

To read our daily news coverage or see digital versions of these stories, please visit [www.uct.ac.za](http://www.uct.ac.za)

- **Page 3** Meet the inspirational security guard with a full-time job who is getting a postgraduate diploma in disability studies
- **Page 5** Milestones and highlights: with 2013 coming to an end, we look at the best parts of the months now gone
- **Page 9** The Distinguished Teachers Awards: read about the winners and their pearls of wisdom

# 2013: the year that was



**What's up doc?** - MBChB students celebrate crossing the final hurdle before graduating. The faculty's results bash was held outside the Barnard Fuller building recently, when the final exam results were released in the traditional way by faculty members throwing the pamphlets with the names of those who passed (181 in total) from the first-floor balcony. The group will be capped on 11 December.

## Grad fever hits campus



# NEWS IN PICTURES

**1** **Calm after the storm:**  
A student, oblivious to the arrival of a curious family of ducks, relaxes in the sun at the UCT swimming pool on lower campus after the stress of final exams.

While December marks the month of graduation for some, the start of the summer vacation for others and a long trip home to those from faraway places, November is notorious for being the month of exam-related anxiety. An Australian researcher who focused on university students said recently that the world over, a moderate amount of stress is healthy and keeps students 'motivated and alert', whereas excessive amounts of it affect students' mental health.

**2** **Trainspotters:**  
TV personalities Maurice Paige (top) and Theodore Jantjies take to the stage in Platform 9, currently on at the Baxter Golden Arrow Studio.

Written and directed by award-winning director Christo Davids, the funny two-hander, performed in Afrikaans and some English, has played to sold-out houses throughout the country. The story takes place on Cape Town station's Platform 9, where two friends – both headed for Johannesburg – find themselves stranded after a missed connection. Theo is a chef, and Mau, a budding hip-hop artist. But are the two travellers who they say they are? The show runs until 25 January 2014. Booking is through Computicket.

**3** **Fight and flight:**  
UCT's Joshua Jacobson is hunted down by UWC players at the Varsity Sevens competition that took place at Camps Bay at the end of November.

The tournament saw 10 university teams doing battle in rugby and volleyball during a weekend of gale-force winds which caused havoc with spectators and players alike. At the final whistle the scoreboard read UWC: 28 and UCT: 19. The Maties team ended up the rugby victors, with the Ikeys trailing in seventh place. UCT's volleyball team did slightly better, coming fifth, with UWC taking home top honours.

The respective champions were crowned on the Sunday evening after the tournament.

**4** **The doors of learning:**  
Bemused students walk through a newly-erected set of gates at the bottom of the Jammie steps on upper campus in late November.

Despite appearances, this is not a new security measure implemented by Properties and Services to keep students safe. Neither is it a way of ensuring that students do not flee to Main Road for junk food when they should be wandering the halls of academia. It is, instead, an authentic-looking set of props erected by Film Afrika during their recent shoot for a children's television show. But it did raise some eyebrows, as for many, the iconic steps are the heart of the University, and are not to be tampered with!

# An inspiration: security guard graduates

**W**hen Willson Tarusarira came off night shift at his workplace on the outskirts of Cape Town International Airport, he'd go straight to class at UCT if it was a weekday. Tarusarira would work 12-hour stints and then attend class between eight and five, taking a taxi or bus from work. Once, he worked straight through four days and nights: work, class, work, class...

"I sometimes struggled to stay awake," said the 33-year-old Zimbabwean security guard, who graduates on 11 December with a postgraduate diploma in disability studies, a one-year course offered by UCT's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

"I knew that by not getting seven to nine hours of sleep, I was starving my brain. But I did not have any option."

The only advantage was that in the quiet hours of deep night, between patrols, he could read and draft assignments.

He even gave up TV, except for the 7pm news.

"Stay focused," the graduand would remind himself. "Never, never lose hope."

Born in Rusere, Zimbabwe, Tarusarira went to school on the sugar cane plantation where his father worked. He attended secondary school in the country. Keen to teach, he enrolled first at a teaching college and then at the University of Zimbabwe, completing undergraduate studies in 2004.

But Zimbabwe's political and economic woes forced him south. Without asylum papers, he couldn't get work. When they did come he enrolled for a security course, and went to work as a security checker in Wellington. Although he was keen to study further, he had a family to support on a modest budget.

"I kept calculating my years and I was always upset because the clock was rotating while I was not studying!"

Friends told him he was too old to go back to school.

"But I certainly knew you are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream," Tarusarira said. "I also learnt that you must keep company only with people who uplift you, whose presence calls forth your best."

UCT's emphasis on research was the clincher when he was looking for a suitable university at which to embark on disability studies. The institution is also internationally known, says Tarusarira. He also liked the cosmopolitan feel of UCT.

Importantly, the diploma course changed the way he thinks about people with disabilities. Tarusarira is from the remote Zaka district in Zimbabwe, where disability is still associated with sin.

"It's from such cultural beliefs that disability is associated with punishment from the ancestors because of your parents' sin. Mothers with disabled children are called names and the community does not want to associate with them, because they believe they have done something wrong to the ancestors. This further exacerbates the plight of the disabled children, since they're kept indoors."



Picture by Michael Hammond

**Auto pilot:** Security guard Willson Tarusarira worked day and night to complete a postgraduate diploma in disability studies. He graduates this month.

By interacting with members of his university class, particularly those who're disabled, Tarusarira says he grasped the essential difference between disability and inability.



You are never too old to dream a new dream

"I can now do awareness programmes in my own areas to correct this antiquated way of thinking."

The Zimbabwean diaspora has seen other family members displaced. Tarusarira's older brother, Joram, is doing a PhD in Germany.

"He is my role model," says the younger brother. "At times I lost hope, but kept telling myself that even if I fell on my face, I would still move forward."

Among his strongest performance coaches was his 11-year-old daughter, Braithwaite, who told her dad: "You must not be happy with a certificate, but with a certificate that has good marks."

Tarusarira is now thinking of a master's degree, and possibly a PhD.

