity across the staff and student bodies and on financial aid to students”

honorary professor hosted between 1993 and 1998. UCT’s ninth vice-chancellor, Price used the opportunity to refresh institutional goals, and reflect on how the university works and on its role in building the country – and its reach into Africa and beyond.

Price did not present a formula for the next five years, stressing that it was not the end of one chapter and the beginning of another; but rather a seamless transition. The impetus and gains of Price’s first term will be consolidated in his second.

Gains of first term

Not least of these have been the identification of four critical research areas for the country, with which UCT must engage: crime and safety, climate change, the quality of schooling in South Africa and

Feel younger

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NEWS IN PICTURES

1 Footloose: A UCT footballer (in blue) narrowly misses an opportunity to beat the Tuks goalkeeper in the Varsity Football clash in Tshwane on 12 August. UCT fell to a 5-0 defeat that night, leaving the side with one point after four matches. The Ikeys played their next game against log-leaders Tshwane University of Technology on the Highveld on 19 August. The inaugural Varsity Football Challenge showcases the country's top eight university football sides in a round-robin-style tournament similar to the Varsity Rugby and Varsity Hockey tournaments. The competition was "set to unearth hidden talents at tertiary level", said Kirsten Nematandani, president of the South African Football Association, before the games began.

Picture by Michael Hammond

2 Word wise: Shortly after the winter break, students read a copy of the first-ever edition of the *Monday Monthly* at a Jammie Shuttle stop on campus. The newspaper began as a weekly collection of classified adverts, and later morphed into a bi-monthly paper, called the *Monday Paper*, carrying campus news. As of July this year, it changed its guise once again to become the *Monday Monthly*. It enhances the robust Online Daily News on the UCT website by offering in-depth analysis, opinion pieces and details of UCT events and research. Executive director of communication and marketing, Gerda Kruger, says, "Our intention is to expand coverage of UCT's core business."

Picture by Michael Hammond

3 On air: Yaliwe Clark, from UCT's Gender Institute, takes to the airwaves and passionately defends African women's right to a tertiary education, highlighting the many challenges female academics face on the continent. She was being interviewed recently by Parusha Naidoo and Wadeisor Rukato from UCT Radio. Naidoo and Rukato were presenting the pilot of the talk show *The World at UCT* which was sponsored by the International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO). The theme for this two-hour talk show revolved around Africa and saw DVC Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo talk about UCT's emphasis on Afriopolitanism, and Ernest Kajabo from Rwanda talking about nation-building in his country after the 1994 genocide.

Picture by Raymond Botha

4 High flyers: The global economy and its effect on individuals comes under the spotlight in *I Hit the Ground Running*, a cutting-edge dance and music performance piece that premieres at the Baxter Theatre later this month. Choreographed by Ananda Fuchs and featuring music by Swedish composer Tebogo Monnakgotla, the production represents a first-time collaboration between Scenkonst Sörmland (Sweden) and the Baxter Theatre Centre. A year in development, *I Hit the Ground Running* embarks on a nationwide tour of Sweden after its Baxter season. It runs at the Baxter Flipside for one week only from 29 August to 7 September at 7.30pm nightly, with a matinee on 7 September at 2pm.

Picture supplied

5 On the table: Professor Lorna J Martin, internationally acclaimed researcher and Head of the Division of Forensic Pathology, stands in front of a table in the Palazzo Poggi in Bologna Italy, which is allegedly the site of the first-ever autopsy. Earlier this month, in a lecture titled *Dying to Begin*, Martin discussed her several years of experience in autopsy rooms in Cape Town as part of the Medical Humanities public lecture series. She presented statistics and anecdotes from her professional career to highlight the intersections of this branch of medicine with the humanities and the arts. The lecture series comes ahead of a new interdisciplinary programme entitled Medical Humanities, soon to be offered at UCT.

Picture supplied

Establishment blues: students face challenge

YUSUF OMAR

It is incumbent upon students to be absolutely anti-establishment. That's your role in the world. But how do you balance that with civic duty? What does it mean to be citizens? What does it mean to be part of the civic?"

These challenging questions, from City Press editor Ferial Haffajee, formed part of a heated panel discussion that took place recently at UCT, about the role of students in creating an active citizenry. Sharing the panel with Haffajee were South Africa's public protector, Advocate Thuli Madonsela, satirist Pieter-Dirk Uys, and Professor Crain Soudien, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UCT.

Soudien said that society had not yet worked out what the role of a student is in creating a public-minded and socially-conscious South African citizenry.



It's an intricate balancing act of being a critic and being a patriot

"We are required to try to work out how to come to a sense of deep respect and appreciation for each other across these historic boundaries behind which we find ourselves," he said. "So what we [as students and academics] are required to do is to go into these 'unknown' areas of life in South Africa to begin to explore the complexity of what it means to be – not doing 'charity' to people in Gugulethu – but to be in a position where we come to understand what it means to

be equal, and the respectful equal of somebody else with whom, historically, we have no relationship.

"That's the incredible challenge," Soudien continued. "There's no model for it. The university itself doesn't yet provide a way of doing that in its constitution, and it's our burden – our gift, in many kinds of ways – to help build that."

As a journalist, Haffajee said, she daily faces an "intricate balancing act of being a critic and being a patriot, and often getting that balance very wrong".

"As an active citizen, how do I break and how much do I build?" she asked. "It's not easy being an active citizen."

While Haffajee said it was often tricky finding the balance between acting as a fourth estate and contributing to developing South Africa's democracy, she was certain of students' position in that equation.

Uys told students that their role was to work hard at being excellent students as much as it was to question and criticise.

"As long as we have the freedom to criticise, the freedom to be offended, the freedom to celebrate, the freedom to laugh, we'll be okay," Uys said. "Change the world. But you can only change the world if you work here. You are here to work. You are here to make a difference, because without you, we have lost the country."

Madonsela expects students – and all those with the opportunity to pursue formal education – to lead national debates.

"We are at the crucible of leadership," she said. "Education allows you to see clearer than others, whether you like it or not. So obviously, what we then expect from an educated child is different from what we expect of an uneducated child in terms of how they can express themselves.

"I expect you to educate people about the rule of law; I expect you to educate people about democracy."

Madonsela's participation in the debate was part of the office of the public protector's ongoing stakeholder consultative dialogue, which aims to help strengthen government's ability to deliver on the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations.

The discussion was organised jointly by UCT's History and Current Affairs Society, the Students' Representative Council and the Department of Student Affairs. It was held during UCT's first Civic week, a student-organised campaign that aimed to create awareness among students about young people's civic responsibility. ■



Vexing question: Professor Crain Soudien (left), Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UCT, Ferial Haffajee, editor of City Press, Thuli Madonsela, South Africa's public protector, and satirist Pieter-Dirk Uys debated what the role of students should be in creating an active citizenry.

BRIEFS

» Multidisciplinary research recognised

Associate Professor Landon Myer has been selected to receive a prestigious award: the AU-TWAS National Award for Young Scientists in South Africa, in the Life and Earth Sciences category.

AU-TWAS stands for African Union – Third World Academy of Science, and the award is supported by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The award recognises Myer's excellence in research and the impact his research has on society. Additionally, he was acknowledged for his contribution to the training and development of students, along with his involvement in broadening the public understanding of science and technology.

Myer is an Associate Professor in the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Department of Public Health & Family Medicine. His research focuses on reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS on women, and on maternal and child health. His research benefits from his multidisciplinary training in anthropology (MA, UCT), clinical medicine (MChB, UCT) and epidemiology (PhD, Columbia University).

» UCT students go big in Japan

Tihoriso Matlokotsi and Sebastian Khoete, final-year electrical engineering students, have been awarded MEXT scholarships by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

The students, who have been friends since finishing high school in Lesotho, will be leaving for Japan in April 2014.

They were both delighted when they were selected for the scholarships, which allow international students to study at Japanese universities as research students.

