

NEWS FROM:



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France awards knighthood to UCT professor Dr Vanessa Everson honoured with Chevalier des Palmes Académiques

The French government honoured Dr Vanessa Everson, of the French Section in UCT's School of Languages and Literatures, with the *Chevalier des Palmes Académiques* award at a function on 18 May 2010.

Founded in 1808 by Napoleon Bonaparte, the Chevalier des Palmes Académiques (Knight of Academic Palms) is an order of knighthood bestowed on those who make major contributions to French national education and culture.

Dr Everson's research areas, such as teaching French as a foreign language, translation and modern language methodology, have transformed the teaching of French at UCT. After modernising the syllabus and retraining and mentoring the teachers, Dr Everson designed courses on French and the media, and on the practice of translation. She also redesigned the Business French course and pioneered the honours and master's qualifications in teaching French as a foreign language – the first of their kind in South Africa.

Speaking at the award function, Dr Everson said her work stems from her belief in responding to the regional needs of students and a need for shared construction of knowledge and skills transfer. "French is my passion," said Dr Everson, "and fortunately I haven't worked in isolation." She thanked her family, friends, colleagues and students.

"The students I've had the privilege of teaching have inspired me and continue to inspire me in everything I do."

Caption to accompany photo (Palmes Award005): (from left) French Consul Antoine Michon holds the Chevalier des Palmes Académiques medal he has just pinned on UCT French professor Dr Vanessa Everson on 18 May 2010.

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