"I have faith I can be a doctor soon, if I work hard. I am not yet done."

He will miss his close family at graduation, but has sent money home to fund a celebration.

"My father and everybody else back home are happy for me."

Come 11 December, there will be a small corner of Zimbabwe that's bound to be partying well into the night.

At the airport behind his workplace, the air vibrates with the roar of jet engines; people are going places, exploring possibilities.

"Go where you want to go. You are your own pilot," says Tarusarira. ■

# Summer School – time to feed your brain



Picture by Raymond Botha

**Book your spot:** Summer Schoolers browse through bookstalls erected to enhance the experience at a previous instalment of the public education programme.

**O**n 15 February 2013 an object exploded twenty-three kilometres above Chelyabinsk, releasing twenty times more energy than the atomic bomb that devastated Hiroshima. The shock wave arrived three minutes later, giving people enough time to rush to their windows, and resulted in 1 500 people being injured, mostly by flying glass.

Space agencies are taking the threat of an asteroid or comet striking the earth increasingly seriously. Should we be worried?

These fears will be allayed – or at least explained – during UCT's 64th annual Summer School, which is being held from 20 to 31 January next year.

If apocalyptic debates are not your pick for a breezy summer conversation, try a beginner's course in Mandarin, which will probably come in handy sooner or later. Or perhaps you are curious about 'the loss of the Left'; Dr Kenneth Hughes, formerly of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, explores how Europe's 'party of progress' lost its way, deteriorating from a movement that dominated the late nineteenth century to one that, splintered by wars and handicapped by totalitarian regimes, has ceded ground to conservative ideologies in modern times.

If you've wondered about the role hip-hop has played in engaging South Africans creatively and politically and how debates about commercial co-option, race, gender and other identity politics have been taken up by local hip-hop artists, then the sort course by Associate Professor Adam Haupt might turn your head. Elsewhere on the roster, the seemingly perennial debate between science and religion takes a twist, with Professor Anwar Mall presenting arguments for their peaceful and productive coexistence, with science dealing with the 'how' of life and religion the meaning.

Along with a galaxy of other history, art, politics and science courses, the opportunities for personal enrichment abound; courses in basic drawing and creative fiction writing are also on offer, as is a lecture on the antikythera mechanism, a 2 000-year old computer.

• Hosted by UCT's Centre for Open Learning (COL), Summer School is a public education programme open to all, regardless of formal qualifications. For more information on how to register for one – or more – of the dozens of courses, visit [www.summerschool.uct.ac.za](http://www.summerschool.uct.ac.za) or email [ems@uct.ac.za](mailto:ems@uct.ac.za). ■

# Kudos to two terrific teachers

Two UCT academics, Professor Jenni Case and Associate Professor Mohamed Paleker, were honoured at the prestigious National Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards on 28 November. The awards are granted by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA), a professional association primarily for educators in the tertiary sector.

Case, who teaches in the undergraduate chemical engineering programme and has a special responsibility for academic development, was one of only five academics in South Africa to receive the CHE-HELTASA National Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award for 2013. Her research on the student experience of learning has been widely published.

The five award-winners were deemed to have made very significant contributions to university teaching and learning, and to be able to share their philosophy, insights and innovative ideas with academics across the sector.

Paleker, of UCT's Department of Private Law, received one of six commendations for excellence in teaching and preparation of an impressive teaching portfolio. The current course co-ordinator of Law of Succession and Civil Procedure, Paleker received UCT's Meritorious Award for teaching in 2004. In addition to publishing numerous journal articles, books and chapters in books, Paleker is an attorney of the High Court of South Africa and an advisory member of the South African Law Reform Commission. Paleker and Case both hold a UCT Distinguished Teacher Award.



## Associate Professor Mohamed Paleker

Says Paleker: "The work that you do is the rent that you pay for the room and space that you occupy in this world."

"It is extremely difficult to articulate one's teaching methodology," he says. "I adjust my teaching all the time to conform to the subject matter, class size, and the level of the student."

One of Paleker's mantras is to make learning fun.

"When we were younger, our teachers taught us by play. For some odd reason when we grow older they stop doing that. Learning becomes a serious business. Teachers take on the persona of Mr Gradgrind – see Charles Dickens' famous novel *Hard Times* – and consequently, we begin to see learning as something of a chore. However, I believe that if you make learning fun, anyone will be able to assimilate anything."

A former director of the moot court, Paleker is a great believer in the benefits of moots for students, with their emphasis on research, writing, and analytical and creative reasoning, as well as professionalism and legal ethics.

"I have not found a better way for students to assess what they have learnt in the LLB than by doing a moot."

Paleker also places great emphasis on feedback to students.

"Because students know that I am taking my marking task seriously, I find that they put much more effort into their work. Consequently, I hardly find a student handing in bad-quality work."

Paleker operates enthusiastically in the spaces opened up by technology, routinely using Vula (UCT's educational web interface). However, he plans to take this even further.

"It is my intention to create educational iBooks for the courses that I teach and to offer them for free. The problem at present is that the Apple iBook store is not available in South Africa, but it is only a matter of time before it does become available."

To truly teach law effectively, Paleker's methods must transcend the classroom.

"In a field like law one can easily isolate oneself in an academic institution, because it is fairly simple to separate the theoretical from the practical. But to be a dynamic teacher one needs to bring new ideas and knowledge to the classroom, because this stimulates cutting-edge research. In this regard I fully endorse UCT's social responsiveness policy, as it allows me to go into the 'field' and to engage with issues affecting civil society."

"African people say that a person stands on the shoulders of his or her ancestors," he adds. "I tell students in the last lecture each year that they must see me as a shoulder they have stood on, but that they must reach for new heights and surpass me."

"It is my desire to see every person in this country being able to access the courts and the justice system. Through my teaching, social responsiveness work and research I hope to make a difference, so that by the time I retire I will be able to say confidently that I have paid my rent." ■

## Professor Jenni Case

Innovation is the name of Case's game. The core courses she teaches carry a range of learning activities to support student learning, from a programme of small group meetings with first years to get to know them, through conceptual quizzes in second year, to a research-based implementation of lecture-casting (publishing videos of lectures online).