Khoete said, "I am absolutely overwhelmed. I have always wanted to see the world, and this is an amazing opportunity for me." He will be studying for a master's degree in power grid automation and control, and Matlokotsi will undertake a master's degree in renewable energy.

Matlokotsi said, "I feel greatly excited about the scholarship, and I personally take this as an opportunity for me to see the world. I have always wanted to go abroad, and this opportunity has just made my dreams come true."

The friends have both started learning Japanese in preparation for the trip.

» ComSci student wins prestigious US scholarship

Vusi Mngomezulu, a second-year Computer Science student, has been awarded a scholarship by the NESA-UGrad (Near East, South Asia, & Sub-Saharan Africa Undergraduate) Exchange Program.

Mngomezulu was one of many undergraduate students to apply for this relatively new scholarship, which includes sub-Saharan Africa. He is the only South African student in the 2013-14 cohort of undergraduate participants in the programme which recognises awardees' potential as student leaders.

His application was deemed "outstanding" by a national panel at the US Embassy in Pretoria, who put forward a nomination that was approved by the US Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

He will be based at the University of Missouri for the duration of his studies.

» Senior student researchers and supervisors honoured

Twenty-five postgraduate student researchers – the cream of UCT's master's and PhD candidates – and their supervisors recently received UCT's annual Research Associateship Awards.

The awards, which support the university's strategic objective to be a research-led institution, are open to all areas of study. This year's awardees work in diverse fields, ranging from paediatrics and child health to music and law, and from science to engineering.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Danie Visser, also chair of the Postgraduate Studies Funding Committee, hosted the event, and the awards were presented by Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price.

The awards are unique in that they acknowledge both students and their supervisors – the latter for their vital support and mentorship. ■

Leibbrandt brings new life to PII

Fresh face at the helm of the innovative Poverty and Inequality Initiative

Earlier this month, Professor Murray Leibbrandt was appointed as the pro-vice-chancellor of PII. He spoke to Helen Swingler.

HS: What was it about the position that made you think: 'This is for me'?

ML: The initiative's objective is to maximise the university's collective contribution in the crucial areas of poverty and inequality alleviation. The academic community within UCT is doing a lot of excellent work. The idea of ensuring that the country gets the maximum benefit from this work is a very appealing to me. The talented and committed group I've been working with in the SALDRU [Southern Africa Labour and Development Unit] for the past decade has taught me that it requires commitment to do policy engagement – but that such processes increase the usefulness of our research.

HS: What do you bring to the position and what would you like to add?

ML: SALDRU was started in the mid-1970s by Francis Wilson, with a strong research mission to provide evidence to inform policy. I'm very fortunate to have become part of this 'hard heads and soft hearts' tradition, and there are many in the UCT community on the same mission. UCT has been doing evidence-based policy research for a long time. Since 2008

this has been my core research agenda as the DST/NRF Chair in Poverty and Inequality Research. So I'm committed to representing this tradition, and I am keen to brand and sharpen UCT's collective contribution.

HS: What do you think will be the toughest part of the job?

ML: One of our strengths as a research university is that we focus our energies on doing our work as well as we can within our narrow spheres of excellence. However, this has two negative consequences. First, we seldom step into the policy sphere by clearly communicating the implications of our work for policy. Second, we don't take stock of and communicate our collective contribution. To do better, the research community needs a supportive communications infrastructure. The university has committed resources to putting this infrastructure in place to facilitate communication and policy engagement.

HS: Does it help that you have an already established career in UCT's School of Economics?

ML: Yes, the work we hope to do flows very clearly from where I've come from. I came to UCT in 1994, the year that SALDRU released the national living standards survey it had produced for the incoming ANC government. Along with others in the School of Economics, such as Haroon Borhat and Ingrid Woolard, I've been working on poverty and inequality issues using such data ever since then. From 2007 Ingrid and I have run the National Income Dynamics Project, a survey



Picture by Michael Hammond

Prof Murray Leibbrandt, the new head of the Poverty and Inequality Initiative (PII)

that's been tracking the same nationally representative group of South Africans over time since 2008.

HS: On a practical level, will you be moving office? What kind of support system will you have?

ML: No, I won't be moving. The idea is to build a strong administrative hub for the internal and external components of the PII out of the environment within which we've been working. UCT is resourcing this hub. This approach makes sense, because the aim is not to tell UCT or national

researchers what to do, but to support the contributions that they want to make. I'll continue to do my research as the NRF Chair.

HS: The PII was set up at UCT to tackle the question of why inequality deepens despite our being a resource-rich country. Where should we be turning to learn about solutions?

ML: The footprint of our distinctive history is important in understanding contemporary poverty and inequality here. But when it

comes to looking at promising policy options, there are many international lessons. Already we are part of an international community that looks to other developing economies to find promising policies to address poverty and inequality. Our policies, for example with regard to social grants, are being considered by other countries, and we are very interested in the international evidence on youth employment policy and the effectiveness of community works programmes. The BRICS countries are a very good place to start. ■

Staff proud to work at UCT, 2012 survey shows

HELEN SWINGLER

The results of the 2012 Staff Climate Census show that UCT staff experience the university positively, and say that it encourages identification and elicits a sense of pride.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Crain Soudien, who holds the transformation portfolio, said he is happy about the general shift in the outcome, as satisfaction levels had risen markedly over surveys in 2003 and 2007.

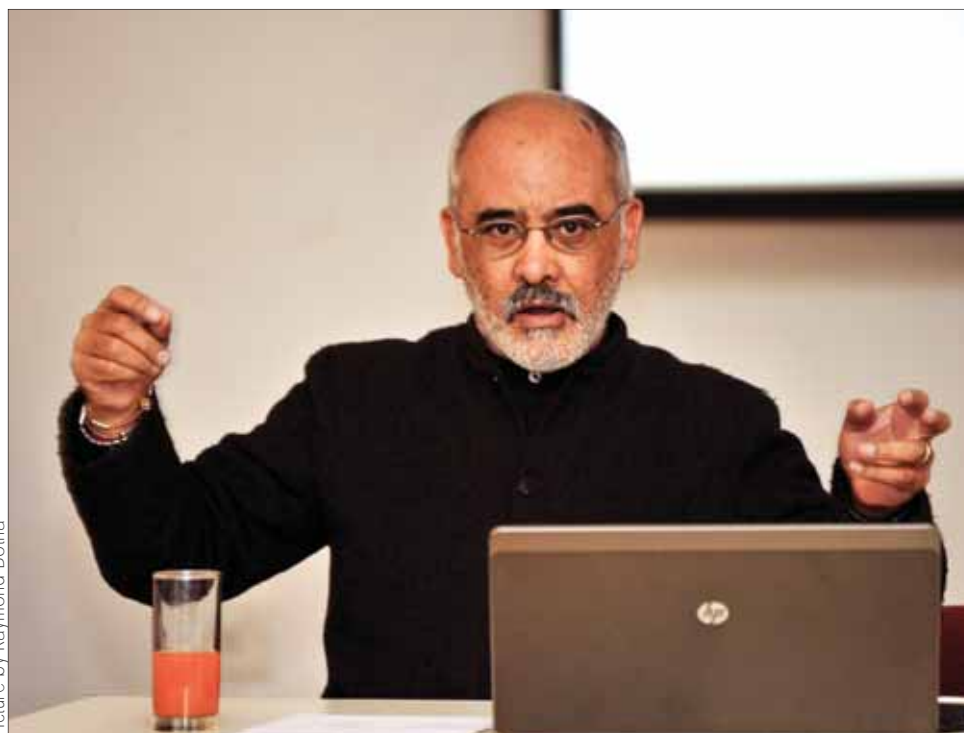
"They certainly show a step up from the 2007 census," he said. "We should consolidate our gains and build on them."

But several issues remain and so require action in phase two of the census, Soudien added.

