

uct alumni news 2010

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

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Past imperfect

How Michael Tladi escaped life on the streets

To Russia, with love

Architect Jack Diamond designs
the new Mariinsky Theatre

50 years after Sharpeville

What legacy for human rights?

Registrar Hugh Amoore

On bow ties, pens and UCT





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- 2 Vice-chancellor's message
- 4 Staying in touch - Development and Alumni Department Report
- 7 Vice-chancellor cements overseas partnerships
- 8 Newsmakers
- 12 Going up
- 18 To Russia, with love
- 21 Page-turners
- 22 Around the world in 1 000 days
- 26 Registrar Hugh Amooore – 35 years and counting
- 28 About face
- 29 New orator takes the stand
- 30 Past imperfect
- 32 Operation rescue
- 33 Brain wave
- 34 Fifty years after Sharpeville - what legacy for human rights?
- 36 Social butterflies
- 37 Spinning the web
- 38 Cover stories – 75 years of *SAX Appeal*
- 40 Reunions and gatherings
- 44 Where are they now?
- 46 Second wind
- 47 Family ties
- 48 Letter from abroad – Locum in polar bear country
- 50 A year in the life of UCT
- 52 We remember

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Cover caption: Michael Tladi, former street child and now alumnus.



Vice-chancellor's message



Dear alumni and friends

At the time of going to press the seasons were changing in the Mother City. Students returned to the campus in mid-July after an unprecedented seven-week winter vacation – thanks to the FIFA World Cup, which saw South Africa hosting the mother of all events.

Your alma mater opened its residences to visitors from abroad and our students rolled up their sleeves to become volunteers and translators. Soccer fever united the nation as never before.

In an email to us in the lead-up to the world cup, alumnus Hope Gangata (MSc Med, 2008), now an anatomy lecturer at the University of East Anglia in the UK, wrote: “Please do Africa proud by hosting it well.” There is overwhelming consensus that we did.

Since our last edition there have been many developments and changes. You might have noticed that we’ve tweaked the name of the magazine. *UCT News* is now *UCT Alumni News*, to better reflect its purpose and identity.

On the corporate front, we have finalised a new mission and strategic goals – designed to establish UCT as a global institution of higher learning, but one with a competitive edge rooted in Africa. If you want an African perspective on the world issues, or an international perspective on Africa, UCT will be the place to get it.

UCT has been growing in student numbers and research activities, and to support this we will be spending almost R1 billion Rands on capital projects over the next three years. Importantly, the building programme will endorse development and transformation.

The new Obz Square residence in Observatory, near the medical campus, will be home to 887 students, making it possible

for more students from outside Cape Town – particularly rural and disadvantaged students – to come to UCT.

It will also give opportunities to many Western Cape students who would otherwise be living in poor conditions on the Cape Flats to live close to campus, have 24/7 internet access, access to our libraries at night; and have the support of the res environment, which is critical to success. On Middle Campus, a new School of Economics and student administration building are rising. A striking fact is that almost 20% of our 24 000 students take courses in economics.

Inasmuch as the view of UCT is changing with the new buildings, so too the view from UCT has changed. The familiar vista stretching from Jammie Steps across the Cape Flats to the Hottentots Holland Mountains has been altered permanently since the implosion of the Athlone towers. (You can see footage, filmed from the Kramer Law Building on Middle Campus, at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6V07TQV0nu4>)

During meetings with alumni on my travels, which included trips to the UK, the US and East Africa this year, I have been struck by the unwavering and enthusiastic support for UCT. Many achievements have been built on the generosity and commitment of benefactors who plough their time and means into our students and our institution. We are deeply grateful.

Please stay in touch. And if you do visit us, bring your family and friends on a formal tour of the campus, which you can arrange through our Communication and Marketing Department. Don’t forget that the online version of this magazine can now be found at www.alumninews.uct.ac.za.

Best wishes

Dr Max Price

Bafundi bethu bamandulo kunye nabahlobo

Ngexesha lokupapashwa kwale ncwadi bekutshintsha amaxesha eKapa. Abafundi babuyele esikolweni phakathi kuJuly emva kweholide yobusika yeeveki ezisixhenxe ezingenakufaniswa nanto – sibulela kwiNdebe yeHlabathi kaFIFA, ebangele ukuba uMzantsi Afrika ube nguwo oza kusingatha owona mnyhadala wakhe waba mkhulu.

Isigqeba senu seyunivesithi kunye nababandakanyekayo bawavulile amasango eendawo zabafundi zokuhlala ukulungiselela iindwendwe ezisuka phesheya kwaye nabafundi nabo baye babhinqela phezulu bezinikezela njengamavolontiya nabaguquleli. Uthakazelelo kwibhola ekhatywayo lusimanyile isizwe ngendlela engazange ibonwe ngaphambili.

Kwi-imeyile ebesiyithunyelelwe ebikhokelela kwindebe yehlabathi, owayesakuba ngumfundi walapha uHope Gangata (MSc Med, 2008), ohlohla ianathomi kwiYunivesithi yase-East Anglia eBrithani, ubhale wathi: “Ncedani nenze iAfrika izingce ngokuyisingatha ngempumelelo.” Kuvunyelwana ngamxhelomnye ukuba siphumelele ngenene.

Kubekho izinto ezininzi eziphuhlisiweyo nezitshintshiweyo kushicilelo oludlulileyo. Usenokuba uqaphele ukuba igama lemagazini lithe lanongwa. I-UCT News ngoku kuthiwa yi-UCT Alumni News, ukuze ihambelane ncakasana nenjongo kunye nomxholo wayo.

Kwicala loshishino, sigqibe kwiphulo elitsha neenjongo zobuchule – eziyilelwe ukuphakamisa i-UCT njengeziko lemfundo ephakamileyo elikumgangatho wehlabathi jikelele, kodwa elimiselelwe ekuphakamiseni izwekazi le-Afrika phezulu. Ukuba ufuna ukwazi ngendlela i-Afrika etolika ngayo imiba yehlabathi jikelele, okanye imbono yamazwe ngamazwe ngokubhekiselele kwi-Afrika, konke oku uya kukufumana e-UCT.

Amanani abafundi aya ekhula ngokukhula e-UCT kunye nemisebenzi yophando, kwaye sizakuchitha kangangesigidi sezigidi seerandi ngelinika inkxaso koku nakwiiprojekthi ezingundoqo kule minyaka mithathu izayo. Okubalulekileyo, kukuba inkqubo yokwakha izakugxininisa kuphuhliso nakutshintsho.

Indawo yokuhlala entsha iObz Square ese-Observatory, kufuphi nomhlaba weyunivesithi wecandelo lezonyango, iza kuba likhaya kubafundi abangama-887, nto leyo eza kwenzeka ukuba kube lula kubafundi abasuka kwiindawo ezingaphandle kweKapa – ngokukodwa abafundi abasuka ezilalini nakumakhaya ahlelelekileyo – ukuba beze e-UCT.

Izakunika namathuba kubafundi baseNtshona Koloni abasenokuba baphila phantsi kweemeko ezimaxongo kwiCape Flats ukuba bakwazi ukuhlala kufuphi nomhlaba weyunivesithi, bakwazi ukusebenzisa i-inthaneti kangange- 24/7, nokufikelela kumathala ethu eencwadi ebusuku; kwanokufumana inkxaso yemeko yendawo yokuhlala eza kudlala indima enkulu kwimpumelelo. Kwi-Middle Campus, isakhiwo esitsha seSchool of Economics kunye nesakhiwo solawulo lwabafundi ziyaphakama. Obona bunyani bugqamileyo bokokuba kangangama-20% kubafundi bethu abangama-24 000 benza izifundo zoqoqosho.