Case also helped design the Learning and Teaching in Higher Education course and taught it for a number of years from its inception.

"Teaching has been a constant and central focus of my career: it is something I have always enjoyed doing, and I have had sustained feedback on my effectiveness as a teacher. At the same time I have been repeatedly challenged to think about what I do and to work on developing better ways to facilitate student learning."

For Case, taking pride in teaching is a given. When asked why it should matter, she responded with some puzzlement.

"Why academics should take care in their teaching is simply because this is a key thing we are paid to do! Educating students is a crucial part of the university's function, and anyone should take pride in what they do."

"Between 2001 and 2007 I taught intensively across all sections of the course and implemented a series of changes which have been well received," she says. "Some of the changes have included introducing an interactive mode of teaching, the reworking of the course content to better match students' level of engagement, the introduction of a textbook which has matched the course orientation, the introduction of assignments for regular individual feedback, the reconstruction of tutorials to allow for better tutor engagement, the introduction of activities that foster interaction in class (for example, the first-year camp), the reworking of the Introduction to Studying Engineering module to meet a broader range of interests in the class, and the introduction of a first-year design project."

She identifies a number of core aspects in her approach to teaching: passion for the subject; a conceptual focus that helps students identify and grapple with key concepts of the subject; and a concern for individuals, showing empathy, with such



simple gestures as learning all her students' names, while not "challenging them any less".

Case also believes in "building community in the class", as she remains concerned about the lingering impact of apartheid on student relations and performance. "I piloted a series of approaches to getting students to network in the first-year course, and have taken this further in the second-year integrated project. Here I create deliberately diverse groups and schedule all class sessions such that group work takes place in class with one laptop per group, and where I can intervene where necessary."

Building a student engineer identity is also crucial, she says;

while she puts effort into developing her teaching team, giving tutors responsibility and ownership of their tutorial groups.

Case was lauded by her students. Said one: "Her abilities as an educator are obviously unmatched. She has the unique ability to present seemingly complex material so that it is understandable."

"More profoundly, my experiences with Professor Case have actually come from outside of the class room. She played a critically enabling role. She was always encouraging and supportive of my extra-curricular activities as a university student." ■

# Milestones and highlights from 2013

## JANUARY

- The academic year kicks off with an evergreen: the 63rd Summer School, attracting 2 421 participants. Highlights are the Chinese brush painting course, Professor Colin Bundy's *Understanding Post-apartheid South Africa*, and a course on vampires in literature and film.
- Residences open their doors and more than 2 200 parents of new students arrive on campus for Parents' Orientation Day. The annual Fresher's Braai sees many kilos of wors, chicken and chops hit the grids on UCT's historic Green Mile.
- UCT alumna and soprano Pretty Yende debuts (to rave reviews) at New York's famous Metropolitan Opera on 17 January in the role of Countess Adèle in Rossini's *Le Comte Ory*.
- Students Katey Carson and Dylan Bosman's short films are screened at the Sundance Film Festival's GFS MasterClass Showcase. One of the biggest US film festivals, it's associated with its chairperson, Robert Redford.



Orientation



Summer School



Pretty Yende



Campus march

## FEBRUARY

- Jammie Plaza buzzes as thousands of new students arrive for Plaza Week, enjoying over 90 student society and club stalls ahead of the start of lectures on 11 February.
- *Post-apocalyptic SAX Appeal* hits the city's streets, flogged by students in zombie guise – this to mark the great non-event of 2012: the end of the world. Swelling the coffers of Remember and Give (RAG), the annual *SAX Appeal* celebrates its 80th edition.
- The UCT community turns up in their thousands on 20 February to march against rampant violent crime against women in South Africa. The march is led by the Senior Leadership Group and the Students' Representative Council, drawing major media coverage.
- Fifty-nine top-performing staff across UCT's six academic faculties are promoted in 2013 following the *ad hominem* promotions cycle. They include 15 professors, 21 associate professors and 23 senior lecturers.
- UCT revisits its race-based admissions policy for the 2015 student intake, following recommendations in the Report of the Commission into the Student Admissions Policy, submitted to Council at the end of 2012. The report urges UCT to use alternative markers of disadvantage.

## MARCH

- Actuarial honours student Sizwe Moagi wins the 41st Nedbank and Old Mutual Budget Speech Competition.
- UCT's Drug Discovery and Development Centre teams up with the US's Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research to bridge the gap between basic science and clinical research, advancing the development of innovative medicines for African patients.
- Researchers James Puttick, Sam Jack and Ian Durbach wrap up the first full-length ecological survey of the !Gariep, or Orange River, South Africa's longest waterway. It was a marathon paddle, starting at Qacha's Nek, Lesotho, lasting 61 days and covering 2 125km.
- UCT joins the Universities of the Western Cape and Stellenbosch in hosting the Land Divided Conference marking the centenary of the Land Act of 1913, which dispossessed most black South Africans of their land and livelihoods.
- The Faculty of Health Sciences hosts a centenary gala dinner for 200 alumni in New York to mark its centenary in 2012. The dinner caps a year-long programme to celebrate the birth of sub-Saharan Africa's first medical school on 6 June 1912.



Orange River expedition



Prof Val Mizrahi



Maths Competition



Maths Competition

## APRIL

- Prof Eric Bateman wins the 2012 Alan Pifer Award for his pioneering clinical research into lung disease.
- Sixth-year medical student and president of SHAWCO Health Saadiq Moolla launches the Mobile Xhosa site providing medical translations for students and healthcare practitioners via cell phone.
- President Jacob Zuma bestows National Orders on wastewater treatment expert Prof George Ekama (Order of Mapungubwe), as well as on the late Dr Neville Alexander (Order of Luthuli), and alumni Colin Eglin and Herbert de la Hunt (Order of the Baobab) and Pretty Yende (Order of Ikhamanga).
- UCT's annual Mathematics Competition draws 7 000 participants from a record 164 Western Cape schools. The competition is the biggest of its kind in the world, with all participants writing at the same time and place, over 30 venues on campus.
- Three of UCT's finest women scientists, Emer Prof Jennifer Thomson and Profs Jill Farrant and Valerie Mizrahi are among the 77 Laureates of the L'Oreal-UNESCO Women in Science Award, and feature in a 15th-anniversary expo that lights up the Champs-Élysées in Paris.
- Prof Val Mizrahi wins the coveted Grand Prix Christophe Merieux Prize from the Institute de France in Paris for her TB research and mentorship of young researchers.

