

# MONDAY MONTHLY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 2015





## editorial



Photo by Michael Hammond

## PULSE OF A NEW DAY

**It's the season of change.** There's a tinge of orange left above Devil's Peak at 6pm, some oak trees threaten to sprout new leaves, and the first-year cohort are now veterans of their first full semester at university.

And change is afoot around campus in a big way. Two buildings have already been renamed – look right for more about that.

Since 1 August, Professor Anwar Mall of the Faculty of Health Sciences has sat in the administrative seat of the university in Bremner Building. Mall will act as Deputy Vice-Chancellor from 1 September. He fills a gap left by one of the university's stalwarts, Professor Crain Soudien, who bids farewell to his DVC duties on 31 August.

Soudien's 42-year UCT tenure has seen him make pivotal contributions to understanding and undoing the nuts and bolts of social inequality, in his capacity as professor of education and African studies, and as the deputy vice-chancellor responsible for transformation. *Monday Monthly* spoke to him on the cusp of his step towards the Human Sciences Research Council, where he will continue to enrich debates about racism, sexism and their fellows from the director's chair.

One of the 'everyday' sexism that has lingered since the dark ages is the idea that some women are 'spoken for'. In lieu of August Women's Month, we've decided to rest our pens and let the women of UCT speak for themselves. *Monday Monthly* caught up with women from around the university, be they in academic offices, PASS departments or the in the often 'invisible' Supercare uniforms. We asked what lessons they'd learned from their mothers and grandmothers.

Some of the issues raised in these interviews are unpacked by Dr Nadia Sanger on page 10, who lectures part-time in gender studies at UCT.

## IN THIS ISSUE



Page 6 Women's voices



Page 10 Feminist debate



Page 12 Rock the hill

## SIGNS ARE CHANGING WITH THE TIMES

**Quinn Slobodian, author of *Foreign Front: Third World Politics in Sixties West Germany*, wrote of West Germany's "own#RhodesMustFall moment".**

On the *Africa is a Country* blog, Slobodian recalled how West German students tore down monuments to colonial leaders Hans Dominik and Hermann von Wissmann that stood in front of Hamburg University in September 1967.

One of the first causes the "previously apathetic" German students championed was South Africa, at the time under the jackboot of the apartheid regime. This newfound consciousness, says Slobodian, was partly because of one Dr Neville Alexander, a student who had completed a PhD at Germany's University of Tübingen in 1961, and around whom his West German colleagues rallied.

Alexander, who had spent six years at UCT earning undergraduate and master's degrees, was to return to South Africa after the Sharpeville Massacre in March that year to oppose the political system. He soon raised the ire of the then National Party (NP) by involving himself with movements such as the National Liberation Front, which he co-founded.

UCT will hold an official renaming ceremony that will usher in the Neville Alexander Building to the space once called the Graduate School of Humanities. Signage has already been erected. A colloquium will also be held in the Centre of African Studies Gallery on UCT's Upper Campus, where the library will exhibit much of Alexander's writing.

Alexander established the Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa at UCT in 1992, which he directed until shortly before his passing, and was an influential writer, notably on education and post-apartheid language policy.

Before teaching sociology and education at UCT, which he commenced part-time in 1979, Alexander spent 1964 to 1974 jailed on Robben Island for his anti-apartheid activities. His book, *One Azania, One Nation: The National Question in South Africa*, remains a seminal rebuttal of the NP's take on 'race' and 'nation'.

The university will in due course announce details about officially renaming another of its buildings, the Arts Block, which is now called the AC Jordan Building, in memory of the pioneering black scholar.

**Manager, Newsroom and Publications:** Chris Mitchell

**Head, Newsroom and Publications:** Judith Browne

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

**Photographer:** Michael Hammond

**Designer:** Sean Robertson

**Proofreader:** Dave Buchanan

## FAREWELL TO THE 'EVERYWHERE MAN'

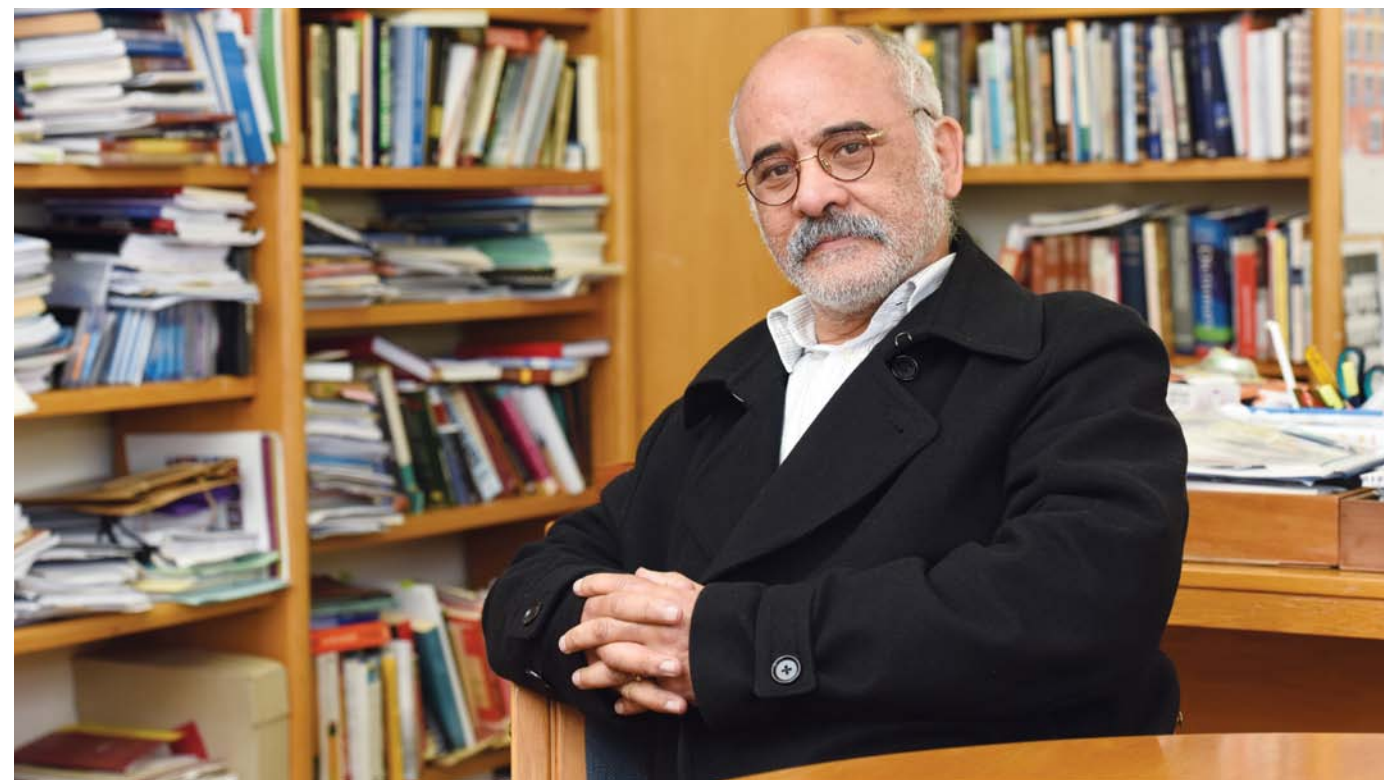
It's been a career defined by the 'politics of belonging' for outgoing Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Crain Soudien. In this interview with *Monday Monthly* he talks about his first day at UCT 42 years ago and what it feels like to be caught in the middle of some of the hottest debates on campus.