Njengokuba inkangeleko ye-UCT itshintsha ngenxa yezakhiwo ezitsha, kukwanjalo nakwimbonakalo yokubukeka kwe-UCT. Umbono okude omxinwa oyindumasi osuka kwiJammie Steps unqumleze kwiiCape Flats ukuya kutsho kwiHottentots Holland Mountains sele utshintshwe ngokupheleleyo, ukususela ekubothokeni kweempondo ezingamatanki amanzi zaseAthlone. (Ungabona ubude obenziwe ngomlinganiselo weenyawo ukusuka kwiKramer Law Building eMiddle Campus kule dilesi yomnathazwe <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6V07TQV0nu4>)

Ngexesha leentlanganiso nabafundi abaphumelele kule yunivesithi xa bendikuhambo, hambo olo lubandakanye utyelelo eUK, eUS nakwiMpuma yeAfrika kulo nyaka, ndimangaliswe kakhulu yinkxaso engaxengaxengiyo nebonakalisa inzondelelo ngeUCT. Sele kwakhiwe impumelelo engathethekiyo kwisisa nasekuzibopheleleni kwabancedi abanikezela ngexesha labo kunye nemali yabo kubafundi bethu nakwiziko lethu. Sibamba ngazo zozibini.

Nceda uhlale ufumaneka. Kwaye ukuba uthe wasityelela, yiza nosapho nezihlobo zakho kukhenketho olusesikweni lomhlaba weyunivesithi, khenketho olo onokulungiselela ngokuqhagamshelana neSebe lethu loNxibelelwano noRhwebo (leCommunication and Marketing). Ungalibali ke ukuba uhlobo lomnathazwe lwale magazini luyafumaneka ngoku ku-www.alumninews.uct.ac.za.

*Ngeminqweno emihle
Gqr Max Price*

Beste alumni en vriende

Met die ter perse gaan was die seisoene aan die verander in die Moederstad. Studente het middel Julie na die kampus teruggekeer ná 'n ongekende sewe wekelange wintervakansie – danksy die FIFA Wêreldbeker, die moeder van alle byeenkomste, wat deur Suid-Afrika aangebied is.

U alma mater het sy koshuisdeure vir besoekers van oorsee geopen en ons studente het hul moue opgerol om as vrywilligers en vertalers in te spring. Sokkerkoors het die nasie versoos soos nog nooit tevore nie.

In 'n e-pos aan ons in die aanloop tot die wêreldbeker, het alumnus Hope Gangata (MSc Med, 2008), tans anatomiedosent by die Universiteit van East Anglia in die VK, die volgende geskryf: “Asseblief, maak Afrika trots deur dit goed aan te bied.” Daar is oorweldigende konsensus dat ons dit vermag het.

Sedert ons laaste uitgawe het daar baie ontwikkelings en veranderings plaasgevind. U het moontlik opgelet dat die naam van die tydskrif effens verander het. UCT News staan nou bekend as UCT Alumni News, om sy doel en identiteit beter te weerspieël.

Wat die korporatiewe sy betref, het ons 'n nuwe missie en strategiese doelstellings gefinaliseer wat ontwerp is om die UK wêreldwyd as 'n instituut van hoër onderwys te vestig, maar met 'n prestasiegerigheid wat in Afrika gewortel is. Indien u 'n Afrika-perspektief op wêreldsake óf 'n internasionale perspektief op Afrika wil hê, sal die UK die plek wees om dit te kry.

Die UK het in studentegetalle en navorsingsaktiwiteite toegeneem, en om dié groei te ondersteun sal ons oor die volgende drie jaar bykans een miljard rand aan kapitaalprojekte bestee. Belangriker nog, dié bouprogram sal ontwikkeling en transformasie bevorder.

Die nuwe Obz Square-koshuis in Observatory, naby die mediese kampus, sal verblyf vir 887 studente bied, wat dit moontlik maak vir meer studente van buite Kaapstad – veral plattelandse en benadeelde studente – om by die UK te studeer.

Dit sal ook die geleentheid bied aan baie Wes-Kaapse studente, wat andersins in armoedige omstandighede op die Kaapse Vlakte sou bly, om naby aan die kampus te bly, 24/7 internettoegang te geniet en saans toegang tot ons biblioteke te hê; asook die ondersteuning van die koshuisongewing te beleef, wat noodsaaklik vir sukses is. Op die middelkampus word 'n nuwe ekonomieskool en 'n administrasiegebou vir studente gebou. 'n Merkwaardige feit is dat bykans 20% van ons 24 000 studente kursusse in ekonomie volg.

In sover die nuwe geboue die gesig van die UK gaan verander, het die uitsig van die UK ook verander. Die bekende uitsig wat strek vanaf Jammie Steps oor die Kaapse Vlakte tot die Hottentotshollandberge is vir altyd verander met die implodering van die Athlone-torings. (U kan die videomateriaal, verfilm vanaf die Kramer-regsegebou op die middelkampus, besigtig by <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6V07TQV0nu4>)

Tydens ontmoetings met alumni terwyl ek op reis was, onder andere in die VK, die VSA en Oos-Afrika hierdie jaar, is ek opnuut oorweldig deur die onwrikbare en entoesiasiesse ondersteuning vir die UK. Baie prestasies is gebou op die vrygewigheid en toewyding van weldoeners wat hul tyd en middele in ons studente en instansie terugploeg. Ons is innig dankbaar hiervoor.

Bly asseblief in verbinding met ons. En indien u ons besoek, bring gerus u gesin en vriende saam vir 'n formele kampustoer, wat by ons Departement vir Kommunikasie en Bemarking gereël kan word. Onthou, die aanlyn-weergawe van hierdie tydskrif kan nou ook by www.alumninews.uct.ac.za gevind word.

*Beste wense
Dr Max Price*

Staying in touch

Development and Alumni Department Report



Staying in close touch with our large and diverse UCT alumni community to keep them informed about today's UCT lies at the heart of what the Development and Alumni Department (DAD) is all about. Hence we are pleased to bring you this latest edition of the (slightly-renamed) *UCT Alumni News*, and to let you know about other ways that you can access this publication.

We in DAD are fortunate to get the opportunity to say “thank you” quite often these days. Even amid the global economic turmoil that has had such a traumatic impact on so many lives, UCT's alumni and friends have dramatically increased their support for their university in many different ways. UCT's alumni body comprises families who have sent several succeeding generations of students to UCT, and others for whom our young graduates represent the first in their families to benefit from a tertiary education (often with financial support from alumni).

To help welcome each year's thousands of new graduates into this community, DAD's expanded student outreach programme attempts to instil an awareness in UCT students that they will one day join a most remarkable group of fellow alumni.

Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price has continued his ambitious programme of travel – both overseas and elsewhere in Africa – to try to meet as many of those alumni as he can; you will see reports elsewhere in this edition about some of his travels.

The world's leading universities are fortunate to enjoy a remarkable degree of consistency of support through good times and bad. As the global economy emerges from the worst financial crisis in decades, UCT can look back upon the past two years as a period of record-setting levels of financial support from its many benefactors.