## MAY

- QS World University Rankings by Subject ranks UCT among the top 100 universities in the world for eight of its subject areas: 32nd for the Education and Training category. The other categories are Earth and Marine Sciences, Politics, Psychology, Law and Legal Studies, History and Archaeology, Geography, and English Language and Literature.
- Africa's first Butterfly Atlas is launched under the auspices of the Southern African Butterfly Conservation Assessment, a partnership between UCT's Animal Demography Unit, the South African National Biodiversity Institute, and the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa. It offers a complete database of butterfly distributions in Southern Africa, including Swaziland and Lesotho.
- The refurbished JW Jagger Reading Room is opened, housing the entire Special Collections Section under one roof. This marks the 60th birthday of the Special Collections Section.
- Alumnus Dr Richard Armstrong is first author of a scientific paper based on observations performed with South Africa's new KAT-7 radio telescope and published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomy Society. He is a Square Kilometre Array (SKA) SA Fellow at UCT.
- William Bond, the Harry Bolus Professor of Botany in the Department of Biological Sciences, is elected as a foreign associate of the 150-year-old US National Academy of Sciences.
- Africa Month is celebrated, giving expression to the university's Afropolitan vision. This year commemorates the 50th anniversary of African Unity (in the form of the Organisation of African Unity, and its successor, the African Union).



Africa Month celebrations



President Barack Obama

## JUNE

- At the mid-year graduation, honorary doctorates are bestowed on South African icons Caiphus Semanya and Letta Mbulu, honouring their contributions to music and their role in the country's fight for democracy.
- The 2013 UCT Book Award is presented to Sonja Loots for her novel *Sirkusbaere*. The UCT Creative Works Award, recognising major creative works, goes to Assoc Prof Johann van der Schijff for his catalogue *Community Punching Bag*.
- US President Barack Obama delivers an historic address in UCT's Jameson Hall on 30 June. Obama walks in the footsteps of US Senator Robert Kennedy, who delivered his famous Day of Affirmation speech to the UCT community on 6 June 1966. Obama announces the US\$16 billion Power Africa scheme, to double the number of people in sub-Saharan Africa with access to power.
- The Baxter Theatre Centre's award-winning play *Mies Julie*, written and directed by Yael Farber, returns from a record-busting international tour to sell-out performances on home turf, having played to full houses at the Edinburgh Festival and in New York and London.
- UCT and the United Nations System Staff College sign a partnership to present the flagship UN Leaders' Programme at the Graduate School of Business in October 2013.

# JULY

- The inaugural WE-UCT July School opens, attracting students from more than 30 countries. It's the first such partnership between the London School of Economics and Political Science, and UCT. The university is the fifth institution globally to partner with the LSE in this way.
- Pitch-perfect voices and great stage presence blow away the Baxter Theatre Centre audience as Yale University's renowned collegiate *a cappella* group, the Whiffenpoofs, team up with the UCT Choir for a historic one-night performance.
- The UCT-led effort to find a single-dose cure for malaria is named 2012 Project of the Year by Medicines for the Malaria Venture. Prof Kelly Chibale, founder and director of the H3-D Drug Discovery and Development Centre at UCT, and his team receive the accolade at a malaria symposium.
- UCT hosts Africa's first urban and youth language conference, attracting 35 academics from 25 institutions in Africa, Europe and North America.



Prof Kelly Chibale and team

Second term address



Long service awards



Cecilia de Villiers

# AUGUST

- State-of-the-art patch clamping apparatus donated by world-leading neuroscientist Prof Henry Markram allows UCT researchers to 'listen in' on the brain's electrical communications. Patch clamping has revolutionised research in cellular and molecular biology and increased understanding of the brain's circuitry.
- Forty-five long-servers are honoured in stately Smuts Hall. Among them are Cecilia de Villiers (45 years), and four colleagues with 35 years on the clock at UCT. Twenty-seven staffers celebrated 15 years' service, and 13 marked 25 years.
- The annual two-performance Vice-Chancellor's Concert for staff and their families goes on show at the Baxter. The programme include a surprise pre-concert performance in the foyer by the School of Dance, and items by the UCT Choir and members of the South African College of Music.
- Using the same format as a TV talk show, Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price outlines his second term's plans in conversation with Judge Dennis Davis at the Baxter Theatre to an audience of staff and students. He sticks with the watchwords of redress, transformation, integrity, research excellence, and engaged citizenship.
- SHAWCO volunteers and staff are lauded for their efforts to improve the lives of others at a function to celebrate the organisation's 70th anniversary.

# SEPTEMBER

- In a special ceremony, UCT bestows a Doctor of Science in Engineering, *honoris causa*, on alumnus and 'giant of engineering science' Prof Klaus-Jürgen Bathe, in recognition of his contributions to the advancement of computational engineering mechanics.
- A patient at Groote Schuur Hospital is the first in the Western Cape to undergo surgery for a brain tumour using intra-operative fluorescence, a new technique that lights up the affected area of the brain. Pioneering UCT neurosurgeon Dr Sally Röthemeyer conducts the six-hour operation.
- Pink Week is launched by RainbowUCT, dominated by a pink closet on the Jammie Plaza encouraging people to write messages in support of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex rights.
- Dr Ashley Chin and other UCT-affiliated doctors tally up their eighth paediatric patient undergoing arrhythmia corrections at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, thanks to the provincial government's purchase of new radio frequency ablation equipment, advancing care for children with heart rhythm disease.
- New research by Dr Colin Attwood and colleagues shows that marine reserves improve fishing yields without disadvantaging artisanal fisheries. The paper harnesses 28 years of data collected by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and appears in *Nature Communications*, a scientific journal published by the Nature Publishing Group.