Story by Yusuf Omar  
Photo by Michael Hammond

**"Yes, it has been very strange,"** says Soudien of leaving UCT at the end of August.

In September, Soudien takes up his position as the newly appointed CEO of the Human Sciences Research Council in Pretoria, bringing to a close a significant chapter of his life at UCT that started some 42 years ago.

Soudien, a recognised authority on education and social inequality, has been Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Transformation and Student Affairs since 2009. He held joint professorships in Education and African Studies and chaired the Ministerial Review Committee into Transformation in Higher Education that produced what became known as the 'Soudien Report'.



Professor Crain Soudien leaves UCT at the end of August to take up a position at the Human Sciences Research Council in Pretoria.

## "EVERYWHERE IS HOME"

But Soudien had begun grappling with issues of injustice and education long before he enrolled as an undergraduate student at UCT in 1973 or joined the Faculty of Education in 1988. At the time, just deciding where to study was a "political choice", he points out.

Raised in Johannesburg and having been schooled in the UK, he refused to attend an "apartheid institution" like the University of Durban-Westville. With the advice of his father, he chose UCT from a range of options, among them Roma in Lesotho and universities in the UK.

He cites Edward Said, the late postcolonial literary critic who wrote extensively on the politics of exile and belonging.

"For most of my life as a sociologist, I've tried to live according to the Said ideal of 'everywhere being home'... and I make the argument myself that I, as a human being, need to consciously think of everywhere as part of my commitment and responsibility, my connectedness to life."

He vividly recalls his first day at UCT, when he was introduced to what became his favourite space. "The taxi drops me at the foot of Jammie Steps [there was no plaza back then] and I get out into this mass of young people. That was a memorable moment for me arriving as a stranger to Cape Town into that environment."

University Avenue brings back "very nostalgic memories" of how he had to find his place on the campus, but he was also acutely aware that he came as a "privileged person" whose political education had begun in Johannesburg's "liberal anti-apartheid community".

It was along that avenue that people like Roy Gentle – whom he describes as having been "more politically sophisticated" than himself – formed the core of an environment that Soudien says was unconditional in its demand "for all of us to express our full dignity as human beings".

"We were living in a politically subjugated space, [but] the disenfranchisement of people such as myself didn't reproduce itself in my kind of psychologies."

## NOT QUITE A MIDDLEMAN

Soudien has been at the coalface of many seminal moments for education in South Africa, from the 1976 Soweto Uprising to the 'Mamdani affair' at UCT in the late 1990s which sparked a transformation debate of its own.

At the time, Professor Mahmood Mamdani held the AC Jordan chair in the Centre for African Studies. A dispute between himself and members of a curriculum planning committee about what should be taught on the course ultimately led to his very public departure from UCT.

How did something like the Mamdani affair affect what Soudien did at the university?

"It was personally complicated for me because I knew all of the people involved, and I had personal relationships with all of the people involved."

No stranger at being caught in the middle of such points of conflict and tension, Rhodes Must Fall is a more recent example of a similar scenario.

"It's about being in the middle of something which is not a cut-and-dried politics of positioning, where it's clear on (either) side," Soudien says. "And this is important stuff to

talk about. Historically I land up in situations where I have both political and, if you like, organisational relationships, that in the heat of the moment would... be understood as being in the middle."

Soudien again references Said: "I don't belong to anybody, right? I don't belong to any group; I don't feel a kind of atavistic sense in a primordial way that I owe blood loyalty to anything or to anybody."

## HAS UCT CHANGED SINCE 1973?

"We were on campus at difficult times," he says. He and his contemporaries couldn't easily join the campus clubs and societies, but the students they associated with made the point that they hadn't come to UCT to

participate in the kind of extramural activities that "diminished our sense of humanity ... we boycotted them deliberately".

Of course they were interested in student politics and student life, but knew that this too involved the "politics of complicity".

One might be critical of the 1994 settlement, but it opened access to the political machinery and governance structures, Soudien says. "Students now have an unfettered right to [these structures] in a way we didn't; we were not allowed to, and that's the major difference."

Soudien remains an Emeritus Professor so he hopes to retain regular contact with the university.

"But it will be strange not having an office here..."

## POSTSCRIPT FROM A CONFIDANTE

As personal assistant, Jenny Boyes enjoyed close working relationships with deputy vice-chancellors Professor Crain Soudien, during his recent Bremner tenure, and the late Professor Martin West, with whom she worked for 17 years.

Boyes, who leaves UCT on early retirement at the end of 2015, says: "This has been a tough year, but I've been very lucky. Both (Soudien and West) have been the most wonderful people to work with."

Boyes has been at UCT since 1986 when she worked with former Vice-Chancellor Dr Stuart Saunders, and

has seen her share of turmoil on campus, especially during the 1980s.

Speaking of Soudien, her most recent boss, she says: "He has taught me an awful lot about a lot of issues. Crain particularly, as far as humanity goes, and his care for – what would you say – the underdog? That's where his passion is – with education, inequality and anything to do with the protection of the human race, I've just found him amazing."

She points to his crammed desk: "As you can see, he gives his all to his job, hence the office being rather crowded with papers and books!"

## MONDAY MONTHLY

*Monday Monthly* started out in 1982 as a weekly staff newsletter. Since then, it's grown into a monthly publication covering a broad variety of campus life – from research, to student initiatives, to human interest. If you have an interesting perspective on the university, or a great story to tell (whether in words, pictures or any other medium), mail us at [newsdesk@uct.ac.za](mailto:newsdesk@uct.ac.za). If you're looking to advertise in the classifieds, or subscribe to our mailing list, drop us a line at [Ads-MondayPaper@uct.ac.za](mailto:Ads-MondayPaper@uct.ac.za). For general information, contact Sharifa Martin at 021 650 5816.

