

NEWS FROM:



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UCT Summer School celebrates 60 years with a flock of Bits, Bites and Tweets

The University of Cape Town is celebrating 60 years of Summer School with two receptions, two free lectures and a dynamic artwork celebrating evolution, digital citizenship and finches.

The living artwork, *Bits, Bites and Tweets*, will be co-created by Summer School students under the guidance of artist Gwen Van Embden. *Bits, Bites and Tweets* will engage with the theme of evolution as played out in the development of different finch species on the Galapagos Islands, first noted by Charles Darwin more than 200 years ago. Students are classified according to a symbolic finch species. At registration they will receive a plastic finch cutout, which they are asked to bring to class for use in the artwork.

There is still time to register for up to 28 courses and eight lectures in the UCT Summer School series, which kicks off on Friday, 15 January 2010, with a lunchtime champagne reception hosted by former Vice Chancellor Dr Stuart Saunders. Current Vice Chancellor Dr Max Price will host the closing reception on 22 January. A list of available courses and lectures is provided below.

Two free lunchtime lectures will be offered. The first, on Monday, 18 January, is titled "2010 FIFA World Cup™: Ready to welcome the world!" featuring Dr Laurine Platzky, the 2010 FIFA World Cup co-ordinator. The second lunchtime lecture, on Tuesday, 19 January, is titled "As I remember them: Virginia and Leonard Woolf" and will feature the reminiscences of the Woolfs' nephew, English publisher Cecil Woolf. Both lectures will take place in the Leslie Social Science Building at 13h00. Seating is limited, so it is advisable to arrive early.

The first UCT Summer School initiative, offered in 1950, was titled "Vacation Refresher Course in Management Problems for Senior Executives in Industry". Two years later, UCT established the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, which runs the Summer School as well as Continuing Education courses and other programmes throughout the year. The Summer School concept has its roots in the British tradition of university extension, which began in the 19th century as a way to disseminate knowledge to a wider public beyond the walls of the academy. In fact, since the early years of the 20th century UCT has provided public lectures to the citizens of Cape Town. During World War 2, the Army Education Corps of the South African Defence Force provided adult education courses to troops, and after the war many returning troops began looking for opportunities to take additional courses. The UCT Summer School grew out of the university's initial response to this need.

Casual attendance is possible at some courses and lectures. Tickets are usually sold five to 10 minutes before the lecture begins, if seating is available. The fee is R65 per lecture except where otherwise specified. For more information on courses, costs and times, please telephone (021) 650-2888 or visit http://www.ems.uct.ac.za/2010_3.