"A qualitative survey will tackle the aspects of life at UCT and of its institutional culture that concern us. A task team has been established to target areas of dissatisfaction and much of the important work will happen here, as was the case in 2007."

The 2007 census yielded several strategic interventions with far-reaching implications for the transformation process: the appointment of an Ombud, the establishment of the Transformation Office, revised discrimination and sexual harassment policies and an alternative dispute resolution process.

Soudien also pointed to the standout participation rate: 48% of permanent and contract staff, and 60% of permanent staff



Picture by Raymond Bolha

Step up: Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof Crain Soudien: "We should consolidate our gains and build on them."

responded to the survey.

Women academic staff were less satisfied than their male counterparts, while there was a balance between men and women among PASS staff.

In general, black and coloured academic staff (particularly coloured staff) were consistently less

satisfied than the norm.

"We need to remind ourselves that South Africa is only 20 years out of that [period in history]," Soudien said.

"We're grappling with the institutionalisation of new cultures, and new ways of engaging with the differences we bring to our encounters with

one another. We're more comfortable with each other than we were, but we need to be conscious of the need to shape this and not let it happen by itself."

In addition, over 800 comments raised three broad areas of concern: onerous and inconsistent performance and reward system (PASS staff), feelings of being treated unfairly because of the employment contract, especially those on soft funding (academic staff), and unfairness of work load, particularly at junior academic level. ■

Overall, these areas scored positively:

- general job satisfaction
- relationships with line managers
- opportunities for training and development
- personal identification with UCT
- fewer personal experiences of racial or ethnic discrimination
- work environment

These areas elicited most dissatisfaction:

- rewards for excellent performance (PASS) and teaching (academic)
- rewards for promoting transformation
- consultation about matters affecting the individual
- fairness of workload,
- trust in the academic ad hominem promotions system
- marginalisation for questioning policy or procedure

Celebrating 70 years: SHAWCO then and now



ABIGAIL CALATA

Seventy years ago a UCT student saw a community in need and decided to do something about it.

In 1943 the Kensington Students' Clinic was established to address the squalor Andrew Kinnear, a UCT medical student, encountered in the area. His efforts were supported by Dr Golda Selzer from the Groote Schuur Pathology Department.

The Kensington clinic, together with two others in Retreat and Elsies River, would form the backbone of what would become the Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO). In 1954 SHAWCO was formally approved by the University Council and was registered as a welfare organisation.

Today SHAWCO Health coordinates six clinics per week, which operate at night, and see an average of 5 000 patients per year. SHAWCO Education manages 11 projects that cater to over a thousand children. In order to remain sustainable, SHAWCO Social Enterprises (Pty) Ltd was created, and currently contributes half of SHAWCO's income. The revenue generated through the social enterprise projects is reinvested into the communities SHAWCO serves.

Changing context

According to Jonathan Hoffenberg, SHAWCO education coordinator, since its establishment the organisation has reflected the changing nature of the UCT community as well as that of broader Cape Town.

For him, SHAWCO history is broken into three phases: pre-apartheid, during apartheid and post-apartheid.

"SHAWCO has its origins in a segregated city and university, so initially its work involved privileged students doing outreach in so-called slum villages. The amelioration of poverty was the focus and SHAWCO set up day clinics, welfare (including the first meals on wheels) and sports projects, and night schools," says Hoffenberg.

The advent of the apartheid system galvanised SHAWCO and had a massive impact on the organisation and the communities it served. "Apartheid saw a division growing within SHAWCO, as staff-run and increasingly large-scale welfare and statutory work using state funds conflicted with growing student activism. But despite

these inherent tensions, SHAWCO continued to incubate and pilot community engagements such as the Peninsula School Feeding Scheme.

"Post-apartheid Cape Town presented SHAWCO with a new mixture of adversity and opportunity. Along with the changing nature of UCT, SHAWCO now reflects a diverse volunteer student core. Gone is the statutory and welfare work, health clinics are now mobile, and education projects see UCT students travelling into townships Monday to Saturday in an engagement that is more about mutual development and support," concludes Hoffenberg.

Emphasis on development and sustainability

This shift from statutory social and welfare work to development is evident in the type of projects undertaken by SHAWCO today.

In 1962 one of SHAWCO's flagship projects was the Family Health Promotion Clinic. Twenty-five fourth-year medical students were allocated to needy families living in the Windermere (now Kensington) area. These students would act as family doctors and conduct home visits. They were also obliged to leave their telephone numbers so that the families could get hold of them in emergencies.

Co-founder Selzer, then-chairperson of the SHAWCO Health management committee, reported in an article for the *SA Tydskrif vir Geneeskunde* that these students would "advise on nutrition and through the SHAWCO welfare service they help with clothing and blankets. Students have used their influence to find employment even for the unemployables and those who want work".

Selzer remained SHAWCO's honorary life president until her death in 1999. The current life president is Graça Machel, UCT chancellor and the wife of former president Nelson Mandela.

One of SHAWCO's current projects is the Saturday School. It was piloted in 2008 in the townships of Khayelitsha and Nyanga. Its purpose is to provide previously disadvantaged learners with curriculum support in mathematics, physical science, English, life science and accounting (see sidebar for more information).

To help fund the Saturday School, the SHINE programme was developed, in 2010. Grade 10 to 12 learners from more privileged backgrounds are given the opportunity to improve their academic achievements in subjects such as pure mathematics, physical science,



Then: Community members congregate outside the SHAWCO clinic in the late 1950s, in the area known as Kensington-Windermere, now Kensington and Facticeon.



Now: The SHAWCO paediatric clinic at Imizamo Yethu is one of two weekly paediatric clinics SHAWCO runs in partnership with the School of Child and Adolescent Health. These clinics were introduced in 2009 and operate either from permanent health facilities or purpose-built mobile clinics.

accounting, English and Afrikaans – at a cost. The payment received from the SHINE learners partly subsidises the costs of the SHAWCO Saturday School programme, which supports more than 200 learners from disadvantaged communities.

Student-driven organisation

"The unique feature is that the entire project, since its earliest days, has been the responsibility and achievement of students of the University of Cape Town." This observation by Selzer in her 1963 article encapsulates one of the hallmarks of SHAWCO.

In his memoirs, former UCT vice-chancellor Stuart Saunders agrees: "The students have consistently been in advance of their elders in introducing change in SHAWCO. They were amongst the first to emphasise community involvement in the affairs of the organisation ... and to insist that the purpose of SHAWCO was to empower the poor people so that

SHAWCO services would eventually no longer be needed in a particular area."

As much as the communities are impacted by SHAWCO's interventions, the student volunteers are not left unchanged by their interaction with people less fortunate than themselves.

Lesley Connolly, a former SHAWCO volunteer who works for the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), said this about her experience at SHAWCO:

"SHAWCO exposes an otherwise sheltered student life to a different side of Cape Town. SHAWCO provides opportunities for students to learn and help society and gives the learners it works with a fighting chance at making something of their lives. I do not think students at UCT seize the opportunities SHAWCO provides enough, and I do feel that it needs to retain more students to ensure follow-through, but as a primarily student-run organisation, it allows student to really grasp a bit more of the reality of South Africa." ■

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

At the heart of SHAWCO's work are its many volunteer-driven projects and social enterprises. Two projects give insight into the organisation's priorities as it enters its seventh decade.

RAGS2RICHES

Part of SHAWCO's Social Enterprise sector and one of its five revenue-generating initiatives, Rags2Riches was launched in 2007. It sees the collection of second-hand clothes, mainly from UCT students, which are then cleaned and sold to vendors for a nominal amount. In turn, these vendors mark up the clothing and sell it on.

On 3 May 2011 SHAWCO opened its first Rags2Riches store in Mowbray, and on 25 May 2013 its second store was opened at the SHAWCO Kensington Centre.

Since 2012 it has been possible to keep track of incoming and outgoing stock through a system created by four volunteers from Hong Kong. This tracking system includes the ability to see all items that were received from various collection points, and also donations from members of the community.