Dr Ashley Chin

## OCTOBER

- Chairperson of the African Union Commission Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma delivers the 14th Steve Biko Memorial Lecture to a packed Jameson Hall, outlining how – and why – Pan Africanism could help to create a prosperous and united African society.
- A first-of-its-kind study by the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention, UCT's Department of Psychology and the Gender, Health & Justice Research Unit, involving 10 000 adolescents, plans to strengthen child protection and care systems to make South African children safer.
- Free State University rector Jonathan Jansen says racism and bigotry should have no foothold at South African institutions and that universities must work towards that goal. He was speaking as a guest of the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment's Transformation Committee.
- UCT teams up with Ivy League Brown University to train a new cadre of HIV social scientists to provide sustainable interdisciplinary solutions to HIV/AIDS in South Africa, where one in six adults has HIV.
- All-rounder Alexandra Fuller scoops the Jamison Cup and UCT Sportsperson of the Year title. Fuller is a top-ranked squash player (seventh in the country), first-team hockey player and Athletics Club member.



Alexandra Fuller



Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma



Prof Ed Sturrock



Fellows' dinner

## NOVEMBER

- UCT scientists feature prominently in the Medical Research Council's merit awards: Emer Prof Eric Bateman (Lung Institute), receives a lifetime achievement award; Prof Keertan Dheda, (pulmonology) wins a gold medal; and Prof Kelly Chibale (chemistry) and Assoc Prof Graeme Meintjes (medicine) receive MRC Young Scientist Awards (silver medal).
- UCT researchers working with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research devise an innovative solution for uninterrupted video streaming on mobile devices in Africa, touted to change the face of mobile usage across the continent. Algorithms adjust quality to match available bandwidth.
- Oceanographer Dr Isabelle Ansoerge is part of an international team that deploys deep-sea data collection instruments in the Atlantic Ocean to tell oceanographers how ice-cap melt is affecting the nature and flow of water between the North and South Atlantic Oceans.
- A group of fourth-year medical students completes a study on the dangers of the hookah pipe, or hubbly bubbly. They find that the hookah masks a toxic cocktail of compounds (lead, arsenic, etc) and that sharing the pipe exposes users to herpes simplex, hepatitis and TB.
- Biomedical engineer Dr Sudesh Sivarasu develops a 'smart glove' to help leprosy patients in India protect their digits and hands from injury as a result of nerve damage and sensory loss. Globally there are 232 000 new leprosy cases annually.
- UCT alumni Devin de Vries and Chris Kind's free FindMyWay app is launched for smartphones, condensing information (route maps, departures, fares) about every mode of public transport in six major South African cities into one *mahala* application.
- Two new UCT Fellows are welcomed: Profs Carolyn Williamson and Ed Sturrock (both of clinical laboratory sciences), as well as four recipients of the College of Fellows; Young Researcher Awards: Dr Andrew Hamilton (physics); Assoc Prof Landon Myer (infectious diseases epidemiology); Amanda Tiffin (jazz); and Dr Digby Warner (infectious disease and molecular medicine).

## DECEMBER

- Final-year medical students enjoy traditional celebrations in the Barnard Fuller quad as pamphlets bearing the names of successful MBChB candidates stream from the balcony. (See front page story.)
- Thirteen graduation ceremonies kick off on 11 December as over 5 000 undergraduate and postgraduate students are capped following final examinations like this one in the Sports Centre, a popular exam venue.
- UCT bestows honorary degrees on entrepreneur Allan Gray and academics Profs Derek Yellon and Daniel Kunene.



Exam time



Results bash



# Distinguished teachers share their recipes

Four outstanding teachers are receiving Distinguished Teacher Awards at the December graduation ceremonies, marking the 32nd anniversary of the awards. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Sandra Klopper said the honour is “the highest accolade given to UCT lecturing staff in acknowledgement of the value we attach to teaching and learning in the university’s work”. Here are excerpts from the motivations for their respective awards.



**Dr Helen Macdonald (anthropology)**

**M**acdonald writes: “I am passionate about learning, and every day I am grateful to have followed Confucius’ directive: choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.”

Macdonald’s teaching portfolio and her students’ and colleagues’ comments all indicate clearly that she is as passionate about her teaching as she is about her discipline, anthropology. She is a demanding teacher who inculcates a love of learning. Even in large undergraduate classes, Macdonald has a keen awareness of each student’s individual needs.

Her dedication to ‘radical education’ stretches also to postgraduates, and she strives to ensure that the next generation of anthropologists will combine an excellent grasp of ideas and theory with a solid set of research practices, enabling them to compete internationally and to share her commitment to a transformative social justice agenda.

Macdonald’s head of department writes: “Dr Macdonald is, first and foremost, someone 100% present in her lectures, tutorials, individual student consultations and, in corridor talk with students, as an interlocutor.

“Over five years of course evaluations, she is consistently described as being ‘accessible’, which – if one reads more deeply into the evaluations – one senses means that she is always, always interested in what students bring to the table and that this interest gets seen, appreciated, and taken up.”

Among the substantial positive student affirmations about Macdonald’s teaching style, one student’s comment speaks volumes about her personality as an educator: “She creates an exchange relationship with students – she allows us the freedom to make teaching and learning choices, but she also expects us to take responsibility for the contributions we make... She shows students that she values their work. She motivates students and instils in them the desire to achieve, not just at the postgraduate level, but from an undergraduate level.” ■

**Dr Hedley Twidle (English language & literature)**

**A** PhD candidate in the Department of English Language and Literature described herself as being ‘blown away for a full 40 minutes in a lecture given by Hedley Twidle, as he shared with his class ideas about the relationship between language, choice and consciousness.

She goes on to say: “He brought Nietzsche, Tolstoy, Jacob Zuma and a poem about an alien, knitting all these references together towards what felt to me like a revelation of sorts. Indeed I noticed around me many of those little ‘um’s’ and ‘ah’s’ and nods that invariably attend the rare moments when an audience is being authentically inspired.”