UCT's development programme includes all of the components of a comprehensive modern university fundraising enterprise: annual giving by alumni and friends of UCT, corporate and foundation support, planned giving (bequests), and major gifts. 2008 had

Team work: Members of the Development and Alumni Department include (from left) René Nolte (alumni relations officer); Anita Wildeman (alumni relations and individual giving); Dr Jim McNamara (executive director); Jasmine Erasmus (individual giving officer); and Lungile Jacobs (senior manager: alumni and individual giving).

seen a 39% growth in donations received (R168.6 million) over the previous year; while in 2009, the effects of the economic downturn were finally felt, as donations fell by 5.9% from the 2008 level, to R158.5 million. However, this two-year total of some R327 million was 39% higher than that of any previous biennial period.

During 2009, donations were received from over 1 200 organisations and individuals, twenty-six of which contributed more than R1 million each. The donor list was topped by a number of major foundations that for many years have consistently provided significant support to UCT, such as Mellon, Carnegie, Atlantic, Ford, Rockefeller, Harry Crossley, Claude Leon, Hasso Plattner, Sigrid Rausing, Discovery, Struengmann, Raymond Ackerman, Lord Wolfson, and Donald Gordon. Joining the list of the 15 largest donors in 2009 are Hewlett, Hope for Depression Research, and the Minerals Education Trust.

Together with staff in UCT's faculties, and our affiliated organisations overseas, DAD works with volunteer alumni leaders across the globe to build and grow support networks for the university. The Alumni Advisory Board, chaired by former vice-chancellor Dr Stuart Saunders, serves to monitor the formation and growth of alumni chapters around the world, and advises DAD on alumni events and communications.

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 towards supporting UCT in its approaches to sources of philanthropic support. DAD also assisted in the establishment of the Ukukhula Trust, which hopes to take advantage of Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment opportunities to

raise funds for bursaries for economically disadvantaged students at UCT.

General priority areas for fundraising in 2009 included:

- financial aid (bursaries and scholarships) for needy and deserving students;
- leading-edge research that makes a difference in the lives of Africa's people;
- major capital projects to maintain and enhance the campuses;
- the vice-chancellor's strategic academic initiatives;
- annual funding for UCT's operational needs, in order to relieve pressure on the general operating budget; which, in turn, will free up funds for other priority and initiative spending.

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 three legally-independent entities which offer our alumni and friends overseas a range of tax-beneficial ways of supporting UCT. These are:

The University of Cape Town Trust (UK) is a registered UK charity. During 2009, £810 233 was raised by the Trust, with another R800 000 being donated directly to UCT as a result of UCT Trust fundraising. Since its inception in 1991, the trust has raised over £17.5 million for projects at UCT. The trustees are Sir Aaron Klug OM FRS (Chairman), Sir Franklin Berman KCMG QC, Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Lord Hoffmann, Professor Jeffrey Jowell QC, Irene Menell, Nicholas Oppenheimer, Dr Stuart Saunders, and Jennifer Ward Oppenheimer.

Seventy percent of donations made have provided undergraduate bursaries and postgraduate fellowships for students from financially and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. The remaining 30% was aimed at capacity building to ensure that the quality of facilities, teaching and research at UCT is aligned with UCT's mission for excellence.

Ongoing programmes that were funded from the UK in 2009 included:

- the David & Elaine Potter Foundation's programme for master's and doctoral students, to develop graduates who will con-

tribute to the country's development and nurture a civil society in South Africa;

- the Sigrid Rausing Trust's six-year scholarship programme aimed at refugees, for undergraduate and postgraduate students and visiting fellows;
- the Equity Development Fellowship programme in the Department of Chemistry funded by both the Nuffield Foundation and the Leverhulme Trust;
- the John Ellerman Foundation's provision for AEON fellowships and core-cost funding;
- CHK Charities Limited's support for a curriculum director in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology;
- law scholarship programmes funded by the International Bar Association and the Law Society Charity.

New grants from the UK in 2009 included a substantial grant towards the new residence building from the Garfield Weston Foundation, and a new bursary scheme instigated by the London-based SA Business Club. Significant bursary support also came from Pearson plc, the Calleva Foundation, Rio Tinto, Richemont Holdings, Misy Foundation, the Stephen Lawrence Trust, the Schroder Family Trust and the Stevenson Family Trust.

UCT alumni in the UK donated some £89 500 to the annual appeal, bursaries, the Faculty of Law and SHAWCO during 2009. The UCT Trust hosted the vice-chancellor at a number of alumni and donor events during the year in London, Cardiff, and Stratford-upon-Avon.

The University of Cape Town Foundation (Canada), established in 1993, is served by a board of directors consisting of UCT alumni: Les Kottler (president), Henry Blumberg (chair), David Groll (treasurer), Dr Marcia Blumberg, Steven▶

Faculty alumni representatives

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A list of the UCT projects (with brief descriptions) for which fundraising is currently under way may be found at: http://www.uct.ac.za/dad/giving/fund_priorities/.

Jennings, Dr Richard Cohen, Karen Eaton, Dr Stanley Jonathan, Dr Vivian Rakoff, Susan Savage. Diane Stafford holds the post of regional director for Canada.

A number of alumni events were held during 2009:

- On 18 February 2009 Dr Marcia Blumberg led a group to the opening night of *Tshepang*, the South African production that was visiting Toronto as part of the Harbourfront Centre World Stage Festival. A portion of the ticket price included a donation to the foundation, and 150 people attended. Blumberg presented a pre-production talk, and a post-show reception was held at which guests were able to meet the cast and crew.

- During the vice-chancellor's visit in May a dinner was attended by 45 alumni, and the international offices of the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University were represented as well.

- Perinatal Mental Health Project: alumni breakfast, Toronto, 7 March 2009.

- Visit of the Dean of Law, Prof PJ Schwikkard, to Toronto. Marcia and Henry Blumberg hosted a dinner at which Schwikkard described for alumni and local academics the efforts of the faculty in trying to encourage wider participation in the field of law by students from across all levels of society, and the funding that will be needed to enable this.

- A meeting was held with Andrew Southwood in Montreal with regards to forming a Montreal-Ottawa-Kingston alumni chapter. Montreal alumni were invited to attend the premiere of *Invictus*. Responses were positive, though bad winter weather limited attendance.

- On the evening of 24 September 2009, the vice-chancellor visited Toronto, and a reception was held for alumni and interested parties. Thirty-five people attended.

The Alumni Annual Appeal reached Canada in mid-December, and saw positive responses from a number of alumni who had not previously contributed. The appeal raised over R54 000, along with two new multi-year pledges, bringing the total of funds transferred to UCT this year to CAN\$29 960 (approximately R254 000).

The first UCT Foundation Canada Newsletter was distributed by email during February. A student exchange agreement with York University was completed thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Blumbergs.

The University of Cape Town Fund Inc is

a United States, independent, non-profit organisation chartered under the laws of New York State, and recognised by the US Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organisation. Since its inception in 1984, the fund's directors have supported the university's commitment to enhancing access and providing support for financially disadvantaged students at UCT and in South Africa.

UCT graduates Trevor Norwitz (chair), David Meachin (treasurer) and Vincent Mai lead the UCT Fund board of directors, whose ranks also include Kofi Appenteng. Holly Lawrence joined the Fund in October 2009 to succeed Tina Barsby as US regional director.

Donations directly received by the fund in 2009 totalled some US\$875 000. Highlights included:

- Medtronic Foundation's grant in support of UCT professor of medicine Bongani Mayosi's research on an awareness and surveillance, advocacy and prevention programme for the prevention of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease. The grant includes an education and awareness campaign for healthcare professionals and the public, a governmental advocacy campaign, and primary and secondary prevention programmes.

