

# UCT ALUMNI NEWS

2013

**The O factor:**  
**Barack Obama**  
graces Jameson Hall

**Shining stars from  
the arts:**  
a celebration of our  
**success stories**



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

# Mission

UCT aspires to become a premier academic meeting point between South Africa, the rest of Africa and the world. Taking advantage of expanding global networks and our distinct vantage point in Africa, we are committed, through innovative research and scholarship, to grapple with the key issues of our natural and social worlds. We aim to produce graduates whose qualifications are internationally recognised and locally applicable, underpinned by values of engaged citizenship and social justice.

UCT will promote diversity and transformation within our institution and beyond, including growing the next generation of academics.



# Contents

Foreword by the Vice-Chancellor	2	See, judge, act	25
All rise for the President	4	Musical icons: notes from a duet	26
Celebrating 70 years: SHAWCO then and now	6	He had a dream	28
Message in a Bottle	8	100th birthday for doyenne of geology	29
Biko explores a brave new world	9	Africa's first butterfly atlas takes wing	30
Opera combines Janel Speelman's two passions: singing and acting	10	Alumni authors first scientific paper from KAT-7 results	31
New head of vocal studies determined to unearth talent	11	Africa's lead in malaria fight internationally acknowledged	32
The Don Giovanni of 2013	12	Mobile Xhosa translator helps the medicine go down	33
Accountable muso wins major award	13	Alumnus revives trailblazing Xhosa newspaper	34
Talking Italian	14	Anglo-Boer concentration camps under spotlight	35
Alumnus wins 2013 Met audition	15	Pioneering programme's success	36
War horse: Puppeteers' creations pluck heart strings	16	It's a fine brew, bru	36
The Baxter's Mies Julie takes world by storm	18	National honours for Ekama and other UCT alumni	37
Brett Goldin's memory kept alive through bursary in his honour	19	No bridge too far	38
Suzman does UCT proud at Edinburgh	19	Yes, we can!	39
UCT choir teams up with the cream of the crop from Yale	20	Alumna tackles transformation in actuarial science	40
Lots in translation	21	In the heart of the country	41
Playing to his own beat	22	The law polyglot who's wooing Africa	42
Brain waves	23	Postcards from home and abroad	43
Fan's ear saves Jackman's voice	23	Up close with Oscar Pistorius	44
New dean lauds faculty's excellent reputation	24	UCT Alumni Events	48
Foetal alcohol syndrome award for Jacobsons in the US	24	Alumni Chapters around the world	50
		Development and Alumni Department report	54


**Editor:**

Tanya Farber

**Acting production editor:**

Chris Mitchell

**Writers:**

Helen Swingler

Abigail Calata  
Yusuf Omar  
David Capel  
Elle Williams

**Photographers**

Michael Hammond  
Je'nine May  
Raymond Botha

**Designer:**

Zwelibanzi Damba

**Freelance proofreader:**

Dave Buchanan

Produced for the  
**Development and  
Alumni Department** by

the **Communication and  
Marketing Department.**

*UCT Alumni News* is the annual magazine for UCT alumni. It is also available online at [www.uct.ac.za/news/publications/misc/](http://www.uct.ac.za/news/publications/misc/).

## Fulfilling our mandate and growing the UCT community

In March this year an alumna wrote in a UCT guest book: “I have tremendous pride in belonging to such a superb group.”

The city was New York and the occasion the Faculty of Health Sciences’ centenary dinner. Attended by over 200 guests and alumni, the event capped a year-long programme of activities that commemorated the birth of sub-Saharan Africa’s first medical school on 6 June 1912.

The same pride is echoed around the world at other alumni chapter gatherings in North America, Australia and New Zealand, the UK, Europe, and at home in South Africa.

UCT alumni are part of an exceptional community, living and working in over 136 countries – graduates with internationally recognised qualifications and a healthy regard for engaged citizenship and social justice.

UCT Alumni News brings updates of this community as well as developments at your alma mater.

In July I started my second term as Vice-Chancellor, building on the strategic goals I set in 2008: changing the profile of our students and making UCT a home for all; ensuring we attract the very best students; and applying our best minds to the serious challenges we face, barely 20 years into democracy. These include poor schooling, poverty and inequality, safety and violence, and the effects of climate change in Africa. Our staff and students are hard at work at providing solutions to these issues.

As part of our redress interventions, UCT is committed to providing a broad-based financial assistance programme to the neediest students. No-one who meets academic eligibility criteria will be turned away because they can’t afford to pay fees. With shrinking state funding, we are grateful for the generosity of our alumni whose contributions help us to realise these goals.

Another memorable anniversary is the Students’ Health and Welfare Centres Organisation’s (SHAWCO) 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Seventy years ago a UCT medical student, Andrew Kinnear, saw a community in need and decided to do something about it. In 1943 the Kensington Students’ Clinic was established. His efforts were supported by Dr Golda Selzer of the Groote Schuur Pathology Department.

The Kensington clinic, together with two others in Retreat and Elsie’s River, became the backbone of what would become SHAWCO, registered as a welfare organisation in 1954. Today SHAWCO Health co-ordinates six clinics per week, and sees an average of 5 000 patients a year. SHAWCO Education manages 11 projects that cater to over a thousand children. To sustain the organisation, SHAWCO Social Enterprises (Pty) Ltd was created, and currently contributes half of SHAWCO’s income.

Many of our alumni will have been involved with SHAWCO in one way or another. It’s a fitting tribute to our past and present students that this organisation is thriving, well into the new millennium (see page 6).

The arts are the focus of this year’s magazine. We have launched a fundraising campaign for the Opera School, which continues to fulfil its mandate of nurturing talent from unassuming places. Because training is highly technical and individualised, opera is the most expensive of UCT’s academic programmes. But we believe in supporting young people who would otherwise have no avenue into this art form. World-class singers like Pretty Yende, Golda Shultz, Sarah-Jane Brandon, Fikile Mvinjelwa and Musa Ngqungwana are among some of our proudest ‘exports’, and are impressing audiences on opera stages across the world.

Supporters and opera lovers can sponsor a student via a bursary, take ownership of a production (or a part of one), or help bring out the world’s leading singers and teachers to become artists-in-residence at UCT, transferring skills and exposing students to international trends.

Finally, we say farewell to Dr Jim McNamara, executive director of the Development and Alumni Department (DAD), who takes early retirement after 23 years’ service at UCT, eight at the helm of DAD. In August we welcomed his successor, Dr Russell Ally an alumna and the former Ford Foundation programme manager for Southern Africa, who also served on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Human Rights Violation Committee.

Wishing you all the best for the remainder of the year.

**Dr Max Price**

## Foreword by the University of Cape Town Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price

## Nakoming van ons mandaat en uit

In Maart vanjaar het ’n oudstudent in ’n UK-gasteboek geskryf: “Ek is geweldig trots daarop om aan so ’n uitgelese groep te behoort.”

Dit was in New York en die geleentheid was die Fakulteit van Gesondheidswetenskappe se eeufeesdinee. Die geleentheid wat deur meer as 200 gaste en oudstudente bygewoon is, het die kroon gespan op ’n jaarlange program ter herdenking van die stigting van Afrika-suid-van-die-Sahara se eerste mediese skool op 6 Junie 1912.

Dieselfde trots het regoor die wêreld geblyk by ander oudstudente-byeenkomste in Noord-Amerika, Australië en Nieu-Seeland, die Verenigde Koninkryk en Europa, sowel as tuis in Suid-Afrika.

UK-oudstudente is deel van ’n buitengewone gemeenskap wat woon en werk in meer as 136 lande – gegraduateerdes met internasionaal erkende kwalifikasies en ’n gesonde agting vir betrokke burgerskap en maatskaplike geregtigheid.

UCT Alumni News bevat die jongste nuus oor hierdie gemeenskap, sowel as ontwikkelings by jou alma mater.

My tweede termyn as visekanselier het in Julie begin en ek het verder gewerk aan die strategiese doelwitte wat ek in 2008 gestel het: die verandering van die profiel van ons studente om UK ’n tuiste vir almal te maak; om seker te maak ons lok die heel beste studente; en om ons beste breine in te span om die ernstige uitdagings te takel wat ons skaars 20 jaar na die verkryging van demokrasie in die gesig staar. Daaronder tel swak skoolonderrig, armoede en ongelykheid, veiligheid en geweld, en die uitwerking van klimaatsveranderinge op Afrika. Ons personeel en studente is hard aan die werk om oplossings vir hierdie vraagstukke te kry.

As deel van ons regstellingsingrypings is die UK verbind tot die verskaffing van breë finansiële ondersteuningsprogramme aan die behoeftigste studente. Niemand wat aan die akademiese toelatingsvereistes voldoen, sal weggevoer word omdat hulle nie kan betaal nie. Met krimpemde staatsfinansiering is ons dankbaar vir die vrygewigheid van ons oudstudente wie se bydraes help dat ons hierdie doelwitte kan bereik.

Nog ’n gedenkwaardige viering vanjaar is die Students’ Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO) se 70ste bestaansjaar. Sewentig jaar gelede het ’n mediese student aan die UK, Andrew Kinnear, die nood in die gemeenskap raakgesien en besluit om iets daaraan te doen. In 1943 is die Kensington-stu-



## breiding van die UK-gemeenskap

dentekliniek gestig. Hy is deur Dr Golda Selzer van die Grootte Schuur-patologiesdepartement ondersteun.

Die Kensington-kliniek saam met twee ander in Retreat en Elsie'srivier het die hoekstene geword van die latere SHAWCO, wat in 1954 as 'n welsynsorganisasie geregistreer is. Vandag koördineer SHAWCO Health ses klinieke per week en sien gemiddeld 5 000 pasiënte per jaar. SHAWCO Education bestuur 11 projekte wat meer as 1 000 kinders betrek. Om hiermee vol te hou, is SHAWCO Social Enterprises (Edms) Bpk gestig en dit is tans vir die helfte van SHAWCO se inkomste verantwoordelik. Baie van ons oudstudeerders sou al op een of ander manier by SHAWCO betrokke gewees het. Dit is 'n paslike eerbetoon aan ons oud- en huidige studente dat hierdie organisasie tot in die nuwe millennium nog floreer (sien bladsy 6).

Die kunste is die fokus van vanjaar se tydskrif. Ons het 'n fondsinsamelingsveldtog begin vir die Operaskool, wat steeds sy mandaat nakom om talent uit onbekende plekke te laat blom. Die opleiding is baie tegnies en individueel en daarom is opera die duurste van die UK se akademiese programme. Maar ons glo daaraan om jongmense te ondersteun wat andersins geen toegang tot hierdie kunsvorm sou gehad het nie. Wêreldklansingers soos Pretty Yende, Golda Shultz, Sarah-Jane Brandon, Fikile Mvinjelwa en Musa Ngqungwana is sommige van ons "uitvoerprodukte" waarop ons die trotsste is. Hulle bekoor gehore op operaverhoë regoor die wêreld.

Ondersteuners en operaliefhebbers kan 'n student met 'n beurs, die eienaarskap van 'n produksie (of gedeelte daarvan) ondersteun, of help om die wêreld se voorste sangers en leermeesters as inwonende kunstenaars na die UK te bring sodat hulle hul vaardighede kan oordra en studente aan internasionale neigings kan blootstel.

Laastens sê ons totsiens aan Dr Jim McNamara, uitvoerende direkteur van die Ontwikkeling- en Alumni-department (DAD), wat op vroeë aftrede gaan ná 23 jaar diens by die UK, agt daaraan aan die stuur van DAD. Ons het sy opvolger, Dr Russell Ally, 'n oudstudent en die Ford-stigting se voormalige programbestuurder vir Suider-Afrika, wat ook op die Waarheid- en Versoeningskommissie se Komitee vir Menseregteskendings gedien het, in Augustus verwelkom.

Met al die beste wense vir die res van die jaar.

**Dr. Max Price**

## Ukuzalisekisa igunya lethu nokuhlumisa uluntu lwase-UCT

**N**goMatshi walo nyaka owayengumfundi oyindoda kwiyunivesithi yabhala kwincwadi yeendwendwe yase-UCT: "Ndineqhaya elikhulu lokuba yinxalenye yeqela elibalaseleyo."

Isixeko ibiyiNew York kwaye umsitho ibiyidinala yenkulungwane ye-Faculty of Health Sciences. Uzinyaswe zindwendwe ezingaphezu kwama-200 nowayengumfundi oyindoda, umsitho uchaphazele inkqubo yobude bonyaka yemisebenzi ebibhiyozela ukuzalwa kwesikolo sokugala sokufundela ubugqirha eSahara esemazantsi e-Afrika ngomhla wesi-6 kuJuni we-1912.

Kwa eliqhayiya linye livakaliswe kwihlabathi jikelele kwezinye iindibano zabo babesakuya ngabafundi eyunivesithi kumNtla-Amerika e-UK, eYurophu nasekhaya eMzantsi Afrika.

Abo babesakuya ngabafundi base-UCT bayinxalenye yoluntu olubalaseleyo, oluhlala nolusebenza kumazwe angaphezu kwe-136 – abanezidanga zemfundo neziqinisekiso zemfundo ezamkelwa kumazwe ngamazwe nokunika ingqalelo okuphilileyo kokuzibandakanya kobumi nobulungisa bokuxhasa ukulingana kubantu bonke.

I-UCT Alumni News izisa uhlaziyo lolu luntu kwanophuhliso kwiyunivesithi yakho.

NgoJulayi ndiqalise ikota yam yesibini njengeSekela-ngqonyela, ndisakhela kwiinjongo zezicwangciso-qhinga endazimisela ngowama-2008: zokutshintsha iprofayili yabafundi bethu nokwenza i-UCT ikhaya labantu bonke; ukuqinisekisa ukuba sitsala umdla wabona bafundi babalaseleyo; nokusebenzisa ukuqinisekisa kangangoko kwimingeni esijongene nayo, singekafiki nakwiminyaka engama-20 sikulawulo lwentando yesininzi. Le iquka ukungahambi kakuhle isikolo, ubuhlwempu, ukhuseleko nobundlobongela, nemiphumela yokugugququka kwemozulu e-Afrika. Abasebenzi nabafundi bethu basebenza nzima ukubonelela ngezisombululo kule miba.

Njengenxalenye yongenelelo lwezilungiso zethu, i-UCT izinikele ekuboneleleni ngenkqubo yoncedo ebanzi yezimali kwabona bafundi badingayo. Akukho mntu ofikelela kwiinkqobo zokufaneleka ngokwezemfundo ephakamileyo oya kujikwa kuba bengakwazi ukuhlalwa imali yesikolo. Ngengxowa-mali karhulumente enciphayo, senza umbulelo ngesisa sabo babesaya kuba ngabafundi abenze igalelo elithe lanceda ukuba siqonde ezi njongo.

Esinye isikhumbuzo esingalibalekiyo sisikhumbuzo sokugqiba iminyaka engama-70 soMbutho wamaZiko aBafundi ezeMpilo neNtalo ntle (iSHAWCO) kulo nyaka. Kwiminyaka engamashumi asixhenxe adlulileyo umfundi owayefundela ubugqirha u-Andrew Kinnear wabona uluntu oludingayo waze wathatha isigqibo sokwenza into ngalo. Ngowe-1943 kwasungulwa iKliniki yaBafundi yaseKensington. Iinzame zakhe zaxhaswa nguGq. Golda Selzer weSebe leNzululwazi ngezifo eGrootte Schuur.

Ikliniki yaseKensington, kunye nezinye ezimbini eRetreat nase-Elsies River, zaba sisiseko sesiphumo seSHAWCO, ebhaliswe njengombutho wentlalo ntle ngowe-1954. Namhlanje iSHAWCO Health iququzelela iikliniki ezintandathu ngeveki, ize ibone izigulane ngokwe-avareji ezingama-5000 ngonyaka. I-SHAWCO Education ilawula iiprojekthi ezili-11 ezixhasa abantwana abangaphezu kwe-1 000. Ukuze ihlale izinzi, kwayilwa iSHAWCO Social Enterprises (Pty) Ltd, okwangoku yenza igalelo lesiqingatha semivuzo yakwaSHAWCO.

Uninzi lwabo babesakuya ngabafundi babandakanyeka neSHAWCO nokuba kungayiphi na indlela. Yimbeko efanelekileyo kubafundi bangaphambili nabangoku lo mbutho uqhuba kakuhle nje kwesi sigaba sewaka leminyaka (jonga iphepha lesi-6).

Ubugcisa lugqalisolindinesha walo nyaka. Sasungula iphulo lokunyusa ingxowa-mali yeSikolo se-Opera, esiqhubeka nokuzalisekisa igunya laso lokukhulisa italente yabasuka kwezo ndawo zthobekileyo. Kuba uqeqesho lunobuchule obuphezulu kwaye ligxile koyedwa, i-opera yenye yeenkqubo zemfundo ephakamileyo exabisa kakhulu e-UCT. Kodwa sikholelwa ekuxhaseni ulutsha olungaz'ukuba nayo enye indlela yokungena kweli qonga lobugcisa. Iimvumi ezikudidi lehlalathi ezinjengoPretty Yende, uGolda Shultz, uSarah-Jane Brandon, uFikile Mvinjelwa noMusa Ngqungwana ngabanye "babo baphekwe" apha abathabathekisa ababukeli kumaqonga e-opera mbombo zone zehlabathi.

Abaxhasi nabathandi be-opera bangaxhasa umfundi ngebhasari, athathe ubumnini bemveliso (okanye inxalenye yabo), okanye bancede ekuphuhliseni iimvumi ezikhokeleyo zehlabathi nootitshala babe ngamagcisa ahlala e-UCT, bakhuphele izakhono kwaye babonise abafundi kwezi ndidi zamazwe ngamazwe.

Okokugqibela, sithi ndlela ntle kuGq. Jim McNamara, umlawuli wesigqeba solawulo lweSebe loPhuhliso nabo yayisakuba ngaBafundi base-UCT (iDAD), othatha umhlalaphantsi emva kwenkonzo yeminyaka engama-23 e-UCT, esibhozo ekulawulo lweDAD. Ngo-Agasti samkele umlandeli wakhe uGq. Russell Ally, owayengumfundi, nowayesakuba ngumphathi wenkqubo yeFord Foundation ye-Afrika esemazantsi owakhe wasebenza kwiKomiti eyayijongene nokuNyhashwa kwaMalungelo abaNtu yeKomishini yeNyaniso noXolelwaniso.

Sikunqwenelela okuhle kule ntsalela yonyaka.

**uGq. Max Price**

# All rise for the



*The O factor: Backgrounded by a wall of enthusiastic students, US President Barack Obama addresses a packed Jameson Hall at UCT on 30 June 2013.*

**W**hile United States President Barack Obama has begun developing further economic ties with South Africa, the first black President of the United States' message to the rapt audience in Jameson Hall was loud and clear: Africa's fate is in the hands of its youth.

Obama visited UCT while in South Africa during his first major African tour since taking office. He also travelled to Senegal and Tanzania, in a bid to deepen co-operation and strengthen US ties with countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Invoking US Senator Robert Kennedy's historic speech on the campus in 1966, Obama spoke about the civil rights movement in his home country during that decade, and a South Africa that was still

knee-deep in the brutality of apartheid.

"It would have seemed inconceivable at that time that less than 50 years later an African-American president might address an integrated audience at South Africa's oldest university," he said, "and that this same university would have conferred an honorary degree on Nelson Mandela."

Encouraging students and other young people to recognise their own strength, he told the audience of a 'supporting act' speech he had made at a political rally shortly after encountering exiled South Africans.

"I remember struggling to express the anger and passion that I felt. I didn't think I had made a difference and I was embarrassed," he said, "But looking back at that nineteen-year-old, I'm more forgiving towards myself that the speech wasn't perfect; rather, I see the value of believing

that I could be part of something bigger than myself."

In a speech laden with meaning, hope, purpose, power and poetry, he reminded the UCT community that it wasn't just the giants of history who brought apartheid to its knees,

*“Governments exist to service people, and not the other way around”*

but that it was also "ordinary people who pushed against the wall of oppression and indignities".

Obama said that in today's Africa, where young people outnumbered older people, it made demographic sense that students and

# President



sub-Saharan Africa. He said his country had put US \$7-billion into the venture, while the private sector had contributed US \$9-billion.

Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price said Obama's visit to South Africa was rich in symbolism, and this may have been one reason he chose to speak at UCT.

Price also invoked the memory of the late Senator Kennedy, who spoke at UCT at the invitation of student leader Ian Robertson, during the darkest days of apartheid.

But, Price said, Kennedy inspired his listeners to look beyond the government's actions. He reminded "activists in South Africa" and the idealistic students and faculty listening to him that they were not alone, but part of a global movement that stood for, and fought for, the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was an inspirational message.

In the present day, former President Nelson Mandela provided his own brand of inspiration, Price said. He cited Madiba's ability to persuade us all to imagine a better future, and added that it was the famous 'Yes we can' campaign of Obama that inspired a nation to elect the first African-American president.

President Obama's particular emphasis on the future role of the youth spoke directly to the relevance of a university setting, Price said.

"It seems particularly fitting that President Obama should choose a university setting to make his principal policy speech on Africa. It is recognition of the importance of the independence of universities, and their role in guarding democracy, their focus on the next generation, their contribution to providing human capital, their role in innovation, and their promoting development in the numerous ways they do," said Price.

There was much analysis of the occasion in the immediate aftermath of Obama's historic address. Professor Don Ross, dean of the faculty of commerce at UCT, said Obama's focus on the challenges, responsibilities and opportunities for Africa's young people was accurate and welcomed. He said the long-term consequences should not be overlooked.

"The fact that President Obama spoke the words he did here is a fact that can be used to emphasise the unique responsibilities of – and opportunities for – UCT students, for years to come," said Ross.

For Dr John Akokpari, senior lecturer in UCT's Department of Political Studies and an international relations expert, Obama's visit to UCT established the university's status as one of the top universities in Africa.

"The long-term effects of Obama's visit are not exactly clear at this point, but back in the United States, UCT is noted as one of the top universities in Africa," said Akokpari. "Having the US president here means the university is recognised as one of the best universities in Africa. It perhaps positions UCT as a place where US foreign policy will be debated." ■

other young people could bring about the change that the continent needed.

But he touched the most hearts, and certainly drew the loudest applause, when he proclaimed: "Governments exist to service people, and not the other way around."

While Obama's speech covered many topics that are close to South Africans' hearts, he frequently referred to former president Nelson Mandela and how his work had been a beacon of light to all who wished to see a better South Africa. His frequent references to South Africa's greatest-ever son, a man almost immortalised across the globe, elicited loud acclaim.

But perhaps the most noteworthy feature of Obama's address, which covered a wide swathe of topics, was his announcement of a ground-breaking project, Power Africa, the aim of which is to double the number of people who currently have access to power in



**Universal smile:** Obama shares a moment with UCT Vice Chancellor Dr Max Price and president of the Students' Representative Council Lorne Hallendorf.

# Celebrating 70 years:

**S**eventy years ago a UCT student saw a community in need and decided to do something about it. In 1943 the Kensington Students' Clinic was established to address the squalor that Andrew Kinnear, a UCT medical student, had encountered in the area. His efforts were supported by Dr Golda Selzer from the Groote Schuur Pathology Department.

The Kensington clinic, together with two others in Retreat and Elsie's River, would form the backbone of what would become the Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO). In 1954 SHAWCO was formally approved by the University Council and was registered as a welfare organisation.

Today SHAWCO Health co-ordinates six clinics per week, which operate at night, and see an average of 5 000 patients per year. SHAWCO Education manages 11 projects that cater to over a thousand children. In order for SHAWCO to remain sustainable, SHAWCO Social Enterprises (Pty) Ltd was created, and currently contributes half of SHAWCO's income. The revenue generated through the social enterprise projects is reinvested into the communities SHAWCO serves.

## Changing context

According to Jonathan Hoffenberg, SHAWCO education co-ordinator, since its establishment the organisation has reflected the changing nature of the UCT community as well as that of broader Cape Town.

For him, SHAWCO history is broken into three phases: pre-apartheid, during apartheid and post-apartheid.

"SHAWCO has its origins in a segregated city and university, so initially its work involved privileged students doing outreach in so-called slum villages. The amelioration of poverty was the focus and SHAWCO set up day clinics, welfare (including the first meals on wheels) and sports



*Then: Community members congregate outside the SHAWCO clinic in the late 1950s, in the area known as Kensington-Windermere, now Kensington and Fackretton.*

projects, and night schools," says Hoffenberg.

The advent of the apartheid system galvanised SHAWCO and had a massive impact on the organisation and the communities it served. "Apartheid saw a division growing within SHAWCO, as staff-run and increasingly large-scale welfare and statutory work using state funds conflicted with growing student activism. But despite these inherent tensions, SHAWCO continued to incubate and pilot community engagements such as the Peninsula School Feeding Scheme.

"Post-apartheid Cape Town presented SHAWCO with a new mixture of adversity and opportunity. Along with the changing nature of UCT, SHAWCO now reflects a diverse volunteer student core. Gone is the statutory

and welfare work, health clinics are now mobile, and education projects see UCT students travelling into townships Monday to Saturday in an engagement that is more about mutual development and support," concludes Hoffenberg.

## Emphasis on development and sustainability

This shift from statutory social and welfare work to development is evident in the type of projects undertaken by SHAWCO today. In 1962 one of SHAWCO's flagship projects was the Family Health Promotion Clinic. Twenty-five fourth-year medical students were allocated to needy families living in the Windermere (now Kensington) area. These students would act as family doctors and conduct home

## FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

At the heart of SHAWCO's work are its many volunteer-driven projects and social enterprises. Two projects give insight into the organisation's priorities as it enters its eighth decade.

### RAGS2RICHES

Part of SHAWCO's Social Enterprise sector and one of its five revenue-generating initiatives, Rags2Riches was launched in 2007. It sees the collection of second-hand clothes, mainly from UCT students, which are then cleaned and sold to vendors for a nominal amount. In turn, these vendors mark up the clothing and sell it on.

On 3 May 2011 SHAWCO opened its first Rags2Riches store in Mowbray, and on 25 May 2013 its second store was opened at the SHAWCO Kensington Centre.

Since 2012 it has been possible to keep track of incoming and outgoing stock through a system created by four volunteers from Hong Kong. This tracking system includes the ability to see all items that were received from various collection points, and also donations from

members of the community. Since its inception, this project has generated approximately R1 million annually, which has been ploughed back into SHAWCO's operational funding.

### SATURDAY SCHOOL

Established in 2009, Saturday School is a professionally-run educational intervention that engages with more than 200 Cape Town-based Grade 12 learners from developing communities. It aims to strengthen learners' abilities in core academic areas such as mathematics, physical science, English, life science and accounting.

The programme takes the learners out of their communities and transports them to the University of Cape Town for extra lessons, thus giving them the opportunity to experience what attending a university would be like. The learners also receive life skills interventions and attend career guidance workshops, and are encouraged by motivational speakers and other guest presenters. They are also given access to chemistry and botany laboratories, a luxury many developing community schools do not have.