Twidle works with students at all levels, from first-year undergraduates to PhDs, and is also involved in the department’s MA in Creative Writing. Reflecting on what it means to teach English literature (or rather, literature in English) from a place like Cape Town, he suggests that this should be “a fluid and evolving thing: a practice that weaves continually between practical and theoretical, critical and creative, seriousness and lightness, private and public, work and play”.

He was instrumental in reimagining the first-year curriculum, and in enhancing the training programme for graduate tutors. He’s described as part of the core of the department, and on the pulse of student culture, which says much about the impression he’s made in his short time at UCT.

His teaching portfolio speaks of his energy and commitment as a teacher: and his creative and inspiring curriculum development, as well as his ability to take an intellectual lead and inspire confidence in students, so allowing them to feel valued and safe, but also challenged and intellectually adventurous.

Twidle is credited with stirring a sense of inspiration in anxious and uncertain first-years. He reminds them that to be intellectually engaged is to be involved in a war against cliché: against the use of careless and desensitised language that leaves one blind to the diverse perceptions, opinions, experience and existences of others. He attempts to show that literary studies is about far more than analysing novels and poems for exam purposes: it is concerned with the medium of all our thinking: language – something that is mobile, dangerous, unpredictable, miraculous. ■



**Paul Maughan (College of Accounting)**

**M**aughan was one of the main drivers behind the introduction of a capstone course, Business Analysis and Governance, for undergraduate students in the Chartered Accounting stream. It was designed in response to the introduction of a new competency framework by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants to enhance pervasive skills, or what UCT refers to as “graduate attributes”.

The head of the college called the course an “outstanding success” and said that in his 20 years at UCT he’d never seen undergraduate students engage in the way they had to any single course. The success was attributed to Maughan’s ability to challenge students to deal with the real business world, and to encourage them to participate by using a variety of novel teaching methodologies. These included a merger and acquisition project in which groups competed against each other; a JSE share trading competition using real companies as case studies for exams; and the explicit promotion of pervasive skills within the course.

The course’s success was capped by excellent student evaluations. During the final lecture, in which winning teams gave an ‘Idols-style’ presentation, Maughan was given a standing ovation by the 2012 class.

Maughan’s teaching philosophy is underpinned by a fundamental insight: Ken Bain’s view that effective teaching results in deep learning, and that this is best achieved through the disruption of existing mental models.

If students can be quickly confronted by the fact that they do not have the necessary mental models to deal with a scenario, they are more receptive to learning, and more likely to retain that enhanced mental model. Maughan teaches his students that it’s not only necessary to learn the tools related to finance and accounting, but also to have an awareness of the tools that other disciplines offer.

He is lauded as an excellent teacher with an ability to influence students beyond the classroom. One student wrote of Maughan: “Teaching isn’t just being able to give out content; for me it’s a lecturer who is able to stir me up to learn, read, and have a passion for learning more, and Paul exhibits all these qualities.” ■



**Dr Ian-Malcolm Rijsdijk (film and media studies)**

**R**ijsdijk is described as an inspirational teacher of film studies, film production and screen-writing. His energy, enthusiasm and deep generosity and passion for and encyclopaedic knowledge of the medium of cinema have captivated a generation of students. Rijsdijk has succeeded in giving them the tools necessary to engage critically with film.

“While students pursue the ‘right’ answers in essays and exams,” Rijsdijk writes, “I believe that what is more important than the answers are the questions asked... I tell my first-years in the first lecture that by the end of the course – even if they don’t continue to study film – they will be the smartest people in the room, not because they are cool and can make in-jokes about cult movies, but because they will have the tools to critically engage with the inundation of visual communication which they encounter every day.”

Rijsdijk inspires in small-group settings as well as in his large lecture classes. His screenwriting students are nurtured and encouraged to find their creative voices with his characteristic blend of firmness and kindness; his postgraduate teaching is likewise energised by what a colleague describes as “his characteristic mix of inventiveness and intelligence”.

Students are enchanted by his lectures, “fast-paced, action-packed affairs,” a former student writes, “moving deftly between a startlingly broad range of disciplines, drawing with ease from an unimaginably vast mental library of pop culture and high theory. Rijsdijk can link Friedrich Nietzsche to Han Solo in a single lecture and still have time for questions. Nobody explains films like Ian Rijsdijk”.

Rijsdijk’s connection with, and influence on, his students continues well beyond their UCT years, into their careers in the film industry. As one up-and-coming director declares, “there is absolutely no way that my career could have blossomed in such a way without my degree from UCT and the sage mentorship of Dr Ian-Malcolm Rijsdijk, who, to this day, still remains an important advisor in my work. This after all must be the surest sign of good teaching: when a teacher remains a friend long after the final assignment was handed in.” ■

# Hats off to the best student leaders

University life prepares students not only to be competent in their chosen field, but to be effective contributors to society, leading thought and action for the betterment of all. Student leadership, while keeping up with academic commitments, may be a whirlwind of tight schedules and bureaucracy, but it has a history of forging resilient mentors and teachers. The most outstanding student leaders at UCT over the past year were honoured at the Student Leadership Awards held on 15 October.



**Saadiq Moolla:** *The Deputy Vice-Chancellor's Student Leader Award*  
President of SHAWCO

Health and a final-year MBChB student, Moolla was described as a consistent and essential member of the SHAWCO Health team since joining as a volunteer in 2009. He became head of clinics in 2012 and attended 65 clinics in the process. Under his leadership, the Health team has launched a huge number of successful pilot projects aimed at improving the health and well-being of vulnerable communities around the Cape Peninsula.

Moolla is on the Dean's Merit list for 2013 and has class medals under his belt. He was hailed for encouraging teamwork and providing opportunities for the team to promote the vision of UCT both internally and externally.