- Hope for Depression Research Foundation's two new grants in areas of mental health; the foundation also continues to support the ongoing, innovative work of Prof Mark Solms.

- The William and Yvonne Jacobson Digital Africana Program, a five-year pledge to support the digitisation in computer format of the UCT Libraries collections.

- The Link-SA Fund, which provides scholarships for academically talented but financially disadvantaged students to study at South African universities, including UCT. More than 40 donations were received from individual donors supporting this campaign.

- The Fetzer Institute's grant to support UCT psychology professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela in funding the December 2009 conference at UCT titled *Beyond Reconciliation: Dealing with the aftermath of mass trauma and political violence*.

- Goldman Sachs Charitable Fund support for the 10 000 Women Initiative at the UCT Graduate School of Business Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

- Prof Klaus-Jürgen Bathe's gift for the Klaus-Jürgen Bathe Scholarship Fund.

- Starr Foundation's gift for the CV Starr

Scholarship Programme at UCT.

- The Alan Pifer Award at UCT, an annual prize recognising outstanding research that contributes to the advancement of South Africa's disadvantaged population groups.

- The John M Graham and the Richard & Winifred Graham Scholarships for medical students in UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences.

- Hamilton Naki – MESAB – United Therapeutics Scholarship's six-year support of scholarships for students in UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences.

Individual donors in the US also supported a number of other UCT programmes, including the Golda Selzer Memorial Fund (in support of SHAWCO's Golda Selzer Memorial Community Health Centre); the Perinatal Mental Health Project; the Allan Cormack Book Fund; the Law 150 Campaign for UCT's Faculty of Law; and financial aid for needy students.

US corporate matching gifts received in 2009 included those from Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, Microsoft Corporation, Exxon-Mobil Foundation, AT&T Foundation, Microsoft Matching Gifts Programme, Barclays Global Investors Matching Gifts, and the Davis Polk & Wardwell Programme.

The UCT Fund hosted various alumni functions and donor events across the US in New York City, Washington (DC), Boston/Cambridge, Berkeley, Palo Alto, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and Chicago. Most of these events were held in conjunction with the US visit of the vice-chancellor, who attended events with alumni groups and met with foundations and donors.

By the end of 2009 the UCT Fund had established and enhanced its official social media groups for US alumni, including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn subgroups. These sites provide a network for UCT alumni living and working in the US.

UCT and these three overseas supporting organisations are enormously grateful for the sustained support received from alumni and donors over these last decades. They have provided invaluable assistance to the university as it strives to meet new challenges and opportunities as a leading African institution of higher learning in the 21st century.

Dr Jim McNamara

Executive Director, Development and Alumni Department

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VC cements overseas partnerships

WORDS: MORGAN MORRIS

Whoever compiled the whirlwind, two-country, four-city (London, Manchester, Washington, New York) trip for vice-chancellor Dr Max Price at the end of May didn't leave much time for him to catch his breath.

Instead, Price had to criss-cross the cities via air, river and rail for a succession of meetings, functions, talks and conferences.

The occasion was the VC's annual – or, sometimes, twice yearly – series of alumni visits and fundraising expeditions in the UK and the US. His seven-day stopover in London, for example, was crammed with meetings with established and prospective donors and funders, some influential UCT graduates among them. (He was joined on most of these gatherings by former vice-chancellor Dr Stuart Saunders and Angela Ross of the University of Cape Town Trust [UK], the registered UK charity that raises funds for UCT there.)

Tucked in between these were a meeting with the charity's board of trustees, as well as a couple of get-togethers with alumni and 'friends of the university' in both London and (in a first for the university) Manchester.

These events included a trip on the Thames Clipper to the Old Royal Naval College, where Dr Price and Professor Walter Baets, director of the Graduate School of Business, teamed up to address alumni and other guests.

The aim of the trip, says Price, was first and foremost to maintain contact with alumni keen to keep abreast of the goings on at their

alma mater and in South Africa. Ditto for the meetings with donors, with some of whom Price negotiated the rollover of grants, and others with whom he broached the subject of new projects.

"Maintaining the relationship with funders is absolutely critical even in periods when, due to the wider financial environment, they are unable to give," he says.

Price then crossed the Atlantic for New York in the US, where – after touching base with Holly Lawrence who works for the UCT Fund, Inc, which mirrors the fundraising work of the London trust – he met up with a number of donors, including four new prospects; ie organisations that have not previously supported UCT.

From New York it was a hop, skip and a jump to Washington, this time for the annual general meeting and conference of the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), which UCT joined in late 2009. UCT is the only African university in the network.

The VC was not the only UCT delegate at the conference. Also there were deputy vice-chancellor Professor Jo Beall (who had negotiated UCT's place on the network) and Dr Loveness Kaunda and Lara Hoffenberg of the International Academic Programmes Office, in the US for another conference later

that week (that of the National Association of Foreign Student Advisers (NAFSA): Association of International Educators), as well as visiting three partner universities.

WUN was chosen because it focuses on international collaborations in research and graduate education. For Price, one of the highlights of the WUN conference, which explored collaborations in key areas such as climate change and global public health, was the paper that showed that the increase in the number of research papers published jointly by WUN collaborators exceeded the increase in research papers published by individual universities.

"The conclusion of the paper is that there is indeed significant benefit in research productivity from collaboration, and from investing in this particular network," says Price.

Is there a link between the WUN meeting and fundraising?

"We've ended up, over the years, working with a subset of donors whose focus is on excellence, and who believe that South Africa and the continent need a handful of truly world-class universities," says Price. "They recognise the value of that for economic development, and for reproducing the academic profession of the country and of the rest of the continent." ●



Reconnecting (left): VC Dr Max Price (middle) in London with Profs Shula and Isaac Marks, Paul Wilhelmij and Maria Callias. (Right) London ties: (From left) Thomas Joykutty, Arthur Cook, Nyimpini Mbunda and Etienne Burger.

Music college struts its stuff at centenary concerts (1910-2010)

From humble beginnings in Strand Street in the city in 1910 – and an intake of only six students – the South African College of Music (SACM) has grown to become one of the continent’s premier music schools. To mark its centenary year, the college showcased various musical genres – from jazz to African music, world music and Western classical music – with a concert series from August to September.

Prof Mike Campbell and the UCT Big Band opened the SACM Music Centenary Festival in the Baxter Concert Hall with a tribute to Count Basie. The series ended with a flourish at the Cape Town City Hall with Francois du Toit playing a Mozart Piano Concerto with the UCT Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Bernhard Gueller.

The college was founded by a group of musicians, led by Madame Apolline Niay-Darroll, with a half-dozen students. In 1912, the English composer WH Bell became principal. Two years later the college moved to Stal Plein and in 1920 Bell became professor of music. In 1923 the college was incorporated into the university.