Since its inception, this project has generated approximately R1 million annually, which has been ploughed back into SHAWCO's operational funding.

SATURDAY SCHOOL

Established in 2009, Saturday School is a professionally-run educational intervention that engages with more than 200 Grade 12 Cape Town-based learners from developing communities. It aims to strengthen learners' abilities in core academic areas such as mathematics, physical science, English, life science and accounting.

The programme takes the learners out of their communities and transports them to the University of Cape Town for extra lessons, thus giving them the opportunity to experience what attending a university would be like. The learners also receive life skills interventions and career guidance workshops, and are encouraged by motivational speakers and other guest presenters. They are also given access to chemistry and botany laboratories, a luxury many developing community schools do not have.

In their own words: volunteers share their thoughts



"The principle of service to the community is fundamental to SHAWCO work. The service rendered is often more than purely medical. The build-up of morale and responsibility among the local populace is urgently needed; it is only when this sense of self-respect has been achieved that 'long-term' treatment can be undertaken."

David Katz
SHAWCO volunteer 1967

"My seven-year involvement in SHAWCO was a life-changing experience – one that has shaped my view and instilled in me the belief that change is possible.

SHAWCO consists of a group of dedicated and passionate individuals; all with the aim, together with the communities, to improve the lives of others. I really do miss the caring family and the work I did, but I enjoy watching how SHAWCO keeps growing from strength to strength. I am honoured to have been a part of such amazing work."

Thandi de Wit
Health President 2009

"As a volunteer, SHAWCO clinics achieved what the medical curriculum based in tertiary hospitals struggled

to do: humanise medical treatment and allow one to better understand the socio-economic background of patients in our society. The clinics reminded me why I studied medicine and taught me how to be a good doctor, as well as most of my clinical skills and knowledge of primary-care ailments. Through SHAWCO we were gifted the invaluable experience of managing a huge healthcare organisation, and learning to jump all the administrative and legal hurdles that we will face later in our careers."

Simon Mendelsohn
SHAWCO Health President 2011



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Violence against women linked to poor maternal healthcare

YUSUF OMAR

Violence against women is closely linked to inadequate provision of maternal healthcare services in some rural areas in Africa, and a number of policy initiatives are needed to reverse this damaging trend.

Thus argues UCT's Dr Vissého Adjiwanou, who conducted research into the effects of gender norms –

regarding violence against women – on the use of maternal health services in rural areas of Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. After exploring how people in these areas perceived physical violence against women, Adjiwanou, who undertook the research alongside Professor Thomas LeGrand of Université de Montréal, found clear links between violence and poor healthcare.

The findings suggest that women who live in areas where gender-based violence was relatively socially 'acceptable' are less likely to have a skilled healthcare worker at the time of giving birth in Ghana, or to reach

antenatal care on time in Ghana and Uganda, or to reach four or more antenatal visits in Tanzania.

Adjiwanou, a lecturer at UCT's Centre for Actuarial Research (CARE), suggests several courses of action to improve the use of maternal health services in Africa.

"First, policies to strengthen women's autonomy – which is associated with use of maternal health services – may be insufficient at present, and should be accompanied by actions that limit the negative role and the extent of sociocultural and gender norms by involving other local actors, such as NGOs,

health care providers..." he says. "Second, policies are needed not only to strengthen the education of girls, but also to improve curriculum content and to create employment opportunities for them, as well as to develop infrastructures needed to mitigate the isolation of certain communities."

"Finally, and most importantly," he adds, "policies are needed to reduce the high level of fertility in rural Africa, as fertility control is associated with less restrictive gender systems."

Adjiwanou and LeGrand concluded that it is not only the physical and social aspects of an

environment that affect people's behaviour and health, but also their perceptions of their environment.

"In this study, we found that living in an environment where violence against women was widely accepted had a negative influence on women's autonomy and on their decisions related to seeking healthcare," Adjiwanou said.

Adjiwanou presented these recommendations at a seminar held at UCT in May. A revised version of this research will be presented at the International Population Conference to be held in Busan, Korea, at the end of August. ■

HAICU and young artists propose less

YUSUF OMAR

UCT's Molly Blackburn Hall was alive with music, dancing and a unique art exhibition on 15 August. The occasion marked the university's HIV/AIDS Institutional Co-ordination Unit (HAICU) third-term campaign, done in collaboration with fine art students and academics around the topic of how ideas of masculinity interact with the HIV/AIDS pandemic in South African society.

Two beds – with red threads subtly woven into the duvet covers, to represent the barely visible impact of HIV when looking from the 'outside in' – competed for attention with

bedazzled business cards and a former soldier's case (carried with him on the battlefield) that was filled not with bullets, but with a bouquet of flowers.

"The message is pretty simple," said popular DJ Ryan O'Connor, the master of ceremonies. "The role that males play in society needs to change. We as men and women need to change it. We need to start looking at our lovers as equals, start looking at other people in our communities as equals."

"People think HIV is in townships and in gay clubs. It's not. It's here, next to you."

Fabian Saptouw, the UCT fine art lecturer in charge of the groups of first-year students who designed the artworks as part of their curriculum, said weaving messages about socially relevant issues into students' coursework was a useful

way to "get [students] engaged, to get them thinking about it, and how it affects them in their daily lives".

While he was "impressed with the whole group", Saptouw was particularly taken by the way the soldier's case had been subverted to represent an alternative idea of masculinity.

"The artwork with the flowers coming out of the army case is particularly potent, because you have the flowers in this thing that you wouldn't obviously associate with flowers and beauty," said Saptouw. "You're thinking about a particular kind of masculinity in the army: violence, war, drills, that kind of thing. It's that kind of machismo, and they're using these fragile, delicate flowers, and you're really thinking about how fragile masculinity is on a social level,

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Teen pregnancy has large impact on mental health

ABIGAIL CALATA

While teenage pregnancy in South Africa is often painted with a single brush-stroke – disruption to the education of female learners – it has many other negative consequences that are not often explored in the mainstream media. One of these is the effect of such a pregnancy on the mental health of the teenager. Research has shown that teens are twice as likely to suffer from postnatal depression as women who have their babies at a later stage of life.

According to Simone Honikman, the director of the Perinatal Mental Health Project (PMHP) – an initiative based at UCT – pregnant teenagers are doubly at risk of mental health disorders before and after the birth. Furthermore, mental disorders that appear in adolescence are more likely to persist throughout adulthood.

Teen mothers are also twice as likely to fall pregnant again. 49% of adolescent mothers fall pregnant within two years of their initial pregnancy. The likelihood of a subsequent teenage pregnancy nearly doubles when the young mother is depressed.

The PMHP advocates for, and facilitates, the incorporation of mental health care into maternity care, as pregnant teenagers are particularly vulnerable to coercive and abusive relationships, physical or sexual abuse, and high-risk sexual behaviour.

On a more positive note, the research also shows that teen pregnancies have dropped since the 1980s, and that teen moms who return to school are highly motivated to complete their studies.

Studies by UCT's Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) have shown that teen childbearing has decreased from 30% in 1984 to 23% in 2008. This indicates that the country has one of the lowest teenage pregnancy levels in Southern Africa. SALDRU's findings have been supported by similar studies undertaken by both governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Also, the proportion of young teens (under 17 years) giving birth has decreased, with young women aged 18 and 19 accounting for the majority of teen pregnancies. Only 5% of children were born to young teens in 2008 compared to the 13% in 1984. Stats SA's General Household Survey for 2012 indicates that 4.5% of girls 13-19 years old were pregnant in 2010.

Higher risk

Teen pregnancies in rural areas were higher than in urban areas, with a study by Ibis Reproductive Health noting that 14% of rural teenagers became mothers compared to 11% of urban teenagers. A 2011 study by Sisa Ngabaza from the University of the Western Cape found that despite the decline in teenage pregnancy throughout South Africa, rates are still high in the more rural areas.