[uct.ac.za](http://uct.ac.za)

[@UCT\\_news](https://twitter.com/UCT_news)

[facebook.com/uct.ac.za](https://facebook.com/uct.ac.za)

[youtube.com/UCTSouthAfrica](https://youtube.com/UCTSouthAfrica)

[uct.ac.za/newsletter-subscribe](http://uct.ac.za/newsletter-subscribe)



# WOMEN IN



What is the demographic profile of women in South Africa? What is their average age and where do most work? How many are formally employed? And what are the prevalent diseases that kill South African women? Looking at UCT with a smaller lens, what are the significant numbers attached to women at UCT? How many are students and PASS staff and how many employed as teachers, lecturers and researchers? This snapshot gives us a 'macro' and 'micro' glimpse of some telling national and institutional tallies.

Compiled by Yusuf Omar and Abigail Calata

## South African women in numbers

MEAN WAGES:  
**R1796.80**  
a month



WOMEN  
UNEMPLOYED:  
**64.3%**



WOMEN  
EMPLOYED:  
**35.7%**

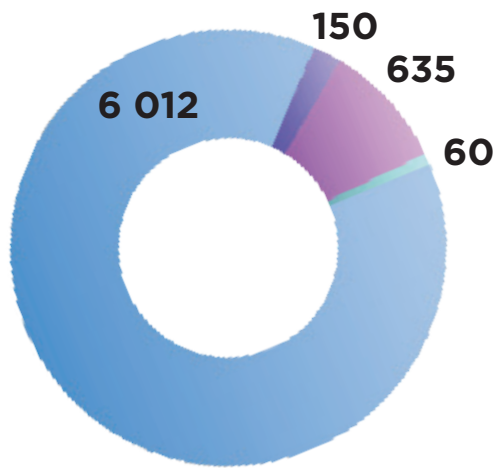


**6%** Female learners between the ages of 15 and 19 are 6% less likely to be enrolled in school than males in that age group.

SOURCE: Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit. National Income Dynamics Study 2012, Wave 3 [dataset]. Version 1.2. Cape Town: Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit [producer], 2013. Cape Town: DataFirst [distributor], 2013.

### What jobs do women do?

Sample size: 6 858 (in thousands)



Employee  
Employer  
Own-account worker  
Unpaid household member

Manager	Professional	Technician	Clerk	Elementary
383	386	785	1 214	1 521
Sales and services	Craft and related trade	Plant and machine operator	Skilled agriculture	Domestic worker
1 200	190	182	25	971

SOURCE: Statistics South Africa. Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 2, 2015 Accessed from: [www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0211/P02112ndQuarter2015.pdf](http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0211/P02112ndQuarter2015.pdf)

## WHAT THE CONSTITUTION PROMISES WOMEN

Women's rights to life, dignity and privacy are well protected by the country's progressive Constitution, says Associate Professor Waheeda Amien (Department of Public Law). But it's particularly Section 9, the equality clause, that affords women specific protection against all forms of unfair discrimination. The law scholar takes a brief look at sections of the Constitution that have broadened political and civil freedom for women.

Compiled by Helen Swingler

**Section 9**, the **equality** clause, is far-reaching, prohibiting unfair discrimination on the grounds of gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, and sexual orientation.

**Section 11**, the right to life, affects issues such as domestic violence and femicide.

**Section 12** concerns **freedom and security of the person** and the sub-section that applies specifically to women is 12(1)(c), which says everyone has the right to be free from all forms of violence from either public or private sources. 12(2) says everyone has the right to bodily and psychological

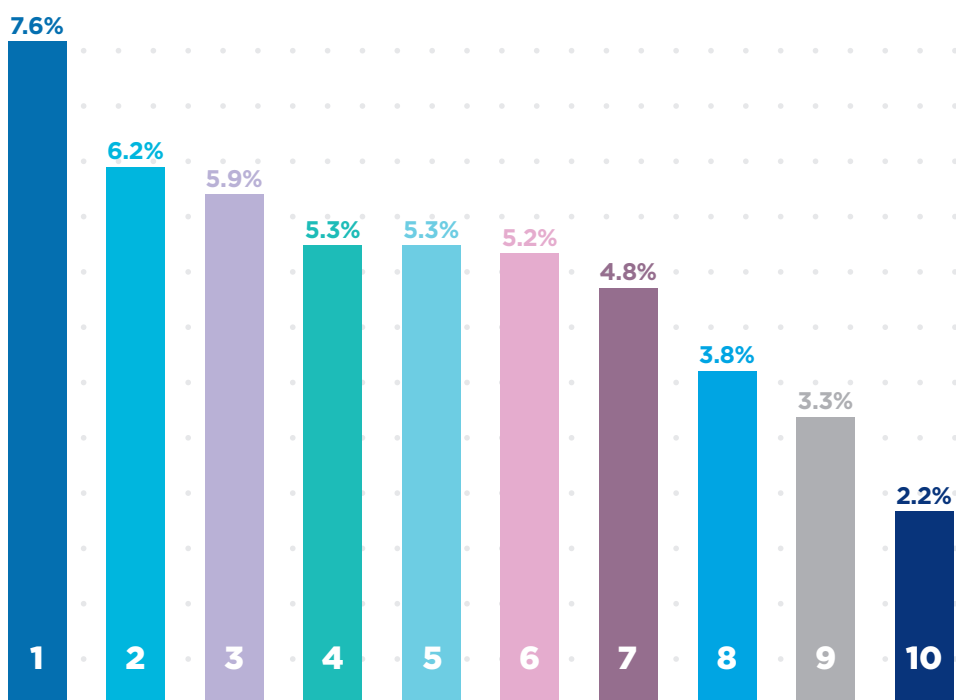
integrity, which includes a woman's right to make decisions concerning reproduction and to security in and control over her body.