A veritable who’s who of artists has graduated from the college. The most recent past students currently working on the international circuit include sopranos Pretty Yende (2006), now studying at La Scala and sharing the stage with the likes of Andrea Bocelli and Montserrat Caballé, and Kimmy Skota (2004), currently touring with André Rieu. Pianist James Baillieu (2004) is in demand as a concert and chamber



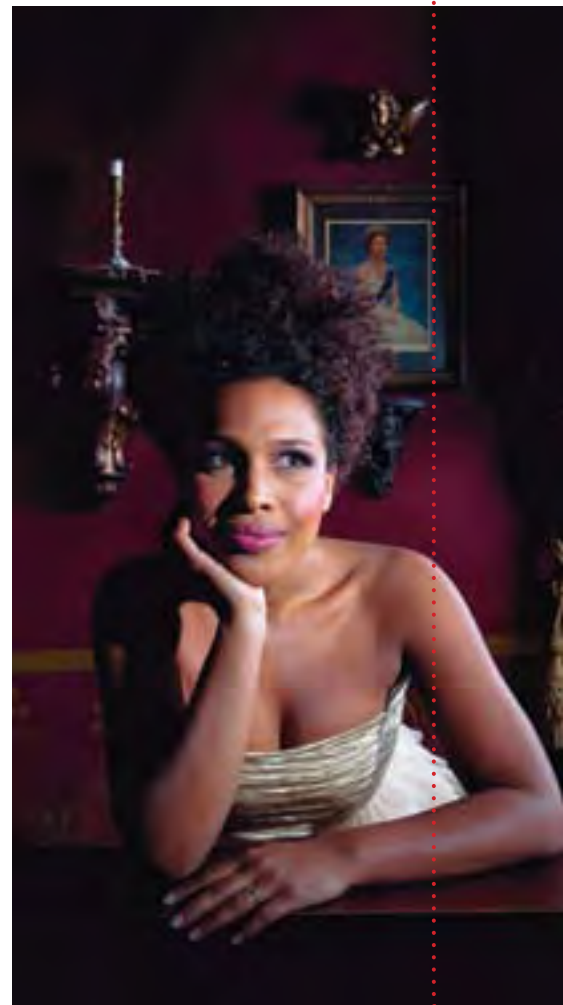
Musical interlude: The South African College of Music, which celebrates its centenary this year, has grown to become one of the continent’s premier music schools.

musician in England and Europe, and is a junior fellow at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Pianist Kathy Tagg (1998) is now based in New York as a pianist and a promoter of South African music and artists. Jazz vocalist Nicky Schrire (2008) is making a mark in New York. Baritone Musawenkosi Ngqugwana (2008) has just secured a role in an opera in Europe after making it to the final round of the prestigious Belvedere Competition in Vienna. Soprano Golda Schultz (2007) is a postgraduate student at Juilliard and performing in professional operas in America.

Today, in its centenary year, the SACM is headed by Professor Paula Ensor, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, together with director Dr Morné Bezuidenhout and deputy director Associate Professor François du Toit.

Melanie Scholtz (Perf Dip, 2000) (*below*), winner of the 2010 Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Jazz, launched her second album, *Connected*, in February. The album features original compositions that Scholtz performs with her band, The Love Apples, and was recorded at Sunset Studios in Stellenbosch in February 2009. The compositions are inspired by Africa and Scandinavia, and are “uncluttered in terms of arrangements and instrumentation”, says the multi-award-winning Scholtz, a former UCT jazz vocal studies lecturer.





In December 2009, **Lewis Gordon Pugh** (BA, 1992; LLB, 1994; LLM, 1996) (*above*) received the Order of Ikhamanga (gold) – awarded by the government, through the president, to South African citizens who have excelled in the fields of arts, culture, literature, music, journalism and sport. The award was in honour of Pugh's exceptional sporting triumphs, humanitarian feats and his work to create awareness about the impact of global warming. A committed environmental campaigner, Pugh is the first person to complete a long distance swim in every ocean of the world. He swam a glacial lake under the summit of Mount Everest to highlight that the glaciers on the mountain are melting at an alarming rate.

Jonathan Parsonage (LLB, 2009) won second prize in the Ismail Mahomed Prize for Law Reform for 2009. The prize is a joint venture between the South African Law Reform Commission and Juta & Co. Jonathan was awarded a purse of R10 000 for his essay, *The shape of things to come? Ubuntu as a framework for the imposition of punishment in South Africa*.

UCT graduate and environmental law specialist **Belinda Bowling** (BA, 1993; LLB, 1995; LLM, 2003), who is working in war-torn Afghanistan, has been awarded one of that country's highest civilian honours, the Order of Malalai, by President Harmid Karzai. Bowling has been working with the UN Environmental Programme in Kabul for six-and-a-half years.

South African screenwriter and UCT alumnus **Anthony Peckham** (BA, 1979; BA[Hons], 1980) (*right*) has penned two of the most talked-about movies in South Africa – *Golden Globe* and *Invictus*. "What appealed to me was that we'd be able to talk about Nelson Mandela and South Africa through the prism of a sports film," he said.

(*Right*) In September 2009 two UCT researchers, PhD student **Nomalanga Mkhize** and **Eleanor Yeld** (BSc, 2002; BSc [Hons], 2003; PhD, 2008), hosted *Shoreline*, a 13-part environmental documentary series on SABC2. The series explored how the environment and historic events have shaped the lives of South African coastal communities.

UCT physicist **Dr Amanda Weltman** (BSc, 1999; BSc [Hons], 2000) (*below*) was named the Best Emerging Scientist at the annual Department of Science and Technology's South African Women in Science awards.



UCT graduate and acclaimed jazz pianist **Andre Petersen** was crowned master of the keys after winning the 2009 Southern African Music Rights Organisation (SAMRO) Overseas Scholarship competition.



News-makers News



(*Below*) UCT alumnae **Ntombi Makhutshi** (Perf Dip, 2006) and **Robyn Scott** (Perf Dip, 1995) starred in the award-winning *London Road*, a play which premiered at the Kalk Bay Theatre in March. Both actresses have previously been nominated for Fleur du Cap awards.



Self-motivation and endurance are what helped two UCT alumni, **Dr Jonathan Starke** (MBChB, 2001) and **Saul Kornik** (BBusSc, 1999; BCom [Hons], 2000; PG Dip Acc, 2000; MCom, 2006) finish the gruelling Life 2 The Limit challenge – an adventure that cut them off from the world for 30 days. Stark and Kornik were the only two of the 10 starters to complete the survival challenge, held on a deserted island in the Southern Pacific.

Newsmakers



Buhle Mathole (BAS, 2000), director and founder of Kabu Design Architects, was part of the team of architects who designed the system-wide identity of the Gautrain. Mathole was drawn to architecture at an early age.

Ciko Thomas (BSc, 1991), was head-hunted by Nedbank to fill the role of Group Executive: Group Marketing, Communications and Corporate Affairs. Thomas joined Nedbank from Barloworld, where he was the Group Marketing Director of the Automotive Division. (See p17.)

UCT graduate and former lecturer **Mzamo Masito** (BSocSc, 1996; PG Dip, 1997) is the Brand Manager of Nike South Africa. Masito has consulted to the UCT Unilever Institute for seven years, as well as to various blue chip companies such as Old Mutual, Unilever, Nedbank and Maponya Mall.

Charlie Keegan (BA Theatre and Performance, 2008) (below) starred in the local football drama series *League of Glory* on M-Net, as Jonathan Grant. He is also a 2007 Fleur du Cap award winner for most promising student.



Stage and film actress **Zandile Msutwana** (Perf Dip, 2001), known to many viewers as an HIV-positive nurse in *Soul City* and as Akua Yenana in *Society*, has just finished a stage play, *The Pen*, with two of South Africa's best actors, Sello Maake kaNcube and Mabatho Mogomotsi, at the Market Theatre.

Chris Swift (BA Fine Art, 2009), an artist specialising in creating artworks from discarded materials, is the winner of the 2009 Michaelis Prize and the Spier Contemporary 2010.