# SHAWCO then and now



## In their own words: volunteers share their thoughts

“The principle of service to the community is fundamental to SHAWCO work. The service rendered is often more than purely medical. The build-up of morale and responsibility among the local populace is urgently needed; it is only when this sense of self-respect has been achieved that ‘long-term’ treatment can be undertaken.”

**David Katz**  
*SHAWCO volunteer 1967*

“My seven-year involvement in SHAWCO was a life-changing experience – one that has shaped my view and instilled in me the belief that change is possible. SHAWCO consists of a group of dedicated and passionate individuals; all with the aim, together with the communities, to improve the lives of others. I really do miss the caring family and the work I did, but I enjoy watching how SHAWCO keeps growing from strength to strength. I am honoured to have been a part of such amazing work.”

**Thandi de Wit**  
*Health President 2009*

“As a volunteer, SHAWCO clinics achieved what the medical curriculum based in tertiary hospitals struggled to do: humanise medical treatment and allow one to better understand the socio-economic background of patients in our society. The clinics reminded me why I studied medicine and taught me how to be a good doctor, as well as most of my clinical skills and knowledge of primary-care ailments. Through SHAWCO we were gifted the invaluable experience of managing a huge healthcare organisation, and learning to jump all the administrative and legal hurdles that we will face later in our careers.”

**Simon Mendelsohn**  
*SHAWCO Health President 2011*

Share your SHAWCO memories on [www.facebook.com/SHAWCO.UCT](http://www.facebook.com/SHAWCO.UCT), tweet us @SHAWCO\_UCT or email [shawcomemories@shawco.org](mailto:shawcomemories@shawco.org)



**Now:** The SHAWCO paediatric clinic at Imizamo Yethu is one of two weekly paediatric clinics SHAWCO runs in partnership with the School of Child and Adolescent Health. These clinics were introduced in 2009 and operate either from permanent health facilities or from purpose-built mobile clinics.

visits. They were also obliged to leave their telephone numbers so that the families could get hold of them in emergencies.

Co-founder Selzer, then-chairperson of the SHAWCO Health management committee, reported in an article for the *SA Tydskrif vir Geneeskunde* that these students would “advise on nutrition and through the SHAWCO welfare service they help with clothing and blankets. Students have used their influence to find employment even for the unemployables and those who want work”.

Selzer remained SHAWCO’s honorary life president until her death in 1999. The current life president is Graça Machel, UCT chancellor and the wife of former president Nelson Mandela.

One of SHAWCO’s current projects is the Saturday School. It was piloted in 2008 in the townships of Khayelitsha and Nyanga. Its purpose is to provide previously disadvantaged learners with curriculum support in mathematics, physical science, English, life science and accounting (see sidebar for more information).

To help fund the Saturday School, the SHINE programme was developed, in 2010. Grade 10 to 12 learners from more privileged backgrounds are given the opportunity to improve their academic achievements in subjects such as pure mathematics, physical science, accounting, English and Afrikaans – at a cost. The payment received from the SHINE learners partly subsidises the costs of the SHAWCO Saturday School programme, which supports more than 200 learners from disadvantaged communities.

## Student-driven organisation

“The unique feature is that the entire project, since its earliest days, has been the responsibility and achievement of students of the University of Cape Town.” This observation by Selzer in her 1963 article encapsulates one of the hallmarks of SHAWCO.

In his memoirs, former UCT vice-chancellor Stuart Saunders agrees: “The students have consistently been in advance of their elders in introducing change in SHAWCO. They were amongst the first to emphasise community involvement in the affairs of the organisation ... and to insist that the purpose of SHAWCO was to empower the poor people so that SHAWCO services would eventually no longer be needed in a particular area.”

As much as the communities are impacted by SHAWCO’s interventions, the student volunteers are not left unchanged by their interaction with people less fortunate than themselves.

Lesley Connolly, a former SHAWCO volunteer who works for the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), said this about her experience at SHAWCO:

“SHAWCO exposes an otherwise sheltered student life to a different side of Cape Town. SHAWCO provides opportunities for students to learn and help society and gives the learners it works with a fighting chance at making something of their lives. I do not think students at UCT seize the opportunities SHAWCO provides enough, and I do feel that it needs to retain more students to ensure follow-through, but as a primarily student-run organisation, it allows students to really grasp a bit more of the reality of South Africa.” ■

# Message in a Bottle

**I**n June of this year, we were very fortunate to have the immensely affable Philipp H Gutsche (BCom, UCT, 1960) deliver an Alumni Leadership Forum talk in Port Elizabeth. He is the Port Elizabeth 'Citizen of the Year', for 2003, a Director of the Mandela Bay Development Agency, and a very proud UCT alumnus!

Elle Williams sat down with Mr Gutsche to find out more about his business philosophy, which saw him grow the SA Bottling Company from a small, manually-operated bottling plant in Port Elizabeth to a multinational enterprise, now known as Coca-Cola Sabco, operating 26 plants in 12 countries across Africa and Asia, serving over 240 million consumers, and employing approximately 10,000 staff.

## EW: How did you get your start in the South African bottling industry?

PG: Well, I was fortunate to get involved in the soft drink business at the time when I did [ie the 1950s]. Of course the timing in any business is very important to the outcome of things.

So in those years, the founders of the soft drink industry, my father's generation of bottlers, established small franchise businesses with the Coca-Cola company. At that stage, the Coca-Cola company would give a franchise to anyone who was willing to work.

What determined the franchise getting a network was the Road Transportation Act, which stated that you were allowed to deliver within a region of 50 miles of your factory, then another 20 or 30 miles beyond that. If you wanted to deliver beyond that you had to use rail transport, which was monopolistic, and it was a dead end for those early

entrepreneurs.

Now at that time, the Coca-Cola Company only had one bottle size, with one flavour, but there were many other flavours in the market, with people using their own product and having a higher margin, so the early Coca-Cola bottlers were facing a number of challenges.

What really added to this was when, in around 1950 or 1952, the [Health Ministry] imposed a penny-a-bottle excise duty on soft drinks, which were selling at that stage for a ticky a bottle (2.5 pennies). Well, that sent these emerging bottlers into a downward spiral because they simply didn't have the resources to succeed.

So at that point, a group of bottlers came together and set up a committee under the chairmanship of my father (who was living in Brakpan at the time), and came up with their own product, called Sparletta.

They were able to [register it as] a Section 21 company, and that company was able to buy concentrate from suppliers at a very low price, and they could use that to fight competition, and develop volume.

Simultaneously they, along with the Coca-Cola Company, approached the government to abolish the excise duty, which they did about a year later.

Now I remember that period because [what it meant for me was], when I went to UCT, there wasn't much money available for me to study, and I was determined that I wanted a motorcar! In those days, unlike today, not many students on campus had motorcars.

I was able to buy a second-hand car by borrowing the money from my father, but of course

I had to pay him back for it, which I did within a year, by working for that money. So during all my vacations, starting after I left matric,

I came to East London and Port Elizabeth

and worked as a driver-salesman in the original factory, which was very small and very humble, but of course over the Christmas period it was very busy and they needed an extra driver.

So I immediately went out on the deliveries and started selling. The route that I had was in areas that were mostly populated by the Chinese and Indian traders, and I learned a lot from them because like us, their businesses were very small and very humble.

I would introduce myself and say "I'm Philipp Gutsche, would you like to buy some Coca-Cola?" and they'd say "No thanks" and I'd say "Okay, I'll see you later in the week." And I would go back, persistently. I think they saw that I was a student and they'd feel sorry for me, so they started buying and I started earning commission.

And I would load the trucks at night and offload them when I came back – me and one truck-helper.

So those were my humble beginnings in this industry, which were, I think, a very good way for me to start, and I've tried to pass this on; in fact my granddaughter recently went to Maputo, working on the merchandising side of our operations there, and I'm very glad that she's starting in the company in that way.

## EW: The tried-and-tested bottom-up approach.

PG: Yes, if you can combine the basics with a good education, I think that really sets you off on the right footing.

So after UCT, I joined the Coca-Cola company as a trainee. After a short period they gave me a junior management position in the Sales department, and soon after that, when my father needed a branch manager in Port Elizabeth [at the bottling company], the Coca-Cola company recommended me.

I thought they were trying to get rid of me, but they said no, they thought that joining the bottling franchise would be a good opportunity to learn the business at a higher level. So I did, and as Branch Manager I really had a chance to learn how to run a small business.

## EW: Tell us what your strategy was for growing the business into the multinational operation that it is today.

PG: When I started as Branch Manager, we had two branches – one in Port Elizabeth and one in East London, and my father realized that in order to survive, we needed more.

Now, you can grow your business by organic growth, and by acquisitions – that was our formula for success, and I was very ambitious to have a successful business.

At that time, there were a couple of very serious players in the bottling industry, and there was much ri-

> continued on page 52



# Biko explores a brave new world

**H**lumelo Biko, son of Steve Biko and Mamphela Ramphele, has just written a book, called *The Great African Society* – a bold analysis of South Africa’s past and its impact on our future.

A UCT alumnus, Hlumelo obtained a BA degree in history and politics at the turn of the millennium, during the period that his mother was UCT Vice-Chancellor. Post-UCT he went to the United States where he worked at the World Bank for six months before pursuing a masters in international relations at Georgetown University in Washington DC.

He always knew he wanted to come back home and that he wanted to make a difference by means of venture capital. However, this was smack in the middle of the tech bust and there were no jobs in venture capital at the time. So he found someone who allowed him to “tag along to meetings” for free, and in that way observed the industry before going out on his own.

Today, he merges his two clear passions – business and education – in his roles as co-founder and Executive Chairman of Spinnaker Growth Partners, a venture capital company, and a director of the African School for Excellence in Tsakane, Gauteng. He spoke recently at an Alumni Leadership Forum. Elle Williams, from UCT’s Development and Alumni Department, caught up with him.

## **EW: Who’s the person you “tagged along to meetings” with?**

*HB:* His name was Steve Phelps, he ran a company called Peregrine, based in Cape Town, which was mostly a project finance company at the time. We were doing hotel developments around the continent – Tanzania, Mozambique – through deals he had with the Sun International group and a few others, to develop hotels for them. And we would do the structuring of the finance and the raising of the money. So that was my introduction into finance.

## **EW: And so, how does venture capital make a difference, or change the world?**

*HB:* Venture capital enables entrepreneurs to get ideas out that would have never happened in the absence of that capital. So all of these life-changing things – Google, iTunes, YouTube, they were all backed by venture capitalists when nobody believed them. You know, typically venture capitalists come in after your family has run out of money to support you!

What makes my job exciting is that each of the entrepreneurs that we come across approaches us with a way to address big problems. Whether those problems coincide with some of the national agendas is one thing, but they’re big. And so part of our job as problem solvers is to help them break down the walls between their ideas and reality, and that makes life fun.

And that’s why I’m not jaded, because I’m not dealing with jaded people, I’m dealing with people who are approaching their enterprises as potentially life-changing enterprises.



*At the ALF in Johannesburg, Hlumelo Biko signs a copy of his book *The Great African Society*, a highly-recommended read for all those who are interested in thinking through possibilities for South Africa’s future. For more information about Hlumelo and the book, visit [www.hlumelobiko.com](http://www.hlumelobiko.com).*

## **EW: What made you ‘need’ to write this book?**

*HB:* At the stage that I wrote the book I was winding down my first fund. You know when you want something a lot and you’ve achieved it, the question of ‘what next’ comes up. And to me, it was very obvious at that time that there was going to be a massive fight between middle-and-upper-class South Africans, and everyone else, who is getting tired of waiting.

I really wanted to make the argument about where the influence of South Africa’s past starts and stops, and where the current actors’ responsibility for today starts and stops, and to look at what the alternative ways of moving forward could be.

## **EW: Did you feel any pressure to have your book stand up against your father’s work?**

*HB:* I’ve been lucky, because I have an older brother, who runs the Steve Biko Foundation. He’s been the head of the family his whole life, and he’s taken a lot of the pressure off of us as the younger siblings to have to carry a legacy.

So really, when I was thinking about writing a book, I wasn’t conscious of the fact that it was going to be published and I didn’t feel the pressure while writing.

In terms of his legacy, of course there are many positive things that I draw from, such as the fact that he was 27 when he was writing a lot of the things he did. So I could get over the hangups about being young and making big points because he was quite a lot younger than me when he did that, and that’s been a huge inspiration.

Also, I think we’ll never again have the set of circumstances that create a person like [he was].

## **EW: At the Alumni Leadership Forum you spoke about education and how we need to up the standard of education in this country. Beyond employability, what are we aiming to educate our youth towards?**

*HB:* I think our curriculum needs to create ‘whole people’, and part of being a whole person is understanding where you came from, understanding your place in the world, and having a conscience about your obligations to society.

What I loved about UCT was that we learned very early on that there’s no one history, there’s no one person’s story, and I think we need to encourage that kind of inquisitiveness and ability to question the information that you’re given, because that type of critical assessment of self is important as someone goes on in their lives and becomes a professional.

And I think that part of the issue is that we’re trying to explain to the youth that “it’s not our fault, somebody did this to us”, and I think that takes away young people’s agency and actually makes them feel and act helpless.

If you remember, one of the cornerstones of Black Consciousness was to inject agency into people, and to say, your situation is about you, and your ability to stop other people determining what your life is going to look like.

So this theory of self-actualisation still has a role today in terms of all of us understanding ourselves better, because it prepares us to then have normal relationships with other people, whereas now I think a lot of black people are having schizophrenic relationships, where behind closed doors you curse white people, then when the doors are open, you interact with them and you have to have a fake smile, and you’re bearing a lot of weight on your shoulders, and projecting lots of issues that aren’t really happening, in that relationship.

And I think that if we were “whole” people, we would understand when you have to challenge someone on what they’re doing, and when you have to just get over it and move on. And I think it’s different for every person and there’s no prescription on how to

# Opera combines Janel Speelman's two passions: singing and acting



**Red is for passion:** Speelman likes to 'become' the characters she plays.

For Janel Speelman, opera combines her two passions: singing and acting.

"I have a huge passion for acting as well as for singing. I realised when performing in musicals at school that I needed to be in a situation where I could marry the two," said Speelman, who is currently enrolled for a Postgraduate Diploma in Opera.

Despite still being a student, Janel is well on her way to establishing her career in opera, having just played Zerlina in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at the Baxter Theatre, and after winning great critical acclaim for her depiction of Despina in *Così Fan Tutte* last year.

Originally from Belhar in Cape Town, Speelman started singing in her local church, where her mother was the choir mistress. She attended Settler's High in Bellville, where her participation in musicals and the school choir just confirmed what she already knew: "I needed to go to UCT, as Professor Virginia Davids teaches at UCT. I'd heard so much about her and really wanted to study under her," she explains.

Speelman first obtained her BMus and then her BMus Honours, and is now honing her performance skills. "I love it here, and enjoy the vibrancy and the energy of the South African College of Music."

By pursuing music professionally Speelman is living out her parents' dream. Her mother, an accomplished singer, is a nurse; and her late father, who worked as a traffic officer, played in a band in his free time. She believes she inherited her talent from both parents.

She enjoys getting under her characters' skin – finding out why they do the things they do. The most rewarding aspect of what she does is "...singing a part and it doesn't feel as if you're acting – you are so connected to a character that when you are on stage, you *are* that character. That is when you achieve what you are there to achieve. When there is no more Janel, only the character."

When Speelman is really connected to a character, everything comes naturally because she is going through everything the character is going through. She admits that living herself into a character like this is very tiring, but she wouldn't have it any other way.

When asked about her future plans she says she would like to experience life overseas.

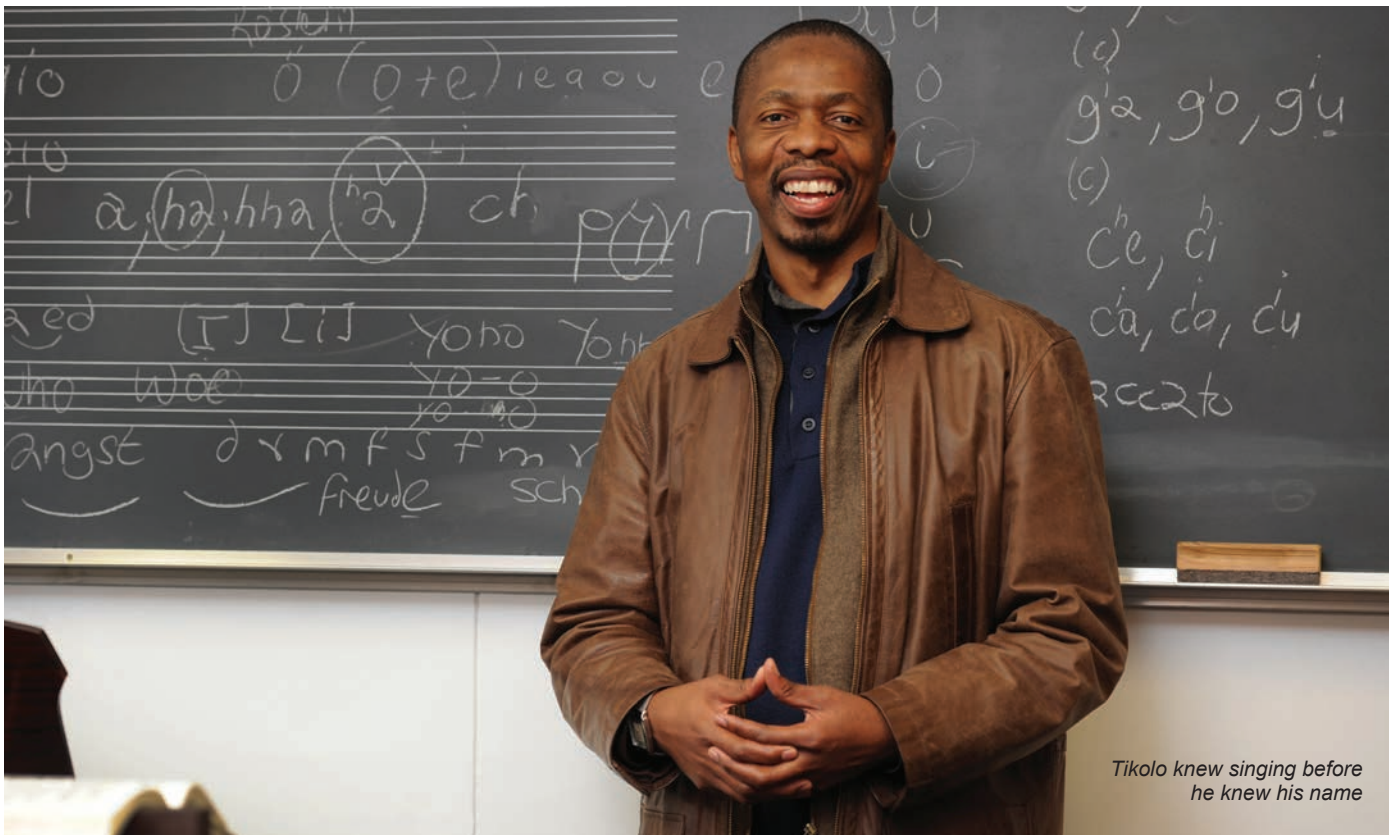
"I see myself studying abroad. Learning even more about opera and music, but also seeing another country and experiencing what music means to [the people of] another country. I understand what music means to South Africans and what it means to the students here. So many of us began singing in our communities. It's something that comes so naturally to South Africans – to sing and to act and be on stage. It would be interesting to go abroad and see what music means to others."

She believes that perceptions of opera being elitist can, and should, be broken down through opera outreach initiatives. She belongs to a community outreach project called ComArt in which UCT students perform for the Elsie's River community. Not only do these students have an opportunity to showcase their talent, they also offer some individuals, who might not normally attend operas, the chance to experience classical music.

"We teach community members about operas and classical music in a way which is fun – in a light-hearted way. We are taking the music to the people instead of expecting them to come to [Cape Town's] Artscape Theatre to watch an opera.

"It is important for students to do community work because when you give back, you learn much more in the process. You also learn about people's perception, which is useful if you plan on changing that perception." ■

# New head of vocal studies determined to unearth talent



*Tikolo knew singing before he knew his name*

**T**he melodious classical music wafting down the corridor that houses Patrick Tikolo's office at the South African College of Music (SACM) is deceptively relaxing. Once you step inside B26, the voice studies lecturer's fortitude is palpable.

It shouldn't be surprising, really. On his door is a poster emblazoned with the words "Remember, you don't have to practise all day, but do it as often as you eat."

Newly-appointed as head of vocal studies at UCT, Tikolo's professional career path is somewhat unorthodox. In between meeting UCT's Professor Angelo Gobbato at an audition in 1995 and completing high school a few years earlier, he sold insurance to make ends meet, while conducting a church choir, producing his own music and nurturing a baritone solo career.

His multitasking continued while pursuing his Master of Music degree (he graduated in 2004 from the Southern Methodist University in Dallas): Tikolo taught at three different schools simultaneously during daylight hours before hitting the books.

After being spotted at the audition (which was for the Cape Town Opera), Tikolo followed his "calling" by grasping the opportunity to study music at UCT in 1996. He completed a Performer's Diploma in Music in 2000 and followed that with master's studies in the USA.

While training as a professional singer, Tikolo sang in young artist programmes in Europe and the USA and won a number of scholarships and awards.

Tikolo's repertoire ranges from opera to oratorio, while he is no stranger to German, Russian, French and Italian songs. He has played title roles in a string of classic productions, from Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* to Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*.

Tikolo's professional career has not been without its challenges – he says there were times that he felt he was "too young" for the cutthroat academic world – but the students remain a key motiva-

tion for him.

"I've got a reason to hang on, and that is I work with students who really appreciate me."

It's not all tense, though.

"It has been fun, I'll tell you that," Tikolo sums up his musical journey with a smile.

A student knocks on Tikolo's door during our conversation. It's Thembinkosi Mgetyengana, who won the 2009 Schock Foundation Prize for Singing at the SACM along with fellow vocal prodigy Nozuko Teto.

"[Mgetyengana's victory] was something I can never forget," Tikolo grins. "It was his first attempt, and he won!"

Mgetyengana is one of many of Tikolo's students who have won national competitions, and the mentor bristles with pride when he talks about the Bongani Kubhekas and Linda Ntelezas who shine on stage.

Growing up in an Apostolic household in Zwelitsha, King Williams' Town, music was in Tikolo's blood.

"I grew up in an environment where there was already lots of music; people singing, so before I even knew my name, I knew singing," he beams. "I don't recall any part of my life that had nothing to do with singing."

"It's funny because [despite] all of this enthusiasm about music, I never thought I'd go to a university to study music," he adds. He studied internal auditing for a year through correspondence before the auditions for the Cape Town Opera arrived during his second year.

"When the auditions came, I never looked back!"

Tikolo is determined to unearth more hidden talent.

"We should go out and scout for more talent; we need to encourage our young people that we value them and their talent," he says.

What's the key to discovering generations of new Patrick Tikolos?

"It's just about getting to recognise that we can change the world." ■

# The Don Giovanni of 2013



**Deep connection:** Kemane was delighted to play a lead role fit for a bass baritone.

**A** standing ovation from the United Nations General Assembly on Madiba's 94<sup>th</sup> birthday was the last thing on his mind when Thesele Kemane departed from Cape Town to participate in an opera festival in the US last year.

However this is exactly what happened to the bass-baritone after a performance with fellow UCT student and mezzo-soprano Bongiwé Nakani had the UN's General Assembly on its feet.

Although the main reason for the visit to the US had been to participate in the Glimmerglass Festival's Young Artist Programme, Kemane and Nakani were unexpectedly called upon to sing at the UN. Their performance was also included in the documentary film about Kemane and two other South African opera singers titled *Ndiphilela Ukucula: I Live To Sing*.

The Glimmerglass Festival offers an annual season of operas at the Alice Busch Opera Theatre, outside Cooperstown in New York State. Kemane was one of five rising South African opera stars to participate in this programme which comprised 40 performances of four productions that ran in rotation during July and August.

He described his expectation of Glimmerglass as "... nerve-racking because there were performers there who were probably much better than you were". His experience turned out to be everything but that, as he got to know the people there and found them to be "the best – good to work with because they respected their fellow artists' voices".

The Glimmerglass Young Artist Programme gives talented singers at the beginning of their professional careers the chance to perform as well as the experience of working alongside world-class directors, designers and conductors.

Kemane was the cover for the role of the King in *Aida* as well as the character Hidraot in *Armide*. He also performed a role in the South African production *Lost in the Stars*.

He is extremely grateful for the exposure and chance to meet and network with prominent people in the entertainment industry. "Those who run the (Alice Busch) opera house also direct operas and they can recommend you to other directors all over the world," he says.

Kemane played the lead role in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* – a collaborative production between the UCT Opera School and Cape Town Opera which was staged at the Baxter in August.

He bemoans the fact that bass-baritones hardly ever get to play a hero. "Don Giovanni is one of the few instances in which we get to be the lead, but the character is anything but a hero...he has a ferocious appetite for women," he adds.

Kemane obtained a Performer's Diploma in Opera at UCT's South African College of Music and is currently completing a Postgraduate Diploma in Music in Performance. He is also the recipient of the 2013 Olitalia and Rialto Food Opera Bursary. Originally from Kimberley, he has lived in Cape Town for the last eight years. He comes from a family of gifted singers and has four sisters and one brother.

He started singing in primary school after a friend convinced him to join the choir – where he sang tenor. At high school his voice broke and he became a baritone, but as the years progressed his voice deepened to a bass-baritone.

During high school he was selected to represent the Northern Cape as a soloist in a competition. "Because of the rush of being on stage and the applause, I decided to study music."

"I originally wanted to be a doctor, but as the years progressed I realised that mathematics wasn't one of my strongest subjects," he laughs wryly.

He always knew that he wanted to study at UCT. "It was the best and I knew people who studied there – and they were the best." ■

# Music was her first love

**H**aving made her professional debut at the Royal Albert Hall in a gala concert alongside José Carreras and Kiri te Kanawa, Runette Botha's soaring soprano is making waves in the opera world. Currently based in Germany, the 2013 Standard Bank Young Artist Award winner initially studied accountancy, but despite gaining her degree, the lure of financial rewards in the business world did not lessen her passion for singing.

Although Botha is the first classical singer in her family, there was always music in her Brakpan home.

"I think that music chooses one, one does not choose music. I also believe that passion is one of the most important things in pursuing a career in the arts," she comments.

A music career was not top of mind when Botha was growing up, but all the signs were there. As a youngster she was a member of the East Rand children's choir and later joined East Rand youth choirs. She was also part of the Rand Afrikaans University Choir (now the University of Johannesburg) while studying towards her accounting degree, and also sang in one of the university's serenade groups.

"The school which I attended did not offer music as subject, but I did quite well in accounting and was given a bursary by one of the then 'big five' accounting firms," said Botha.

After completing her degree, Botha's love for music saw her enrol for a singing course at the Tshwane University of Technology. She then went on to UCT's South African College of Music to complete a performer's diploma in opera. This was followed by a master's degree in opera at the Royal Academy of Music in London and she soon became a sought-after concert singer and recitalist.