**Section 15** guarantees the individual's **freedom of religion, belief and opinion**. Section 15(3)(a)(i) and (ii) enables government to enact legislation to recognise either marriages or systems of personal law that are concluded under any religion or tradition. "But it also includes a rider in Section 15(3)(b), that: recognition in terms of paragraph (a) must be consistent with this section and other provisions of the Constitution. The Constitution says if you're going to enact law to recognise marriages

# NUMBERS



## THE TEN LEADING UNDERLYING NATURAL CAUSES OF DEATH FOR FEMALES, 2013



### RANK CAUSES OF DEATH

1	Tuberculosis	16 582
2	Diabetes mellitus	13 484
3	Cerebrovascular diseases	12 920
4	Human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] disease	11 481
5	Influenza and pneumonia	11 480
6	Other forms of heart disease	11 399
7	Hypertensive diseases	10 388
8	Intestinal infectious diseases	8 259
9	Other viral diseases	7 102
10	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	4 757

**SOURCE:** Statistics South Africa. Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2013: Findings from death notification. Accessed from: [www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P03093/P030932013.pdf](http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P03093/P030932013.pdf)

## UCT WOMEN IN NUMBERS

What percentage of permanent, full-time academics are women? (2014 stats)

ACADEMIC RANK	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
Professor	50 22%	177 78%	227 100%
Assoc Professor	97 41%	137 59%	234 100%
Senior Lecturer	157 41%	184 59%	341 100%
Lecturer	155 59%	109 41%	264 100%
Junior Lecturer	3 60%	2 40%	5 100%
All academic staff	462 43%	609 57%	1071 100%

**SOURCE:** HEMIS 2014

## WHAT PERCENTAGE OF UCT STAFF ARE WOMEN? (2014 STATS)

SECTOR	F	M	TOTAL
Academic	462 43%	609 57%	1071 100%
PASS	1393 62%	843 38%	2236 100%
All staff	1855 56%	1452 44%	3307 100%

or personal law systems founded in religion or tradition, it can't violate among others, women's rights enshrined in the Bill of Rights."

**Section 30** protects an individual's right to use her **language** and participate in the **cultural life** of her choice. **Section 31** recognises the collective right of members of a cultural, religious or linguistic community to among others, enjoy their culture, practise their religion and use their language in association with each other. In both instances, the Constitution requires that these individual and collective rights not be exercised in a way that infringes other rights in the Bill of Rights, inclusive of gender and sex equality.

"What's important," says Amien, "is that the Bill of Rights doesn't just place obligations on the state to respect, protect, promote or fulfil rights. It also has what we call 'horizontal' application, which creates obligations between individuals.

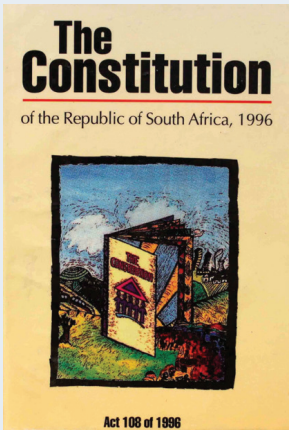
"This has important ramifications in the private sphere, particularly regarding the kinds of abuse women suffer. The Constitution says that it's not just the state that has an obligation to ensure we're able to live fulfilled lives, but that we have an obligation to each other to do that."

"Government has made an attempt to give effect, through legislation, to protect women's rights. For example, the Domestic Violence

Act offers remedies to survivors of domestic violence and the Sexual Offences Act has reformed the law relating to sexual offences.

In addition, the Civil Union Act enables same-sex couples to access the same benefits that couples in civil marriages enjoy.

"It's also important to note that South Africa is a signatory to a host of international conventions and treaties," added Amien. "In particular, we have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which commits the country to incorporating provisions of the international treaty into its own legislation."





WOMEN'S VOICES

# LESSONS AND WISH LISTS

In celebration of Women's Month, senior psychology lecturer Dr Shose Kessi, below right, and her daughter Kinè Mokwena-Kessi (17), left, shed light on how values are passed from one generation of women to the next. We also asked members of the UCT community to reflect on what they have learnt from their mothers and grandmothers, and what they would wish for their daughters.



Photo supplied

INTERGENERATIONAL LESSONS

**SHOSE KESSI**  
Department of Psychology

I am glad to be a woman in 2015.

Throughout the world women are the ones who instigate meaningful changes in society. Community building is at the centre of what it means to be human, and women in 2015 are at the forefront of social and political life.

My mother and grandmother came from completely different walks of life: One is white and middle-class, the other African from a small village in the Kilimanjaro region. Navigating

these vastly different spaces has made me the person I am today.

My mother was very principled and unwavering in her commitment to helping others. I remember her as always calm, thoughtful, and insightful. I only knew my paternal grandmother; a strong woman who gave birth to nine children (one out of wedlock – my father) and raised many more. She was very strict and people feared her. But like my mother, she knew the value of discipline and principles. Both these women were grounded, courageous and self-confident, which equipped them to break the boundaries of what was considered acceptable behaviour in very different but conservative cultures. From these two women, I have learnt to be strong and respect others in all their diversity – and inspire fear when necessary.

I am grateful for the many sacrifices made by women who have enabled us to enjoy the freedoms we now have. However, there is still much that needs to change. High levels of physical, emotional, symbolic and structural violence against women still exist in our societies. My wish is that my daughter/our daughters can explore their lives to their fullest and not be constrained by oppressive patriarchal norms.

“Throughout the world, women are the ones who instigate meaningful changes in society.”  
**SHOSE KESSI**

Curated by Abigail Calata,  
Yusuf Omar and Helen Swingler

My daughter Kinè should be free to speak her mind, be bold, live wherever she chooses, love whomever she chooses, and go through life with respect for herself and others. My hope is that I have given her some of the tools to do just that.

WOMANHOOD IN CONTEXT

**KINÈ MOKWENA-KESSI**

Being a woman in 2015 is akin to being a schizophrenic. I am not the same person legging it down the daunting streets of Johannesburg, as I am meandering around the pavements in London, or shuffling along the dusty roads in Dar es Salaam. Womanhood is contextual and to be a woman is to have multiple personae you carry with you, like weapons you readily wield to shield yourself.

I recognise, as do most women, that if there were ever a time to be a woman it would be now. Just think, as a barely legal young woman 60 years ago, chances are, I would be whittling away amid dull domestic incarceration, having already shoved out my third child to a man my father's age. Now, my most pressing issue is where I go to university, which is again not a reality for scores of women across the globe.

Navigating a world in which we women fight to be free in thought, in speech, in action is as thrilling as it is vexing. Yet, it is precisely this complex balance between deep hardships and intoxicating victories in becoming a woman that I'm realising an extraordinary power. Through being made to feel threatened, I have come to realise that I am in fact extremely threatening. We women no longer know our place.

