



Vice-Chancellor & Principal

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Colleagues,

It is with sadness that I announce the death of one of our American exchange students, Andrea Sperka, who tragically lost her life in an accident in Palapye, Botswana on 01 July 2007. Ms Sperka, from the University of Wisconsin Madison, had just completed her semester and was on a private tour of the region when the accident occurred. We are informed that she died on the scene.

On behalf of the entire community of the University of Cape Town, I extend my sincere condolences to the family and friends of the student, as well as to the community of the University of Wisconsin Madison. We are deeply saddened by this, and we have offered our support, including counseling, through our International Academic Programmes Office, to the friends and other students from Wisconsin University.

Sadly, Ms Sperka's friend, Marissa Mann – from Tufts University and enrolled at UCT through our partner university, the State University of New York, Albany – was injured in the accident, and is subsequently being treated at the Gaborone Hospital. Ms Mann has also just completed her semester with UCT, and was due to return to the USA on 02 July. We wish her a full recovery.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Ndebele'.

Professor Njabulo S. Ndebele
Vice-Chancellor and Principal
University of Cape Town