After completing her master's degree, Botha travelled to Italy to attend the Solti/Te Kanawa Accademia di Bel Canto (now called the Georg Solti Accademia di Bel Canto). It was in Italy that a German conductor heard her sing and invited her to Germany.

She recently completed a two-year contract with the Staatstheater Kassel's Opera Studio and is currently under contract with the Nordharzer Städtebundtheater.

Botha describes the experience of working in Germany as 'extraordinary'.

"It's rare for a singer (of classical music) to earn a monthly salary. Germany is one of the few countries in the world where one is employed at a theatre on a full-time basis. The opera scene is so vibrant there, with families coming to watch us perform."

As winner of the Standard Bank Young Artist Award – one of South Africa's most prestigious awards which acknowledges emerging artists with outstanding talent – Botha has also been recognised in her homeland.

"I'm very grateful to Standard Bank for this award. I believe that the exposure is invaluable. I hope that through this award I will get the opportunity to do more work at home, and then in effect invest my talent in South Africa again," said Botha.

Botha was out shopping with a friend in Germany and when she got the call informing her of her Young Artist Award.

"You can imagine what a good shopping trip that was. I was totally overwhelmed and blown away by the news," she recalls.

"Acknowledgement like this is fantastic because it's so difficult for classical musicians and singers in South Africa. There are hardly any platforms for us, therefore the exposure is really great."

As winner Botha performed at this year's Grahamstown Arts Festival, where her performances were very well received.

"It is such an honour and privilege to perform in front of a South African audience. Local audiences exude a warmth and



*Runette Botha, winner of the 2013 Standard Bank Young Artist Award in Music, obtained her first degree in accounting.*

appreciation that you don't find anywhere else in the world."

"Also, my family rarely get the opportunity to see me perform, so it was really special that they were also in the audience," she added.

Looking back at the start of her academic career at the University of Johannesburg, Botha says she's glad she did not enter the music scene straight after school.

"The industry is very plastic and a certain level of maturity is required if you are to handle all the challenges you face as a young singer.

"I hope to be part of the process to create platforms for singers and other musicians in South Africa, to inspire more people to listen to classical music and opera and not to dismiss it immediately as 'boring' or 'elitist' without really giving it a chance," said Botha about the role she hopes to play in shaping South Africa's artistic landscape.

"There is so much potential in our beautiful country; we just need to support our artists and give them the opportunities that they deserve." ■

# Talking Italian

SA Soprano lives emotion on opera stage

**N**ozuko Teto was stopping over in South Africa in between gracing operatic stages in Italy when she sat down with Yusuf Omar to catch us up on her budding singing career.

The rising soprano star and UCT alumna is currently studying and performing at CUBEC – Accademia Lirica Mirella Freni, a prestigious Italian opera school in Modena. There she has played the lead role of Mimi in the classic production *La Bohème*, Puccini's tale of two young 'bohemian' people living in the Latin Quarter of Paris.

After high school, Teto knew that music was the only thing she wanted to do.

"Whatever career I chose, I wanted it to be one where even if I was stressed, I would be fine," she says. "I chose music, naturally."

Teto's love for the stage was born in secondary school, but she was only introduced to opera at high school in 1999. Her love of music saw her initially complete a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2006, before enrolling at UCT's South African College of Music. The soprano received her Artist Diploma from UCT in 2010, having been a student of Professor Kamal Khan and Associate Professor Virginia Davids.

A career in opera is slightly nerve-wracking, says Teto, as, with limited opportunities locally and a shrinking global market, a performer is rarely certain of when one will land that next role, she says.

"It's a very long journey that requires a lot of self-belief and a positive attitude, because tomorrow is not obvious," she says. "With other careers, you know that, if I graduate, then I'll be working in a particular way; but for us, it's a very long journey. You study and then [perhaps] you feel like you are not ready, so you study again, and then you still need to take lessons for the instrument to be in shape all the time.

"One can never say that you have finished taking lessons and will just focus on working."

Although the continual quest for excellence is challenging, the work is worth it, she says. "After all the hard work, you just breathe and see that it's been worth all the effort."

What does she love most about the stage?

"As someone said the other day, it's 'living a fantasy truthfully,'" explains Teto. "We have to learn to do that; not act as if we are, but be those characters. So, the pleasure is on stage when you are actually communicating with the souls of the audiences, your soul and theirs. It's just magical when you actually can connect with the audience."

Teto counts Mimi, from *La Bohème*, Angelica in *Suor Angelica* (both by Puccini), and La Contessa from *Le Nozze De Figaro* (Mozart) as roles that she particularly revels in 'being'.

Mozart and Puccini's works happen to be the music that Teto truly connects to. "Those are the two composers that really speak to my soul. I enjoy interpreting their music.

"The music might be by Puccini, but when I sing it's like he's speaking to my soul, so I have a lot of fun when I learn them.

"It's the way they write," she says. "It's their music. It's like a revelation of something about you. You realise that your past experiences are actually helping you to interpret the role better, because you have so much to relate to."

Angelica, star of Puccini's famous one-act play, is particularly close to Teto's heart. Angelica was a teenager when she gave birth to a child, and was ostracised by family and friends, while her baby was taken away from her. Teto fell pregnant while studying towards a master's degree, and says that her experience of motherhood makes Angelica's plight resonate deeply with her.

"Those roles are about losing something, or longing for something. For



Nozuko Teto

me, my love for my son helps me with those," says Teto. "I haven't lost my son, but every time I sing it, because it's about a baby, it just really gets to me.

"If you live the emotion in the song, it's very easy for the audience to share that with you."

It's hard work, acknowledges Teto, "but that's why you come to a school like UCT where they help you to analyse every word, so it's not just about having a good voice. It's about the story you're telling."

While she enjoys translating music into contexts that contemporary audiences can relate to, Teto is also a purist when it comes to interpreting music.

"It's important not to lose the original meaning that the composer intended."

In the near future, she plans to explore opera houses in Germany and Austria, where funding is less of a problem than elsewhere in the world.

Teto is also keen to sample other singing styles. "I don't want to only be an opera singer," she says. ■



# Alumnus wins 2013 Met Audition



**B**ack in high school Musa Ngqungwana excelled at Maths and Science. Understandably his mother encouraged him to become a doctor or an engineer, but his first love was always music.

Opera star Ngqungwana is now blazing a trail on the global stage and his accomplishments can be viewed on his Facebook fan page (Musa Bass-Baritone), where he gives thanks for the many successes he's achieved.

This year alone has seen his career moving forward by leaps and bounds. He was one of six winners of the prestigious Metropolitan Opera National Auditions in New York, and performed at the Kirsten Flagstad Festival in Norway. He also spent part of the year as a Stearns Music Institute Fellow at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago before returning to his base in Philadelphia, where he is a resident artist at the Academy of Vocal Arts.

Things could have turned out very differently though, as after high school Ngqungwana initially enrolled for an engineering degree at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, in his home town of Port Elizabeth. However his heart was not in it, and he abandoned his course after one year and travelled to Gauteng.

Not long after his arrival he ended up at Pretoria's State Theatre, which at the time was home to the Black Tie Ensemble – a group of vocalists directed by legendary South African soprano Mimi Coertse. His potential talent was quickly spotted, and he was advised to obtain a qualification in opera if he wanted to truly maximise his potential and secure a career in the entertainment industry.

Things moved very quickly after that, and within the space of two weeks he had applied to UCT's South African College of Music (SACM) and travelled to Cape Town. Here Ngqungwana successfully auditioned for Virginia Davids, renowned vocal coach and mentor to many of the SACM's current and former stars.

Since graduating he has performed a number of noteworthy roles to tremendous critical acclaim, including Leperello, from

*Don Giovanni*, and Figaro, from *La Nozze De Figaro*. However, his real dream is to portray the majestic King Philip in Verdi's *Don Carlo*, a role to which he says he will only feasibly be able to do justice in about twenty years.

High aspirations come easily to artists who are passionate about their work. Ngqungwana's passion for his art form is positively infectious. He waxes lyrical – not only about the beauty and complexity of the famous, classic works, but about the possibilities for opera's future in South Africa.

He suggests one only look at the success of Mzilikazi Khumalo's opera about the life of Princess Magogo kaDinizulu (mother of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi), written entirely in Zulu. Ngqungwana observes that opera should no longer be considered a quintessentially European or elitist art form, but one that has meaning for South Africa and which is becoming more firmly entrenched in the nation's culture.

As Professor Kamal Khan, Director of the UCT Opera School and his former vocal coach, noted recently, just as South African opera stars like Ngqungwana and Pretty Yende have spent hours learning to enunciate and interpret lyrics written in Italian, French and German, it's becoming apparent that given the talent emerging from the UCT Opera School, international audiences will have to get used to pronouncing names like 'Ngqungwana'.

His meteoric rise in such a competitive industry has not gone to his head, he maintains, and he hasn't forgotten the campus where it all began.

"A lot of people get their degrees, leave and don't look back. That's not me, I want to come back. I built relationships here [at UCT], people helped me get to where I am and I'd like to do that too, and give something back. Maybe one day I'll start a bursary, or, way in the future, come back and teach. Whichever way I can contribute to the place that shaped me."

In the meantime it seems likely that Ngqungwana's star is in its ascendancy! ■

# War horse: Puppeteers' creations pluck heart strings

At a graduation ceremony in December, UCT alumni Basil Jones and Adrian Kohler were awarded honorary degrees. The master puppeteers entranced guests with a surprise visit by Peter the chimpanzee, one of their memorable creations. However, it is Albert the *War Horse*, that is best known to audiences around the world.

“**H**e’s quite a horse, Albert, but for now, his place is with the army,” says a soldier to a young boy. That horse is Joey, who has been wrenched from his beloved young human, Albert, since being sold to the cavalry at the outbreak of World War One. Albert’s journey (undertaken while he was still too young to enlist) through treacherous war-zones to find his horse and bring him home has been showcased on stage since 2007 in the acclaimed production *War Horse*.

Joey himself was brought to life by the Handspring Puppet Company, a Capetonian puppetry performance and design firm founded by two UCT alumni, Basil Jones and Adrian Kohler, in 1981. Jones and Kohler, graduates of UCT’s Michaelis School of Fine Art, received a joint honorary Doctorate of Literature from their alma mater in December 2012 in recognition of their work under the guise of Handspring Puppet Company.

Jones and Kohler wowed the crowd at that UCT graduation ceremony in December 2012 with a ten-minute skit featuring the eerily life-like chimpanzee puppet, Peter. Peter, who sits on the board of directors of a multinational oil-company, did his best to convince the crowd that fracking the Karoo for shale gas would be in the best interests of the region and its inhabitants.

Audience members in the front rows might have noticed the tongue-made bulge in Peter’s cheek, but all watching could appreciate the ingenious meshing of social commentary and first-class puppetry. It’s a motif that runs through much of their work.

Back with *War Horse*, one is tempted to agree that Joey is indeed quite a horse. Full-scale, with flanks, hides and sinews built of steel, leather and aircraft cables; praise for the

production’s main attraction has flowed like Joey’s seamless joints.

Handspring received an Outer Critics Circle Special Achievement Award for ‘Puppet Design, Fabrication and Direction’ for *War Horse* in 2011, and the 2011 Special Tony Award. *War Horse* also received a Tony Award for Best Play.

*War Horse* is the latest in a string of international successes for Handspring, and as Peter demonstrated at the graduation ceremony, was conceived as more than ‘just’ entertainment.

“It’s a simple story, but it allows us to question the notion of war because it’s told from the perspective of the horse, an animal that has no way of making a choice,” Jones told the *San Francisco Chronicle* in August last year. “Through the animal’s eyes, you see how futile war really is.”

Jones and Kohler needed the horse characters to pluck audiences’ heartstrings for the gory truth of war to resonate with audiences, they said.

“With the puppets in *War Horse*, it’s about visual poetry and the size, muscular warmth and athleticism of a beautiful, emotional animal,” Kohler said, adding: “Puppets are a trick to do that, but it’s a complex interaction of imagination and storytelling.”

Critics have celebrated the play, based on Michael Morpurgo’s best-selling 1982 novel of the same name, as one of the best in recent memory.

“So exhilarating that it makes you rejoice to be alive,” enthused *the Times*, while *the Sunday Times* called it “The theatre event of the decade”.

*Time* magazine added its review: “A landmark theatre event”.

Joey and *War Horse* first galloped onto a stage in London in 2007 – where it remains to date – and followed that up with a recurring appearance in New York since 2011, shows in





Toronto in 2012, and a tour of the US from 2012 until 2013. It is regularly seen by crowds of up to 4 000 strong.

Jones and Kohler, who themselves avoided conscription to the South African Defence Force at the height of apartheid in the 1970s, strove to show the horrors of war through their puppets. The duo, who met at the Michaelis School of Fine Art and are romantic as well as professional partners, fled to Gaborone, Botswana after avoiding the army.

“It was an incredibly happening place for South Africans, and for two white gay guys from South Africa kind of plunging themselves into the heart of the cultural African National Congress,” Kohler told CNN in 2011. “I think we sorted ourselves out then, and then came back to South Africa with intentions of trying to use theatre as a means to educate kids about a possible different kind of future.” ■



# The Baxter's *Mies Julie* takes world by storm

**T**he Baxter Theatre Centre's hit play *Mies Julie*, written and directed by Yael Farber, came home from a record-breaking international tour to sell-out performances on its home turf in June.

In a contemporary reworking of August Strindberg's classic *Miss Julie*, Farber has transposed the 1888 parable of class and gender to a remote, bleak farm in the modern-day Karoo. Farber's interpretation tackles the deeper complexities of South African society.

Since *Mies Julie*'s first run at the Baxter Theatre last year (and a run at the Grahamstown National Arts Festival), the production played to full houses at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland, St Anne's Warehouse in New York, and the Riverside Studios in London.

The play has spread the name of the Baxter Theatre Centre far and wide. Since its establishment in 1977, the UCT theatre has played a prominent role in the South African arts and entertainment scene. It was built following a generous bequest by the late Dr William Duncan Baxter, who specified that the money be used to build a theatre open to all – this at a time when apartheid was at its peak.

In Edinburgh, the production beat 2 600 other shows on the fringe festival to scoop three prestigious awards, and in New York it was listed by the New York

Times as one of the top ten theatre productions of 2012. In London, more than 20 000 tickets were sold and it received 10 five-star ratings.

It has also amassed 30 international and local five-star reviews, and seven top theatre awards. These include four Fleur du Cap awards: Best Supporting Actress (Thoko Ntshinga), Best Director (Yael Farber), Best Lighting Design (Paul Abrams) and Best Original Score and/or Sound Design (Daniel and Matthew Pencer).

"It has been tremendously exciting to work with Yael again and to be part of bringing to life her incredible vision and interpretation of this classic, aptly transposed to contemporary South Africa," said Lara Foot, director and CEO of the Baxter Theatre Centre and international producer of *Mies Julie*.

"The journey so far has been nothing short of overwhelming and exhilarating. Yael has brought together an absolutely amazing cast and creative team to present a fresh take on this play, which made theatre history in South Africa in the 1980s. We are truly grateful for and proud of our partnerships with the National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, the Edinburgh Festival and the South African State Theatre, who all share in this phenomenal success," added Foot.

The production's international tour schedule includes Ireland, Finland, the UK, and the US. ■



## Brett Goldin's memory kept alive through bursary in his honour

SEVEN years after his death, Brett Goldin's memory still lives on through the talent of promising young South African actors who have been awarded the Brett Goldin Bursary. Recipients of the bursary are given the opportunity to travel to Stratford-upon-Avon to train with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

In the early hours of April 16, 2006, Goldin and his friend, Richard Bloom, both 28, were brutally murdered after leaving a party in Camps Bay.

Goldin had been due to travel to Stratford in four days time to perform as Guildenstern in Janet Suzman's production of *Hamlet*, the opening production for the World Shakespeare Festival.

Nicholas Pauling, 2008 bursary recipient and close friend of Goldin, says: "I'd just seen him a couple of days before and talked about him going away. Brett was really excited. He already had his bags packed." The bursary was started in 2007 by Sir Anthony Sher, Dame Janet Suzman and actress Dorothy Ann Gould to honour Goldin and keep his memory alive.

For Denise Goldin, the grief of losing her son will never go away. She believes that the cliché that time lessens pain is not factual, but rather that you just get used to it.

"Not a day goes past that you don't wish they were there to enjoy all the wonderful things that are happening in the world.

"Brett would have been very happy that these extremely talented young people would have this



**Brett Goldin**



**Dorothy Ann Gould**



**Nicholas Pauling**

opportunity which was denied him by four days," she says.

"The wonderful thing about the bursary is that it perpetuates and honours Brett's memory in a positive manner. For me it makes the anniversary of his passing more meaningful and less painful than it normally would have been, because his spirit still lives.

"Each and every one of the recipients so far has come back and really moved the community forward, and that's what Brett would have done. That's what we want the bursary to be about," she adds. "They come back with skills that help them upgrade our industry."

Gould was in the production of *Hamlet* that Goldin was supposed to be a part of and says it was agreed that it would be better to "honour Brett, rather than just fall apart". So the production continued as planned and a memorial service was held for Goldin at Shakespeare's grave on 23 April, Shakespeare's birthday.

Pauling was chosen to play Guildenstern in Goldin's place, and says: "We were always up for

similar roles. It was great to be able to represent him more than anything else. It was hard not to feel like a usurper – not that I was made to feel like that in any way," he says.

Pauling then applied for and won one of the places to train in Stratford in 2008.

He says that the first time he went to Stratford it was more about mourning and grief, but on his second visit there was more of a sense of celebration of Goldin's life.

"Brett would have been in his element with what has progressed over the years and would have so enjoyed all the progress in the theatre and film in this country and would have been a big part of it," says Denise Goldin. "My request to honour Brett is for people to keep supporting the bursary, that it will continue for many years to come and that it will spread the love of Shakespeare in our country."

This year marks the seventh anniversary of Goldin's and Bloom's murders. ■

• **Original article courtesy of Rebecca Jackman, *Weekend Argus*.**

## Suzman does UCT proud at Edinburgh

After returning to the Baxter Theatre Centre in July this year, Lara Foot's award-winning play *Solomon and Marion* headed for the Edinburgh Festival, the world's largest annual cultural festival. Dame Janet Suzman and Khayaletu Anthony star in Foot's two-hander, which won the 2012 Fleur du Cap award for Best New South African Play.

Mannie Manim won the award for Best Lighting Design, and a further four nominations were received for Best Director (Lara Foot), Best Set and Props Design (Patrick Curtis), Best Actress (Janet Suzman) and Best Actor (Khayaletu Anthony).

*Solomon and Marion* is the story of two injured souls searching for redemption in the fragile, post-apartheid South Africa.

As the country prepares for the World Cup finals, old divisions and suspicions seem as deep as ever, and the intruder Marion has been expecting, dreading and needing arrives. South African-born Suzman was made Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for her services to drama. In December 2010 Suzman received a Doctor of Literature honoris causa from UCT for her achievements in theatre. ■



**Internationally acclaimed:** Khayaletu Anthony and Dame Janet Suzman star in Lara Foot's award-winning *Solomon and Marion*, which showed at the 2013 Edinburgh Festival. (Photo: Ruphin Coudyzer.)

# UCT choir teams up with the cream of the crop from Yale



**W**hip-smart humour, pitch-perfect voices, and an unrivalled stage presence. This description sums up a show that blew audiences away at the Baxter Theatre Centre this year when Yale University's renowned collegiate *a cappella* group, the Whiffenpoofs, teamed up with the UCT Choir for a one-night performance in July.

The UCT Choir and Whiffenpoofs belted out excerpts from their respective repertoires in a show supported by UCT's Gordon Institute of Performing and Creative Arts, and the South African College of Music. The programme included a variety of choral music, from classical to contemporary genres, both secular and sacred.

The UCT Choir is a student-run ensemble. Notable recent performances include singing for the United Kingdom's Prince Charles in Jameson Hall and Sir David Attenborough at the Baxter Theatre, both in 2011. Founded in 1985, the choir released its first CD in 2010.

Meanwhile, each year 14 senior Yale men are selected for the Whiffenpoofs, which is reportedly the world's oldest collegiate *a cappella* group. The group was founded in 1909 and has performed for guests such as Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama and a range of US presidents. The group has previously graced venues like Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Centre, while they have appeared on *Saturday Night Live*, *The West Wing*, and NBC's *The Sing-Off*.

This year's show at the Baxter was the first time a Whiffenpoofs line-up has performed at UCT. The men from Yale then headed off to Thailand for the next leg of their 87-day, 24-country world tour. ■

## History of the Whiffenpoofs

**M**ore than 100 years ago, on a frosty January night in New Haven, Connecticut, five of the Yale Glee Club's best singers convened at Mory's Temple Bar to escape the cold. Louis Linder, the tavern's barkeep and a music aficionado, welcomed them in, beginning an institution that survives to this day.

Of those original five singers, four were members of the Glee Club's prestigious Varsity Quartet, a group that sang together regularly at various alumni events. Unwilling to restrict themselves to performances at public functions, the group began to meet on a weekly basis at Mory's, where they improvised harmonies to the songs they loved so well. These weekly meetings soon became a hallowed tradition among the singers.

As their fame on campus grew, the quintet began their search for a name. Denton 'Goat' Fowler, tickled by a joke featuring a mythical dragonfish named the Whiffenpoof, suggested the name to his companions, who found the name an apt reflection of the atmosphere of levity that accompanied the group's gatherings. The word quickly caught on with the group's admirers, and the name stuck.

In the years since, each generation of Whiffenpoofs has taken up the mantle of their forebears. For more than a century of songsters, the name, the song, and the weekly date at Mory's have remained a strong tradition.

# Found in translation

## Gripper's award-winning album

**F**unded by his fans, guitarist Derek Gripper's latest offering was recorded in one night, and contains the first translation of music for the kora – a West African harp-lute – to classical guitar.

The music world is sitting up and taking notice of Gripper's efforts. *Songlines Magazine* – one of the most influential publications on world music – selected Gripper's *One Night on Earth: Music from the Strings of Mali* as their Top of the World album.

He has been nominated for a South African Music Award (SAMA) in the Best Classical and Instrumental Album category. Last year he was nominated in the same category for his CD titled *The Sound of Water*.

"The world-famous classical guitarist John Williams loves it and is very excited about this new direction for the classical guitar. He heard it and immediately invited me to play a concert with him next year at Shakespeare's Globe in London," relates Gripper.

Gripper completed his music degree at UCT in 1999 and following a master's degree, taught classical guitar at the university before striking out on his own.

He describes the experience of recording *One Night on Earth* in one all-night session as "intense". The CD contains an interpretation of music by the Malian composers Toumani Diabaté, Ali Farka Touré, and Ballaké Sissoko written for the 21-string kora – a skin-covered calabash with a hardwood neck.

Instead of self-funding this project, Gripper informed his fan base of the cost and his intention to release a new CD. They rallied around him and funded the recording.

Once completed, the album was made available on his website ([www.derekgripper.com](http://www.derekgripper.com)) and people could decide how much they wanted to pay to download it. Within six weeks Gripper had made enough money for a wider release of the CD to mainstream outlets and websites like iTunes.

Born and bred in Cape Town, the first instrument Gripper played was a violin – a present from his father – at the age of six.

"I met a very charismatic teacher of guitar while at school. He was assigned as my piano teacher. Eventually I started to learn bass guitar and nylon-string guitar because my friends and I wanted to start a band. From there I started teaching myself classical guitar and I would sit outside the classical guitar teacher's room playing, waiting for tips on various pieces. I was about 15 or 16," says Gripper, adding that he doesn't know why he gravitated towards the guitar.

"Probably it suits me because it is something you can play alone. You don't need a whole band or an orchestra."

Though he enjoyed playing the guitar, he found that he didn't resonate with its repertoire.

"When I discovered the kora playing of Diabaté I discovered a music which was intellectually complex yet still moved the body. It was the obvious move to play music like this."

Of the complex process of transposing the kora

music for the guitar Gripper says, "You have to find a way to convert the language of the source instrument onto the new instrument.

"For this you need a key or a point of entry. Once I had the key – the tuning for the guitar, the types of techniques I would use – then it was simply a matter of listening, writing, listening, writing... and then playing and making sure it works, tweaking it, taking out what doesn't work, adding new things... then eventually, once you have something decent, getting it into the fingers and making it your own."

What did other composers make of his interpretation?

"I know that Balleké Sissoko has heard my version of his tune *Chamber Music* and enjoyed it, but I am not sure if the recording has reached Toumani's ears yet.

"His producer, Nick Gold, sent me a mail saying he enjoyed it, as have many other people in this field. This is of course great feedback because I approach this music as an outsider, so it is great to hear I haven't done a terrible job!" ■



# Playing to his own beat

**H**is culture, a deep love of the African continent and growing up in the home of traditional healers. These are the factors that have been the biggest inspirations in the life and highly successful music career of UCT School of Music graduate, Dizu Plaatjies.

He is the founder and former leader of Amampondo, one of the country's most famous marimba bands, and has since started his own ensemble, the Dizu Plaatjies Ibuyambo Ensemble, which has performed to great acclaim across the globe, including in France, Oman, Malaysia, England and Switzerland.

In 2009 the album *African Kings* won the SA Music Award (SAMA) for best alternative African album, further entrenching Plaatjies' name on the South African music scene.

Plaatjies is the son of an African traditional healer and has himself been initiated in the Xhosa/Pondo tribal tradition.

He says UCT played a vital role in his career by allowing him to explore and discover music and interact with students from all over the world.

Playing at Nelson Mandela's 70th birthday celebration at London's Wembley Stadium was a seminal moment, he recalls. Amampondo, he says, "also played an important role during apartheid", helping bring the injustice of the system to the world's attention through music.

Asked why the outfit was disbanded, he says, simply: "People grow older and discover new talents and careers."

Plaatjies also lectures at the School of Music and says his role is to teach African music and its history to students from across the continent. Interestingly, there are also a few American students in his class, all keen to learn the unique sounds of Africa.