**Township Debating League:** *Most Outstanding Team in Student Development*

Operating in 20 schools across Cape Town, the Township Debating League was praised for its role in developing critical-thinking skills in learners at under-resourced schools. The 75 learners participating under its banner at the Western Cape Debating Provincials excelled, and held their own against some of the city's best-resourced private schools.

**UCT Surgical Society:** *Most Outstanding Society Executive*

One of the biggest and most active societies on the campus, the UCT Surgical Society has been described as embodying the world-class, Afropolitan vision that UCT strives to achieve. The society hosted numerous workshops during the year, including the first annual

Top Knife competition. This pitted some of the top student surgeons against each other as they strove to complete surgical challenges most accurately, with prizes on offer for the 'top knives'. In addition, the society took part in the planning of the first Southern African Students Surgical Symposium, hosted by the University of the Witwatersrand. The leadership of the society was described as "outstanding; not only is it ambitious, but is also pro-transformational".

**Rehana Odendaal and Koketso Rammutla:** *Executive Director's Student Leader Award:*

Odendaal, chairperson of the Humanities Student Council, and Rammutla, chairperson of the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment's Student Council, shared this award, with the selection panel deeming both equally worthy of this recognition. Rammutla was praised for his humility and ethical leadership. His citation noted that his ability to see the potential in others was clear from his outstanding work as a mentor in the faculty, and as a mentor for UCT's 100Up programme. He is also the chairperson of a non-profit organisation which provides academic and leadership support to local schools.



Odendaal is described as truly embodying the ideals of "servant leadership" and as a "caring person with a deep social conscience". A former chairperson of the History and Current Affairs Society, Odendaal is also active outside the university, serving as an organiser for the InkuluFreeHeid movement.

**Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment Student Council:** *Most Outstanding Team in Student Media*

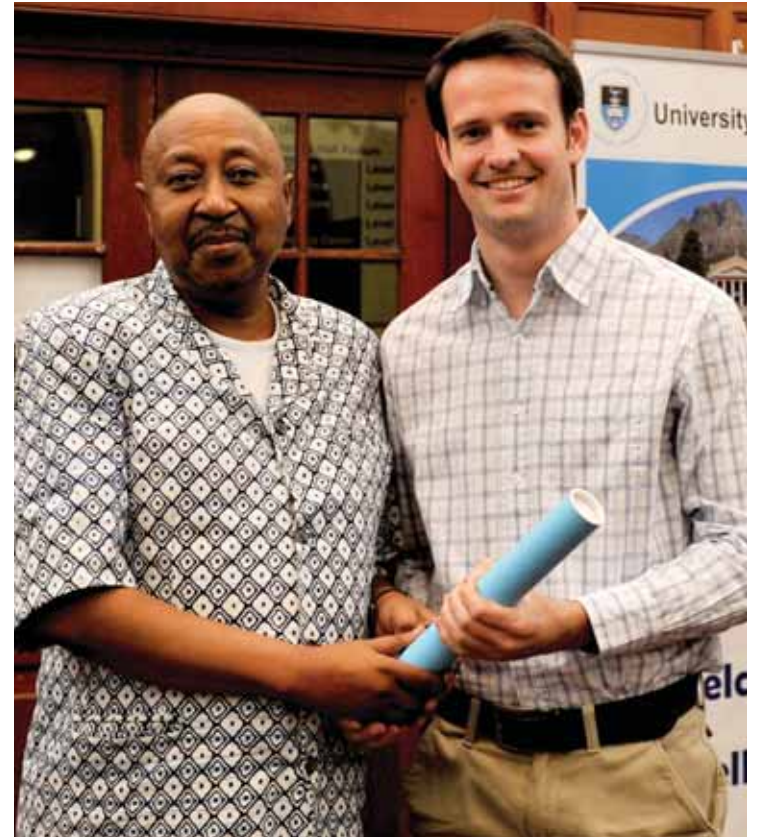
The EBE council was praised for producing an annual publication of quality and exceptional content. The media team creates a publication, called *OnSite*, which is described as "professional in layout, design and content". Despite producing a magazine that served only a portion of the university's student body, the team actively looked beyond the faculty, and featured content that was aimed at the broader UCT community. They were also commended for sourcing their own funding.

**Faculty of Humanities Student Council:** *Most Outstanding Undergraduate Student Faculty Council*

This faculty council overcame the tragic death of one of its members, and the sudden resignation of two more, to excel at consultative leadership within its constituency. In addition to organising a health and wellness fair that was open to the entire UCT community, the council went beyond the call of duty in arranging a number of socially responsive activities during its tenure.

**Faculty of Law:** *Most Outstanding Postgraduate Student Council*

The Faculty of Law Student Council went to great lengths to ensure the comfort of the students it served, organising orientation and welcoming events for newly-registered postgraduate students, as well as a thesis boot camp where students could focus on their writing skills. They also arranged numerous team-building exercises, including a hike up Lion's Head. The council launched a seminar series to encourage students to present research papers, after which discussions were held to help students improve their work.



**Lorne Hallendorff:** *The Vice-Chancellor's Student Leader Award* Hallendorff, president of the 2012/2013 Students' Representative Council, received this award for the second year in a row. Hallendorff was acclaimed for working to improve the visibility of his team, for policy work, for ensuring that there were regular reviews and planning sessions, and for his role in creating SRC working groups that encouraged teamwork among council members.

Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, lauded Hallendorff for his role in developing the "game-changing" 2014 Tuition Fee Proposal, which had been so thoroughly prepared before being presented to the University Council that "all the kinks had been ironed out".

**Emma Selfe and Daniel Sive:** *The Kerry Capstick-Dale Student Leadership Award*

Selfe excelled as the fundraising co-ordinator for the 2012/2013 SRC and was described as "resilient, and responded very well to challenges she faced". Selfe, having been given the fundraising portfolio despite neither campaigning for nor desiring it, was praised for her understanding that a leader's responsibility was to "provide an excellent service to one's constituency, regardless of position", and raised thousands of rands for student coffers. Sive, meanwhile, served as the chairperson for UCT RAG in 2012/2013. Boasting a proven track record of excellence in leadership and academics, he played a

significant role in improving the synergy between his organisation and the SRC; and, as part of the UCT soccer management committee, he assisted with the setting up of the inaugural Varsity Football Cup. Sive was hailed for serving with humility on various student leadership committees on campus.