Teen pregnancies are more common among black and coloured girls than white and Indian girls. A 2009 study commissioned by the Department of Basic Education found adolescent fertility rates according to race to be the following:

- Black: 71 per 1000
- Coloured: 60 per 1000
- Indian: 22 per 1000
- White: 14 per 1000

This study also found that the white and Indian fertility rates among adolescents come close to those of developed countries.

Impact on education

In South Africa, approximately one third of teenage mothers return to school. However, it is not always the pregnancy that leads young mothers to curtail their schooling. The 2011 South African General Household Survey found that among 7- to 24-year-olds who were not attending school, pregnancy was the reason in 2,3% of the cases – compared to lack of funds accounting for 35,9% of the cases of individuals abandoning their studies. This, together with findings from other studies, led Samantha Willan from the University of KwaZulu-Natal to come to the conclusion that the "primary reason for teenage girls leaving school is usually economic, and not due to pregnancy or motherhood".

Of those girls who return to school, only 34% complete matric. Furthermore, SALDRU found on average that "Teen mothers [compared to non-mothers] lag two thirds of a year behind their peers; are 25 percentage points more likely to drop out of high school; and are 20 percentage points less likely to matriculate".

Black girls (60%) are more likely to return to school than coloured girls (35%). Girls are more likely to complete schooling if they conceive in Grade 12. The younger the teen mother is, the more likely she will not return to school; and the longer a girl stays away, the less likely she is to return. Studies all agree that family support, most specifically from the teenager's mother, largely determines whether a teenager returns to school after

the birth of her child.

Once she is at school the main motivation for completing school comes from the teen mother herself. Teen mother respondents reported that education is the key to a better future for them and their children. This goes against the commonly-held view that teenaged mothers are unwilling to finish school.

Willan, in her analysis of research regarding teenage pregnancy, states that teenage pregnancies are unplanned in most cases, but despite this, pregnancy need not disrupt a girl's future if she receives support (childcare, emotional and financial) and the right interventions. ■

harmful masculinities

the facades that men have to put up."

cina Reddy, a HAICU project officer, said the theme challenging normative ideas of masculinity spoke closely unit's work on combating the spread and harm caused ally-transmitted diseases on campus, including HIV e cervical cancer-causing Human Papilloma Virus

Professor Rachel Jewkes of the Medical Research recently showed the link between increased levels / and intimate partner violence," said Reddy. "Women ad partners who were violent are more likely to have

ve also need to talk to the gentlemen of this campus y that gentlemen are carriers of HPV without realising

it. There's no screening test for men, so the only time men present [with HPV] is generally when they have a genital wart, so we needed to educate students about these things," said Reddy. "At this very moment our peer educators are rolling out gender, health and HPV workshops across our campuses.

"[Female] students can get the HPV vaccine through Student Wellness, but they have to pay for it. We have a changing student population, so we have to think about what it means for our students that are on Financial Aid, and about reproductive health rights for young women. So that's something that HAICU are interested in understanding, namely: (a) do women know about the vaccine? (b) are they able to access the treatment?" ■

Hope in sight: patients identified for trials

HELEN SWINGLER

Identifying the genetic basis of retinal degenerative disorders (RDDs) and genetic blindness in South Africa (SA) presents a formidable challenge. But once defective genes have been mapped, there's hope of linking patients to clinical trials and delivering significant treatment successes, says UCT geneticist Professor Jacque Greenberg.

In 2010, nine-year-old Corey Haas underwent genetic therapy in the US, regaining much of the sight he had lost to a rare degenerative eye condition, Leber Congenital Amaurosis (LCA). It marked a milestone in genetic therapy and caused a flurry in the scientific community. The media dubbed it a story of "passion and perseverance".

Passion and perseverance are what genotyping and genetic therapy require, notes Greenberg, from Professor Raj Ramesar's UCT/MRC Human Genetics Research Unit.

In the past two decades since the team began its research, they have found little evidence in SA of the retinal genetic defects prevalent in the US and UK, indicating a novel gene pool for this group of disorders.

In the RDD programme's 23 years, the team has notched up several advances on this front. Supported by Retina SA, UCT and the Medical Research Council, they've mapped two retinal genes, RP17 (CAIV) and RP13 (PRPF8), unique to SA.

They now have the task of characterising over 3 115 individuals



Picture by Je nine May

RDD databank: Two principal investigators - Profs Raj Ramesar (right) and Jacque Greenberg (middle) from the Human Genetics Research Unit - engage in discussion with project leader and senior RDD researcher Lisa Roberts. Genetic testing in SA families with inherited RDDs and blindness pinpoints the genetic causes and opens the way to participation in clinical trials.

from 1 344 SA families registered on the unit's RDD database, and archiving the DNA. (Only 19% of families in the UCT database have been identified as having disease-causing mutations).

Identifying and managing the specific genetic mutation in every one of these individuals in SA will build a foundation for managing patients and alerting them to future treatment options.

The team has also capitalised on developments in DNA sequencing technology, particularly the development

of the microarray chip, described as 'a lab-on-a-chip'. They work with the Asper Ophthalmics mutation-screening programme in Estonia. Patients' DNA samples are sent for testing on the Asper Microarray Chips, which contain all the known mutations and variations in a range of RDDs worldwide.

Identifying genetic mutations and translating diagnostic results are important steps in linking patients to clinical trials, adds Greenberg. They work with a multi-disciplinary clinical team of genetic counsellors, genetic

nursing sisters and medical scientists at Groote Schuur and Tygerberg Hospitals.

The time factor can be a deterrent. An advocate from the north had her DNA isolated and banked in 2002, but only received results in 2008. It was good news, however, as clinical trials had begun in the US for gene therapy to treat her specific mutation.

Things moved more quickly for a family north of our borders with two young daughters, whose DNA was sent for gene tracking in 2012. The team found the specific mutation after

sending DNA to Estonia for screening and the results came in at the same time as a clinical trial began in the UK.

The good news was delivered telephonically by genetic counsellor Mardelle Schoeman, who works at Tygerberg Hospital. Greenberg subsequently sent a detailed report to the family's doctor (with their permission), which is one way that the team is overcoming logistics and capacity challenges when patients are located far away.

Another young family is going all the way to get their seven-year-old daughter with LCA and mutations in the RPE65 gene onto a clinical trial. There is no family history of the condition, and her parents used the UCT team's contacts in the UK (where 105 RDD-related genes were tested) to have their daughter's genetic mutation pinpointed.

"It took a while before we received results but we were overwhelmed when we did, as they had identified her genetic mutation," said her mother.

"This is also an opportunity to assist SA citizens with similar genetic disorders, as we understand that we could possibly be the first family from SA on the trial in the UK. We do not expect this journey to be easy and we'll take one step at a time."

Greenberg is upbeat about the future.

"As genetic testing becomes part of standard practice and complements ophthalmic evaluation, management and care, it will benefit patients with RDDs when trials are planned and conducted in the future." ■

New CCTV cameras make Main Road safer

ABIGAIL CALATA

Greater security will be the result of the extension of the closed-circuit camera reach along Main Road.

UCT, the City of Cape Town and

SA Breweries recently contributed R1 million each towards the installation of twelve additional closed-circuit cameras in Main Road. This means that as of 1 July of this year, there has been CCTV surveillance from the city centre to Newlands, whereas before the closed-circuit cameras were along Main Road only up to the N2.

According to Anthony Davies, CEO of the Groote Schuur Community Improvement District (GSCID), this illustrates the university's commitment to ensuring students' safety off-campus. "It is an instance where the university is reaching out to its surrounding community by providing additional security," he says. He added that the money was not only for the provision of additional cameras, but will also be used to employ extra staff to monitor the footage from the cameras.

UCT is its major funder and is directly involved in the management of the GSCID. Since its inception in 2010 the GSCID has covered the area, containing mostly commercial properties, along Main Road from the N2 to the Newlands swimming pool. Last year patrols were extended to include the area up to Paradise Road in the south, Campground Road in the west and Rhodes Drive in the east.