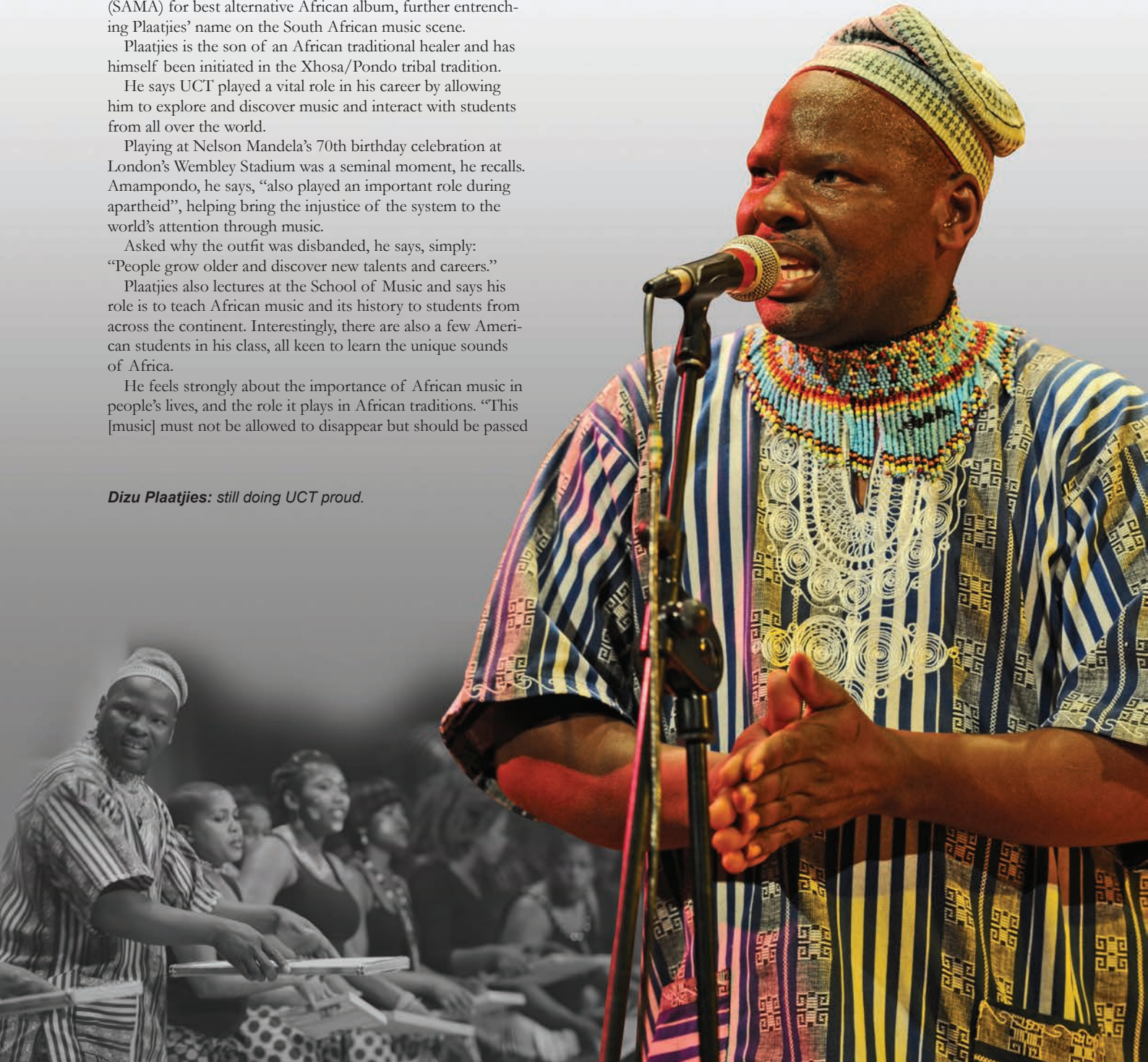
He feels strongly about the importance of African music in people's lives, and the role it plays in African traditions. "This [music] must not be allowed to disappear but should be passed

on to future generations," he says. Africans, he adds, should be proud of who they are, and where they come from.

He says what makes African music so special is its authenticity. "Eighty per cent of instruments used in African bands are handmade, and can be played acoustically. The message they send out evokes spiritual emotions," he adds.

As for the future, he plans to "keep spreading the music, and create and develop a ground-breaking Pan African instrumental orchestra which will become a national icon in South Africa and a symbol of African unity internationally". ■

*Dizu Plaatjies: still doing UCT proud.*





# Brain waves

Huge EU grant underpins boy from Kuruman's 'brain in a box' project

**A**lumnus Henry Markram made world headlines in February after securing a European Union R12 billion grant over ten years to help build the world's first digital human brain, under the umbrella of the Blue Brain Project (BBP).

The project is being conducted by the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne's (EPFL) Brain Mind Institute, using IBM's most advanced supercomputers to reconstruct a detailed computer model of the brain, dubbed the 'brain in a box'.

The project has harnessed over 200 researchers and is the first comprehensive assay to reverse-engineer the mammalian brain to understand brain function and dysfunction through detailed simulations. Figuring out how the brain processes and analyses information is one of the biggest challenges in the life sciences.

It's a challenge that's particularly close to the heart of its co-director.

Markram and his wife, fellow researcher Kamilla, have an autistic son, Kai, and it is hoped this research will provide new understanding of the fundamentals of the brain and disorders like autism, Alzheimer's and schizophrenia.

"What we are developing is a new foundation, a new instrument – a telescope – that will allow one to look deep into the brain, offering a more systematic approach to any disease," Markram said in an interview with the Sunday Times. "Naturally, I will try out the instrument to explore autism as well, and believe it will help us find new ways to treat it."

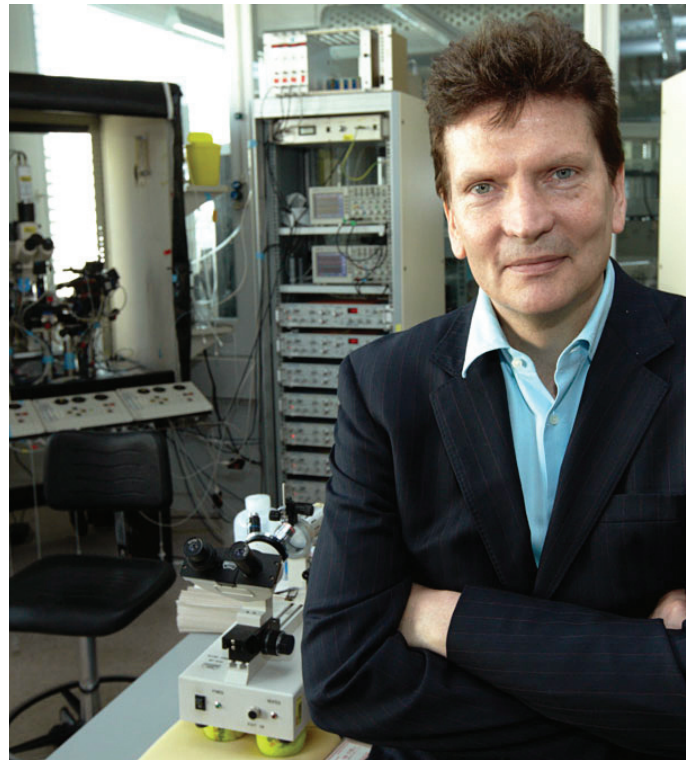
Markram, who spent his early childhood on a farm near Kuruman in the arid back country of the Northern Cape's Karoo, has a BSc (1984) and BSc honours (1985) from UCT. He obtained his PhD at the Weizmann Institute, Israel, in 1988 and carried out his first postdoctoral study as a Fulbright Scholar at the National Institutes of Health in the US, followed by a second postdoctoral stint at the Max Planck Institute, also in the US, as a Minerva Fellow.

He moved to Switzerland in 2002 with Kamila, who is project manager for clinical diagnostics in the Blue Brain Project and leader of the Brain Mind Institute's long-running project on autism.

In 2002 Markram was appointed full professor at the EPFL where he founded the Brain Mind Institute. In 2005 he used the neocortical micro-circuitry databases he'd built to launch the Blue Brain Project.

Computer simulations in neuroscience can provide a way of testing hypotheses using predictive models of complex biological processes where experiments are not possible.

With an in-depth understanding of the neocortical microcircuit,



**Mind map:** Prof Henry Markram and his team are engineering the world's first digital human brain.

Markram set a path to determine how the neocortex changes in autism and led to the Markrams proposing a novel theory of autism, the Intense World Syndrome.

This describes the autistic's brain as hyper-sensitive and hyper-plastic, rendering the world painfully intense and the brain overly autonomous. The theory is gaining recognition and has generated new studies on other regions of the brain and other models of autism.

Markram aims to construct detailed computer models of brains of mammals to pioneer simulation-based research in the neuroscience. These could serve to aggregate, integrate, unify and validate knowledge of the brain. This new tool could explore the emergence of intelligence and higher cognitive functions in the brain, and explore hypotheses of diseases – and treatments for these. ■

**Earlier this year Prof Henry Markram donated state-of-the-art patch-clamping apparatus worth R1.5 million to UCT's Department of Human Biology, which will grow basic neuroscience research in the health sciences faculty.**

## Fan's ear saves Jackman's voice

**C**ricket fans the world over have a UCT staff member to thank for raising the alarm over the cancer of popular television commentator Robin Jackman.

Laura Russell, a former speech-language therapist and clinical educator in UCT's Division of Communication Sciences and Disorders, noticed that Jackman's voice was uncharacteristically hoarse while she was watching cricket on TV on maternity leave in 2012. When Jackman's voice didn't return to its normal gravelly but euphonious self, Russell passed a message through her father, Malcolm, Jackman's long-time friend, recommending that he see a specialist.

Russell's suspicions proved well founded, as malignant tumours were discovered on Jackman's vocal cords.

"I wouldn't have thought of going for a check-up if it weren't for Laura," Jackman told the Sunday Times in November 2012, shortly

after he began his five-day-a-week therapy to treat the cancer. "If it had not been for Laura I'd be sitting in Australia [commentating on the Proteas tour], and who knows how quickly something really ugly could have happened?"

Russell says that any lump or growth in the vocal cords can cause the voice to change, although she did not originally expect it to be cancer. "His voice stood out for me because I knew it was not how it [normally] sounded," said Russell, also in the Sunday Times article.

She and Jackman have become friends since the diagnosis, a bond that comes with certain sporting perks.

"Now that I know Robin I get to call him up with cricket questions," she jokes. "I now have this wonderful inside expert. It's brilliant."

Jackman's treatment has yielded a 95% success rate, according to the former England cricketer. He was back behind the microphone in 2013.

# New dean lauds faculty's excellent reputation

**T**he new dean of UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences, Prof Wim de Villiers, says the University's research enterprise, which has expanded exponentially over the last few years, has been the deciding factor in the faculty's meteoric rise in the rankings.

The Times Higher Education ratings, he points out, ranks it among the top 50 in the world. "That is outstanding, and the key driver for this success is some of the research that has been done; for example, by the Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine in the areas of TB and HIV."

De Villiers says UCT needs to leverage its brand as much as possible. "We have not done that to the extent that we should, yet there are areas of world-class excellence here, and we need to market this and capitalise on it. What we have is a jewel. UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences is the crown jewel among all the medical faculties in South Africa."

As far as clinical services are concerned, he would like to see UCT become the preferred provider for all tertiary care services, and also look at expanding the role of the UCT Academic Hospital.

UCT's good name is renowned across the globe, says De Villiers. "In my travels (he has just returned from an 18-year stint in the US), I was struck by the number of alumni that we have in the US, and the tremendous expertise and goodwill available to us. We need to find ways to harness this."

He says the six most important words when striving towards excellence are curiosity, energy, courage, persistence, focus and discipline. These are some of the qualities he hopes to bring to his new job.

De Villiers was born and bred in Stellenbosch, where he attended medical school, specialising in internal medicine. He also became very interested in gastroenterology, but realised that he knew nothing about the science and spent two years as a research consultant in medical biochemistry at UCT.

De Villiers then won a Nuffield Fellowship to Oxford, where he did a PhD in macrophage biology. He was then recruited to the University of Kentucky, in the US, which he initially saw as a "quick 18-month American experience," but which was to turn into an 18-year odyssey. It was during this time that he developed an interest in inflammatory bowel disease. He is, he says, a clinician at heart, and always will be.

"As Dean, I want to be involved in patient care. I want to work in the trenches. I am not just an administrator."

He sees his career as having evolved from physician, to specialist physician, to physician scientist, and finally, to physician executive.

"I am sure there are many alumni who have had a similar journey to my own. When I left South Africa in 1992, it was never with a view to leaving permanently; but you sort of drift into things, and before you know it, the years have gone by," he says.

It was "serendipitous" that he was out of the country during its dramatic transition to democracy in 1994; but, he says, he was always in touch with what was happening, and visited South Africa on a frequent basis during this time.

And the changes during his absence have been phenomenal. "When I first looked at the position of Dean at UCT, I went on a few ward rounds and was struck by the amaz-



ing human capital and potential that we have available. That was a strong incentive for me to return.

"Secondly, I was struck by the fantastic diversity that we have here, and the very open dialogue. There's a lot of really good discussion going on." ■

## Foetal alcohol syndrome award for Jacobsons in the US

**U**CT honorary professors Sandra and Joseph Jacobson received the prestigious Henry Rosett Award from the Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Study Group at the Research Society on Alcoholism's scientific meeting in Florida, US, in June.

This is the first time the award has been given to two individuals, and honours outstanding lifetime or long-term contributions to research in foetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

The Jacobsons conduct their research from the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences in Wayne State University's (WSU) School of Medicine. They ran a 19-year study of foetal alcohol spectrum disorders in a prospective longitudinal African-American cohort of 480 mothers and children in inner-city Detroit.

Their current research focuses on the effects of very heavy prenatal alcohol exposure in the Western Cape's. In this region, a popular wine-growing area, workers were traditionally partly paid in wine, leading to a high incidence of alcoholism. Many indulged in binge drinking, consuming as many as eight to 10 drinks per occasion while pregnant.

According to a UNICEF report, one in 10 children in the community has foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), the highest incidence rate in the world. The research, conducted in collaboration with

UCT's Emeritus Professor Chris Moltano, a developmental paediatrician, was the first prospective study of FAS, beginning when mothers were recruited during pregnancy.

Typical neurocognitive impairments of a child with FAS include low intelligence, behaviour problems, poor social judgment and poor attention.

In addition to following up a longitudinal cohort of children with heavy prenatal alcohol exposure using both neurobehavioral and neuroimaging assessments, the Jacobsons are collecting neuroimaging data from a new Cape Town sample of new-borns born to heavy-drinking mothers and non-exposed controls, supported by grants from the US's National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

The neuroimaging work is being conducted in collaboration with UCT's Associate Professor Ernesta Meintjes in the Department of Human Biology. As part of the study, the researchers will also scan new-borns in a comparison group whose mothers used methamphetamine (tik) during pregnancy.

"It is very important that these types of awards be granted to faculty members conducting research since it provides opportunities to pursue innovative approaches to problems, such as those in biomedical and public health areas that may have an impact on health issues both in the US and internationally," Sandra said.

*(Based on an article in the Prognosis e-newsletter of WSU's School of Medicine.)*

# See, judge, act

## Dikakapa postgrads give back to the community



**Everyday heroes:** Dikakapa project leaders (from left), Andile Nofemela, Retsilisitsoe Moholisa, Hlumani Ndlovu, Agano Kiravu, Aron Abera and Khethelo Xulu

**A** group of postgraduate students from the Faculty of Health Sciences saw a gaping hole in the education of learners from disadvantaged communities, assessed the situation, and then took decisive action.

Andile Nofemela, who did a BSc (Med) (Honours) in Infectious Diseases and Immunology, as well as a Masters and PhD degree in Medical Virology at UCT, says he and five other postgrads – Aron Abera, Agano Kiravu, Khethelo Xulu, Hlumani Ndlovu and Retsilisitsoe Moholisa – who all come from similar backgrounds to the students they are reaching out to, sensed that many young people in impoverished areas lack the motivation to seek a proper education.

Nofemela, who is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at the Division of Medical Virology at the Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine, at UCT's Medical School, says he and his colleagues decided to start a programme to help such youngsters.

Called Dikakapa - Everyday Heroes (*dikakapa* means 'champions' in Sesotho) it began in 2012 and has already benefited a large number of students.

"We visit high schools where we interact, motivate and encourage learners to use education as a tool to achieve success in their lives and contribute positively to society," Nofemela says. "Since we come from similar backgrounds, we share our stories with the learners in the hope that they will spark interest and prove to the learners that their future trajectory is not necessarily determined by their present circumstances," says Nofemela.

The motivation, he adds, comes from wanting to contribute to the development of future leaders in South Africa, and on the African continent at large.

"We decided to take responsibility in our own capacities as postgraduate students and/or postdoctoral research fellows by acting as role models to the younger generation by helping them achieve their goals.

"We recognised that most of the learners from these backgrounds lack sufficient motivation and dedication in

their school work due to a lack of positive role models within their families and the community at large. This manifests itself in school in the form of ill-discipline, bunking and a general lack of enthusiasm to do their school work. We thought it was imperative that we devise an intervention programme that would close this gap by providing some form of mentorship to these learners."

The group has already done motivational talks at a number of schools in the Cape Peninsula. Now the postgrads are producing a book containing short stories by inspirational young Africans from all walks of life who have achieved considerable success.

"We have invited individuals to share their stories about their journey to success, the obstacles they encountered along the way, how they overcame those challenges and finally their hopes and dreams for South Africa and the African continent at large," Nofemela says.

"We strongly believe that these stories will serve as a tremendous source of inspiration and motivation and will generally spark an interest in education. Furthermore, these stories should be able to teach young people about the importance of hard work, discipline, honesty and perseverance as vehicles to achieve their dreams."

The group also wants to nurture a culture of reading among young people, to improve their literacy skills. "We aim to distribute the book to the learners free of charge and hope they will always use it as a source of motivation in their lives, regardless of whatever challenge they may be facing. We are partnering with Juta & Company on this project and the production of the book should be completed by the end of this year. The plan is to start distribution at the beginning of 2014," he says.

In an effort to raise funds for the project, these young postgrads recently organised an Africa Music Night event at UCT Medical School, which not only raised funds for the initiative, but also created awareness about the work the group is doing. "The support that we received from our colleagues and friends here on campus has been quite overwhelming thus far," says Nofemela. ■

# Musical icons: no

## Semenya and Mbulu honoured by UCT

**1939**

Caiphus Semenya is born in Alexandra.

**1942**

Letta Mbulu is born in Soweto.

**1950**

Semenya joins a music group, the Katzenjammer Kids, and within three years they became one of South Africa's top teenage groups. Mbulu becomes a teenage singing sensation and her talent is showcased in many big concerts, including the famous African Jazz and Variety Show. Semenya and Mbulu's paths cross.

**1959**

The artists take part in the production of the hit musical *King Kong*, and the show runs for a year in England following its successful two-year run in South Africa.

**1964**

After a brief tour with the musical *Sponono*, Semenya decides to stay in America. He begins to work closely with other exiled artists such as Miriam Makeba and forms a group with fellow exiles Hugh Masekela and Jonas Gwangwa.



**1965**

Having returned to South Africa some years earlier, Mbulu relocates to the US due to apartheid. She is quickly befriended by fellow South African exiles in New York, including Miriam Makeba, Hugh Masekela and Jonas Gwangwa.

**1966**

Mbulu and Semenya marry. Along with other musicians, they release the single *Walkin' Around*.

**1967**

The couple relocate to the West Coast, joining Hugh Masekela, who becomes a fixture of the California concert and recording scene. Mbulu records Masekela's *What's Wrong With Groovin* as a solo artist for a small record label.

**1967**

Mbulu releases her debut album, *Letta Mbulu Sings*, a collection of township-style pop mixed with American R&B.

**1967-70**

Mbulu tours (fronting a piano trio led by fellow South African exile Cecil Barnard) and records frequently as part of musical ensembles put together by Hugh Masekela – most spectacularly as part of the anonymous collective known as *Africa '68*.

**1973**

Mbulu accepts a part in the Sidney Poitier film *A Warm December*, and releases the album *Naturally*.

**1977**

Composer Quincy Jones recruits Mbulu to sing on his soundtrack for the award-winning series, *Roots*, based on Alex Haley's book of the same title. Contributing to the historic 1977 soundtrack, Mbulu is renowned for interpreting husband Semenya's moving *Oluwa*, aka *Many Rains Ago*. It wins an Emmy for Best Musical Composition for a Series Dramatic Underscore.

**1980**

Mbulu participates in an Africa Week concert which leads to the album *An Evening of African Music With Letta Mbulu*.

**1981**

Mbulu narrates the documentary film *You Have Struck A Rock*, about non-violent disobedience campaigns by African women.

**1983**

The couple collaborate on Semenya's *Listen To The Wind* which includes the huge dance hit *Angelina*.

# otes from a duet

**1984**

Mbulu sings on Quincy Jones's soundtrack to *The Color Purple*.

**1985**

Semenya is among the composers nominated for an Oscar for the *Color Purple* score.

**1987**

Mbulu appears in such musical plays as husband Semenya's *Buwa*, a presentation of the group *South African Artists United (SAAU)*, of which Mbulu was a co-founder.

**1989**

Semenya serves as the musical director for the South African component of the Wembley Stadium 'Nelson Mandela Tribute' concert.

**1991**

Semenya composes the melody, African lyrics and vocal arrangements for the title track of Quincy Jones's album *Back On The Block*, which goes on to win the Grammy for Best Rap Song of the Year.

**1991**

Mbulu and Semenya finally return to South Africa after 26 long years in exile. Mbulu releases her first album on African soil, *Not yet Ubunu*, which is arranged and produced by her multi-talented husband.

**1995**

Semenya releases *Woman's got a right to be*, and collaborates with Jonas Gwangwa to script the music for the launch of the African Union (AU).

**2001**

Mbulu is honoured by the South African Music Awards (SAMA) with a lifetime achievement accolade.

**2009**

The couple are awarded the Order of iKhamanga for their contributions to music and the struggle against apartheid.

**2013**

UCT bestows honorary degrees on Mbulu and Semenya, and the couple serenade the graduation guests with a soulful medley of their music.



# He had a dream

## Medical grad reaches out to young South Africans

**U**CT medical graduate Vuyane Mhlomi believes the biggest crisis facing South Africa today is not crime, or HIV/Aids, but the fact that the country's young people are not encouraged to dream.

Mhlomi currently works as an intern at Chris Hani Baragwanath in Johannesburg and plans to specialise in cardiology at Oxford University. Along with his internship duties, he is also doing first-year law through the University of South Africa (UNISA).

However, his journey to this point was not without significant effort and determination. Born and bred in dusty, impoverished Khayelitsha, he experienced poverty first-hand. Hunger and a lack of basic necessities were his daily companions.

He says one of the greatest misconceptions he has heard, and has fought to abolish, is that nothing good can ever come from a township such as Khayelitsha. With this in mind he set up a foundation in order to offer support and encouragement to young South Africans facing similar deprivations. For Mhlomi, this work is based on the principle of giving back and making a lasting contribution to the country he loves.

Established recently with the help of a few friends and some influential South Africans, the MH Foundation's vision is reach out to young people who find themselves in the midst of poverty and hopelessness.

"The Foundation works to ensure that disadvantaged learners are given the chance to become outstanding scholars in their own right. It aims to show them that they should not be limited by their circumstances, which are often beyond their control," says Mhlomi. "Essentially, what we want to do is to remind disadvantaged learners of their right to dream, and equip them with the tools to achieve those dreams."

The foundation's core role, he says, is

to create these scholars. "We take on 10 learners, each selected through a rigorous process. They are then entered into a programme of educational support, mentoring, personal and career development and social responsibility. The idea behind the programme is to develop the learners into scholars; but it also has a larger goal in mind, in that scholars are expected to contribute to their community through various social responsibility projects."

He adds: "Scholars, who are selected partly on their leadership potential, are given an opportunity and the tools to manifest that leadership potential in a way that positively benefits the communities they are from; and in turn, they create an opportunity for other scholars to develop."

He says studying at UCT, as well as being involved in several organisations including the Health Sciences Student Council, broadened his horizons and opened up a world of opportunity and possibilities.

"I arrived as a young boy in orange board shorts and a blue Adidas vest, and matured into a man with a burning desire to expose someone from a similar background to the same surreal world I was now living in.

"I come from a different reality to that which is experienced at UCT. The reality in Khayelitsha is that very few will get to complete secondary education, let alone a tertiary degree. Many have resigned themselves to living a life which is substandard, due to the simple fact that they know no better. Going home every vacation has become harder as the years progress as I'm forced to face the light being snuffed from yet another set of eyes as another dream gives way to the need to 'just get by'. These are not physically or intellectually challenged individuals. It is my belief that these are people who have simply lost the ability to dream. In a country so great and teeming with potential and such possibility, this should not be allowed," says Mhlomi. ■



**Inspirational dreamer:** Vuyane Mhlomi addresses fellow UCT alumni and distinguished guests at the Faculty of Health Sciences' centenary dinner held in New York earlier this year.

## Mhlomi at a glance

Mhlomi's academic and civic achievements are impressive, and his accomplishments include:

- Winning the Dr Helen Brown Prize for the second best final-year student in clinical medicine
- Being placed on the Dean's Merit and Medicine Honours Lists.
- Winning the Kerry Capstick-Dale Memorial Scholarship and the Ackerman Family Foundation Award for outstanding leadership.
- Winning the Most Outstanding Student Leader Award in the Undergraduate Faculty Council for his role as chairperson of the Health Sciences' Faculty Council.
- Being runner-up in the Academic Excellence category of the NYDA South African Youth Awards in 2012.
- Being named by the *Mail & Guardian* as one of the Top 200 Young South Africans in 2013.

# 100th birthday for doyen of geology

**E**meritus Professor Morna Mathias, formerly of the Department of Geology, celebrated her 100th birthday with friends and family on 20 May this year.

Born Frances Celia Morna Cameron-Swan, she is the granddaughter of the late Sir Joseph Wilson Swan, the English physicist and chemist who was most famous for producing an early electric light bulb before its invention by Thomas Edison. Sir Joseph also invented the dry photographic plate, an important improvement in photography and a step in the development of photographic film.

Morna was first educated in England and then attended Wynberg Girls' High School. She studied geology at UCT, after a taunt from her brother that the field was "too difficult for a woman".

In her typically determined manner, Morna not only tackled her undergraduate degree but went on to complete her MA in 1935 and her PhD in 1941.

She was the first woman academic appointment in geology (there have been only two since then, in 2006 and 2010) and the only woman associate professor of geology at UCT. Morna was awarded her DSc in 1956 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa.

Morna also has the singular honour of having a mineral named after her, Mathiasite, a potassic iron-zirconium-magnesium chromian titanate, found in the deep mantle of the Earth below Southern Africa, typically at depths of greater than 100km. It was described in a 1983 paper in the journal *American Mineralogist* by Steve Haggerty (University of Massachusetts at Amherst) and others.

The naming recognised her foundation studies on alkaline rocks and her early contribution to the mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry of mantle-derived eclogites and peridotites.

In 1972 Morna retired as an associate professor, after serving two years at this rank. Prior to her promotion to associate

professor, she was on UCT's permanent staff for 25 years (1946 to 1970), as lecturer (1946 to 1957) and senior lecturer (1957 to 1970).

At the time of her promotion ad hominem to the rank of associate professor, the criterion for such promotion was that the person be 'chair-worthy'; in other words, appointable as a professor if a chair were to have been advertised.

Despite the demands of life as a senior academic and teacher, Morna balanced academia with her role as a wife and mother. She married David Mathias in 1936. Their daughter, Iona, was born in 1941.

Speaking at her 100th birthday celebration at Trianon in Diep River, the centenarian said she had been "overwhelmed" by the gathering of well-wishers, family and friends.

Good wishes also came from former students. Dr John Rogers emailed: "I can add that she was the only lecturer – senior lecturer, in my day – who invited her honours class to her home, in Newlands at the time. This was a kindness to us and we appreciated it immensely."

