



**Communication and Marketing Department**  
**Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso**  
**Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepatement**

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa  
 Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town  
 Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

**29 May 2012**

**UCT speakers to analyse different facets of SA’s education problems**

**Schools Improvement Initiative Seminar Series begins**

**at 16h00, 29 May 2012, Humanities Building, LT2, UCT Upper Campus**

The University of Cape Town will launch the Schools Improvement Initiative (SII) Seminar Series at 16h00 on 29 May 2012, to bring a multidisciplinary approach to the problems of schooling in South Africa.

“Improving basic education is one of the social challenges UCT has identified as requiring an institution-wide response,” said Dr Jonathan Clark, the Director of SII, which will be formally launched on 28 May 2012. “Through the SII, the university intends to engage practically, developmentally and critically with the problems of schooling in this country.’

The four seminars in this series are:

29 MAY 2012	<p><b>‘UCT in school, in community’: Health professionals’ perspectives on achievements, contestations and conflicts</b>          Presenters: Roshan Galvaan, Pam Gretschel, Liesl Peters          This seminar will describe UCT health professionals’ contributions to promoting wellbeing and social justice through schools. The application of an occupation-based perspective of participation and inclusion will be discussed in relation to the school as a core of community engagement. Two frameworks will be presented to illustrate the achievements, contestations and conflicts in applying the principles that underpin a university-school partnership model.</p>
31 JULY 2012	<p><b>‘UCT in school, in community’: How do we generate</b></p>

	<p><b>partnerships and energy for positive change?</b>  Presenter: Norma Rudolf</p> <p>Alongside the many problems in the schooling system, there exists extraordinary potential within individuals, schools and communities for positive change. Drawing on the experience of the Children’s Institute’s multi-year “Caring Schools” action research project, this interactive seminar will engage with the question: “How do we generate the energy for collaborative action?”</p>
<p>25  SEPTEMBER  2012</p>	<p><b>'UCT in school, in community': student community service initiatives as resources?</b>  Presenter: Janice McMillan</p> <p>Student community service is increasingly being encouraged anew at UCT, a university with a long history of student volunteerism. However, together with opportunities for learning and for service come many challenges and questions. This seminar will look at both the benefits the constraints of students' involvement in schools as a site of either extracurricular volunteer activities or service learning in the curriculum.</p>
<p>13 NOVEMBER  2012</p>	<p><b>'UCT in school, in community': The Schools Improvement Initiative, one year on in Khayelitsha</b></p> <p>Presenter: Jonathan Clark</p> <p>The stated intention of the Schools Improvement Initiative is to provide a platform for UCT to engage practically, developmentally as well as critically with the problems of schooling in this country. Having chosen as an initial focus the township of Khayelitsha, it's time to reflect on the first year of the SII’s operations in the township and to consider the extent to which it is laying the foundation for a more responsive university-school in community partnership model.</p>

The SII works closely with the Western Cape Education Department to improve the quality of educational provision, with an initial focus on schools in the township of Khayelitsha. For further information about the initiative, please visit [www.sii.uct.ac.za](http://www.sii.uct.ac.za) and the Schools Improvement Initiative Facebook page.

**ENDS**

**Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department**

**Patricia Lucas**

Tel: (021) 650 5428 Fax (021) 650 5628

**Cell: 076 292 8047**

E-mail: [pat.lucas@uct.ac.za](mailto:pat.lucas@uct.ac.za)

University of Cape Town

Rondebosch

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