This was done with the protection of students living in the area surrounding UCT in mind, states Davies.



Picture by Michael Hammond

On patrol: Twelve additional CCTV cameras along Main Road have increased security in the areas serviced by the GSCID. This statutory body together with its counterpart in Observatory comprise 60 patrol staff, nine vehicles and four security kiosks.

According to John Critien, executive director of properties and services at UCT, 45% of students who are not in residences and do not reside permanently in Cape Town live within a five kilometre radius of UCT.

Julie Berg from UCT's Centre of Criminology cites various international sources that have found "both anecdotally and through systematic

research that Improvement Districts (IDs) are successful in impacting crime, relieving traffic congestion and/or increasing property values".

There are no statistics available to illustrate the impact the GSCID has had. Berg, however, refers to studies indicating that the presence of the Cape Town Central Improvement District resulted in a 60% reduction in crime in the CBD

in a five-year period in the early 2000s. "A mini-victimisation survey supports these claims. Also that crime in one year alone (2007/2008) had reduced by 28 per cent in Cape Town's CBD.

"I also found in my interviews that there were general perceptions from the public and those involved that things were better with IDs in place," she added. ■

Gender justice with open eyes

Science and advocacy need not be mutually exclusive, argues Associate Professor Lillian Artz

Science' and 'advocacy' are two terms not often associated with each other. Some argue that the two should be completely divorced: science is the objective, systematic and testable study of 'things', while advocacy is thought to be 'motivated' and pre-determined, even specious in its supposed subjectivity and inclination towards pragmatic reform of social policies, projects and interventions.

Significant criticism has been levelled against certain (largely social science) research that aims to use 'evidence' to shift human rights law and discourse.

Evidence-based advocacy is often misinterpreted to mean 'policy research', which has been viewed as something less academic and atheoretical than conventional scientific research. In turn, policy research is considered something for the state, rather than about the state, and is thought to be too closely allied with state or lobby-driven research priorities.

There are, of course, justifiable cautions against evidence-led policy reform research, where researchers tread the delicate line between being

policy-led technicians of reform, and building sound evidence that may promote social change. Within these tales of caution is a heightened concern over 'subjectivity' and lack of rigour. Also inherent in this contention is that policy work is devoid of critical analysis.

Yet there are many examples of how scientific evidence has supported policy development, and contributes to transformation and social change. There are ample examples of this at UCT. Pioneering research focusing on children's rights, the environment, land redistribution, labour, women's equality and gender-based violence, access to health care, social development and poverty alleviation, education, HIV – just to name a few – have had immeasurable and lasting impact on social justice policies in South Africa. They reflect 'socially responsive' scholarship, in which research, social policy reform and nation [re]building become interdependent and mutually reinforcing projects.

Reflecting for a moment on the work of the Gender, Health & Justice Research Unit – an interdisciplinary Unit in the Faculty of Health Sciences that conducts progressive research on access to health and justice services for survivors of gender-based violence as well as violence prevention – I am continually challenged about whether our reform-minded tendencies remain

outside of what is considered critical, scientific and theoretically-grounded scholarship. We have deliberated at length whether research aimed at the reform or development of social policy is intrinsically 'motivated', and whether it can contribute to theory-building as well as promote democratic accountability.

Yet we are also swayed by the notion that given the extraordinary levels of violence against women, we do not have the luxury of positioning the 'theoretical vs. the pragmatic' nor juxtaposing epistemological projects with socially transformative ones.

Part of our research and (evidence-based) advocacy has included (re)shaping notions about how the state should respond to crime and violence, about shifting social and cultural conceptions of violence, as well as providing concrete illustrations of women's structural inequality in relation to it. Empirically rigorous critique has also been necessary in order to hold the state accountable, not only in terms of law and policy reform, but in ensuring its enforcement through monitoring research.

Our 'science' has contributed to crucial debates surrounding the substance of the law and policies, as well as how violence against women is defined and responded to. We have used our research to provide the state with compelling arguments for

the need for critical changes in the treatment of victims of gender-based violence.

Our research has also supported the drafting of legislation, monitoring its implementation and efficacy, submissions to government departments about the handling of cases, training of criminal justice and health practitioners, and public interest litigation; all to ensure that women's constitutional right to be free from violence are realised in law, social policy and in practice. We have done this through empirically-based statements about the reality of women's lives and their engagement with criminal justice and public health services.

For the unit, scientific research and advocacy have been compatible projects. We have seen how ethnographic research with women in prison has made some impact on prison conditions for women, as well as on the gradual implementation of the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the *Bangkok Rules*); we have illustrated that monitoring the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act has decreased the attrition of cases in the criminal justice system and improved access to justice in some districts; we have seen how evidence-based socio-legal submissions to government have

completely reformed the law on sexual offences; and we are starting to see the gradual domestication of the UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) in South and East Africa, through the creation of instruments to assist these states in implementing these international norms and obligations.

We are not only starting to witness how evidence-based efforts to reform legislation, policy and approaches to violence prevention are instigating and building theoretical and social discourse on crime and violence; we are gradually demonstrating that research can be both rigorous and transformative. ■



Associate Professor Lillian Artz is director of the Gender, Health & Justice Research Unit (in the health sciences faculty).

Custom or crime - a thin line

Balancing the rights of young women against culture is a complex issue, says Dr Elizabeth Thornberry

The cases of *ukuthwala* that have seized public attention over the last few years involve the violent abduction, and sometimes rape, of girls as young as 12 by older men. In addition to being illegal under criminal law, these abductions have been criticised by some scholars and traditional leaders for distorting the 'real' custom of *ukuthwala*. Such criticisms allow advocates of custom to disavow these sensational cases without undermining the broader goal of both supporting customary law and – for traditional leaders – asserting their own right to decide what counts as custom and what does not. However, the current practice of *ukuthwala* is accepted as customary by some local communities, thus meeting the definition of living customary law as recognised by the Constitutional Court. *Ukuthwala* cases remind us that even living custom must still be developed to comply with the Constitution.

Academics sympathetic to African customary law have described the normative practice of *ukuthwala* as a fake abduction, in which a young woman would pretend to resist even though she had actively planned the marriage with her future husband. In this view, the problem with current *ukuthwala* practices is that these

are forced marriages, taking place against the will of the young women concerned. By contrast, in the 'correct' form of *ukuthwala*, young women merely feign their unwillingness to marry.

This critique glosses over any potential conflict between the rights of the young woman and the right to culture. The 'true custom', as practised in the past, is carefully distinguished from the current, exploitative practices. While this view is appealing, it does not grapple with the fact that the Constitutional Court grants legal recognition to custom based on current local practices rather than on historical norms. As a result, it gives no guidance on how to handle practices that are locally accepted as customary while at the same time being harmful to children, women, or other vulnerable groups.

Major representatives of traditional leadership in the Eastern Cape have offered their own critiques of recent cases of *ukuthwala*. Xhanti Sigcawu, a member of the Xhosa royal family and a representative of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (Contralesa), differentiated between *ukuthwala* properly practised and kidnapping. The proper practice, he said, is when "the families of the young man and the girl would meet and negotiate...[and] reach

an arrangement", but it is kidnapping "when a husband takes a woman without interaction with her parents". Nangomhlaba Matanzima, chairperson of the Eastern Cape House of Traditional Leaders, complained that "they are taking children from 13, 14...that is not *ukuthwala*, that is not a custom. You can't go for the little ones". In these critiques, the problem with *ukuthwala* is not the young woman or girl's lack of consent, but rather the failure to gain the consent of the family or the breaching of the culturally appropriate lower boundary on the age of marriage.