From Chris Hartnady, a former student in her courses on crystallography, mineralogy and igneous petrology: "I'm delighted to hear that Morna has reached her centenary. I particularly recall her teaching me the use of 3-D universal-stage microscopy in the fourth-year (honours) advanced mineralogy course.

"Morna was a strict but extremely likeable teacher. Her lectures were always interesting and informative, never boring. She had a great sense of humour, quite subtle and wry. She was inspiring for the high standards she set and her love for her subject."

Emailing from Canada, Professor John Gurney wrote: "My congratulations and best wishes to Morna. I was never a student of hers, but had a lot of contact with her during my doctoral thesis and immediately afterwards. She was a legend in the earth sciences at UCT." ■

**During the production of this magazine, we received the news that Mathias had passed away. The UCT community honours her memory and her contributions to the discipline of geology.**



**100 up:** Centenarian Emer Prof Morna Mathias, and pastor, John Broom, at the celebration of her milestone birthday on 20 May.

# Africa's first butterfly atlas takes wing



**On the wing:** Alumna Dr Silvia Mecenero, project co-ordinator of Africa's first Butterfly Atlas.

**A**frica's first butterfly atlas emerged from its chrysalis in May – a seven-year metamorphosis from concept to hardcover.

Butterflies belong to *Lepidoptera*, one of the most diverse and species-rich of the insect orders. The atlas offers a complete, integrated database of butterfly distribution records in Southern Africa, including Swaziland and Lesotho, one of the continent's most bio-diverse butterfly regions.

The atlas identifies priority regions and taxa for field surveys, and beefs up awareness of their conservation and role in ecosystems as pollinators – and harbingers of climate change. It encompasses butterflies in the wild and from specimens in private, institutional and museum collections, such as those at London's Natural History Museum and the African Butterfly Research Institute in Kenya.

Importantly, it offers a detailed conservation assessment and Red Listing of all the sub-continent's butterflies, not only for threatened species but also for those species not currently threatened.

For the first time, grid-referenced distribution maps are presented for all the region's butterflies – 794 species and subspecies in total, including 657 distinct species.

Launched under the umbrella of the Southern African Butterfly Conservation Assessment (SABCA), the atlas is an alliance between UCT's Animal Demography Unit (ADU), where the project management was based; the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), which provided core funding for the project; and the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa (LepSoc), which co-ordinated and sponsored the field surveys and provided much butterfly expertise.

The ADU are old hands at running atlas projects, having produced bird (1997) and frog (2004) and reptile atlases (this last is due to be published later this year).

Project co-ordinator and alumna Dr Silvia Mecenero, a conservation ecologist, has a long association with the ADU in the new Department of Biological Sciences, the product of a merger between Zoology and Botany last year.

## Orchestrated effort

One of the project's triumphs was the response from citizen scientists. Citizen scientists yielded over 17 000 photographic records for the project's online virtual museum.

"It's been a huge boost to public awareness," said Mecenero.

While butterflies may seem just the pretty subjects of little girls' dreams, they're also the flagship species for insect conservation. Insects are the most species-rich group of animals, and their vital role in ecosystems – thanks to insect pollinators – now underpins their conservation status.

Naturally, the atlas has a strong conservation message.

151 species and sub-species – one fifth of Southern Africa's butterflies – are of conservation concern, and 8% are threatened with extinction.

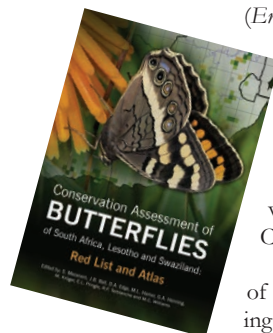
The most threatened are in the Cape fynbos, as well as in the KwaZulu-Natal midlands grassland biome.

Fifty per cent of the butterflies listed are endemic, which means they are found only in the atlas region.

Sixty species are threatened with extinction, with 14 considered critically endangered, 27 endangered and 19 vulnerable. Three of the critically endangered species are possibly extinct. Until recently, that number was thought to be four – the Waterberg Copper (*Eriksonia edgei*) of the Waterberg in Limpopo had been considered extinct for more than 20 years. But in March this year it was rediscovered in another locality, by LepSoc's Professor Mark Williams. Researchers are working on a conservation plan for the new locality in a private nature reserve in the Waterberg.

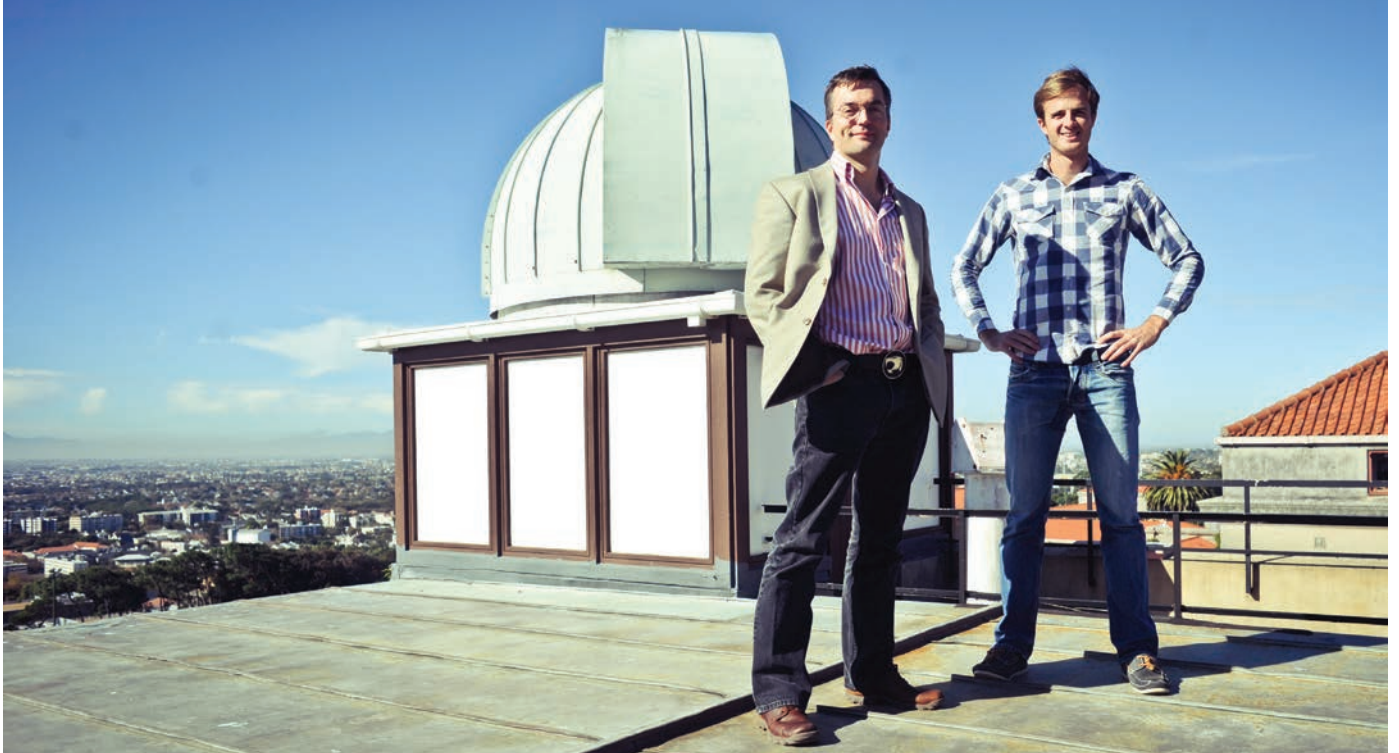
Most habitat loss and degradation is due to forestry, agriculture, mining and housing, inappropriate fire regimes, and alien vegetation that is replacing indigenous plants. In the Western Cape, rapid land development poses a significant threat.

"Unless South Africa pays careful attention to the conservation of our butterflies now, we could lose many more of these fascinating creatures – and the important services they provide to our ecosystems," warned Mecenero. ■





# Alumnus authors first scientific paper from KAT-7 results



**Star-struck alumni:** Dr Richard Armstrong (right) and Assoc Prof Patrick Woudt. Armstrong is the lead author of the first scientific paper based on observations performed with South Africa's new KAT-7 radio telescope.

**F**ollowing the jubilant announcement in 2012 that South Africa would host a portion of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) of telescopes came news that alumnus Dr Richard Armstrong and two co-authors had produced the first scientific paper from observations using South Africa's new KAT-7 radio telescope.

A SKA SA Fellow at UCT, and lead author, Armstrong's co-authors were fellow alumnus Associate Professor Patrick Woudt, deputy head of UCT's Department of Astronomy, and Professor Rob Fender, head of the Astronomy Group at the University of Southampton (UK), and a SKA visiting professor at UCT.

The paper was accepted for publication by the prestigious journal *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomy Society* (MNRAS) in June this year.

A precursor to the SKA, MeerKAT or the Karoo Array Telescope (KAT) is a 64-dish radio interferometer under construction in the Karoo. It's a project close to the university's heart: already UCT researchers are leading four of the approved MeerKAT Key Science Projects, a 25 per cent chunk of MeerKAT time.

One of these projects is the 3 000-hour ThunderKAT survey for astrophysical transients. Armstrong has been working on the design of this survey together with Fender and Woudt, who lead the ThunderKAT project. It will search for all types of radio bursts and flashes in KAT-7 and MeerKAT data, on timescales that range from seconds to years.

UCT and the Western Cape have become a preferred education destination for astronomers, drawing postdoctoral students and researchers from around the world. Armstrong

himself left the UK less than two years ago to join a steadily growing UCT radio astronomy group as a SKA SA Fellow.

"With the SKA and MeerKAT being developed on our doorstep, Cape Town is the hottest place to be in radio astronomy in the world at the moment," he said.

UCT is rapidly also becoming a hub for astronomical and astrophysics research in Africa, channelling resources and outreach to neighbouring countries. The university is a partner in research projects involving eight other African countries, and has led research outreach to Mozambique and Ethiopia in recent years. The university's goal is to train future leaders in radio astronomy.

Armstrong obtained his BSc (Hons) in Electrical and Computer Engineering at UCT in 2006 and went on to work as a software developer in the UK. He got his DPhil in astrophysics through a Dorothy Hodgkin Postgraduate Fellowship at Oxford in 2011.

Publishing on this particular area of research for the first time, 29-year-old Armstrong says it's a great opportunity and honour to be working on a South African scientific instrument.

Woudt obtained his PhD in Astronomy at UCT in 1998 and has published 74 peer-reviewed journal articles (27 as first author). His teaching and research career at UCT spans more than 12 years and includes supervising various BSc Honours, MSc and PhD students. A member of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), Commission 19 (Astrophysics) of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) and the council of the South African Institute of Physics, Woudt is the co-principal investigator of ThunderKAT. ■

# Africa's lead in malaria fight internationally acknowledged

**T**he UCT-led effort to find a single-dose cure for malaria was named 2012 Project of the Year by the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV).

Founder and director of UCT's H3-D drug discovery and development centre Professor Kelly Chibale and his team received this accolade at a Malaria Symposium held at UCT in July this year.

"UCT launched H3-D to focus drug discovery research on the development of an African solution to this largely African problem," said Chibale. "Working with MMV and partners from around the world, we've been able to develop MMV390048 into a clinical candidate in record time and provide excellent, world-class training for the next generation of African scientists."

MMV chief scientific officer Dr Timothy Wells added: "We're very excited about the promise shown by MMV390048 against the blood stage of malaria. The compound is showing more potency than chloroquine or even artemisinin. The development of MMV390048 shows once again that African scientists are rising to the challenge and taking the lead in malaria drug research."

The award was made during a three-day meeting that brought together the most brilliant minds in the fight against malaria. For the first time this meeting was held in Cape Town, and confirmed Africa's increasing prominence in seeking solutions to its own medical problems.

The historic meeting of the expert scientific advisory committee (ESAC) of the MMV came a year after the committee selected the MMV390048 compound that Chibale and his team had been working on for further development. This compound, the first to be researched on African soil, has entered

pre-clinical trials and will be ready for human testing in March 2014.

The clinical trials for MMV390048 are expected to take place at UCT's new clinical research facility at Groote Schuur Hospital, which will officially be opened later this year.

Every year, malaria kills between 600 000 and a million people. Of those affected, over 90% are from sub-Saharan Africa and 86% are below the age of five. Because the malaria parasite is beginning to display signs of drug resistance, there's an urgent need to develop new drugs to treat the disease effectively.

Interestingly, South Africa records 7 000 cases of malaria a year, and 79% of those are imported. Malaria transmission occurs in three provinces: Limpopo, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal.


The MMV390048 compound was uncovered after 35 000 compounds were screened for selective killing of the malaria parasite. The first breakthrough came in 2010, when MMV017007 was found to be effective. The compound – which according to Chibale, like James Bond, had a "licence to kill" – would require too high a dosage in humans, and it wasn't metabolically stable.

"Enter compound MMV390048, and the possibility of it having a licence to cure," said Chibale.

There are a number of compounds he and his team can fall back on if MMV390048 doesn't clear every hurdle on the drug development road.

Chibale lauds this journey of drug development as "a tremendous project in building capacity". Ten local scientists were trained during the development of the drug, and

Chibale's team has grown from four in 2009 to 22 today. ■



**Medicine makers:** Prof Kelly Chibale (seated centre) and his team of Drs Diego Gonzalez Cabrera, Tanya Paquet, Ze Han, Aloysius Nchinda and Leslie Street share a moment in the laboratory where they are blazing the trail in the fight against malaria.



**Get the message:** Sixth-year medical student and president of SHAWCO Health Saadiq Moolla's Mobile Xhosa site provides medical translations for students and healthcare practitioners via cell phone.

# Mobile Xhosa translator helps the medicine go down

It's a common problem healthcare practitioners face in a multilingual society: how to translate medical questions and ailments in another language accurately enough to provide correct diagnosis and treatment.

And it's an issue sixth-year medical student and president of SHAWCO Health Saadiq Moolla faced head-on when treating isiXhosa speaking patients at SHAWCO's mobile clinics.

His Mobile Xhosa website/mobisite is a technologically innovative and neat solution, developed with the help of the humanities faculty's African languages and literatures team who became instrumental in the site's development.

The site provides free English/isiXhosa translations, via cellphone, for commonly used medical phrases. Access is via a URL and once on the site users can search according to groups of commonly asked phrases such as 'presenting problem', 'heart', 'respiratory' or 'social'. It also has a dictionary.

The idea came to Moolla two years ago, when the need for medical translations became apparent during his volunteer work at SHAWCO clinics. It was also fuelled by an interest in web design and communications developed as a schoolboy at Rondebosch Boys' High School.

"Language proficiency is part of our medical training. We learn Afrikaans and isiXhosa through the Department of African Lan-

guages, which teaches us the basic skills needed to communicate with patients."

But many students like Moolla struggled with isiXhosa.

"So I built the site as an aid for myself, a handy reference on my phone. It helps so much to be able to explain to a patient that you will be taking blood, for example, so that they understand what you're doing and why. It reduces anxiety and improves the quality of care."

In fourth year he showed the site to one of his tutors, who encouraged Moolla to flesh it out, with help from the African languages and literature department. It's still a work in progress and the department provides new translations on an on-going basis – and Moolla keeps discovering new phrases he has trouble communicating!

He'd also had a first-hand 'lost in translation' experience when he visited a doctor during a trip to Egypt.

"They spoke only Arabic. I didn't get the proper treatment – or reassurances. In South Africa, patients experience this in their own country."

He'd like to include sound bites to help students with pronunciation, and he'd like to see the site expand to include other vernacular languages.

(Mobile Xhosa is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License. <http://mobilexhosa.org.za>) ■

# Alumnus revives trailblazing Xhosa newspaper



**Breaking barriers:** Unathi Kondile with a copy of the revived *Isigidimi SamaXhosa* newspaper.

**D**espite having 11 official languages, South Africa's media landscape is dominated by English- and Afrikaans-medium newspapers. Now, the resurrection of a newspaper that was last published more than a century ago aims to shake up that market.

When *Isigidimi SamaXhosa* was published on 1 August 2012, it heralded the revival of a newspaper that was famous in the 1870s for carrying some of the most critical political and cultural pieces by Xhosa writers at the time, said re-founding editor and UCT alumnus Unathi Kondile.

"It was the first Xhosa newspaper to have black editors, with people like John Tengo Jabavu and William Gqoba among them," said Kondile of the paper's heyday between 1871 and 1878. "After the 1877-1879 Frontier War things took a turn for the worse, as [the paper] became a Christian propaganda [tool] and many writers left, disgruntled."

The 21st-century version of *Isigidimi SamaXhosa's* first print run comprised 5 000 copies that were distributed to libraries in the Eastern Cape and Western Cape. After a positive reception, 1 September 2012 saw a second 12-page tabloid-size edition published, with circulation doubled. Once municipalities, schools, bookstores and government departments across the country had started to request copies, Kondile decided to revive the paper officially, printing 10 000 copies each month.

Many people commented on the "new way" the paper wrote isiXhosa, added Kondile, referring to its opinion pieces and critical analysis of events.

"It was a welcome move from the praise poetry and short stories that Xhosa writing has become."

*Isigidimi SamaXhosa* has 32 volunteer contributors from across the country. The editor says that the paper won't merely translate news generated by English and Afrikaans media houses.

"We would like to develop new narrative literary journalism based on what our readers would like to read," explained Kondile. "We are trying to create something bigger than a community newspaper, to create a national Xhosa newspaper – a *Xhosa Mail & Guardian*, so to speak – where we go in-depth with our pieces. We are the only Xhosa newspaper with national ambitions."

Sadly, spiralling costs have temporarily pulled the plug on the print run. Readers can still access the newspaper online, at *Isigidimi SamaXhosa* and on the newspaper's Facebook page. Being online has sparked international interest in the paper, but key distribution points are complaining about the lack of print versions, says Kondile.

A cover price of R2.50 has been mentioned as a solution.

Kondile, who holds an MA in media studies from UCT and is a senior technical officer at UCT's Michaelis School of Fine Art, sees language as a key ingredient of "genuine transformation".

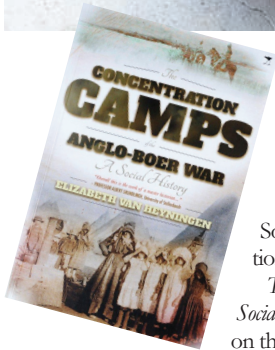
"Language is access. Matters of national discourse are set according to what the English and Afrikaans media deem interesting, [so] we don't know what the public interest of the majority is, because we exclude them through language. If any academic institution claims to be serious about redress and transformation, I believe language should be at the top of their priorities," said Kondile.

He's acutely aware of the failure of similar ventures.

"Many such newspapers fail because they are run like businesses – they focus too much on securing advertising, as well as becoming tabloid-like to attract as many readers as possible. The problem with this is that it does nothing to develop Xhosa journalism or new narrative literary journalism techniques."

Kondile envisions that *Isigidimi SamaXhosa* will be printed weekly, produced through an academic institution where it might spark opportunities to train students in isiXhosa journalism. ■

# Anglo-Boer concentration camps under spotlight



**A** new book, by Elizabeth van Heyningen, an Honorary Research Associate at UCT's Department of Historical Studies, sheds new light on a highly traumatic area of South African history – the Boer War concentration camps.

*The Concentration Camps of the Anglo-Boer War: A Social History* was launched in March and focuses on the diseases that decimated the camps, as well as the way in which these diseases affected the camps' management.

Van Heyningen, who taught in the Department of Historical Studies for about 25 years, says her interest in the subject was a relatively recent development since most of her previous research had been in Cape history.

"A British colleague suggested that we collaborate in applying for a research grant from the Wellcome Trust in Britain to work on a medical history of the camps. This brought together interests in the impact of war on civil society, on colonial women, and on the social history of medicine, so it seemed an intriguing route to follow," she says.

UCT, she says, "provided a home base for the project and has been very helpful in hosting the website which we now have".

Van Heyningen says the suffering of women and children in the camps is well established, "but I realised that there were many more young men in the camps than has previously been recognised, and that they played a central role in the economy and management of the camps.

"For the British, the camps became more than simple internment camps; they came to see them as a way of educating the Boers as modern British subjects in the post-war world. This ranged from teaching English in the schools to training young Boer women as nurses and boys in artisan skills". Appropriate gender values were also inculcated.

She says although there has already been a fair amount of work done on the black camps, comparing the two made it possible to demonstrate the racism and callousness with which the black camps were managed, and in comparison, the relatively enlightened management of their white counterparts.

The camps were established mainly as part of the guerilla war strategy adopted by the British. "When Kitchener introduced his 'scorched earth' policy, farms were destroyed and the families brought into these camps. These had already come into existence in an ad hoc fashion to cope with the people inevitably cast adrift in the chaos of war."

The question of how many people died in the camps is, she says, "tricky". The official figure puts the number of white deaths at 27 927, but Van Heyningen points out that there are problems with the methodology of PLA Goldman, who established these figures.

"More recent estimates take the number to over 30 000. My own work suggests that this is exaggerated, and I would think, now, that the Goldman figure may be a little high, but is not too far out. The number of blacks who died is incalculable. The British suggested about 12 000, but recent research has taken the number up to about 20 000. Since there were at least as many blacks in the camps, and their conditions were far worse, I suspect that there were even more. So, in total, the rough estimate is about 48 000."

Asked how bad the camps really were, Van Heyningen says: "The white camps were awful at first. There was inadequate planning, not enough tents, and dreadful rations. Officials were overwhelmed, and not coping, were often arrogant and callous. However, Emily Hobhouse's revelations about conditions, as well as other factors, did lead to very real reforms. By 1902 the camps really were relatively good. Housing was improved, proper routines established, many doctors, nurses and teachers were sent to the camps – and above all, the food improved."

But, she adds, there was another side to the awfulness of the camps. "The combination of personal trauma – loss of homes, husbands, death of children, combined with the restrictions and routines of camp life, which were unfamiliar to country people accustomed to considerable personal freedom, added to the sense of the horror of the period."

The position of the black camps, says Van Heyningen, was rather different. "In the beginning there was no provision for black people. Some came into white camps with their employers, while others drifted into town locations and clung to the fringes of the white camps.

"I think their condition was dreadful and I suspect that mortality was very high, but it is almost unrecorded. In August 1901 a Native Refugee Department was set up by the British military. In essence, the men were to be drawn off for labour for the British army while the women and children were located on 'farm colonies', where they were expected to grow their own food. They were given the barest minimum, and mortality was fairly high then as well."

She says there is a growing interest in camps of this kind internationally. Even since her book was published, new work has emerged.

Two things come out of this, says Van Heyningen. "Firstly, that the South Africans camps were the product of changing forms of warfare, in which extreme violence was more systematically used against civilian populations, and secondly that the British had developed camp systems in India which influenced the way in which the South African camps were run.

"In both the British and South African cases, British notions of poor relief affected the parsimonious management of camps, which were ostensibly humanitarian, but often callous in their operation". ■



**Ensuring academic success:** Commerce Education Development Unit (EDU) Programme Coordinator, Daniel Munene and Commerce EDU director, Associate Prof June Pym.

## Pioneering development programme underpins commerce students' success

**A**n educationally challenged background need not hamper success at university level, as has been shown by commerce students who have been walking off with top marks in what are often believed to be the most difficult commerce courses, including financial accounting, economics and statistics.

Over the past six years commerce students enrolled in the Education Development Unit (EDU) Academic Development Programme (ADP) have often outperformed mainstream students in key areas, often achieving top honours.

Several students have achieved subject distinctions in recent years; and in 2011, the top first-year commerce student in mathematics was Sakhe Mkosi, a BCom EDU undergraduate who averaged above 93% for his courses. Subsequently he remained on the Dean's Merit List throughout his studies at UCT, and is on track to graduate with a BCom (Chartered Accounting) degree this year.

Over the years the Commerce EDU has become recognised as one of the country's most successful academic development programmes in terms of graduation and throughput success rates for educationally disadvantaged students, says Daniel Munene, EDU's Programme Coordinator.

Munene believes these success stories are in large part due to the unit's interventions in

supporting under-prepared students, but he also pays tribute to the students' determination and hard work.

"The EDU definitely walks the walk when it comes to putting transformation into action," he says. "We in the EDU feel we have a responsibility not only to take in deserving students who demonstrate potential, but also to enable them to succeed in their degrees and graduate at the end of the day. Transformation is not just about student numbers at entry level, but also about numbers at exit level."

Built on years of academic development experience at UCT, the EDU, under the direction of Associate Professor June Pym, was conscious of these imperatives when the present model of this pioneering academic development programme was established in 2001. The programme has grown from strength to strength since then and is now considered a model of good practice in academic development circles.

While some EDU students may study for a longer period of one to two years, and have more flexibility in their choices, they do the same subjects and curriculum, write the same examinations – and obtain the same degree. The EDU focuses on the whole degree time period, and is now also incorporating postgraduate students.

According to Munene, there used to be a perception that students who came to EDU would be getting a lesser degree to that offered to mainstream students. This perception has since been turned around completely, especially

as EDU students are now excelling in many subjects.

Economics is now one of the students' most popular subjects, a result of innovative workshops that help them get to grips with the subject. In statistics lectures, students use interactive 'clickers' that electronically convey their answers to class questions. As a result, the lecturer is able to gauge students' responses and demonstrate the correct answer.

In financial accounting, students use their home language to explain concepts to classmates who share the same first language. "This not only elevates people's mother tongue, but also shows that cognitively there is no problem in understanding an accounting course in Xhosa, or Zulu, because a concept is a concept!" Munene explains.

Other interventions monitor how students cope with their studies and how they integrate into the university community. The unit also sees that the students are supported financially, through bursaries and other funding initiatives. Funding from several partners, including the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants, the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, Investec, Deloitte and the Saville Foundation, has been instrumental in supporting the unit's range of work.

"We are indebted to these organisations for sharing our transformative vision, and for having the confidence that we can achieve that vision," says Munene. ■

# National honours for Ekama and other UCT alumni

**T**he field of wastewater treatment might not be the most glamorous there is – and it is seldom that researchers in this area are given the recognition they deserve – but this year Professor George Ekama scooped a national honour.

Ekama, of the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment, received the country's highest recognition, the Order of Mapungubwe, in silver, from President Jacob Zuma at a ceremony in Pretoria in April.

Also on the honours list were former political activist and UCT academic, the late Dr Neville Alexander, and three other UCT alumni: former politician Colin Eglin, opera star Pretty Yende, and Herbert de la Hunt – who unified the SA Scout Movement into one non-racial entity.

The orders are conferred yearly on Freedom Day, 27 April, and represent peace, unity and the restoration of human dignity of all South Africans.

Ekama's award recognised "research that has provided innovative solutions to enhancing and improving wastewater treatment and helped South Africa find answers to its water shortage problems".

A civil engineer, Ekama is interested in raising the country's status in the field of wastewater treatment and placing it centre stage in the global community. He lives by a simple research credo: "locally inspired, globally relevant". He has held a National Research Foundation (NRF) A1-rating for more than 10 years. The rating recognises him as a world leader in this field.