The EU Literary Award-winning **Kopano Matlwa** (MBChB, 2009), one of South Africa's most vibrant young writers, has written another book, titled *Spilt Milk*. A medical graduate and a 2010 Rhodes scholar, Matlwa is the author of the critically-acclaimed novel *Coconut*. She is a founding member and chairperson of Waiting Room Education by Medical Students.

Pretty Yende (Perf Dip Opera, 2006; PG Dip, 2008) (right), South Africa's singing sensation, grabbed the international arts headlines when she won the joint first prize with American tenor Michelle Angeline at the Savonlinna International Singing Competition in Finland. Yende also starred in the closing concert of the FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup.

UCT alumnus **Musa Manzini** (BMus, 1996) has brought out a new recording, called *Simple Life*. This is his first album since undergoing two brain tumour operations, after which he had to relearn to play his instrument. From the music on his latest album it is clear that Manzini is determined to reclaim his position as one of the country's leading bassists.

Anne Hirsch (BA Hons, 2006; MA, 2008) (above) is the winner of season two of SABC1's reality show *So You Think You're Funny*. Hirsch, the current organiser of Wednesday evening comedy nights at Stardust Theatrical Dining and the first white woman on David Kau's *Blacks Only* comedy show also starred in an all-female stand-up comedy show, *Cracks and the City*.

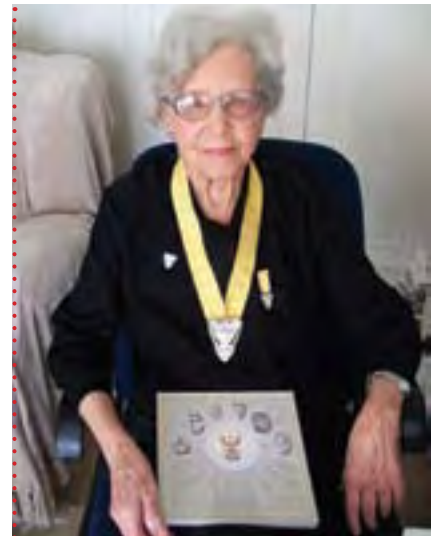


Zwelethu Mthethwa (Dip Fine Art, 1984; Adv Dip Fine Art, 1985), an internationally-acclaimed photographer, launched his book *Photographs by Zwelethu Mthethwa* in April 2010.



(Below) Two pairs of UCT medical students **Phatheka Ntaba** (second left) and **Princess Akol** (left), and **Mitchel Bontle** (far right) and **Thandeka Ngcongco's** second-year research work was accepted for international medical journals: Bontle and Ngcongco's research results – *The frequency of absence of palmaris longus in a South African population of mixed race* – in the *American Journal of Clinical Anatomy*, and Akol and Ntaba's work on a seminal paper – *The reliance on unclaimed cadavers for anatomical teaching by medical schools in Africa* – in the *American Journal of Anatomical Sciences Education*.

UCT graduate **Amy Jephta** (BA, 2009) (left in picture above) and UCT drama graduate and Fleur du Cap winner **Tara Louise Notcutt** (BA, 2008) are the first and second winners of the Emerging Theatre Director's Bursary, which enables emerging theatre directors to keep working and developing their craft. Funded by the Theatre Arts Admin Collective in partnership with the Baxter Theatre Centre and the Gordon Institute of Performing and Creative Arts, the new bursary enables emerging theatre directors to keep working and developing their craft. The bursary is also aimed at affirming directing as a prospective career choice and creating a space for emerging directors to work with a mentor.



Human rights activist **Dorothy "Dot" Cleminshaw** (above) received The Order of Luthuli in Silver from the Presidency. The citation said that Cleminshaw's life had touched and had been touched by many people who had served the cause of freedom, justice and peace. "She has lived and worked through a period which tested the capacity and endurance of South Africans and she has found ways in which she, as an individual, has been able to make a real contribution to the causes in which she believes. She has demonstrated that it is indeed possible, with a clear focus and much dedication, to increase awareness and to influence decisions," the citation continued. She was awarded an honorary degree (Master of Social Science) by UCT in 2002. ●

going up

Much of UCT's wealth lies in the calibre of the graduates it has produced over more than 180 years. Yes, we're proud to list five Nobel Laureates among our alumni (Max Theiler [medicine, 1951], Ralph Bunche [peace, 1950], Sir Aaron Klug [chemistry, 1982], Allan McLeod Cormack [medicine, 1979] and JM Coetzee [literature, 2003]), but many others are creating legacies of their own. Among them are women like Moira Tlhagale and Thembi Jacobs who are forging careers in fields traditionally dominated by men.

Walking on air

When it comes to the political renaissance in Africa, **Lerato Mbele (BSocSc, 1997)** (above right) – host of two primetime economics and current affairs shows on CNBC Africa – is a committed activist.

An African identity and the need for perspective are things she saw the value of early in life.

"It's a calling... I remember in high school, when we were reading the Brontë sisters or Thomas Hardy, I would always supplement by reading Ngugi wa Thiongo or Sembene Osmane. I didn't identify with Victorian characters and needed literature that reflected my world.

"In trying to unravel my identity, it was natural to turn to the prose of Africans. The more I read, the more I put Africa into perspective. In later years, I was able to

travel to countries such as Zaire and Somalia. It was then that I felt my heartbeat and it became clear that I wanted to be part of the African solution."

Completing her BA in politics and international relations at UCT laid a foundation for her career as one of South Africa's most respected journalists.

Beginning as an intern at the SABC, hard work and talent propelled her up the broadcasting company's ladder. She moved through the ranks of the radio current affairs department, going on to host a diplomatic programme, *The Ambassadors* (a

current affairs programme that dealt specifically with diplomatic issues facing Africa), on the pan-African television station SABC Africa.

After *The Ambassadors'* successful run, Mbele took time out to pursue her studies in England – an MSc in Developmental Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies.

The work expanded her perspective on Africa and the developing world.

"After the global recession, the time is ripe for conversations about development and economic growth. Emerging markets



“The more I read, the more I put Africa into perspective.”

are gaining in prominence, and specialised knowledge about these markets makes one more ‘cutting-edge’. So in its entirety, my education has prepared me to appreciate the new world we are living in.”

After the completion of her postgraduate qualification and return to South Africa, Mbele worked as a political scientist at the SA Institute of International Affairs, heading up the Africa Democracy Programme. The work was fulfilling, but she missed journalism and returned to the SABC to anchor the newly-launched *News@10* programme on SABC3.

Mbele also hosted the weekly media-review current affairs programme, *In the Public Interest*. After two years at SABC3, the American business channel CNBC approached her to join their new Africa division in 2007, where she’s worked since.

During her time with CNBC Africa, Mbele has hosted shows such as *The Other*

Dimension, *Business AM*, *CNBC specials* and the *World Economic Forum*.

“Exploring different mindsets makes the work intriguing. If you look at the vibrancy of radio talk shows and call-in programmes, you have to agree there is merit to the work that journalists do.”

During her career she has interviewed such prominent political and social figures as President Jacob Zuma, Senator John KERRY, former president FW de Klerk and many more, which she says has left her inspired and enriched.

In the future she wants to draw attention to the need for properly instituted business and political leadership in Africa.

“I think we need to identify a new breed of leaders, and we need to engage them. A lot of Africa’s problems are down to poor leadership; I’d like a forum to tackle that through the media.”

In 2009 Mbele hosted the Promise of Lead-

ership Summit, with Rwandan President Paul Kagame, for the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

Hard work has paid dividends; Mbele is a recipient of the Pauline Janisch Award for Literature from the World Association of University Women, and in 2006 was voted one of the Top 100 South Africans by *The Star* newspaper.