The advantage of this line of argument lies precisely in its avoidance of the issue of women's consent to marriage. Traditional leaders can condemn a practice that garners negative publicity and threatens to taint the entire realm of custom, without undermining a broader claim to the authority of household heads over their dependents. These claims must also be understood – at least in part – as an assertion of the authority of traditional leaders to make decisions over what counts as proper custom and what does not. Such assertions protect young girls against *ukuthwala* but at the price of confirming the power of families to control the sexuality of their daughters and of traditional leaders to set the terms of

custom.

On the other hand, members of families implicated in *ukuthwala* cases, as well as some (certainly not all) other residents of Eastern Cape communities where the practice is prevalent, claim that *ukuthwala* as currently practised is indeed customary. Ncedisa Paul, who works for a local health non-governmental organisation, told the *Daily Dispatch* that "people say that's just the way it is – it is part of their culture, they say." Members of local communities in the Lusikisiki area seem to agree that the current practice of *ukuthwala* is customary, and has longstanding roots. In Cele village, for example, the *Dispatch* also quoted 81-year-old Nyekelwa Cebe saying that "during our time we competed for women, and if one procrastinated, the girl would be grabbed by the other family."

For activists who have dedicated themselves to defending local interpretations of customary law against attempts to allow chiefs to define custom, or to continue to enforce apartheid-era interpretations of custom, *ukuthwala* cases present a problem. Living customary law seems to condone the violence that is being done to the victims in these cases, while more authoritarian versions of custom offer at least some protection. These cases

should remind us that all sources of law – including both common law and customary law – must still be interpreted and developed in light of the Constitution. While living custom provides an important source of law for millions of South Africans, it is subject to the same protections that the Constitution provides for all South African citizens. Respecting custom should lead us to embrace the development of customary law, so that all South Africans may enjoy the equal protection of the Constitution. ■



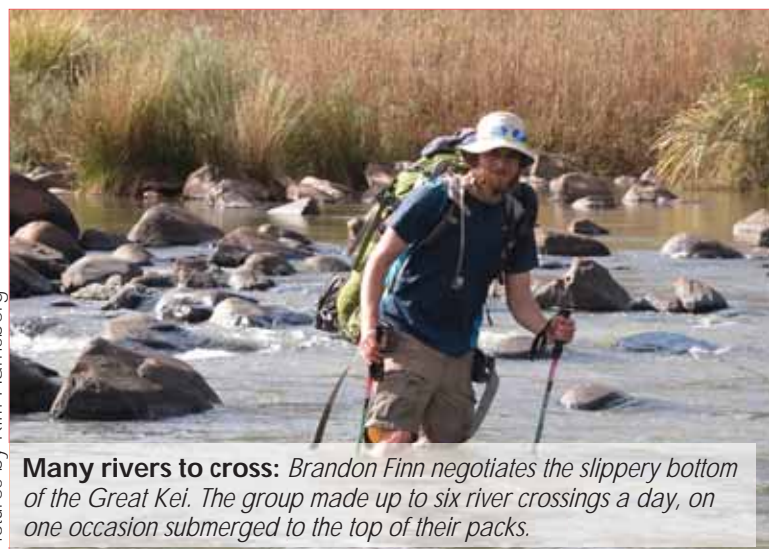
Dr Elizabeth Thornberry is Assistant Professor of History at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for Law and Society.

Tracking a river

Expedition Kei: the first documented walk and ecological assessment of the Eastern Cape's Great Kei River



Great divide: The students studied the differences between the communities on either side of the water: predominantly game farmers on one side and subsistence farming communities on the other.



Many rivers to cross: Brandon Finn negotiates the slippery bottom of the Great Kei. The group made up to six river crossings a day, on one occasion submerged to the top of their packs.



Uphill: Carla McKenzie negotiates a steep hillside. Sheer cliffs and dense bush sometimes necessitated wide detours.

HELEN SWINGLER

Starting in the frigid Winterberg Mountains and ending at the balmy Indian Ocean, an interdisciplinary group of five students hiked 450km in 30 days along the Great Kei, scaling cliffs and braving rhino poachers to collect water samples and study social dynamics on opposite sides.

Theirs is the first documented bio-monitoring assessment of the entire river and its tributaries, complete with photographic journal of the flora along the Kei's meandering course.

And thanks to "pedantic" planning, the group – Daniel Poultney, Carla McKenzie; Kim Harrisberg, Stefano Maiorana and Brandon Finn (four UCT students and a Stellenbosch counterpart) – arrived home on 14 July, the eve of the new semester.

Negotiating dense bush and difficult terrain en route, they gathered over 200 water samples at GPS-logged points. These will provide information on pH, electro-conductivity, and oxygen and hydrogen isotope levels at various points along the Kei. This data will help researchers track the river's health, and later, the effects of climate change.

The scientists hope to establish a link between the river's biological status and the communities that live and farm along its course. Among the UCT researchers who will study the water samples are Dr Kevin Winter (environmental and geographical

sciences) and Dr Adam West (biological sciences).

The river communities were also the focus of a second study, with a sociological theme, as the group documented the social interactions between the two groups: game farmers on one side and small-scale subsistence farmers on the other.

"We were welcomed on both sides," said Finn, who is studying environmental science and media. "Many of the farmers speak isiXhosa and although we noted plenty of integration, there is still racism, and tensions were discernible."

A back-up team planted provisions at designated points every five to six days and apart from a few wet nights spent in dilapidated farm buildings en route (one optimistically marked 'Dallas' on the map), they camped out, to the call of jackals.

Although there were several brushes with Mother Nature – baboons throwing rocks over a cliff to intimidate them, other wild animals (unknowingly, they spent a night in an enclave, oblivious to the leopard, buffalo and rhino that frequented the area) – it was the thorny lantana bush that proved most obstructive, choking the riverbanks and making headway impossible.

They were also drawn into a game-poaching drama; one farm they visited was on high alert for rhino poachers in the area.

"We drove out in a 4x4 with armed farmers, who say they shoot into the valley to kill the dogs that guide the poachers to the rhino," Finn explained.

But serendipity also lit the way. Prior to setting out, they met with rock art guru Victor Briggs, a retired farmer

who's an expert on the paintings in the area. And on Poultney's birthday they stumbled on ancient rock paintings, on a jagged rock-face behind dense bush.

Back in harness on campus, Poultney, the 'brain' behind the water research, and a student in the biological sciences department, summed up the experience: "There was an unusual sense of timelessness, of being isolated from the world."

For Harrisberg, a journalism student at Stellenbosch, the expedition has meant new ways of thinking about physical limitations.

"We often stop pushing ourselves, as a type of defence mechanism. But when you're forced to push your limits, you realise you're a lot stronger than you thought."

Finn says he is amped for more – and wants to incorporate trail running into the next expedition. ■

EVENTS

Philosophy Society Meeting

Date: Tuesday 27 August @ 20h00, Speaker: Dr George Hull. Title: Nietzsche and Genealogy: Drawing Morals from History. Venue: Lecture Theatre 2, Humanities Building

Date: Tuesday 17 September @ 20h00, Speaker: Dr Dean Chapman. Title: Death and the Meaningfulness of Life. Venue: Lecture Theatre 2, Humanities Building

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

Senior Lecturer/Lecturer: Biomedical Engineering, Department of Human Biology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 21 August 2013

Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer/Lecturer: English Education, School of Education, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 23 August 2013

Senior Lecturer/Lecturer: Economic Geology, Department of Geological Sciences, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 30 August 2013

Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer/Lecturer in Water Quality Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 6 September 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)

Digital Learning Materials Designer, Centre for Education Technology, Centre for Higher Education Development, Closing date: 19 August 2013

Senior Library Assistant (Relief Post), UCT Libraries, Closing date: 19 August 2013

Senior Library Assistant (Undergraduate Support Services), UCT Libraries, Closing date: 19 August 2013

Manager: Student Governance and Leadership, Student Development, Department of Student Affairs, Closing date: 23 August 2013

Statistician, Alternative Admissions Research Project (AARP), Centre for Higher Education Development, Closing date: 23 August 2013