**Leading engineer:** A-rated wastewater treatment expert Prof George Ekama.

After qualifying from UCT in civil engineering, he started work on a construction site, but his interest in wastewater treatment was sparked when he met former UCT Professor Gerrit van Rooyen Marais, an expert in the field, who later became his PhD supervisor.

Honoured to have been nominated for the award, Ekama said it is to the government's credit that it had granted the award "for such an unglamorous, yet vital area of research".

Ekama is widely published, with more than 150 papers on wastewater treatment in top international journals, and is also highly cited. He is one of only seven South Africans and one of only four South African academics to be listed on [www.ISIHighlyCited.com](http://www.ISIHighlyCited.com), an international website of the world's most cited academics.

He has remained at the forefront of developments in wastewater treatment since the 1970s, primarily through a strong research group. In 25 years under NRF review, he has supervised 43 master's and 24 PhD students.

With his master's and doctoral students, he has twice won the Water Institute of Southern Africa's (WISA) Umgeni Award for the most significant paper on water, as well as the WISA Piet Vosloo Memorial prize for the development of mathematical models for wastewater treatment plant design and operation.

He is a senior fellow of WISA and a fellow of the Royal Society

of South Africa, UCT, and the South African Academy of Engineers.

Alexander, who died on 27 August 2012, was posthumously awarded the Order of Luthuli, in silver. This honour recognises South African citizens who have contributed to the struggle for democracy, nation-building, building democracy and human rights, justice and peace, as well as for the resolution of conflict.

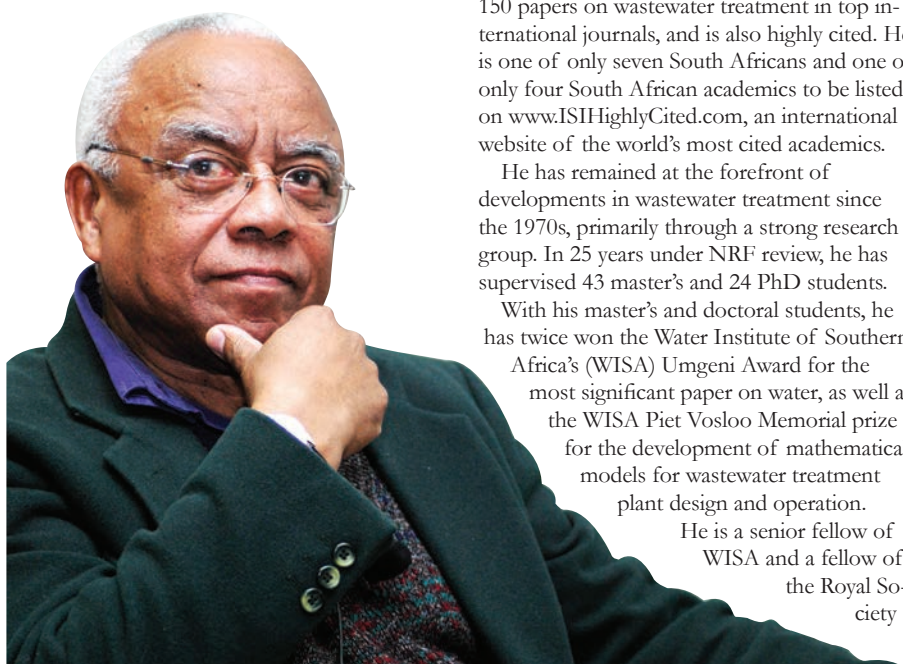
Eglin and De la Hunt were awarded the Order of the Baobab, which recognises South African citizens who have contributed to community service, business and economy, science, medicine and technological innovation.

Eglin, who graduated from UCT in 1946 and who later went on to become the leader of the then-official opposition, the Progressive Federal Party, was honoured "for serving the country with excellence and for his dedication and courage in standing up for the principles of equality for all".

De la Hunt graduated from UCT with a BA in 1974 and an MSc in applied science in 1994. He was acknowledged for his exceptional, inspirational volunteerism and dedication to community service and youth empowerment within the South African Scout Movement.

Yende was given the Order of Ikhamanga, which recognises South African citizens who have excelled in the fields of arts, culture, literature, music, journalism and sport. She received the award, in silver, "for her excellent achievement and international acclaim in the field of world opera and for serving as a role model to aspiring young musicians". ■

**Struggle icon:** the late Dr Neville Alexander.



# No bridge too far

## Mandisa in a man's world

**W**ith only one in ten engineers in South Africa being female, it remains a notable event when a woman succeeds in the heavily male-dominated world of civil engineering. Indeed, Mandisa Mazibuko, who graduated from UCT in 2009 with a civil engineering degree, is one such dynamo. Not only is she carving a place for herself in her industry, but she is leaving an indelible mark in the process.

Currently working at McKinsey & Company, a global management consulting firm, Mazibuko's other passion is the non-governmental organisation (NGO) Letha Ithuba, which she co-founded.

As the fledgling NGO's managing director, she devotes much of her time to ensuring Letha Ithuba's success. IsiZulu for 'bringing opportunity', Letha Ithuba strives to bring opportunities to rural communities through sustainable developmental initiatives. In turn these initiatives can serve as models for rural development in South Africa.

Letha Ithuba provides career guidance and tutoring to Grade 9-12 pupils in rural schools, and three schools have been adopted by the organisation so far. The purpose of the career guidance is to motivate and inspire learners about the importance of education for a better future. In other words, Letha Ithuba aims to develop, empower and uplift rural communities in South Africa through education.

Mazibuko recently completed a Masters in Engineering Management degree in the US as a Fulbright Scholar at Duke University. While at Duke she conducted research on the social adoption of sanitation technologies in developing countries for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's *Reinvent the Toilet* Project. This initiative aims to find a new toilet technology for developing countries in order to address the problems faced by the world's 2.6 billion people without access to basic sanitation.

A former ASPECT (Academic Support Programme for Engineers in Cape Town) student at UCT, Mazibuko served as the civil engineering students' academic representative and was involved in the restructuring of the curriculum. Her dedication and commitment to detail were recognised during this process and she was given an award for being the student who made the greatest overall contribution towards the civil engineering undergraduate programme.

She feels strongly about the future of women in engineering and belongs to South African Women in Engineering (SAWomEng), an organisation which aims to motivate, empower and celebrate women in engineering. As a student she served as its operations director in 2008, and after graduating in 2009, she sat on the organisation's national executive committee in 2010.

By that time she was working for Aurecon, a Free State-based company, as a design engineer in the roads, rail and bridges unit. Mazibuko reflects that this set her on a "a huge learning curve" – not only professionally but in terms of her personal growth, as she suddenly found herself in a working environment where her colleagues spoke either Afrikaans or Sesotho, while she was only proficient in English and Zulu.

Mazibuko was selected as a delegate at the Brightest Young Minds Summit in 2010 and was also chosen as a protégé by the MTN Business Leading CEO Council, where she was awarded a scholarship from T-Systems to go to Germany to learn how to run a global technology corporation.

In 2012, she was chosen as one of 17 Spark\*Changemakers in SA, an organisation that honours the founders and partners



**Building bridges:** Engineering dynamo Mandisa Mazibuko (right) with one of her mentors, Linda Nkomo, of UCT's Academic Support Programme for Engineers in Cape Town.

of non-profit or social businesses that help South Africans out of poverty. Spark\*Changemakers also granted funding for Letha Ithuba and other initiatives that improve the lives of people across the country.

She has recently been selected as a member of the Youth Advisory Panel for the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). The UNFPA facilitates knowledge-sharing about best practices and lessons learned from youth policies. It also contributes to setting youth development agendas pertaining to gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

She is excited about the opportunities this new appointment provides. "From my involvement in SAWomEng, to my own non-profit, Letha Ithuba, and the work I did with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation project, I see this platform as an opportunity for me to continue in my journey to positively affect change among the youth of South Africa."

"Being on the Youth Advisory panel means I am a voice for the youth in the country to a body as large as the UN, and in particular the UNFPA. Considering the state of the youth in South Africa, from unemployment to drug abuse and HIV/AIDS, it's a responsibility one cannot take very lightly."

"I look forward to growth through interacting with youth in other UN bodies and members through the conferences and other platforms; but most of all to making a tangible impact." ■





(From left) Siraj Jardine, Sonay Samson, Harshad Bhikha and Sergio Cieverts.

# Yes, we can!

## Young engineers give back

**U**CT helped two young chemical engineering alumni achieve their dreams – now they are helping others to do the same.

Harshad Bhikha and Sergio Cieverts both acknowledge life was tough when they were growing up.

This is why, two years ago, they put their heads together and came up with an idea to help other aspiring young engineers reach their goals. The result was the Young Engineers Scholarship (YES), an initiative that has already borne substantial fruit.

Bhikha and Cieverts both work for Sasol in Secunda. In 2011 they held discussions with colleagues about assisting students who despite difficult odds were able to excel at school, but who without financial assistance could not afford to pursue their dream of studying engineering at UCT.

One by one, they approached friends and colleagues who shared their vision to contribute to the scholarship in their personal capacities. In all, 17 graduates contributed, including 10 UCT engineering graduates and seven graduates from other universities across the country.

In total the enterprising duo collected R45 500 for the

scholarship, and the Student Financial Aid office assisted them with the selection of their first student.

In 2012, Mandiwakhe Ntlabhathi, a first-year Chemical Engineering student from Nyanga, outside Cape Town, became the first recipient. Ntlabhathi achieved seven distinctions in matric, which is a testament to his hard-working nature. He says he loves figuring out how things work, which is what led him to chemical engineering.

Bhikha and Cieverts say the donors to the scholarship made themselves available via email to answer any questions Ntlabhathi had on life in the engineering industry, and also offered some valuable guidance and mentorship.

“We would like the scholarship to be more than just a name on a page but something interactive and personal which will really benefit the student,” says Bhikha.

Earlier this year they managed to raise R80 000, and selected two new students – one from UCT and one from Wits University.

“We alumni can really change someone’s life for the better and help UCT empower someone to achieve their dream, the way UCT helped us achieve ours,” says Cieverts. He hopes that other alumni will be inspired to follow this example. ■

# Alumna tackles transformation in actuarial science

**W**ith a corps that is 83% white and almost 80% male, the actuarial profession in South Africa faces formidable transformation challenges.

In the field, an amalgam of advanced mathematics and statistics, alumna Shivani Ramjee is rare as a hen's tooth. In 2009 she became the first woman and the first black professional to head up actuarial sciences in the commerce faculty's School of Management Studies.

In June she and colleague Billy Enderstein were singled out by the Association of South African Black Actuarial Professionals (ASABA) at their ASABA/Investec Excellence Awards. UCT won the ASABA University Award on the night for its role in accelerating professional transformation, and Ramjee was there to collect it.

Like many developing countries, South Africa has too few qualified actuaries (mirroring a worldwide shortage). Fewer than 1 000 are registered here. Much of the progress in nursing black and woman actuaries through to qualification, via a rigorous and highly competitive degree, rests on a coherent – if not resolute – transformation programme, with mentorship at its core.

Transformation was top of Ramjee's to-do list when she became section head four years ago – and remains a priority.

"We have a clear strategy to guide our role in meeting transformation objectives," said Ramjee. "Our approach is integrated; we look at the students' financial, academic and psycho-social needs, as well as the need for diversity in our academic staff."

They work closely with the South African Actuarial Development Programme (SAADP) (Ramjee is a board member) and UCT is the programme of choice for SAADP scholarship holders. In 2012 ten of the 12 first-year students chose to study at UCT.

"It's a highly successful scholarship programme that's produced more than 90 black actuarial graduates and eight black qualified actuaries," added Ramjee.



She and Enderstein, who heads up an SAADP office in UCT's actuarial science department, are cornerstones of these initiatives, which encompass ASABA's mentorship programme.

This matches actuarial students with their counterparts in the marketplace. This kind of mentorship – which incorporates career awareness and networking – gives previously disadvantaged students a better understanding and more insight into the environment they will find in the workplace.

"UCT's diverse student body has provided a sound base for ASABA's mentorship activities," ASABA president Felix Kagura said at the awards.

As a result, the association's own mentorship student tally grew by 80% between December 2012 and March 2013.

In the mix is the Faculty of Commerce's respected Educational Development Unit, which has offered a spread of student support since 2010.

Intake has multiplied from fewer than 10 students in 2010 to 70 in 2012, close to one-third of the overall actuarial science first-year intake.

But, in a notoriously well-paid profession, there's not a lot to attract many to frugal academia, where preparation starts for the supply chain.

Again, Ramjee is an exception. She heads a team at UCT that is "extensively involved" in the Actuarial Society of South Africa, with board and council representation.

They've also played an important role in the localisation of actuarial education. Before 2010, local actuaries obtained their qualification through the UK professional body. Since then the local profession has been able to offer its own qualification.

There is also a research path to qualification, offering students the choice of submitting a dissertation in the final stage of their professional qualification.

"This has great potential for building research and attracting people back to academia," said Ramjee.

"It also means we can teach students content that is relevant to practising in South Africa. Awareness of the local context is invaluable in developing solutions for the poor. As an example, a UK-trained actuary has very little exposure to social security, social-solidarity principles or micro-insurance." ■



# In the heart of the country

**Builder Bob:** Postgraduate student Salma Kagee slaps plaster on bricks. Kagee was one of the Faculty of Commerce's volunteers who helped extend the Philippi Children's Centre. It's linked to the R150-million Starting Chance Campaign, initiated by the Southern Africa Sustainable Development Initiative. (Below) The school of Actuarial Science's Billy Enderstein takes a break to play with one of the centre's pre-schoolers.

It's a wet day in Cape Town, and Philippi's sprawling vegetable fields are caterpillar-green under heavy skies. In one small corner along Varkensvlei Road, beyond the farmlands, there's more activity than usual.

A new school building for Philippi Children's Centre pre-schoolers is going up, and inside the security gates, small groups of people in hard hats and thick-soled boots wait to be briefed.

"Who's keen for the heavy machinery?" asks the foreman. Faculty of Commerce postgraduate student Salma Kagee's hand is up.

"It sounds like a whole lot of fun," she says, straightening her pink hard hat and kicking the mud off her boots. Her co-workers from the faculty are similarly attired. Behind her is a sign: Danger – Open Holes.

"And dangerous," she adds.

Forty Dutch students were on site the previous week – and they've left their hefty footwear behind. They come every year to build infrastructure where teaching can take root and communities can grow.

From here, UCT – high up against Devil's Peak – isn't even visible. It's one of the reasons Kagee and her colleagues have come to this place. The faculty is a 'volunteer partner'. They're helping to build early learning centres for children in poor areas, an initiative linked to the R150-million Starting Chance Campaign by the Southern Africa Sustainable Development Initiative (SASDI).

SASDI has put R2.1 million towards this new development, partnering with Granbuild.

"Children need cognitive stimulation from a very young age if they are to become university graduates with good employment prospects," said Stuart Hendry, director of the faculty's Development Unit for New Enterprise. Hendry is the main fundraiser for the Starting Chance Campaign, and a SASDI board member.

In 2011, the faculty worked with the City of

Cape Town to deliver the Mfuleni Centre for Early Childhood Development.

On site, Kagee is now slapping plaster on bricks, working her palette up and across. It looks easier than it is. Behind her, Billy Enderstein of the School of Actuarial Science digs spadesful of heavy, wet sand, dumping each into a wheelbarrow. She stops to discard a jacket.

Afterwards, Enderstein says: "I really wanted to see an NGO on the ground and in action – particularly SASDI. The take-home message is that it is amazing to see what is being done to uplift the lives of others, but being involved takes you out of your comfort zone and into a slice of the reality that others have to live... You don't get this by donating money, you have to donate yourself; otherwise, it remains theory."

The goal, says Hendry, is to deliver 30 Early Childhood Development Centres of Excellence in the Cape Metropole over the next five years.

SASDI's integrated approach to developing physical infrastructure and the people who will operate the centres will enable registration under the new regulatory requirements, making it possible for the centres to run as sustainable, community-based social enterprises.

Amid the cement and mud, Hendry looks pleased. During a 'huddle' at the start of the build, he said: "It makes me feel incredibly proud to be part of such a big-hearted faculty."

Dr Justine Burns of the School of Economics invited several of her students along. "My students amaze me with the creative, innovative community activities they're involved in.

I also saw this build as an opportunity for them to get outside the ivory tower, to do something real and practical on the development

front. "We talk about development issues in class a lot, but that's 'head' knowledge – the build was 'heart' knowledge." ■



# The law polyglot who's wooing Africa

**S**haring a name with an infamous Colombian paramilitary leader has left Salvatore Mancuso with a few unwanted memories of international airports.

The first chair of UCT's new Centre for Comparative Law in Africa, Mancuso enjoys the irony.

Once, he flew to Colombia via Bogotá airport for a friend's wedding. He'd expected to be frisked with more than the usual care, or urged into a small room.

But the official who checked his passport grinned knowingly and waved him through. Mancuso, the paramilitary mischief-maker, had just been jailed.

Today Mancuso the lawman is in his middle campus office talking animatedly with a colleague from Islamic Studies. There's a continental, cosmopolitan feel to this small corner of the Kramer Building, underscored by the beguiling trail of freshly brewed coffee and the exchange of Italian between the two.

Born in Palermo, Italy, Mancuso also speaks English, French and Portuguese.

The Portuguese is a gift from the People's Republic of China, where he taught law to undergraduates at the University of Macau for eight years. Asia's last remaining European colony, Macau was administered by Portugal from the mid-16th century until 1999.

"I'm a bit of a polyglot," says the head of the new centre, established in 2011 with funding from the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Fund.

"We're a research centre involved in applied research that will add to better and more comprehensive legal systems in Africa and contribute to regional integration on the continent."

This research will feed into policy through conferences, publications, consultancies and professional networks across and beyond Africa. The centre's location within the Department of Commercial Law also recognises the centrality of comparative law to on-going efforts at economic and legal integration in Africa.

The centre will need its linguists. Francophone and Lusophone countries light up the map of the continent and have led to the mishmash of inherited, pluralistic legal frameworks in which life is lived in Africa.

In the Southern African Development Community, for example, countries like Botswana belong to pure common-law tradition; Francophone and Lusophone countries to civil-law tradition. Mauritius' legal system, for example, has a French-speaking heritage.

"The only way to create a viable legal framework for all countries would be to create a comparative analysis that identifies commonalities," adds Mancuso. "If you impose a predominant or hegemonic system you run the risk of rejection."

The centre will infuse the faculty's courses and teaching with comparative African perspectives. Language will oil the way, as the centre builds networks and links on the entire continent and develops its own academic offering to academics and postgraduate students.

Mancuso studied law at the University of Palermo and became a corporate lawyer. But it was Africa's mystique – he'd honeymooned in Kenya, falling in love with the continent a second time – that sparked an abiding interest in things African, especially law.

It was a chance sighting on honeymoon that started it. He'd spotted a company of Italian road workers on the 441km stretch between Mombasa and Nairobi, and wondered idly how they'd managed the legal contracts. The handbook he bought at the airport on the way out was his first introduction to Kenyan law.

In 2003 he did a PhD in comparative law at the University of Trieste, with a focus on Eritrea, a slender brow of land above the Horn of Africa.



**Africa rising:** Prof Salvatore Mancuso, first Chair in the new Centre for Comparative Law in Africa.

Getting the job at UCT was similarly serendipitous. While on sabbatical studies at UCT, a friend and professor of English at Macau had spotted the advertisement for the chair.

"Salvatore, they're looking for you," he'd emailed. "Cape Town is wonderful. Don't miss this opportunity."

"It's such a close fit," says Mancuso.

But to be a really comparative centre of law in Africa, its offering must be at least bilingual, says Mancuso.

There are plans to introduce a master's degree in French. Francophone Africa and the islands of Madagascar and Mauritius are good markets for UCT considering the geographical and financial benefits.

Mancuso and his team have rolled up their sleeves for the intense building phase.

New projects have been hatched; the inaugural *Journal of Comparative Law in Africa*, in English and French, due out in November, a book series, conference proceedings and monographs related to law in Africa, also in French and English.

Fundraising will underpin the centre's development and success. Mancuso travels widely, rallying financial support.

"The baby is thriving, but we must find more to feed it!" ■

# Postcards from home and abroad



## Being in Beijing

Peter Cohen

In June I was fortunate enough to attend the inaugural International Forum for Law School Students hosted by the Renmin Law School of China in Beijing.

I presented a paper on customary law in South Africa, focusing on the challenges that arise in our pluralistic legal system and the progress made in giving customary law its constitutionally entrenched equal status to that of the common law. After my presentation I fielded many questions from students who found similar challenges with the Chinese legal approach to regional traditional law.

I arrived in Beijing very late on Friday night and was very grateful to be met by a Renmin law student at the airport. The next morning I met the other conference participants in the hotel lobby and boarded a bus to the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall of China, one of three sections of the wall open to the public and easily accessible from Beijing.

The aim of the conference, which took place on the Sunday, was to get law students from all over the world to meet each other and to share some aspect of their legal system. The fact that there was no set topic added to the strength of the conference, allowing, as it did, for presentations from vastly varied fields of law. These included the experiences of an intern at the European Court of Human Rights, mental health law in America, and Chinese HIV policy.

After the conference I remained in Beijing for a week, where I was very kindly hosted at the campus hotel by Renmin University.

I am very thankful to UCT for giving me this opportunity, to Renmin University for kindly sponsoring my trip, and to Fatima Osman for helping me with my paper. Renmin University is planning to extend next year's conference to five days, and I would enthusiastically recommend UCT students to apply.

## The day they cried at the Constitutional Court

Daniel Mackintosh

Often, working at the Constitutional Court is about papers, lawyers and arguments: many lawyers, complex arguments and small hills of paper that seem to sprout lives of their own in my office. But every now and then, a ray of light shines through and I get to catch a glimpse of what the Court means to ordinary people.

October 9, 2012, was different... We handed down important judgments. One of them was written by 'my' Judge, and concerned the Children's Institute, in a case about the power that a High Court has to allow an *amicus curiae*\* to adduce evidence (and just to shamelessly admit how proud I am, there was a consensus that it was the Court's fastest judgment from the date of hearing to hand-down).

But it was during the hand-down of the Schubart Park judgement that the Courtroom was transformed from its traditional role as a legal battleground to a place where people literally had their dignity recognised and their rights protected.

Schubart Park involved 700 people who lived in a residential complex but had been removed from their homes by the City of Tshwane. They found themselves on the streets or in temporary shelters. Froneman J, writing for a unanimous court, found that the residents were entitled to return to their homes as soon as it was safe enough to do so.

But that was not the actual outcome that moved me most...

One of the residents who had come to court to hear the outcome was wearing a red t-shirt, emblazoned with the slogan "Residents of Schubart Park," so that we would all know that, whatever the outcome in Court that day, it would have a direct impact on his life.

As Justice Nkabinde read out the hand-down note and it became apparent that he was going to be able to go back to his home, I watched him gradually sit up in his seat, smile and hold his head up a little higher.

I looked on as his entire demeanour changed. Here was a man who felt, today, that the Court was *his* Court – as if all that stuff we say when we take people on tours, about the Court protecting the people and the people protecting the Court, was actually true. I was watching it play itself out.

Once the hand-down note was read, Deputy Chief Justice Moseneke translated the outcome of the judgment into Tswana, the language spoken by most of the Schubart Park residents. People burst into tears as they realised that they would no longer have to endure more months of insecurity and terrible hardship on the streets of Tshwane. The entire group then moved out of the Courtroom, and exploded into joyous song.

And all because we have a little book, a few hundred pages long, called the Constitution. Today was living proof that sometimes, the mountains of paper really do make a difference to people's lives.



\* *Amicus curiae* refers to persons who are not party to a case and who offer information that bears on the case, but have not been solicited by any of the parties to assist a court.



## The beauty of scholarships

Anisa Mahmoudi

Many told me that this year would fly by fast, but I hadn't really understood what that meant until now. From the beginning, I was immersed in all that is London and had to try find my feet both in this very large city, and within University College London (UCL) and the LLM class of 2012/3.

Being a mom and a student meant that, unlike my fellow LLM students, my priorities were different. Instead of late-night dinners mulling over the LLM and all that it entailed, I spent evenings playing with or reading stories to my five-year-old.

I started my LLM with a fresh new drive and was excited about what UCL had to offer. My passion has always been in human rights law, which led me to choosing courses that would only deepen this interest. The people who taught me were, without exception, an inspiration. Their brilliant academic minds, together with a genuine interest in the rights of their fellow men, inspired me to do the best I could during my LLM.

In March of 2013 at the UCL Scholarship and Bursaries Reception, I was given the opportunity to voice my thanks, not only to my donor but also to all donors present. At an event aimed at recognising generosity and encouraging further donations, three students, including myself, were given the opportunity to make a speech expressing our gratitude.

It was at this event that I met the person who played a huge part in changing my life, a humble and incredibly interesting UCL Law Alumnus, and I was given a further opportunity in June 2013 to meet with him to chat. An inspiration in his own right, my sponsor has also played a part in providing me with a well-rounded experience at UCL.

For everything UCL has taught me, and for everything UCT has taught me, I will always be grateful. As I said in my speech, part of the beauty of scholarships is the investment made in students who themselves, hopefully, will pay it forward.

# Trial and tribulation

When the Oscar Pistorius murder trial began in the North Gauteng High Court in March 2014, once again it was UCT senior law lecturer Kelly Phelps who guided CNN's global audiences through the intricacies and idiosyncrasies of the South African criminal justice system.

**T**he story has all the ingredients of a blockbuster: the hero who defied a double amputation to run in the Olympics; the cover girl with a law degree who loved cars and cooking. Then add to the mix love, tragedy, and the law.

When Oscar Pistorius took to the stand, having pleaded not guilty to the premeditated murder of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp at his home on 14 February last year, there were few more intent on studying the unfolding evidence than Kelly Phelps.

Contracted by CNN to provide in-depth legal analysis on the high-profile case, the UCT graduate and former assistant editor of the *South African Journal of Criminal Justice* says her job was to ensure nothing was 'lost in translation'.

Pistorius was an international hero; his inspirational story of grit and determination, some say, mirrored the journey of the nation whose emblems he wore at the Paralympics and Olympics. His fall from grace headlined around the world.

After his arrest, speculation and rumour (was it premeditated murder, or a mistake?) ignited like a bushfire, fed by what Phelps describes as "generally shoddy journalism". As a result, fact and "sober information" haven't filtered into the public discourse.

"All too often, the media have taken the cheap, easy angle."

But backtrack to February 2013. Phelps' first interview on the Pistorius case was on self-defence and the law, for local breakfast TV show *Expresso*.

A CNN central booker saw the YouTube clip, and made a call.

Phelps was just what they were looking for: a legal expert immersed in the local landscape, someone who could explain to CNN's largely American audience, raised on the jury system of justice, the complexities of South African criminal law – and who could shape the legitimacy of CNN's content.

## Local expert

Phelps' pedigree is impressive. With an MA in law from Cambridge, she helped develop UCT's postgraduate programme, Criminology, Law and Society. Her undergraduate teaching incorporates criminal law, and criminal justice and the Constitution. At postgraduate level, she teaches punishment and human rights to LL.M and MPhil students, and has taught the criminal process to criminology honours students.