Recently she co-authored a book, *Designing Democracy*, about African political systems.

Success, she says, is built on perseverance – and good, old-fashioned hard work, self assurance, self-respect, having an open mind, and the maintenance of her humility.

“I don’t live my life anticipating hurdles or failure. I live each day to win; sure, there are set-backs, but they are designed to test my character and faith. However, I think to constantly worry about the inevitable weaknesses of life is not a good psychological starting point.” ●

Living the dream

At the age of eight, **Bronwyn Nielsen** knew she wanted to be a television presenter. Inspired by former SABC news anchor Gillian van Houten, Nielsen says it was always a dream that she knew would come true.

“If you believe it is right for you it will happen,” says Nielsen.”

Today she is the senior anchor for CNBC Africa, part of the global CNBC network.

“My position suits me well – I truly love what I do. I’m fortunate that I never feel as though I am working – or that work is a burden. In fact, I’m being paid to do what I’m passionate about.”

Nielsen completed a BCom at UCT in 1990. “I loved every moment at UCT; it is simply the most beautiful campus in South Africa. Aside from the memorable parties, my studies helped my career, and the BCom gave me credibility in the broadcasting arena.”

Nielsen has over nine years’ experience in the media field. She has worked for Highveld Stereo’s news desk, as a news presenter for e.TV and as an anchor for DSTV’s Summit Television channel 55. She’s also appeared regularly on Sky News International, hosting the updates on African markets, and is known for her work as a television producer for *Carte Blanche*, South Africa’s leading investigative journalism programme.

“Although it has been a relatively easy journey to get to where I am today, you do need to pay attention to detail,” she says. “I am constantly improving my game, and I

do this by watching past shows, picking out anything I see as a failure. I am definitely my harshest critic – I rarely cut myself any slack.”

She is inspired by live television and “telling the story” in the most objective way possible.

“I’m always setting myself challenges, so that I never get comfortable. It’s about believing in yourself and creating your own reality. I recommend reading *Mind Power*, by John Kehoe. I embrace his philosophy of believing that anything is possible, as long as you believe it is so. Don’t get pulled down by negativity and always surround yourself with positive people, and remember to allow yourself to dream.”

Nielsen is living proof that hardship, while taking its toll, builds character. In her life she’s had to face her brother’s suicide, and a divorce. “[Those events] were very tough on me,” she says. “They were also major turning points in my life – and both have changed me and how I approach life. The key lesson from these losses – which I live by, now – is not to sweat the small stuff.



“Before my brother’s death, I used to waste so much time worrying about the smallest things, including what people thought of me. The bottom line is: life is too short!”

Nielsen is also a motivational speaker and hosts conferences, gala evenings, corporate dinners and award ceremonies. And her strong business and communication skills are a platform for providing media training to top South African executives.

One of her key presentations is about women in business and as entrepreneurs in South Africa.

“I believe that women can achieve absolutely anything they put their minds to. The glass ceiling does not exist in my vocabulary – and I like to encourage women to think and move beyond their self-constructed boundaries.” ●

“I am constantly improving my game and I do this by watching past shows, picking out anything I see as a failure.”



Designs for South Africa



Building blocks

Ezra Davids (BA, 1989; LLB, 1992), partner and head of the corporate department at law firm Bowman Gilfillan Attorneys, knows how to strike a good deal.

In 2009 this BA and LLB graduate was named the South African Dealmaker of the Year and in the same year, Who's Who Legal named him one of the leading mergers and acquisitions lawyers in South Africa. A specialist in this area, as well as in capital markets and securities law, Davids has led the Bowman Gilfillan team in some of the largest mergers and acquisitions deals of the past year.

He is also the relationship partner for clients like Goldman Sachs, UBS, Deutsche Bank, Merrill Lynch and Eskom.

Citing the value of his UCT education, Davids says: "I am proud to have received these recognitions. At the end of the day they are worth more to me than any fiscal reward." ●

Mokena Makeka's (BAS, 1997; BArch, 2001) most recent architectural design has caught the eye of many locals and international visitors who travelled on Cape Town trains during the recent FIFA World Cup.

Makeka, who studied architecture at UCT, graduating in 2001, has made his mark on the country's landscape with his business, Makeka Design Lab (MDL).

His most notable recent design project was the redesign of Cape Town Station. Makeka, who has landed several awards for his work, says his structures are meant to inspire imagination and where possible, help transform the country.

"The landscape and fabric of our country is rough terrain for architects, but I believe that through my work I can make a difference." ●

Graduate stars in LA law



The City of Angels, Los Angeles, may be better known for megastars and movie moguls, but UCT graduate **Saul Breskal** (BBus Sc, 1993) – with LA law firm Glaser Weil Fink Jacobs Howard & Shapiro – has seen his own star rise in recent years.

He was made a partner in 2005 and has been ranked by *The Daily Journal*, California's largest legal-profession news provider, as one of the Top 20 attorneys under 40 in Southern California.

Breskal, who obtained his business science degree with honours from UCT and a law degree from Oxford University in 1996, is noted for negotiating and fine-tuning complex, high-dollar real estate and construction transactions.

"Lawyers are service providers, and the secret to succeeding is to make every client and potential new client feel special."

Breskal and his wife would be delighted to hear from other UCT graduates visiting Los Angeles. ●

Brazil in her sights

Moira Tlhagale (BSc[Qs], 1998) is one of those proud South Africans who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to help South Africa deliver one of the best FIFA World Cups ever.

A UCT BSc (Hons) graduate in quantity surveying, Tlhagale heads up the Gauteng branch of Tmtj Consulting, development facilitators and project managers.

Recently she completed a four-year role as leader of the technical team responsible for the oversight project management for the 2010 FIFA Local Organising Committee. This adds to her many achievements over the past 12 years, which range from the Cape Town International Departures Terminal to project management for Cape Town's V&A Waterfront.

"I consider myself very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work on such a large project as the World Cup stadiums, and I am so pleased with the results. FIFA has also approached me about working on the stadiums in Brazil for the next World Cup, which is very exciting." ●



Trading places

Business heavyweight **Sandile Zungu's** (BSc, 1988; MBA 1996) roots lie in the sprawling township of Umlazi, KwaZulu-Natal, a place where he learned the value of serving others while empowering himself.



Zungu is the founder of the formidable industrial holdings organisation Zungu Investments Company, or Zico, with interests in financial services, media, resources and health care. Politically, he serves on President Jacob Zuma's BEE Advisory Council and is a member of the World Economic Forum, as a Young Global Leader.

Business, however, was not a part of his early ambitions.

"As a boy I wanted to become a teacher. I saw early on in life that illiteracy was the biggest obstacle to human development. I thought it would be a great way for me to contribute to uplifting my community. In any case, it was about prestige. There was an unwritten code of utmost respect for educators and anyone at the service of others."

It took a science Olympiad – Zungu was in the top ten in his province in matric – and an engineering scholarship from Shell to change his mind.

"Once I was exposed to engineering, I dumped teaching."

With a mechanical engineering degree, he travelled: Richards Bay Minerals, Engen Refinery, National Sorghum Breweries, and South African Breweries.

The shift from engineering happened in 1995; Zungu wanted to know more about the commercial aspects of business. The first year of a BCom through Unisa laid the foundations for further studies at UCT's Gradu-

ate School of Business, where he completed his MBA.