I am being raised by a single mother. I believe we have grown up together, and I am lucky enough to have a mother who I see as an individual, a multi-faceted person. My mother teaches me to be free.

In tune with the untraditional nature of my family, I have three vastly different grandmothers from vastly different backgrounds. From Soweto, Ouma has taught me ruthless resilience; from Devon, Grandma taught me the importance of eloquence and honesty; from Ireland, Marena has taught me to choose my battles carefully – and to shut up strategically.

I was driving out of Durban earlier this week and we passed a billboard that frightened me. “RAPE IS A CRIME”, it said in a big bold font plastered above the shiny forehead of some indifferent minister. How did we get to this profoundly disturbing place? The paralysing disgust I felt in the face of sexual, physical, emotional and systemic violence directed at the female body is what I fear most for my hypothetical daughter – especially if she were to grow up in South Africa.



Norma Derby

Photo by Michael Hammond

“She prepared us to stand up to racism, sexism, and the other demeaning ‘-isms’ that confront us daily.” – **NORMA DERBY**



Zethu Matebeni

Photo by Michael Hammond



Gina Ziervogel

Photo by Michael Hammond



Tania Williams (left) with fellow student Khushboo Jhugroo.

Photo supplied

MOTHER'S PRAYERS

**NORMA DERBY**  
International Academic Programmes Office

My mother was the kind of woman who, when she woke up, made the devil cry out: “Oh, crap! She's up!” Her prayers are the reason I am who I am. She taught me never to expect, assume, ask or demand. As a single parent my phenomenal mum raised two daughters in the township. She taught me about strength, determination and sacrifice. She worked hard and loved us completely. She prepared us to stand up to racism, sexism, and the other demeaning ‘-isms’ that confront us daily.

I remember 9 August 1956, when black women expressed their dissatisfaction with oppression with the statement, “You strike a woman, you strike a rock”. I would like to see the rising tide of woman power grow, as described by the 2015 Women's Month theme “Women united in moving South Africa forward”.

MATRIFOCAI FAMILY

**ZETHU MATEBENI**  
Institute for Humanities in Africa

Generations of women in my family taught me one valuable lesson in life: never lose your voice. This is a very difficult lesson to always hold on to, particularly when there are always forces that constantly aim at muting certain experiences. I have had the pleasure of growing up in a matrifocal family and so the dominance of male presence and authority is something that I find completely odd and alienating.

All children should become the people they need to be. The kind of world I help shape for my nieces is one in which they will be happy to be who they are, regardless of what their bodies look like or who they want to love, live with or become.

HUMANITY IN OTHERS

**GINA ZIERVOGEL**  
Environmental and Geographical Science

My mother's unconditional love for me has enabled me to become who I want to be. I have always felt supported. Now that I have children, I can see that it's not easy to support your children unconditionally, so I value it even more now.

We are moving towards greater equality in some pockets of our society, but we still have a way to go in many areas. I would like my daughter and other young women to become adults in a world where people are listened to because of who they are and not because of their gender, race, income, class or experience. I think we all need to hear the humanness in others more, as that is when we connect, feel valued and can build a more innovative, inclusive society.

INDEPENDENT MOTHER

**TANIA WILLIAMS**  
MSc student, Oceanography

My mother is an amazingly strong woman. She does exactly what she needs to do to keep her family happy and together, but also she knows how to balance her own needs. One of the best things is her ability to be independent. As a young career woman it's important for me to learn from my mother.

Today I'm on a ship [the SA Agulhas II] on my way to the Southern Ocean and that was an opportunity only given to men back in the day. I can discover new things alongside any amazing scientist – and there's nothing stopping me from achieving my goals. I hope my daughter will grab all the amazing opportunities offered to her because in today's life it's all about equality. But it's also about pushing yourself to be the best.

Continued on next page ...



INEQUALITY RIFE

**AMAL NAGIA**  
final-year postgrad  
LLB student

My grandmother taught me resilience, strength and compassion. She raised four successful children as a single parent in the heart of apartheid and still opened up her home to those who had nowhere to go. My mother has taught me how to stand up for what I believe in, to empower other women and to make a difference in the lives of others by being a socially conscious individual.

As grateful as I am that in 2015 women are more empowered than ever before, we need to be cognisant of the fact that gender inequality is still rife. I would want a level playing field, in all respects. I'd like feminism to not only be about equality between men and women, but focused more on the intersectionality between race, class and gender.

DREAM BIG

**ELLE WILLIAMS**  
Development and Alumni

My mother has had an immeasurable influence on me. Now a retired school principal, she taught me to read when I was three. That aspect of my early childhood determined the course of my life, because it meant that I could seek out – and access – written information almost on my own terms from day one. My mom also taught me through her own example that every individual has the power to define themselves that you don't have to fit into any box, or accept the limitations placed on you by society or circumstance. During her working life, she was a strong advocate for the professional rights of women of colour, and successfully managed both a career and a very demanding family. As her daughter, I've been very fortunate to be raised by a woman who encouraged me to think independently, dream boldly, and exercise confidence and compassion.



Amal Nagia

Photo supplied

BE STRONG

**CHARMAINE KANNEMEYER**  
Supercare staff member

I learnt to be strong from my parents, and what I learnt from them, I teach to my children too. Fiona, my daughter, she's like me. In terms of the gangs, there's so much violence; you have to always be looking over your shoulder. You used to be able to sleep with your windows open. Now you must lock everything. A person shouldn't be living in

such fear. There's so much drug abuse. But the gangsters mustn't think that they can control us. But even my sons get robbed when they're just walking to the shop; so what then of a girl child?

My daughter raises her own child, who is four years old, very strictly. Look at how many children go missing nowadays. Criminals no longer have any concern for children, or even adults, for that matter.

LEGACY OF HUMILITY

**WADIA MOSOVAL**  
Jammie Shuttle tuck  
shop owner

My mom is a woman of wisdom from whom I learnt humility and a fear of God, who holds our destinies.

My wish for my daughters is that they'll have equal opportunities and freedom.

"I've always been proud of being a self-empowered, independent woman."  
- WADIA MOSOVAL



Charmaine Kannemeyer

Photo by Michael Hammond



Wadia Mosoval

Photo by Michael Hammond



Elle Williams

Photo by Michael Hammond



Tracy Booysen

Photo by Michael Hammond

BE STRONG

**AAMIRAH SONDAY**  
Communication and  
Marketing

My mother is the most amazing woman I know. She was resilient in adversity and despite people mistreating her she never mistreated them. She taught me to be humble and kind and to accept everyone, regardless of their circumstances. She has also taught me to be strong and persevere and believe that I can do anything. Unlike many Indian mothers, she has not brought me up to be a housewife and to listen to a husband. She is headstrong and stubborn, a trait my sisters and I have inherited, which I believe is necessary in this world of uncertainty.