As the trial arraignment followed the lengthy bail hearing, Phelps became a familiar face to CNN audiences, painstakingly unpicking events against the fabric of the South African criminal justice system, both on-screen for CNN and as an advisor behind the scenes.

Much of this was done on the run – by phone and Skype interviews, and in on-camera interviews outside the courts.

"There's zero glamour in pounding the pavements outside the courts, day and night!" she adds.

But for the bigger shows, hosted by Anderson Cooper and Piers Morgan, she was filmed at a Cape Town studio. She also participated in a documentary on the case – *Murder or Mistake*, an Anderson Cooper special feature – which aired on 7 June 2013.

## Countering misinformation

On one Anderson Cooper show, Phelps was able to counter the views of American lawyers Jeffrey Toobin and Mark Geragos, who were completely dismissive of Pistorius' claim that he was afraid of crime, which he said precipitated the shooting.

"I had the opportunity to explain how the prevalence of crime *can* infiltrate into



**Fair hearing:** UCT senior law lecturer Kelly Phelps.



the psyche, and *has* infiltrated into the South African psyche; and that in South Africa, an allegation like that wouldn't necessarily raise a red flag.

"That's when you see the fundamental importance of having a local voice."

Phelps has also been able to spell out to CNN's American audiences why this high-profile case is unlikely to go to plea bargaining, as extensively used in the US judicial system.

This kind of knowledge dissemination is central to her social responsiveness portfolio.

"I see this as an amazing opportunity to counter the biased and negative portrayals of South Africa with more measured accounts that take social and cultural contexts into account – and being based at UCT gives me the perfect opportunity to do that."

Working with CNN has been a revelation; they were the only global media company to seek out long-term local legal expertise for their coverage of the trial, says Phelps.

"The team has been meticulous, professional, and responsible. They changed my view of a huge global media company."

Phelps also filmed a number of documentaries for M-Net's *Carte Blanche* (she assisted with the script), aired shortly before the trial. For



Photograph courtesy of Media24.

Phelps, the reward has little to do with being on camera. In fact, she hates public speaking, unless it's to a class of students.

"I'm terrified. It's not that I lack confidence; I just don't like being the centre of attention."

To overcome this fear, Phelps took speech and drama as an extra subject in matric, and as a first-year subject at university. In matric at Herzlia, she won a Rotary Inter-Schools Debating league final.

### Massive trial preparation

Assisted by a researcher, Phelps prepared "hugely" for the next phase. A blue 'Pistorius file' with yellow tags contains all her research: stats, trial lengths, crime rates, detection and conviction rates, and themed information.

"I imagined what an international audience might be interested in hearing. I picked apart the charge sheet and indictment to analyse what aspects of South African law are likely to be contested, or particularly pertinent, and created summary sheets for myself, so that I can give accurate information on the spot."

It's time well spent, because the work feeds back into her research and teaching.

"The reason I've put so much time into

compiling this research is that disseminating accurate information is the only valid role an academic has in participating in a media circus such as this one."

Public opinion remains a challenge.

"When people form strong opinions before the trial, whatever plays out in court will be analysed and judged through that lens. If Pistorius is found not guilty of premeditated murder, people will come out believing that a huge miscarriage of justice has occurred.

"That can have a far-reaching and invidious effect on people's respect for the courts – and their adherence to the law. Apartheid is a clear example of that: as it started losing its legitimacy, people stopped believing in the state, and in the precepts on which it was built."

Have people tried to draw her out on the case?

"All the time. In every situation and every context! But unless you're a clairvoyant, or were a fly on the wall, you don't know what happened.

"That's what a criminal trial is for. People need to let it unfold; they need to be led by information and by the evidence coming out of the trial, and not rely on hearsay or a gut

feel that because he's famous and wealthy, he'll get off."

Despite public opinion, Phelps believes that the trial will present an ideal showcase for criminal justice.

"Because of the high-profile nature of the case and the sophisticated teams he [Pistorius] has managed to hire, the state has had to match that level of expertise. If you look at the state's team, they are as experienced and competent as the defence team. So you've got an ideal situation, with both parties on the best possible footing going into what should be a fair and vigorous trial."

The flip side of this healthy state of affairs, notes Phelps, is the sad indictment of the reality of the country's poor and indigent people, who don't have access to "that kind of justice".

"It doesn't mean that people with money are abusing justice, but rather that people without money are being denied full access to justice."

But while the criminal justice system is plagued by many problems, it still functions on a day-to-day basis, says Phelps.

"And there's no reason to believe proper justice can't be achieved." ■

Story by Helen Swingler

**“Gifts from alumni and friends of the University are critical in making up the shortfall in funding that we need, in order to give these aspiring students a chance at a world-class education from UCT. Your support makes a HUGE difference. Thank you.” Dr Rusell Ally, executive director of the Development and Alumni Department**

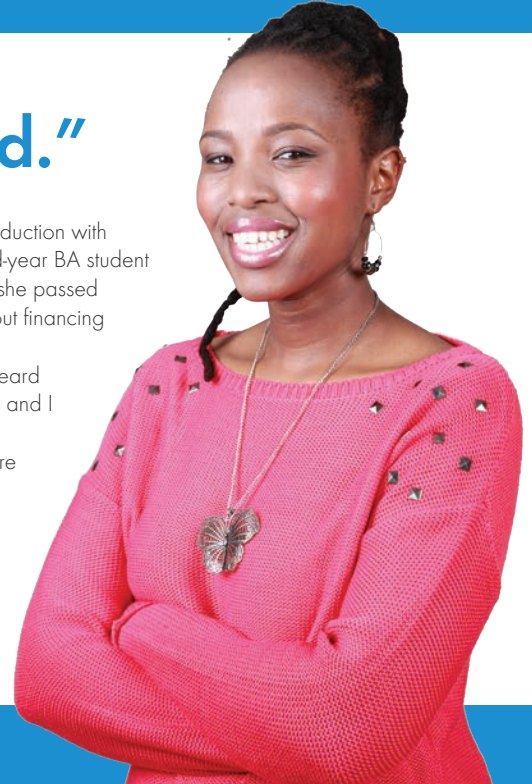
## **“I have all the support I need.”**

Her first love was always literature; yet Eastern Cape-born Noluyolo Ngomani took to radio production with great ease, and today job-shadows at a prominent Cape Town commercial radio station. A third-year BA student majoring in Film and Media Production, Ngomani grew up in a single-parent household. When she passed matric, she was anxious about being granted admission to university, but even more worried about financing her studies.

“My mom is a single parent and I wasn’t sure she could afford my university fees. So when I heard about UCT Financial Aid, I applied immediately. It’s helped me in so many ways. It pays my fees and I get a monthly allowance to buy books.”

But financing university study is not only about being able to pay for tuition and books; there are other incidental costs that students must contend with, including health and wellness. Students on UCT Financial Aid receive free consultation at the campus’s Student Wellness Centre.

Ngomani is committed to sharing her passion and love for radio with others, through mentoring and tutoring classmates who need help. Because of UCT Financial Aid, the anxiety of financing her studies was lifted and Ngomani is able to focus on acquiring the knowledge and skills she needs to help others tell their stories. “Now in my final year, I wouldn’t have got this far without UCT Financial Aid.”



**Noluyolo Ngomani**

*- BA in Film and Media Production*

## **“On my way to achieving my goal.”**

An aficionado of Japanese animation, Zayaan Farouk from Ottery, Cape Town, was inspired by her father to pursue her passion and become an animator. Thanks to UCT Financial Aid, Farouk is currently acquiring skills that will help her fulfil this dream some day. She is in her third year of studying towards a BA degree in Fine Arts and hopes to become a graphic designer and animator.

“Without UCT Financial Aid I wouldn’t have been able to pursue this degree. I receive a grant, and a travel allowance that enables me to get to and from the campus, in addition to access to the Student Wellness Centre and a book allowance. UCT Financial Aid has helped me so much on my way to achieving my dream.”

Through its expanded financial aid system, UCT gives students a chance of changing their future. For Farouk this is something she takes to heart. She hopes to be able to give back someday and teach at her old art school. “My love for art was nurtured by my former teachers – some of whom are now my lecturers at UCT. Through their hard work, constructive criticism, love and support, I was able to reach my goal of becoming a UCT Michaelis student.”



**Zayaan Farouk**

*- BA in Fine Arts*



## “Financial Aid allowed me to focus on my studies.”

At age 24, Zela Martin is already on the path to becoming an internationally competitive medical researcher.

The postgraduate student has overcome significant personal setbacks to forge her way through her undergraduate studies, switching from a BA to a BSc, before pursuing her BSc Medical Honours – thanks to support from UCT Financial Aid.

“I cannot begin to explain how Financial Aid has impacted my life. I have always been a fighter, and I have always dreamed of obtaining an education, but the reality is much harsher than the fantasy would lead you to believe. It has taken hard work and determination and I could not have done it without the support of UCT Financial Aid.”

Martin was invited to the prestigious annual Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne Summer School in Switzerland in August and September 2013. She was one of only 25 students chosen from 1 000 applicants from the world’s top universities, and is thought to be the first representative of an African university – a singular honour for the KwaZulu-Natal native.

Her time at the summer school gave her an insight into being part of an international research community, working at the forefront of science, and this has strengthened her commitment to pursuing her research career. She is particularly interested in infectious diseases and immunology, and her honours research explores drug tolerance in TB.

“Science works for me,” she says. “I am extremely passionate about what I do and I’m inspired every day.”

Despite the difficult circumstances she has faced, the financial support received from UCT meant she could plough all her energies into her honours. However, her studies won’t stop there. Next up will be a PhD which Martin hopes will serve as another stepping stone along her career path.

“Financial Aid allowed me to focus on my studies and truly achieve academically, thereby affording me access to further opportunities that would otherwise have been closed to me. Moreover, the experience has helped nurture my social conscience, and I will dedicate my life to improving the lives of those less fortunate.”



**Zela Martin**  
– BSc Medical Honours

## “Without it, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

Born in Thohoyandou in Limpopo Province, Mpho Gegana is literally living his dream. Thanks to UCT Financial Aid, he was the first member of his family to graduate from university. His favourite subject in high school was geography, and today Mpho holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental & Geographical Sciences and Ocean & Atmosphere Sciences from UCT. He is currently registered for an honours degree in Geographic Information Systems at the university.

“I enjoyed geography in high school and I enjoy it now because the subject is not exclusively scientific; there are social aspects about it too. And when you combine the scientific and the social, you can make a big difference in people’s lives.”

Aware of how much assistance is needed in disadvantaged communities, Gegana signed up for Inkanyezi, a volunteer-based programme at UCT which helps disadvantaged high school learners to access tertiary education. Here he used the knowledge he acquired at UCT to help high school learners obtain information about universities and funding opportunities. Gegana is also a mentor at UCT’s Golden Key community development initiative where he plays a ‘big brother’ role to learners and offers them guidance.

“UCT Financial Aid has made a very significant impact on my life. It covered all my UCT fees throughout my degree and helped me to pay for rent, food, tuition and books; plus, I’ve been able to save some of the money for vacation periods. Being the eldest in my family, I come from a place with limited role models; so, I hope to inspire my siblings with what I’ve achieved. Without UCT Financial Aid I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

**Mpho Gegana**  
– BSc (Hons) Geographic Information Systems



# UCT Alumni Events

This year the Development and Alumni Department was once again privileged to host talks by some of our most distinguished, engaging and thought-provoking alumni through our Alumni Leadership Forum series.



We kick-started 2013 with a double dose of talks (in Johannesburg and Cape Town) by Dr Jonathan Clark (above right), Director of UCT's Schools Improvement Initiative (SII), on the topic of "UCT's Response to the Education Crisis in South Africa," discussing some of the reasons for the current education crisis and the work of UCT's SII in ameliorating it.

This year's Heritage Society dinners also focused on the work of the Schools Improvement Initiative, as well as showcasing the incredible talent of the students at the UCT Opera School.



In October last year, we had political cartoonist Jonathan Shapiro, aka *Zapiro*, who entertained a packed Jameson Hall with a presentation about his career as a cartoonist through some of the most pivotal moments in South Africa's history, featuring some of his most famous, as well as some lesser-known, cartoons.



In May, Professor Tim Noakes (above right) had the full attention of a sizeable crowd who braved the Gauteng cold to hear him speak on the topic "The Great Diet Controversy: UCT Taught me to Challenge Beliefs," where he presented the rationale behind – and the results of – his controversial high-fat diet.



In Port Elizabeth we were honored to host Philipp H Gutsche, former CEO of Coca-Cola Sabco, and the 2003 Port Elizabeth "Citizen of the Year" who gave us highly practical insights into how, in partnership with the Coca-Cola company, he built a very successful bottling enterprise (read the interview with Mr Gutsche on page 8).



In March we had the utter delight of listening to the beautiful and talented Nomfundo Xaluva (above), alumna and jazz musician, perform at a UCT Association of Black Alumni gathering in JHB just after the release of her album, titled *Kusile*. At the same event, Siya Mapoko (top), motivational speaker, entrepreneur, and author of *The Best Advice I Ever Got*, gave the audience a very dynamic talk about successful pathways to entrepreneurship.



## Law graduates reunite

Warm December sunlight streamed through the Jan Smuts Hall's stained glass windows as eighty law graduates reconnected over lunch last year.

Year-end seemed a popular and appropriate time for alumni to gather from around the world, including visitors from Hong Kong, Jerusalem, London and Windhoek, as well as locally from Durban and Johannesburg.

Guests ranged from alumni who graduated in 1952 to those who graduated in 2002. A major drawcard was a pre-lunch address by UCT's most recent Honorary Doctor of Laws, Fink Haysom, who is a special advisor in the Secretary General's office at the UN.

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price's update on UCT set a very upbeat tone and then, over coffee, the informal 'interventions' from members of the different final-year classes made for much mirth and reminiscing. All the ingredients for a memorable reunion!

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

All of the photographs from our events are posted on our Flickr page at [www.flickr.com/uctalumni-events](http://www.flickr.com/uctalumni-events). If you had your picture taken at one of our events, go ahead and tag yourself, or share it with your friends!

Many of our event videos are also posted on the UCT YouTube channel, at [www.youtube.com/user/UCTSouthAfrica](http://www.youtube.com/user/UCTSouthAfrica).

For the calendar of upcoming alumni events, go to [www.uct.ac.za/dad/alumni/events/upcoming](http://www.uct.ac.za/dad/alumni/events/upcoming).

If you missed out on the invitations to any of the events in your area, make sure you update your contact details at [www.uct.ac.za/dad/alumni/update/alumni](http://www.uct.ac.za/dad/alumni/update/alumni).



This was followed by the first (and hopefully annual) UCT Alumni Golf Day, which was held at Rondebosch Golf Club. The day was lots of fun, and offered a great way for alumni to relax and enjoy each other's company, not to mention some fantastic prizes!



We rounded out the year with an Alumni Leadership Forum in Johannesburg with Hlumelo Biko, who gave us his thoughts on 'Talent Aggregation in a Disaggregated Society'. You can read more about that topic, and Hlumelo's new book, *The Great African Society*, on page 9. Biko is pictured above with Development and Alumni Department's Lebo Lethunya (left) and Elle Williams (right).

# UCT Alumni Chapters Around the World



The Development and Alumni Department is very lucky to be assisted in our work of connecting with the UCT Alumni community, by the excellent volunteer chapters that are run all over the world by some of our most active alumni. One of our most far-flung chapters, the New Zealand Alumni Association, has been in existence for over 25 years, and forms one of our strongest and most successful alumni groups. Raymond Howard is the chair, and is supported by a very strong and well-organised committee. Through their efforts we are excited to announce that, alumni in New Zealand can now make tax-deductible donations to the University, via the UCT Alumni New Zealand Charitable Foundation.

They held their most recent AGM at the home of gracious hosts Kim and Erica Crawford. Erica is a UCT alumna who shared her story, *From UCT to Kim Crawford Wines*. To find out more about their vibrant and refreshing approach to winemaking, visit [www.kimcrawfordwines.co.nz](http://www.kimcrawfordwines.co.nz).

At that same event, alumnus Thea Hughes was guest speaker. Thea is the authoress of *Buen Camino – Beyond the Journey*.

The Vice-Chancellor makes it a priority to connect with alumni when travelling internationally on behalf of UCT. This year his travels took him to New Zealand, where he hosted a discussion with the Auckland-based alumni at the Ponsonby Cruising Club in the Westhaven Marina.

There, Dr Max Price gave the group an update on developments at UCT, including the admissions policy debate, and the introduction of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC's) to the international higher education landscape, and what that may mean for UCT.

Similarly, in Wellington, Price hosted the UCT Alumni luncheon at the Wellington Club, organised by Susan Clifford, discussing the University's strategic plan and outlining some of its current challenges, before engaging in a lively question and answer session.

Another of our stalwart alumni chapters is located a little closer to campus, in Port Elizabeth. Their history dates back to 1982, when, at a UCT event in Port Elizabeth, Owen Kinahan called for the establishment of an alumni chapter. At that stage, Daryl Burman (pictured above left) offered to drive that initiative, and has been chairman of the Port Elizabeth Chapter ever since.

Daryl comes from a "proudly UCT" family; indeed, he says that in the period from about 1936 to date, there has always been a Burman family member either studying or teaching at UCT.

Around 2007, Brian Klopper (above right) joined the chapter as deputy chair, committing himself enthusiastically to their mission of working closely with the Development and Alumni Department to organise events such as the Alumni Leadership Forum series, and to offer their support to the work of the UCT Heritage Society in Port Elizabeth.

Brian is himself head of the history department at the Woodbridge School, and is passionate about assisting with the recruitment of top students in the Port Elizabeth area, particularly from schools that may otherwise not have heard of UCT, by inviting them to hear about the university and how they can apply.

Since the last edition of the *UCT Alumni News*, we've been delighted with the successful establishment of two additional alumni chapters – in Switzerland and Botswana.

The Swiss alumni chapter hosted a very successful inaugural event in Zurich, which coincided with the Vice-Chancellor's annual trip to Davos. The chapter operates under the leadership of alumni Rolf Kuhn (chair), and Phiwe Mtwebana (events co-ordinator).

In Botswana, the alumni chapter was launched with an address by Moatlhodi Lekaukau, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Botswana, and the first Motswana to occupy this role. The Botswana alumni chapter has recently adopted its constitution, and has identified a robust and enthusiastic committee led by Pinkie Douglas, who serves as chair, and Bakang Palai, deputy chair.

Following very successful visits by the Vice-Chancellor to both Nigeria and Namibia this year, alumni in both of those countries have expressed an interest in starting up chapters, and we look forward to helping them get those off the ground.

The Development and Alumni department wants to thank all of the many committee members and chapter leaders who volunteer their time and energy towards helping us keep our community of 150 000 stay connected to their alma mater. We couldn't do this without you.

If you'd like to get in touch with a chapter in your area, or start one of your own, please contact Lebo Lethunya at [alumni@uct.ac.za](mailto:alumni@uct.ac.za). ■

# In DAD's footsteps

Dr Russell Ally has taken the helm at the Development and Alumni Department as Jim McNamara retires after 23 years with UCT, eight as executive director of the department.

**R**ussell Ally is on the run; the sandwich triangles and a Woolies salad are half-eaten, the remains of a working lunch.

Soon his lift will hoot outside to take him through teeming August rain to another rendezvous on campus. Twenty-eight days into his first month, Ally is taking stock.

"It's been a rollercoaster," says the new executive director of the Development and Alumni Department, the homely and benevolent-sounding DAD.

In addition to the legion meetings, new faces, long titles, satellite campuses and reams of emails, it's tax season, and the many donors and corporates that provide unflagging support to UCT's academic enterprise are clamouring for tax certificates.

But the hardest part of adjusting to UCT lies in an idiosyncrasy.

"Actually, it's the acronyms," he says, bemused by the plethora of unintelligible truncations for committees, units and entities that litter UCT speech and reports; baffling to the unversed.

"I try very hard not to use acronyms, difficult as I know this is."

And therein lies an important indicator of the inclusivity and the plain-speak that characterise Ally's leadership style. But he'll talk about that later. First is the history of the UCT-trained historian (BA, 1979).

In his mid-50s, Ally is an interesting package: historian, fundraiser, academic and former member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Human Rights Violation Committee, chaired by Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.

After completing a master's at Rhodes University and a PhD at Cambridge, Ally started off as a high-school history teacher in East London, later becoming a senior history researcher at Wits, where he served on Senate and Council. He's published in leading journals and has authored a book on South Africa's mining industry.

Before his appointment to UCT, Ally spent five years as the Ford Foundation's programme officer for Southern Africa, overseeing their governance and civil society programme in South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

The new post at UCT melds his interests in academia and development. One of his main tasks is to look after and build relationships with 150 000 alumni, 90 000 in South Africa and the rest scattered through 100 countries abroad. And through fund-raising, he will advance UCT's goals of strengthening research, improving access to higher education and enhancing the quality of teaching and learning.

DAD's fundraising strategies must ensure that enough money comes in to fund these aspects of the university's mission when higher education funding streams are under threat.

"It's all about relationship-building with donors," says Ally.

And with his team; Ally manages a team of some 30 people and five alumni office representatives abroad in the US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

He's brought good stock: a wealth of experience in grant-making. Before joining Ford, he was the country representative and executive director of the South African Office of the prominent Charles Stewart Mott Foundation in the US. Before this he was human rights project manager at the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. And in 1988 he was the main author of South Africa's national Action Plan that was submitted to the UN in 1998 as part of the commemoration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights' 50th anniversary.

And yes, the fund-raising environment is tough, but the money is



still there, and funders are still looking for quality projects to spend it on.

"It's not so easy to give away money," says Ally. "You have to look at impact and the quality of the project; many boxes that need to be ticked to ensure the money covers all the bases specified."

"Our challenge is how do we get access to that money? How do you make a convincing and compelling argument for it?"

Ally doesn't believe in approaching fund-raising from a "deficit perspective".

"We want to enter into partnerships with donors, with common objectives in mind."

As a leader, Ally believes in being open and transparent, with an open-door policy. He believes in systems and structures and objectivity and impartiality.

But he likes to take people into his confidence.

"I'm not a great one for hierarchies. I know there are lines of accountability and responsibilities, but I don't believe in using those to treat people differently."

Outside there's a driver hooting.

Running is second nature, he says before parting. Off duty Ally is a passionate road runner, with nine Two Oceans and nine Comrades to his credit. But there's a last thing before he goes:

"My best Comrades was 6.29, but that was many years ago."

Speed – and endurance – will stand him in good stead. ■

continued from page 8

valry between one of these players and myself, because like me, he also saw opportunities for growth. He was the son of the people who owned a company called Suncrush. He was a year older than me, his father was second generation into the business, and he started at his father's business in Durban, which was also a small, listed company. And like me, he was very ambitious and also wanted to expand his territory into the market.

So this level of competition caused me to really think strategically about how I would survive into the future, and I realized that we had to have low-cost producing facilities, we needed to have a business that could be big and be a low-cost producer, because ultimately it's all about meeting your costs and still surviving.

And that's why I was determined to expand by buying a branch in Pietersburg [now Polokwane]. Pietersburg, at that time, represented the far north, then called the Transvaal, and it was already a substantial volume business relative to everything in those days, but it also had huge potential for growth and was hugely underdeveloped.

So with that I was hugely successful. Though we were competing against Suncrush for the purchase, we were able to buy the Pietersburg plant, and that meant we could operate at greater bulk in South Africa.

I tried to extend our businesses offshore, but wasn't able to because although I had permission to buy in America, we were turned down by the SA Reserve Bank. In those days, they had very strict foreign exchange controls, you have no idea what it was like operating under those restrictions. Apartheid was crumbling and the government was very concerned; I mean, the country was going bankrupt, and so they didn't want to allow the flight of money out of South Africa.

**EW: So even before the dawn of economic sanctions, the apartheid government was financially vulnerable?**

*PG:* It's all about business in life, believe me. And this is one of the things Professor Hutt used to say, at UCT. He was a brilliant man, and a very provocative thinker, and he used to say, as far back as the 1950s, that apartheid will break down, not for political reasons or because of force, it will break down because of economics. And it did!

The horrific thing is that if the previous government hadn't run out of money, we would still have had apartheid. And if this government runs out of money, mark my words, we'll get a new government. If you don't have the money – no matter what you're trying to do – if you don't have the money, it can't hold up.

**EW: It's clear from your ALF presentation that you believe that the key to success is strict controls.**

*PG:* Let me tell you, cash is king. To this day, though I am now non-executive in this company, I still get reports on the cash balances of all of my accounts and investments



*Philipp H Gutsche takes a break in his office which is decorated with military paintings, various items of Coca-Cola memorabilia, and a wide range of souvenirs and gifts from the many countries where his company operates. However there is one thing he has never owned – a computer!*

on a very regular basis. Having controls over the finances in a business is the only way to make sure it succeeds.

**EW: Who are some of the people you look up to?**

*PG:* If you come into my house, in the lobby, you'll see two portraits – of Mandela, and Ghandi. Ghandi transformed the culture and philosophies of India in a peaceful manner and brought about a revolution that moved their country forward into independent government, and of course Madiba did the same in our country. So I rate those two for our century, I mean they faced huge conflict – look at the conflict that Mandela's had to face in his life! And he comes out of that, and transforms the world. I mean, who's ever done that? Ghandi and Mandela have both left a strong moral legacy.

**EW: What would you say is the relationship between morals and business?**

*PG:* Well, morality is a very important part of business. You know, honesty and integrity provide a shortcut to success. If you want to be corrupt, you've got a hundred and one things to remember, to cover your back. We've all lied at some stage, but I tell you what, you get caught out. So when you become corrupt, you've got to keep coming up with bigger and bigger lies, and to remember all the background – *shen!* – it means you're thinking about protecting your back, whereas what you should be thinking about is the way forward.

**EW: What are your tips for the current generation trying to make their start in business?**

*PG:* There are opportunities out there, but you've got to be prepared to take a risk, and be aware that it's not easy. Look at Malcolm Gladwell's book, *Outliers*, and particularly his chapter on how the Chinese cultural legacy leads to their success in maths. The Chinese

have a work ethic, a humility and a capacity for sacrifice; also, they are capitalised, not indebted. If they're building a house, they'll build piece by piece what they can afford to buy on a cash basis, so they're not borrowed. Again, cash is king.

Remember that people want strong leaders, it doesn't matter the field, or your background, they want to be led so that they can perform in their profession.

And very importantly, make sure you have a product in which you're going to have a lot of confidence and faith. You've got to have a passion that will drive you to work 24 hours a day, where the moment that you fall asleep, your brain is still ticking over, and you wake up in a sweat at 5am, 3am, 12am.

**EW: How do you sustain that level of energy?**

*PG:* Through the will to succeed! But equally important is the fact that you've got to have diversions, otherwise you'll get burned out, so you need to have outside activities that will expel your frustrations, some form of recreation that will immerse your thought and calm you down. Also, I've always lived by a philosophy that some may say is controversial: "You do your best and bugger the rest!"