**Rebecca Ilunga:** *The Ackerman Family Foundation Student Leader Award*

Ilunga was lauded for managing to exceed expectations as both a student and a leader. Her academic prowess was noted, including her membership of the Golden Key Society and the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation. ■

## 2012/2013 Students' Representative Council: UCT Student Team of the year

Caps were doffed for the 2012/2013 SRC's initiatives, such as the mobile SRC office. They were also praised for widely consulting students through channels such as the Student Assembly. This in turn informed the SRC's constructive contributions to debates – such as whether or not to hold Friday and Saturday exams, and the annual fee deliberation. The outgoing SRC was also fêted for its work on policy development and for concerted efforts to catalyse student involvement in key debates of national and international interest.



# Honorary doctorates for pioneering entrepreneur, cardiologist and linguist

The December graduation week will see UCT bestow high academic honours – in the form of degrees awarded *honoris causa* – to entrepreneur Allan Gray, and academics Professors Derek Yellon and Daniel Kunene. Below are excerpts from their citations.

## Professor Daniel Kunene, Doctor of Literature (*honoris causa*), 13 December

**K**unene is a renowned literary figure and scholar in the fields of translation and critical appraisal of African literature. Through his translations he has contributed to exposing African culture to the rest of the world.

His nomination recognises his contribution towards preserving the African tradition and promoting it to a wider audience.

In 1981 Heinemann published Kunene's warmly received new translation of Thomas Mofolo's Sesotho novel *Chaka*, first translated by FH Dutton in 1931. Kunene's translation was well received and has now been re-published by Waveland Press in the US (2010).

CLS Nyembezi's 1950 isiZulu novel *Mntanami! Mntanami! (My Child! My Child!)* was another of Kunene's translation ventures from isiZulu to English, for which he was awarded the Karel Čapek Medal in 2010.

He has used his own prose and poetry in opposition

to apartheid in South Africa, demonstrating with great subtlety the multifaceted relationships between individual and community in African society, especially those societies affected by colonialism and apartheid.

His pioneering work on heroic praise poetry explores how heroism is defined and expressed in praise poems, and charts the manner in which praise names are conferred.

Kunene has also contributed to African literature in his work on the stylistic features of various oral forms in use in Sesotho, and the function of the ideophone in narrative or poetry.

He started his teaching career at UCT, his alma mater, in 1954, and has since taught African literature at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), the University of London; the University of Wisconsin at Madison; and Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany, finally choosing Wisconsin as his permanent academic home.



## Allan Gray, Doctor of Economic Sciences (*honoris causa*), 13 December

**I**t is very tempting to focus simply on what is publicly known about Gray as the basis of his meriting an honorary degree from the University of Cape Town. First, that he is arguably the most successful self-made South African businessman; and secondly, that he is an enormously generous philanthropist who has consistently supported higher education.

However, Gray is also an innovative visionary. Born in East London in 1938, Gray has become a global player – indeed, his business interests are run out of Bermuda where he lives for much of the year and heads up international organisations with a world-wide reach.

Yet, far from forgetting his roots, he returns to South Africa nearly every year, and this is where his visionary approach is really manifested in a number of innovative ways. Essentially, he believes firmly that the encouragement of and support for entrepreneurship is

crucial for the future of a prosperous South Africa, for all its people.

To that end, in 1979 he and his wife founded the Allan and Gill Gray Charitable Trust, and in 2005 the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation was established to provide young South African individuals of potential with skills, attitudes and motivation to become responsible and successful entrepreneurs. This is his practical application of his vision to make a sustainable long-term contribution to Southern Africa.

Although he was not an alumnus of UCT – his undergraduate study was at Rhodes, and he then achieved an MBA at Harvard – UCT has been an important recipient of his financial and intellectual contribution to education and research in connection with his vision. (He also has two sons and a daughter who studied at UCT.)

## Professor Derek Yellon, Doctor of Science (*honoris causa*), 16 December

**Y**ellon is a leading cardiovascular scientist whose work on myocardial protection has provided fundamental insights into the way the heart responds to the deprivation of blood supply, as seen during an acute myocardial infarction.

For the past 25 years he has pioneered this field, and has led studies that span the range of scientific endeavour from laboratory to clinical settings. His work is now being translated into patient care; and if large clinical studies presently under way succeed, interventions based on his discoveries will become routine in coronary-artery bypass surgery.

Yellon has had strong links to UCT since 1997. His efforts were pivotal to the initiation and establishment of the Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa and the long-standing collaboration between University College London and UCT. The Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa has enabled a wide range of research activities to be carried out at UCT under the auspices of the institute concept.

Yellon has been co-director of the annual Cardiology at the Limits meeting, a joint venture between UCT's and the University College London's Hatter Cardiovascular Institutes.

He has published more than

450 full papers, edited 22 books and has an h-index of 76 (an h-index is one that attempts to measure both the productivity and the impact of a scientist or scholar's work). He is internationally respected as an educator and academic mentor.

The honorary degree recognises his distinguished basic and clinical research into the mechanisms underlying the phenomena of myocardial ischaemic-reperfusion injury and cardio-protection. It also acknowledges his significant contribution to molecular research and cardiovascular medicine through his establishment of the Hatter Cardiovascular Institutes at UCL and UCT.



# Farewell to 2013



**Editor:**  
Tanya Farber

**Acting production editor:**  
Chris Mitchell

**Designer:**  
Zwelibanzi Damba

**Writers:**  
Helen Swingler  
Abigail Calata  
Yusuf Omar

**Freelance proofreader:**  
Dave Buchanan

**Photographers:**  
Michael Hammond  
Raymond Botha

**Subscriptions, advertising, deliveries:**  
Ads-MondayPaper@uct.ac.za

**News leads:**  
newsdesk@uct.ac.za

**General info:**  
021 650 5816