If I were to have daughters I would like them to be free and to be seen as equal in all aspects of society. I want them to have hope; to believe that they really can change the world. Most importantly I want them to feel safe. I want men to stop believing they have power over women and that it is their right to treat them as they wish.

"I want men to stop believing they have power over women and that it is their right to treat them as they wish."  
- AAMIRAH SONDAY

PATIENCE AND  
KINDNESS

**TRACY BOOYSEN**  
Mechanical engineering

I have learnt so many things from all the women in my family. My mother taught me patience and kindness, and that, although you should consider problems at an intellectual level, you should also listen to your heart. She showed me the value of having a close-knit family. I was lucky to have such a dedicated and loving mother.

I want to see violence against women drastically decrease. I want my daughter to move through the world without constant fear



Aamirah Sunday

Photo by Michael Hammond

WOMEN'S VOICES



Phindile Sithole-Spong

Photo Supplied

"I would like body-shaming to just disappear."  
PHINDILE  
SITHOLE-SPONG

NO TO BODY-SHAMING

**PHINDILE SITHOLE-SPONG**  
HIV/Aids activist and  
UCT alumna

From my grandmother I learnt not to care what people think of me and just to be myself – I am still learning this but I think I am on the right track. From my mother I learnt that being a liberated woman doesn't mean giving up on the things that were meant to trap us before (like cooking, cleaning etc), but to use them to our advantage to create something meaningful and lead beautiful lives.

I would like body-shaming to just disappear. I subscribe to many magazines and I love fashion, but this idea the media has created of a perfect body is absurd to me and does more bad than good. It's another way of reducing one to a singular identity i.e. fat/skinny, pretty/ugly. I believe that as women we need to just be healthy and love our bodies in their various shades, shapes and sizes.

TELL GOOD STORIES

**LILIAN MBOYI**  
Properties & Services

My mother and her mother were amazing storytellers. From them I learnt to tell happy stories that build a family, community and nation. I learnt that for my life to be beautiful, I have to tell beautiful stories about it. I grew up watching them and drinking from their love, words and wisdom. As result of their nurturing I am a writer, who is passionate about producing and sending out positive messages.

I would like to see the upcoming generation of girls receive so much love in their formative years from their mothers, grandmothers and carers so they do not have to seek love and validation elsewhere, but be content with the love they carry within. I would like them not to have invisible ceilings placed in their life experiences and career paths by patriarchal systems, but to be able to flourish to their best ability.

and caution. I also want to see women in the top positions at top-performing companies. As of this year there were more CEOs of FTSE100 companies called 'John' than there were women.

"As of this year there were more CEOs of FTSE100 companies called 'John' than there were women."  
- TRACY BOOYSEN



# ONE GOAL, ONE BANNER FOR FEMINISTS

Are women with feminisms rooted in different eras able to speak with one voice on big issues affecting them? And does it matter? Dr Nadia Sanger addressed this issue in a recent series, 'Conversations on Feminisms', presented by the South African Association of Women Graduates.

Story by Helen Swingler



UCT gathered en masse in February 2013 to demand an end to systemic violence against women, following the brutal rape and murder of teenager Anene Booysen

Photo by Je'nine May

When the Sex Workers Education Advocacy Taskforce (SWEAT) began to campaign for the decriminalisation of sex workers, not all feminists agreed this was important.

SWEAT advocates for the rights of sex workers to earn a living, enjoy protection and healthcare – this in the context of an environment rife with unemployment.

But some in the feminist movement see sex work in another human rights context: the perpetuation of patriarchy and the exploitation of women's bodies, resulting in economic slavery. Both are pro-women groups.

### FEMINISMS IN CONTEXT

"Both are understandable, rational arguments," says Sanger, an independent researcher and part-time lecturer in gender studies at UCT. "And they both make sense within their own contexts."

These 'generational' viewpoints have different situational contexts, one in intellectualism and theory, and the other in the reality of on-the-ground experience, characteristic of civic movements. The result is a schism, a lack of collaboration and a severely compromised message about essential issues affecting women.

"Right now the feminist movements are not espousing different ideologies but different circumstances. It's critical that these differences don't stop the conversation."

In the 90s, for example, the focus was on political rights for women, and black feminists championed issues to do with race.

"It was very important for black feminists to say: 'The knowledge [production] is still owned

by the white feminists. We want to produce other kinds of knowledge around feminism that is linked to our realities'".

### SIDE BY SIDE

There have been big shifts in the issues affecting women since the 90s (thanks to the new Constitution), but some things have remained the same. Race and class still dominate, but now jostle with more pressing socio-economic issues in women's lives – such as access to employment in a context where rates of unemployment are exceptionally high.

Sanger believes feminists need to re-evaluate their universal goals. "We need to review what was important 10 years ago, two years ago and what's pertinent today and say, okay these issues remain important so we need to build strategies around them."

Generational differences are apparent even among her students in gender studies.

"Young women are saying different things. Some are speaking the language of the 90s, because some of those issues haven't disappeared; others are saying 'I don't identify as a feminist', because they find the label exclusionary and want to talk about gender and not feminism."

### COUNTING HEADS

Others are interested in a more 'technicist' approach to gender. They want to know how many women are in business and academia and in Parliament. But there are dangers to this approach, says Sanger.

"We should ask: are the women in Parliament actually representing the interests of women outside Parliament?"

One example is the ANC Women's League, which Sanger believes has been co-opted by the patriarchy in Parliament and no longer represents women's interests. And in spite of all the advances in human rights since the 90s, feminists remain a marginalised group.

"We still do not have a strong feminist movement in the country."

And feminists need to be held to account too, even though we're working in different spaces.

"We don't need to be saying the same thing, but we do need some common goals."

### ONE VOICE, ONE BANNER

When Bredasdorp teen Anene Booysens was gang raped, murdered and her body dumped, there was no outcry by women united under one banner.

"We need collaboration and coalescence against such endemic violence and it must be tackled on every side – inside and outside Parliament, in the community and in the academy."

"Ultimately, one of the central feminist goals is to disrupt and eradicate patriarchy. But part of the problem is that the various factions of feminists are separate – and it's unsustainable in the current context. If the goal is to stop black lesbians being raped in the townships, we may not agree on the steps or methods, but we can agree on the end result and we need to move towards that."