Project Manager, SA Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 25 August 2013

Section Manager: Law Library, UCT Libraries, Closing date: 26 August 2013

Senior Research Officer,

Perinatal Mental Health Project, Department of Psychiatry & Mental Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 26 August 2013

Communications Officer, Perinatal Mental Health Project, Department of Psychiatry & Mental Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 26 August 2013

Training Officer, Perinatal Mental Health Project, Department of Psychiatry & Mental Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 26 August 2013

Manager: Code of Conduct, Human Resources Department, Closing date: 2 September 2013

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:
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PROPERTY/ACCOMMODATION

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Observatory: Short-med term accommodation: Smart, bright and spacious room in shared 2-bed sunny Observatory cottage. Ideal for visiting students/academics. Includes internet (wifi), linen & electricity etc. Close to UCT, transport, shops, bars and restaurants. See <http://tinyurl.com/obsroom>. tom.herbstein@uct.ac.za

Muizenberg: Spacious, bright, modern house on mountainside. Stunning 360 views. Entertainers dream. Furnished. 3-4 bedrooms. Spa. Direct access to mountain & walk to beach. Med-long term. Boyes Dr, Muizenberg. tom.herbstein@uct.ac.za.

Bergvliet: Large furnished rooms in Bergvliet house, internet, electric gate to off-street parking, garden, equipped kitchen, walk to Main Rd, station and Meadowridge Shopping Centre, suitable visiting academics/staff/postgrads; R3000 to R3800. Phone Monique 0834556298.

Green Point: Furnished flat available 2014 for rent in Green Point. 95 square metres, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, one garage. R8000 p/m. Ideal for visiting academic. No students or pets. Call 021-4341809 or email: nomadic@polka.co.za

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Witbooi not running from challenges

YUSUF OMAR

Twelve minutes after Stephen Mokoka crossed the line to win the 2013 Old Mutual Two Oceans Half Marathon, Riaan Witbooi followed suit.

Witbooi, a Campus Protection Services (CPS) officer and a passionate distance runner 24/7, was competing in his first Two Oceans Half Marathon. And his training paid off.

By placing 40th, Witbooi was the only runner to start in the EH block – for social runners – and place in the top 50 (including both male and female runners). The rest all kicked off in blocks A-D, designated for competitive runners. His starting spot meant Witbooi crossed the starting line ten minutes after the leading pack.

"I'm happy with my time, which was one hour and 15 minutes," reported Witbooi, but the energetic 31-year-old believes he could have done better. "[If I had started with the professional runners] I might have got 1 hour and 12 minutes. My friend that trains with me [and started near the front] got 1 hour and 12."

Witbooi patrols the area around Welgelegen, where UCT's newsroom is based. Having entered the security industry when he was around 20, Witbooi admits his passion lies elsewhere.

"What I actually want to do is coach children, including those that are homeless, disabled or have parents that don't work – especially children that have potential in a sport like running," he says. Witbooi has already been coaching young athletes at his



Picture by Raymond Botha

Running for the win: UCT CPS officer and competitive distance runner Riaan Witbooi encourages young athletes at his alma mater.

Eersterivier Athletics Club for the better part of a year.

Witbooi began his athletics career with the 800m in primary school, but excelled in the longer distance and cross-country events.

Although he won his South Western Districts colours as a pupil, he didn't qualify for the national championships.

"The competition was tough!" he exclaims.

He returns to his alma mater,

Teske Primër, whenever he visits Beaufort West, and assists with cross-country and long-distance running. "For two years running the school won the inter-school trophy," he reports happily.

Witbooi is aiming to boost his coaching repertoire and plough his skills into developing young athletes at the club.

"For me, it's first about being able to go on high-level coaching courses to get more insight into the deeper

technical aspects of coaching," he adds.

"At the moment, I help to coach the young athletes to keep them interested, and when they get a bit older I introduce them to the club coach, Johannes Kamfer, who trained me. I teach them the basics and teach them about the fun of sports so that they don't get bored with it."

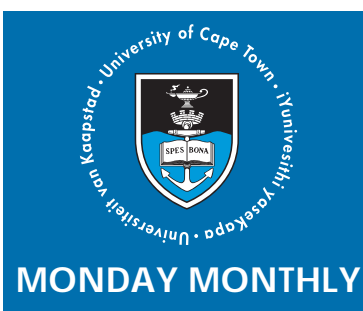
While determined to share his knowledge with junior runners, Witbooi also has designs on his own long-distance career.

Although he is under no illusions that striking a professional deal will be easy, he has not given up yet.

"If I can run full-time it would be better. It would be better for me just to run, and focus on training children."

Running, he says, is his therapy and inspiration.

"Every time I run a race, I see my circumstances, and as I run, I feel like I'm moving forward in life and pushing forward through all the things that are maybe holding me back in my life." ■



MONDAY MONTHLY

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WHAT'S ON

» **Suspicious Mind:** Artists and contributors to the International Neuropsychanalysis Conference, to be held in Hiddingh Hall from 22 – 25 August, dream a quirky, quack-scientific environment into being, exploring the peculiar forms that emerge when exploring the space between mind and matter. **When:** 13 August – 31 August. **Where:** UCT Michaelis Gallery, Hiddingh Campus, 37 Orange Street, Gardens.

» **Piano Exchange Concert.** The piano sections of UCT and Stellenbosch University will present an evening of piano transcriptions. **When:** 27 August at 20h15. **Where:** Baxter Concert Hall. Prices: R55. UCT staff: R50. Senior citizens and students: R40. Learners: R30.

» **Inaugural lecture: Professor Mike Lambert. Topic:** 'The Science of Exercise Performance – Translation into Practice: Novo prospectus'. **When:** 28 August. **Where:** Student Learning Centre Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building. Faculty of Health Sciences. University of Cape Town.

» **Choreographic studies:** New works choreographed by third- & fourth-year students of the UCT School of Dance offer a unique window onto the creative perspectives of emerging young artists. **When:** 28 August at 19h30. **Where:** Baxter Concert Hall. Tickets: R45. Pensioners & students: R20.

» **Dermatology Congress:** The South Africa Dermatology Nursing Association (SADNA), a subgroup of the Dermatology Society of SA, is holding an all-day pre-congress workshop on 29 August. The aim of the workshop is to disseminate & share knowledge of patients with skin disorders to as large an audience as possible. **When:** 29 August – 1 September. **Where:** Cape Town International Convention Centre.

» **Medical Humanities Series: The bricolage of health and healing in South Africa.** Historian and medical anthropologist Catherine Burns, from WiSER (Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research), will begin to question the absence of an institutionalised, interdisciplinary relationship between the humanities and medicine, in light of the layered and heavily politicised history of South African health systems throughout the 20th Century. **When:** 29 August. **Where:** UCT Medical Campus, Anatomy Lecture Theatre.

» **Drama therapy lecture and workshop:** Hosted by GIPCA and Drama for Life, Drama Therapy pioneer Robert J. Landy will present a public lecture and specialised workshop. Landy is Professor of Educational Theatre and Applied Psychology and Director of the Drama Therapy Program at New York University. As a drama therapist, he has more than 35 years of clinical experience, having treated children and adults with a wide range of psychiatric, cognitive and adjustment challenges. **When:** 30 August – 31 August. **Where:** Hiddingh Hall.

» **Chamber Music:** These concerts, arranged by Becky Steltzner, feature students from the SACM and are the final round to determine which ensembles progress to the final round of the coveted Schock Foundation Prize for Chamber Music on Tuesday 17 September. **When:** 30 August at 19h30. **Where:** Baxter Concert Hall.

» **Schock Foundation Prize for Chamber Music:** The sixth edition of this annual competition for ensemble playing, sponsored by the Schock Foundation. This final round will feature ensembles selected from the chamber music concerts through the year. **When:** 17 September at 20h15. **Where:** Baxter Concert Hall.