**EW: Speaking of recreation, we know about your passion for yachting and your success with 'Warrior' and 'Windpower'. Do you still sail?**

*PG:* Yes, but I won't do big, long races anymore. Actually, I'll take Warrior out tonight if I can find a crew that will go out in this weather! [Note: On the day of our interview it was early June in Port Elizabeth, and the sea was far from pleasant.] I'm not a good yachtsman, so I surround myself with the best people. I believe that whatever you do, you've got to do it to the best of your abilities. So I enjoy sailing, but whenever I do go out to sea, I do it competitively. I sail with an objective, not just to be on the water. The objective is to win. ■

continued from page 9

do it, but it's certainly necessary for us all to do it.

**EW: But you speak from a place of psychological privilege, because self-actualisation, or to go a step back, the mental construction of a high-achieving possible or future self, is something that starts in the imagination, which is often ignited by being exposed to the achievements and experiences of others. Realistically, how can young people imagine and achieve such self-actualisation if they are not tangibly being exposed to a way out of poverty?**

*HB:* I view the last mile of freedom in this country to be all about education, because right now we're making the youth a false promise. We're asking them to have a sky-is-the-limit view – until reality checks in, in Matric. I think we underestimate the effect of creating this mirage which says “you can do anything” when the reality at the bottom says “actually, you're prescribed to do certain things.”

To look at the Tsakane community [where we have the African School for Excellence], there have been three higher education graduates in that community, that we know of. We've got close to 80 kids in our first Grade 7 class, we've got 120 coming in next year. We expect 95% of them to go to university. That's going to fundamentally change that community, as we go through the lifespan of that school, because it stops being about the exceptional one or two people who made it, it starts being the norm. And norms are created through numbers, and lived realities. It's something that people need to see.

**EW: Your book looks quite piercingly at our history, but through the lens of its effect on our current condition, particularly our economic condition. Reading it, I was struck by the way that it neither skirts, nor sensationalises, the more unpleasant parts of our story. What are your thoughts on how to teach South African history and tell the truth, without vilifying certain groups?**

*HB:* You know, the more you study history and take away some of the sensationalism, the more you start to understand people for what they were, and understanding people as human beings creates a context around their actions.

You don't have to empathise with them, but once you put that series of actions into context, you can say to yourself – I understand what these people did; it's completely wrong, but these people in this set of circumstances are different from, for instance, the Afrikaners I know today.

But if you explain it to yourself by saying that the reason they did it is that they're fundamentally racist, then what happens is you never stop hating a particular group of people, and I think the sensationalism with which people look at our history has to do with a race-based analysis.

In my book, I look at racism as a convenient excuse for a particular agenda, and that excuse became a self-fulfilling prophecy. So it was a case of: I will treat you as if you're not a human being, you then start to look less and less like a human being and therefore I have to care less

and less about you and your well-being. And over time I actually start to believe my original excuse for what I was doing, and then so do you.

But the fundamental thing is, there's nothing wrong with black people, so there's nothing that they fundamentally saw in us that let them know that we are less than human beings. And I think that in every interaction that I've had with a racist person, when you refuse to engage with them by stooping to that level, and instead interact with them at a level where you expose your humanity to them, and thus their inhumanity to themselves, you then start to see the flash in that person's eyes as they internalise what they've been doing.

And the important thing is to remember that it's not about placing the burden of proof of your own humanity on yourself – because that's disempowering; it's about placing the burden of proof of your inhumanity on the other person, so that they see that the notion of your inhumanity is built on a baseless argument.

**EW: Well obviously, being at UCT, we deal with the remnants of our history quite a bit, and something we hear from some alumni is that they still feel culturally alienated from the institution, as if it doesn't represent their identity and they would almost have to 'become someone else' in order to fit in. What is your view on UCT's transformation question?**

*HB:* I think the issue of transformation in a place like UCT has to start with what I call superficial or aesthetic transformations – the names of buildings, the names of the Chairs in various departments – those things matter. If you look at the transformation of Pretoria into Tshwane, the roads, etc, the fight against that aesthetic or superficial transformation took place because the people who lived in the old Pretoria understood that those things meant something to them, and the people who wanted the new Pretoria understood that it meant something to them.

And so I think the problem is that places like UCT haven't yet totally embraced that sort of transformation. I used to argue with my mother as Vice-Chancellor about transformation of the curriculum as an objective. And I think that's still not a completed exercise, because I think we still teach as if we have to make a geographical excuse for why we're here first, and then contextualise afterwards. And my view is that you need to go that next step, to deal with the aesthetics, to deal with the curriculum, so that you can then work on [building] the emotional connection between the people you're attracting to the University and the place that it is.

Part of what my mother did was to say that we want to be a world-class African university. And part of that process entails re-contextualising what African elitism should look like.

Another important factor is that we have to be unapologetic about trying to create that connectivity, because I don't think there's a tradeoff between trying to locate yourself as an elite institution and trying to make that emotional connection with what is by far going to be the bulk of your student population, which is black people, including those from both outside and inside of South Africa.

And I think UCT needs to make that jump, otherwise it will stop being the university of choice for our kids, because we now have choices around the world, so the question is: are you really that elite, in the global context?

So the reason I would send my son to UCT is because he could get an elite African education, and if I don't feel that he'd be getting that, well then, he might as well go to Harvard. And I think that's the challenge for UCT going forward.

**EW: In your book you speak quite extensively about Ubuntu and its relationship with individualism in post-apartheid South Africa. In particular, there is a quote on page 64, which talks about the black middle class viewing advancement in terms of a “shrewd” mixing of the two. Tell me more about that.**

*HB:* I think, that fundamentally, two opposite value systems don't sit well within one human being. And part of what the struggle is today is that the value system we learned from our parents and the value system that's reflected in society are two different ones, so we are now fighting within ourselves to live by a creed that doesn't exist smoothly with the way society is organised.

And some of us are making the choice to actively become outward proponents of the value system our parents taught us, yet inward proponents of a capitalist value system, and that's the shrewdness I was referring to.

So when I listen to colleagues – both black and white – and they are looking at BEE purely as a scorecard, that for me is the outward embodiment of this new value system, which is at odds with what we learned from our parents.

I think there needs to be an embodiment of being successful and being true to the old values of Ubuntu that we learned – there's no friction between those two things. A few people demonstrate that in their lives, but not enough.

Particularly among young people, I think there are fewer and fewer of us doing it, and my view is that we need to call each other on the convenience logic. It starts with us as individuals and the level of accountability we have towards each other, and then extends to the type of government we choose – there are layers of it, but we need to start among each other first.

**EW: How are we going to stimulate that kind of intelligent debate about our existing and desired condition, on a national scale?**

*HB:* I think that to have an intelligent conversation we all need to agree to research the things that we're saying. Part of what's missing in our culture is the burden of depth in the debate. In the context of today, literacy has almost taken a back seat to activism and revolutionary dialogue, as if the revolutionaries of old were illiterate; meanwhile, they were the most literate.

And so I think that once we inject that burden of forcing people who want to take the mantle of leadership to be 'deep' and to be literate and to back up what they say with serious research, and to challenge them on living according to the things they say, then we can get back to the sorts of expansive and progressive conversations that used to take place. ■

# Development and Alumni Department Report 2013

**T**he subject of 'transitions' is very much on my mind. I write this on the morning after US President Barack Obama's historic speech in Jameson Hall, the first ever at UCT by an American president. He spoke of his own transition from an apolitical and cynical university student into a leader committed to social justice and public service. No one influenced that transition more than our own beloved Madiba, who had shown the young Obama what courage, perseverance and wisdom could achieve.

This Development and Alumni Department (DAD) is all about transitions as well. We see our UCT students graduate into full membership of the alumni community as they make their own transitions into adulthood. During their time here, we watch them grow and develop as we interact with them as leaders in our student organisation, UCT AIR (Alumni-in-Residence). We see them acquire a hitherto-unknown confidence as phonathon callers as they learn how to be comfortable asking alumni to support UCT. And we bid them farewell and good luck at graduation, asking them only to keep in touch with us at [www.uct.ac.za/dad/alumni/update/](http://www.uct.ac.za/dad/alumni/update/) so that we can keep alive their connection to their alma mater.

## New DAD leadership

I myself also now welcome another transition, this one in DAD leadership, as I step down after eight years as head (twenty-three in total at UCT) and hand over the reins to Dr Russell Ally, who will lead DAD's very dedicated and hard-working staff as they carry forward their quest to secure the support needed to keep UCT at the forefront of African higher education.

That support continues to flow to UCT in record amounts. We are very fortunate (and grateful) to report that 2012 was another record year for UCT fundraising. In recognition of the excellence of its academic leadership, UCT has received some R258.5 million in donations during 2012. The 2012 full-year donations total is R31.9 million (or 14%) more than the 2011 total, which in turn had been 28% more than the 2010 figure. The biennial 2011/12 donations total of R485 million is a 44% increase over the previous biennial period (2009/10) total of R336 million. Donations were received in 2012 from 1,100 organisations and individuals; 34 contributed R1 million or more.

## Tribute to donors

The donor list was topped by a number of major foundations that have consistently provided significant support to UCT for many years, a tribute to the work of the UCT academic staff across campus, whose initiatives are deemed worthy of such strong support. These include Andrew Mellon, Carnegie, Hasso Plattner, Atlantic, Kresge, Open Society, Ford, Rockefeller, Hewlett, Michael and Susan Dell, Raymond Ackerman, Heyne, Potter, ELMA, Harry Crossley, Claude Leon, Goldman Sachs, Sigrid Rausing, DG Murray, Moshal, Lord Wolfson, and Donald Gordon. Major donations were received from corporates such as Anglo American Platinum,



*So long, farewell: DAD's outgoing executive director is welcomed into the Vice-Chancellor's Circle by Dr Russell Ally, DAD's new executive director.*

Lonmin, and the Minerals Education Trust.

Some R40 million was donated for student financial support; this is in addition to the many employment-linked 'contract bursaries' offered by corporates directly to students, worth another R200 million.

## Bequests make a difference

Efforts to encourage bequests to UCT were strengthened during 2012, with a 60% growth in membership of the Heritage Society under its President, Emeritus Prof Francis Wilson. UCT was most fortunate to receive an especially large bequest from the Estate of the late Elias Bertrand Lenvenstein. We would be pleased to provide further information about bequests to anyone who might be interested.

The Alumni Advisory Board monitors the formation and growth of alumni chapters around the world, and advises DAD on alumni events and communications. Together with staff in UCT's faculties, and our affiliated overseas organisations, DAD works with volunteer alumni leaders across the globe to build and grow support networks for the University.

DAD is assisted in its fundraising work by the UCT Foundation Board of Governors, a group of leading alumni who have pledged their time and energies to support UCT in its approaches to sources of philanthropic support. They advise on donor prospects for UCT's many worthy projects, a list of which can be found at [www.uct.ac.za/dad/giving](http://www.uct.ac.za/dad/giving).

As a result of staff transitions in mid-2012, we at DAD took the opportunity to assess operations in the USA. To effectively grow UCT's presence in America, the responsibilities of a singular staff person were split into two broad categories: gifts processing and administration; and fundraising and alumni affairs.

In June 2012, Di Stafford's responsibilities expanded beyond the Canadian alumni relations and development work that she does from her

Toronto office to include gifts processing and administration for the New York-based UCT Fund Inc. Her new title, Regional Director: North America, reflects the extent of her responsibilities in the region.

In September 2012, the Department appointed Johanna Fausto as US Regional Director of Alumni & Development to handle fundraising and all direct relationships with American alumni and donors. Ms Fausto was formerly employed at The Andrew W Mellon Foundation, where she worked closely with Mellon's South Africa Programme Senior Advisor and Vice-Chancellor Emeritus, Dr Stuart Saunders, to administer grants to UCT and other South African tertiary institutions in support of the arts and humanities.

## New branches

In addition to our well-established overseas offices in New York, London, and Toronto, an office has now been opened in Sydney to garner support for UCT in Australia. The initiative there has now achieved local tax-beneficial status for Australian donations to UCT, as is the case with the other three countries. A UCT trust has now been established in New Zealand as well meaning that tax deductible donations to UCT can now be made from that country as well. For many years, UCT has been fortunate to enjoy the support of alumni chapters throughout South Africa as well as in a number of other countries, and of several legally-independent entities which offer our alumni and friends overseas a range of tax-beneficial ways of supporting UCT.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading about these varied alumni activities around the globe as much as I have enjoyed supporting them from Cape Town. My best wishes to you all in future, and of course to UCT.

*Dr Jim McNamara  
Executive Director*



# International Alumni Offices

## United Kingdom



**The University of Cape Town Trust**, a registered UK charity, received donations of a little under £470,000 in 2012. The Trust is governed by a Board of eminent Trustees: Sir Franklin Berman KCMG QC (Chair), Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Professor Hugh Corder, Mr Richard J Gnodde, Mr Charles G McGregor, Dr Elaine Potter, Mrs Jennifer Ward Oppenheimer, and Mr Stephen Westwell.

Angela Edwards holds the post of Consultant Director, assisted by Julie Gilligan as Consultant Administrator/Events Co-ordinator. Since its inception in 1991, the Trust has raised over £20 million for projects at UCT.

The fundraising highlights for 2012 were:

- A substantial donation from the Garfield Weston Foundation towards the refurbishment of the Drug Discovery and Development Centre;
- The Professorship in the Obstetrics & Gynaecology Department which is part funded by Welton Foundation, CHK Charities Ltd, C Heber Percy Charitable Trust and the William H Cadbury Trust, with donations over five years;
- The Sigrid Rausing Trust continued its undergraduate and postgraduate scholarship programmes for refugee students, as well as a visitorship programme for Scholars at Risk;
- The Leverhulme Foundation concluded a three year Equity Development Fellowship Programme in the Chemistry Department;
- Notable bursary support came from The MariaMarina Foundation, Pearson plc, the Julian Baring Scholarship Fund, Calleva Foundation, Edward & Dorothy Cadbury Charitable Trust, Rio Tinto plc, Stevenson Family Trust, The Schroder Foundation, and The Law Society Charity;
- UK alumni donated £90,770 through the UCT Trust, aimed at the Annual Appeal, bursaries, the Law Faculty, the Zamani Project, and SHAWCO (the Student Health & Welfare Community Organisation).

A number of alumni events were held during 2012, including the very well attended annual Vice-Chancellor's Reception, which was held, thanks to UCTT Trustee Baroness Lynda Chalker, at the House of Lords. The Faculty of Health Sciences celebrated its centenary with a reception for UK-based FHS alumni in London which was hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price, and the former Dean of Health Sciences, Professor Marian Jacobs.

A number of UCT London Lectures were staged, with UCT Professors from the Law, Science, and Health Sciences Faculties addressing groups of alumni on subjects such as Drug Discovery in Africa, and the legal and economic implications of the presence of China in Africa. There was also an evening at the opera, where alumni had the opportunity to meet the Artistic Director of Cape Town Opera and enjoy the company's performance of *Porgy and Bess* at the Coliseum, and a South African wine-tasting event.

The annual Alumni Reception 2013 took place at Fishmongers' Hall, a sumptuous and historic venue on the banks of the River Thames. The UCT Trust was privileged to welcome distinguished UCT alumnus Lord Hoffmann as guest speaker, and the Vice-Chancellor presented medals to a number of alumni donors to honour them for their gifts to UCT over the past five years. This year has also seen a group of alumni attending a Johnny Clegg concert at the Royal Albert Hall, and plans are afoot for a continuation of the UCT London Lecture series, plus another wine-tasting evening in the autumn.

## Canada



**The UCT Canadian Regional office** continued to make contact with alumni, building on social networking sites, especially LinkedIn, and distributed two e-newsletters during the year.

Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price visited with alumni in Vancouver and Calgary during the year. While in Vancouver, he met with a number of alumni to discuss education in South Africa, and hosted a dinner attended by 60 alumni and friends of the University. Dr Price also hosted the first ever UCT alumni event in Calgary, a dinner with 12 alumni in attendance. We hope this will be one of many in the future.

Prof Alan Morris delivered a talk at the University of Toronto titled 'Missing & Murdered in Toronto', where alumni were enthralled by his anecdotal presentation on forensics in South Africa.

The Medical School Class of 1982 held their 30th reunion this summer on Vancouver Island. Alumni from all over the world gathered with their families for a fun-filled weekend.

We took delight in congratulating Prof Tamara Franz-Odenaal for being named one of five Chairs for Women in Science & Engineering in Canada.

The office built on links made with the Mastercard Foundation, the Africa Canada Leadership Dialogue, and Academics without Borders.

More than \$126,000 was raised from Canadian alumni and friends during 2012. We offer our sincere thanks for these individual donations to student residence capacity, the Canadian Alumni Postgraduate Bursary, the Canadian Alumni MBChB Bursary, other named bursaries, SHAWCO and specific projects.

# United States



**The University of Cape Town Fund Inc:** is recognised by the US Internal Revenue Service as a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organisation. The Board of Directors includes: Trevor Norwitz, Esq., Chairman of the Board and President; Craig Mullet, Treasurer; Kofi Appenteng; David Meachin; and Derek Yach.

We continue to work with a number of US foundations that support research and scholarships at UCT. We extend our thanks to these foundations, and to the individuals and friends who support UCT through the UCT Fund Inc. In 2012, the UCT Fund Inc transferred more than \$906,000 to the University, which included \$44,583 raised in direct response to the 2012/13 Annual Appeal.

We wish to particularly acknowledge and thank the following foundations and individuals who have generously supported UCT at the leadership level this year through the UCT Fund Inc:

- The Goldman Sachs Foundation; the Medtronic Foundation; the Hope for Depression Research Foundation; the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; the MAC Aids Fund; the Leiden Conservation Foundation; the Musk Foundation, Roelof Botha, and David Gibson; and the Mai Family Foundation.
- Notable student scholarship support has once again been received for the Hamilton Naki – MESAB – United Therapeutics Scholarship, the John M Graham Scholarships and the Richard & Winifred Graham Scholarships, and the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Scholarships. We thank Dr T Lee Baumann for his substantial support of a newly-established scholarship fund for African refugee students, and Noel and Donna McIntosh and their family in Australia for their support of a newly established scholarship in nursing & midwifery.

We extend our thanks to the many alumni and friends who continue to send donations to further the work of UCT. Every gift is important to us. Matching gifts from donations totalled \$10,000 and alumni are urged to check whether their employers have such a donation scheme. It is a fantastic boost to donations made by individuals.

With the office reorganisation in the autumn of 2012, staff planned several alumni events beginning in spring 2013. In early February 2013, New York City alumni were thrilled to witness UCT opera alumna Pretty Yende in her Metropolitan Opera debut as Countess Adèle in Rossini's *Le Comte Ory* at Lincoln Centre. After the performance, alumni gathered in the MET Green Room for an intimate meeting with Ms Yende, her family, and Kamal Khan, director of UCT's Opera School.

In mid-June, an event was held at Boston College with Joan Metelerkamp, one of South Africa's leading poets and a UCT theatre alumna. Ms Metelerkamp read her poetry and talked about her life as a poet. She described how her UCT theatre diploma had a profound influence on her craft because theatre students were taught voice lessons by means of poetry.

The following week in New York City, the Wenner-Gren Foundation hosted UCT Professor of Human Biology Alan Morris, who presented a lecture on 'Crime, Evidence & Science: Developing Forensic Anthropology in South Africa'. Professor Morris described the complex and highly political landscape of forensic anthropology in the country and UCT's role in training the next generation of forensic scientists. It was his second lecture in North America, following the one he delivered in Toronto.

For several decades, the Wenner-Gren Foundation has awarded numerous competitive fellowships to UCT anthropology faculty in its mission to support the advancement of the discipline throughout the world. This alumni event exemplifies the enduring connection between the Foundation and the University, for which we are grateful.

# Australia



UCT's presence 'down under' was enhanced in 2011 with the establishment of the **University of Cape Town Australian Trust**. Ruth Thornton was appointed as Alumni Manager, and Lenore Plummer as Trust CEO. The Trust was formally launched in June 2011 by VC Dr Max Price and DAD's Lungile Jacobs at alumni events held in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth. In addition, Dr Price met with a number of UCT alumni, donors and Australian university management in these cities.

During the past year the UCT Australian Trust has held a number of alumni events:

- In October 2012, Professor Karen Sliwa-Hanhle addressed a Sydney meeting on the status of 'Cardiovascular Disease in African Women'.
- In April 2013, Dr Max Price met with alumni in Sydney for an evening presentation, and with Perth alumni at a breakfast meeting.
- In June, alumni attended a production of *War Horse* by the Handspring Puppet Company at the Lyric theatre, Sydney (see page 16).

Alumni Duncan Saville, Malcolm Dunn, Anne Sarzin, Jonathan Trollip, Arnold Conyer and Robert Estcourt were appointed as directors of Cape Town Foundation Limited – the trustee of the UCT Australian Trust. In January 2013, a further director, Mr Wayne Spinner, was appointed as a director of the trustee company, and was voted chairman of the board in April. Wayne is managing partner of Norton Rose Australia. Mr Gary Shearer accepted the role of South African Manager of the UCT Australian Trust.

Tax-deductible donations can be made to the UCT Australian Trust through our affiliation with APHEDA – Union Aid Abroad. In preparation for the application to AusAID for tax deductibility, the UCT Australian Trust has been approved to join the Australian Council for International Development.

Significant donations over the past year have been made to The Faculty of Commerce's Education Development Unit, the Marjorie McIntyre Midwifery and Child Health bursaries, the Stella Clarke Teachers' Award, Obz Square residence and the Schools Development Unit. ■

# Contacts

## DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI DEPARTMENT:

Elle Williams  
Tel: +27 (0)21 650 3741  
elle.williams@uct.ac.za

Lebo Lethunya  
Tel: +27 (0)21 650 4140  
relebohile. lethunya@uct.ac.za

Jasmine Erasmus  
Tel: +27 (0)21 650 3749  
jasmine.erasmus@uct.ac.za

## FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES:

**Commerce**  
Carolyn McGibbon  
Tel: +27 (0)21 650 4551  
carolyn.mcgibbon@uct.ac.za

**Engineering & the Built Environment**  
Mandisa Zitha  
Tel: +27(0) 021 650 4334  
mandisa.zitha@uct.ac.za

**Health Sciences**  
Joan Tuff  
Tel: +27 (0)21 406 6686  
joan.tuff@uct.ac.za

**Humanities**  
Libo Msengana-Bam  
Tel: +27 (0)21 650 4358  
libo.msengana-bam@uct.ac.za

**Law**  
Pauline Alexander

Tel: +27(0)21 650 5602  
pauline.alexander@uct.ac.za

**Science**  
Katherine Wilson  
Tel: +27 (0)21 650 2574  
katherine.wilson@uct.ac.za

**Centre for Higher Education Development**  
Vicki Heard  
Tel: +27 (0)21 650 5163  
vicki.heard@uct.ac.za

**Graduate School of Business**  
Linda Fasham  
Tel: +27 (0)21 406 1321  
linda.fasham@gsb.uct.ac.za

## INTERNATIONAL OFFICES:

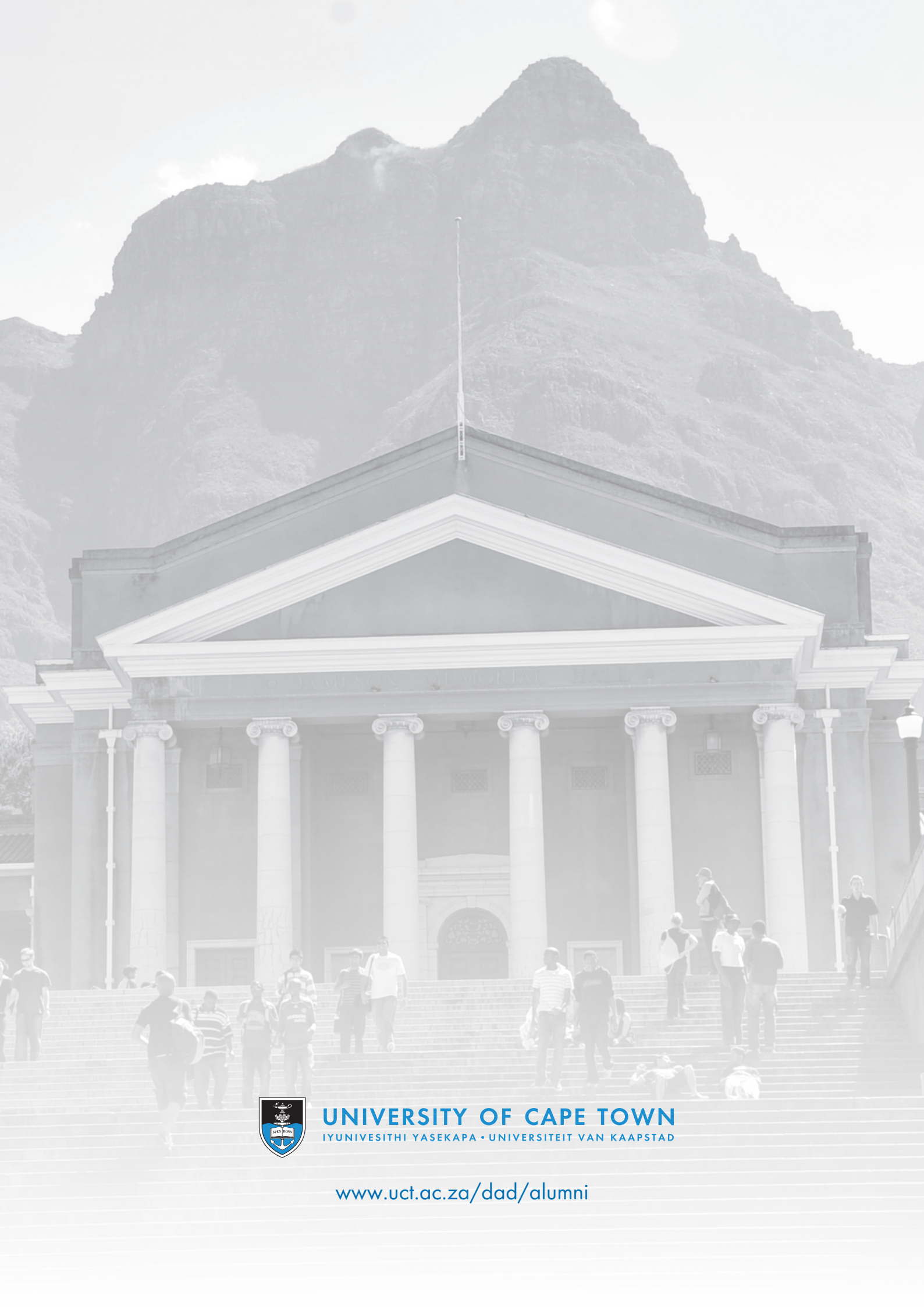
**UCT Trust (UK)**  
Angela Edwards  
uct-trust@teces.net

**UCT Fund, Inc (US)**  
Johanna Fausto  
advancement@uctfund.org

**UCT Regional Office: Canada**  
Di Stafford  
info@UCTcanada.ca

**UCT Australian Trust**  
Lenore Plummer  
lenore.plummer@resimac.com.au

Ruth Thornton  
rjthornton1@bigpond.com



**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

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