### HEAD AND HEART

Some academics that work only with theory are separate from the realities women face right now: high rates of poverty, HIV/AIDS and violence.

"We need to look at whether not engaging feminists outside academia is not perhaps arrogant, considering the kinds of social and political issues we're dealing with."

"It's not an anti-intellectual position," Sanger argues. "Activism should be foregrounded by intellectualism."



Dr Nadia Sanger

Photo by Michael Hammond

"We still do not have a strong feminist movement in the country." DR NADIA SANGER

# CLASSIFIEDS

Opportunities to join the University of Cape Town

UCT is committed to the pursuit of excellence, diversity and redress. Our policy on employment equity is available at [www.uct.ac.za/about/policies/eepolicy.pdf](http://www.uct.ac.za/about/policies/eepolicy.pdf)

### RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT (PASS) POSTS:

- Chief Technical Officer**  
Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science.  
Closing date: 30 August 2015
- Principal Materials Scientist for Fuel Cell**  
Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment.  
Closing date: 2 September 2015
- Principal Mechanical Engineer**  
Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment.  
Closing date: 2 September 2015

### GENERAL ADS

- TRANSCRIBING:** Skilful and efficient transcribing tailored to your needs. Qualitative research, focus groups, conference proceedings. Over 22 years experience: work not outsourced, confidentiality assured. [carintranscribing@webafrica.org.za](mailto:carintranscribing@webafrica.org.za) 021 465 9904 / 083 682 2245
- Audiologist/Hearing aid Acoustician** required in George & Hartenbos. Growth potential. Starting salary R144 000 p/a NEG. Email CV: [gela@hearingdirect.co.za](mailto:gela@hearingdirect.co.za)
- Do you need help with editing your thesis?** Rewriting a document? Coaching in writing skills? Rates negotiable. Contact Richard. [Jordi@uct.ac.za](mailto:Jordi@uct.ac.za)
- Tai Chi in the workplace.** De-stress with Tai Chi during your working day. Motivate your department or organise a weekly class. Contact Richard. [Jordi@uct.ac.za](mailto:Jordi@uct.ac.za)
- Data capturing:** Does your data require capturing? We offer a fast, accurate and cost-effective data capturing service. Pam/Andrew 021 671 9280/076 490 0170/ [jacksonthree@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonthree@gmail.com)

**Experienced Proofreader:** Journal papers; theses/dissertations; revise and resubmit corrections; assignments. For all your proofreading and editing requirements, at very reasonable rates, contact Michelle Chetty on [chettypm@gmail.com](mailto:chettypm@gmail.com)

**Eagle transcription & translation services:** Digital Dictaphone transcriptions – anything which needs to be transcribed, audio digital files, interviews, research: English, Afrikaans. Special rates for students. Tel: 021 761 1866 Cell: 084 812 9386. Email: [lorrhein@gmail.com](mailto:lorrhein@gmail.com) OR: [eagle@iburst.co.za](mailto:eagle@iburst.co.za) SITE URL IS: [lorrhein.wix.com/eaglets](http://lorrhein.wix.com/eaglets)

**Academic editor:** Former technical editor on the South African Medical Journal. I offer technical and copy editing, especially in the health sciences and medical humanities. Julia 082 400 3002, [jem@mweb.co.za](mailto:jem@mweb.co.za)

**Proofreading and editing:** 25 years' experience in lecturing, supervising dissertations and examining in the creative and performing arts. Extensive experience in article writing and editing as well as book editing. Available for all editing and proofreading needs: theses, dissertations, articles not only in those specific areas reasonable negotiable rates. Contact [sharon.capetown@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.capetown@gmail.com) / 083 308 6989

### ACCOMMODATION

**Charming 3 bedrooomed house in Rosebank** available for short-term rental from mid September to mid December 2015. Semi-furnished, one bathroom with separate toilet/shower, fully alarmed and off street parking for 2 cars (carport). R18 000 per month. For further details, contact 076 733 1515

**Dentist @**

**X-FACTOR Lifestyle**

Contracted to most Medical Aids  
• Standard Tariffs apply •  
Private patients Welcome

**Dr. J.K. Naidoo**  
B.D.S. (Mys)  
Pr. No: 5433231

21 Loop Street  
Foreshore  
Cape Town 8001

Tel: 021 418 0276  
Email: [jitinder.k.naidoo@gmail.com](mailto:jitinder.k.naidoo@gmail.com)

**Little Scotia**  
Guest House ★★ ★

5 Rustenburg Ave, Rondebosch, 7700  
tel: 021 686 8245 / fax: 021 685 1887  
[www.scotia.co.za](http://www.scotia.co.za) / [info@scotia.co.za](mailto:info@scotia.co.za)

- Close to UCT, shops and restaurants
- Easy access to airport, city, False- & Hout Bay
- 33 en-suite rooms, each tastefully furnished with satellite TV, telephones, FREE WiFi, air-conditioned & much more
- Two pool areas
- Inviting dining room, Great Breakfast!
- You will love our relaxed atmosphere

R770 single      R990 double

### FOR SALE

**Are your dogs not eating or bored with their current food?** Why not try placing them on a Healthy Raw food diet? I am a Distributor of a convenient Healthy Raw Food Diet for your pets. For more information, please call Janine 076 894 9871 or email [bengal.tiger31@gmail.com](mailto:bengal.tiger31@gmail.com)

**BMW 318, 2005,** 116k mileage and single owner. R85k. Contact: 021 674 0143 or [nrvaj5@gmail.com](mailto:nrvaj5@gmail.com).

**HERBALIFE health products & Popular WONDERBAG** can be ordered directly from your distributor on UCT campus. Our 3 day trial includes 2 wellness assessments & products sufficient for 3 days. [bbaayesha@gmail.com](mailto:bbaayesha@gmail.com) / 084 584 4799

**Contents of Bachelor Flat:** Bed, Mattress, Couch, Coffee Table, Microwave, Barfridge, kettle, toaster, snackwich, crockery, cutlery,mats,laundry basket. Excellent Condition. R11 000 onco. 083 526 0957

**Renault Clio 2005 for Sale:** Much loved Metallic grey Renault Clio 2005 automatic for sale. Mileage 80 000 kms. R55 000. Contact Velma Johnstone 084 658 2034

**Furniture For sale:** Ladies dressing table R1200, White sideboard with 3 doors/drawers for R1500, Double bed and base R1200, Curved 3 seater couch R1000. Phone 082 966 6158

**For Sale: 18 Year old 750ml.** Chivas Regal Gold Signature Scotch Whisky. Selling for R750. Still sealed in box. Unwanted gift.  
**12 Year Old Chivas Regal 750ml.** Blended Scotch Whisky Selling for: R350 Still sealed in box. Unwanted gift.  
**Chivas Regal 750ml.** Extra Blended Scotch Whisky. Selling for R350. Still sealed in box. Unwanted gift.  
Contact: ext: 4739 or 079 909 0250

**quick QUESTION...** Who gives UCT staff and students an extra 10% off their invoice? Supa Quick Observatory of course!

TYRES      BRAKES      BATTERIES      SHOCKS      EXHAUSTS

Whatever generation you're from we'll fire up our cast to entertain your car problems!

**supa quick** TYRE EXPERTS | CLOSER TO YOU



# CONVERSATIONS IN COMMUNITY

In the third of our new series getting to know the people of UCT, Helen Swingler interviewed rockabilly guitarist and musical and vintage mechanical curiosities collector Julian Mayer, who is also principal technical officer in mechanical engineering

Story by Helen Swingler

Photo by Michael Hammond



**Rockabilly baby: Julian Mayer (64) weekend muso, guitarist (with his 1972 Fender Jazz bass and 1920 His Master's Voice gramophone), collector and principal technical officer in mechanical engineering. Photographed above Madiba Drive, upper campus.**

## Rock the hill

**Walk by Julian Mayer's office any lunchtime** and you'll likely hear him "noodling about" on an unplugged 1972 Fender Jazz bass guitar, as he's doing now, amid vintage radiograms and clocks and a workbench strung with soldering irons and bits of electrical wire.

A weekend musician, Mayer also uses the guitar to demonstrate wave propagation to engineering students.

Now he's testing a melody, playing by ear, and a refrain emerges.

*'It wasn't roaring, it was weeping.'*

His fingers float over the strings, searching out chords.

"Beautiful," he says.

Engineering alumnus Dan Heymann's protest song, *Weeping*, was first recorded with Bright Blue in 1987 and voted all-time favourite South African song by readers of the *South African Rock Encyclopaedia*.

"It's the best song to come out of South Africa," says Mayer the rockabilly. It's a genre that grew out of the earliest styles of rock and roll, the Elvis era of the 50s, and married to rhythm and blues – and a bit of country.

Forget the stars-and-stripes tag that's associated with 'country', says Mayer. For him, country music is the music of the *place*.

Country and country rock are big themes in his life right now. After pressing pause on years

of bands and part-time gigs, his music career has just been retreaded thanks to a chance meeting and a compelling invitation.

But more on that later.

### ROCKABILLY, COLLECTORBILLY

He picks up a 1970 Taylor, another vintage guitar.

"I'm not a hoarder," he says, plunk-plunking on the Taylor. "I'm a collector. Collectors have a very specific psychological profile. Some are compensating for some dire disappointment in their past."

One can sense a lyric coming, and Mayer improvises at once: *"My wife left me and took my dang, my car and my Bible. Man, I miss that dang."*

Music offsets his mechanical brain, which has also helped teach thousands of UCT students during his 37 years here.

### MECHANICAL MUSIC

When he started at UCT in 1978, the electronic store was small. Now it's very hi-tech and Mayer has become something of an electronics expert, contributing a series of modules to the introductory engineering course.

"I get the students building small electronic amplifiers, little audio amps, so they get their hands on a soldering iron and a printed circuit board. They're amazed at what comes out of it."

He pops the metal clasp on an old leather case. The lid leans back on a 1920 *His Master's Voice* wind-up gramophone. Mayer lowers the needle onto the 78 rpm Bakelite record, as it follows a wobbly orbit. Bing Crosby sings *White Christmas* as if from the bottom of a wastepaper basket.

"The kids can't believe it's completely mechanical. No electronics."

He learnt to operate a gramophone before he could walk. His Polish mother, a classical pianist, inspired a love of music and he grew locked into the joys of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E Minor. He took violin lessons and developed a "very, very good ear", but his German father pooh-poohed the idea of a boy with a bow.

When his sister abandoned her guitar, Mayer got his break.

"I taught myself slowly. I mean the 'blues rock' era had just started and the guitar playing

was fundamental – if you practised long enough you could play Shadows songs. Even a spotty kid like me with a wooden guitar was suddenly in huge demand."

As a student, his first paid gig at R14 a night was singing and playing solo in the revolving restaurant atop the old Ritz Plaza Hotel in Sea Point. He played in a thousand places – "every genre of music from heavy metal to German oompah".

A self-taught bass guitarist, Mayer played for Bagatelle but switched for a while to guitar to perform with Bitter Creek, a tribute band that played exclusively Eagles music.

"I eventually wound up playing in a very noisy 'hard rock' band until I realised that my hearing was deteriorating and I was developing tinnitus, so in 2012 played my last loud gig."

### ROCKING NAIROBI

Then came a chance meeting with Tony Ridgway of Rocking Horse fame. Mayer had played in this country-rock band three decades before. And they invited him back for a concert to celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A couple of months later, this gig in Nairobi came up.

The band was booked as the closing act at Kenya's first-ever country music festival, Boots & Hats, organised by South African country star CC Lamondt, now living in Nairobi.

Lamondt had also invited artists from Mozambique and the DRC and had organised a huge set and sound, lighting and rigging crews.

So on a hot March night at Nairobi's Ngong Racecourse, a place of meagre grey-green grass and dust, Mayer swung his Fender Bass around his neck and walked onto a stage, swimming in light, every amplified sound ripping the dark.

The band had started with three acoustic guitars playing Simon and Garfunkel's *Mrs Robinson* and was now three songs in when Mayer and keyboard player Tony Drake were cued on stage.

"We went up and it was solid. We'd worked hard and every note, every harmony was on the button."

Locals in Stetson-hats and Laredo-style boots with metal toecaps were on their feet.

"It blew my mind."

Perhaps it's that Nairobi is an unlikely hub for boots-and-hats culture. The *New York Times*' East Africa correspondent Isma'il Kushkush thought it worth a look and interviewed the band.

With a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Rocking Horse CD in the making and a possible audience growing in Kenya, all Mayer is missing are cowboy boots. He seems resigned to owning some.

Would he do another concert in Nairobi? He looks incredulous.

"Of course! I've got nine-and-a-half years left on my yellow-fever injection!"

"...if you practised long enough you could play Shadows songs. Even a spotty kid like me with a wooden guitar was suddenly in huge demand."

**JULIAN MAYER**