"While studying engineering I often passed the GSB (which was on the lower campus) on my way to my residence, Smuts Hall, after partying with friends. We hated those 'old men' studying business because they always used to shout at us for making too much noise. I had no idea back then that I would end up studying there."

These early experiences, and his deliberate exploration and experimentation, shaped much of the philosophy he applies to life. "I learned then that life is about sacrifice. One must take risks, but all should be calculated. You can't jump into shark-infested waters and expect to come out unscathed. You can't hope against hope," he says. Success, for Zungu, comes from taking risks, making sacrifices, keeping the faith and putting effort behind the vision. This is a man who knows what it takes to be successful.

"I am content with my business success," he says, adding that in 12 years he will change careers again and may go into active politics – he aims to study a doctoral degree, or another master's degree, in developmental economics.

But business and politics are not for the thin-skinned, and each influences the other, particularly where the two intersect. "At a certain level in business you can't dissociate yourself from broader politics," he says.

Zungu is vocal about meaningful, orderly

transformation in the business sector, and says that he believes in efforts to alter the unfair patterns of ownership in the country. The BEE Advisory Council, he says, took time to set up; but a lot of good work is being done at subcommittee level. He is adamant that BEE should not be about redistribution, but about sustainable growth that is all-inclusive.

"Change is pain. It is understandable that those who have been enjoying the benefits thus far don't want to hear about change, yet expansive change is what we need if we are to have a shared excitement about the wonder called South Africa."

A big part of his advocacy is around higher education.

"Historically, universities placed themselves in the community as centres of elitism. They tended to isolate themselves from the demands of industrial and social development, and so removed themselves from the realities on the ground," he argues.

"Yet institutions of higher learning are vital to developing societies. They are an integral part of growing the collective mind of any society, and so the more people we can support in their academic endeavours, the better for us all, provided the courses and curricula are relevant and up to date."

A father of four, Zungu says his main challenge over the years has been striking a balance between business time and family life.

"It is a balance I still grapple with." ●

"We hated those 'old men' studying business because they always used to shout at us for making too much noise. I had no idea back then that I would end up studying there."

Inroads into the built environment

Delivering everything from ARV clinics at Community Health Centres to classroom projects for Western Cape primary schools to high-rise office buildings, **Thembi Jacobs** (BAS, 1996) is an architect and construction project manager who ensures that essential services are a reality for some of South Africa's neediest communities.

This BAS and BArch graduate runs a reputable business, Tmtj Consulting, with partner and fellow UCT graduate Moira Thlagale. Like her partner, Jacobs is a trailblazer, carving a niche in areas where no black female architect had worked previously.

She is now the chairperson of the Western Cape branch of the South African Black Technical and Allied Careers Organisation (SABTACO), a national organisation for black professionals in the built environment.

What's her secret? Jacobs credits her success – and that of the company – to four pillars: client confidence, excellent staff, a good track record and ensuring the business is sustainable.

“You need to have a good strategy in place, and wherever possible, allow for constructive criticism.” ●



Banking on a brand

Perhaps best known as the founder and one of the first directors of the first fully black-owned BMW and Volkswagen dealerships and the previous Marketing Director of Barloworld Automotive, **Ciko Thomas** (BSc, 1991) is an award-winning leader who's proven he has star qualities in strategic marketing, brand management, trade and sales operations, innovation and new product development.



With a UCT BSc and MBA from the UCT Graduate School of Business, he has now taken on a new challenge, as Managing Executive: Group Marketing and Corporate Affairs at Nedbank.

“There's so much potential here at Nedbank to create a brand that resonates with South Africans. Our world has changed. The environment is different; technology means we can reach people in new ways,” he said of his appointment in *Finweek*.

He said Nedbank will be reinventing its brand as it strives to grow its market share. Having plenty of experience through previous positions held in companies such as M-Net, British American Tobacco, Barloworld Automotive and South Africa Breweries, the Nedbank brand looks sure to be in good hands with Thomas. ●

Invest in people

Innovation, people and creating a sustainable environment are at the heart of healthy business, says alumnus **Dr Iqbal Survé**, chairperson and founder of the Sekunjalo Group.



These core values have helped Sekunjalo become one of South Africa's success stories. The company was rated the country's Most Empowered Company in the *Financial Mail's* 2010 Top Empowerment Companies survey.

In 2007, Sekunjalo received a Global Recognition award from the World Economic Forum. Survé is a UCT graduate who has committed himself to giving back to the university – and he does so in no small way.

With an Executive MBA from the Graduate School of Business (2004), and an MBChB (1987) and BSc (Med) (Hons) (1991) in sports medicine, from UCT, he is also chairperson of the UCT GSB Board of Advisors and governor of the UCT Foundation.

Speaking at the recent Fortune 500/Time/CNN Global Forum in Cape Town, Survé reflected on business in South Africa: “I've never been as excited by the opportunities in this country as I am today, but at the same time I am also concerned. There are so many opportunities available, but there is also a great need for stronger investment in developing the skills of our people.” ●

TO RUSSIA, WITH LOVE

Architect and alumnus Jack Diamond and his partners have designed the Mariinsky Theatre complex's new 2 000-seat opera and ballet house in St Petersburg, Russia. Originally built in 1860, greats like Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Prokofiev and Stravinsky premiered their work there.

It's a long way from the leafy campus of UCT to a corner office in the heart of Toronto, Canada's largest city, where Jack Diamond (BArch, 1956) has made his mark.

The outspoken architect has done more than most to influence the dramatic growth of his adopted city since arriving here in 1964. He was an early champion of restoring old buildings rather than tearing them down. He configured a low-rise residential neighbourhood, with the same dwelling capacity of high-rise buildings, that has been studied and emulated elsewhere.

The firm Diamond and Schmitt Architects is now a world-leader in sustainable design with a drive to situate buildings in the proper context of the built environment. You could say the same about the man.

His time at UCT reflected the "scholar athlete" philosophy prevalent at the time. Diamond feels he benefited from this principle, and sees it as a strong influence still inherent in the South African social culture of today. He played UCT club rugby and continued during postgraduate studies abroad.

Thinking back to his university days, he says he wasn't a 'conventional' guy; he immersed himself in academia, sport and painting.

"Living unconventionally strengthens you."

Another important influence on campus in the late 1950s was the large contingent of ex-servicemen students who had fought in World War II. Diamond recalls they had a strong maturing effect on younger male students.

"Lincoln said that the essence of a university education was having one's own hearth in an unfamiliar town. I was born in Piet Retief and found UCT to be such a place. There I

met and studied among like-minded people.

"My first girlfriend at UCT was Afrikaans, and as a young Jewish Natalier, I discovered a new culture in mixing with cultured Stellenbosch wine producers, where vineyard owner and *bywoner* drank sherry side-by-side in the parlour after church on a Sunday morning. This led me to explore the writings of Afrikaans literary greats like Uys Krige, CJ Langenhoven and Louis Leipoldt."

Diamond also served on the SRC and was politically active. Although he could speak Zulu fluently, Diamond still regrets he wasn't able to fully experience all South African cultures.

In 1958 he received a Master of Arts degree in politics, philosophy and economics from Oxford University. Diamond met his wife, Gillian, on campus and they returned to South Africa after graduating. Unfortunately, after Sharpeville he lost faith in there ever being a 'Mandela' to bring the country to democracy, and emigrated with his young family.

The pursuit of a career in architecture took him to the University of Pennsylvania to study with the master architect Louis Kahn. Diamond felt a direct continuation of the attitudes he had experienced at UCT. The two schools followed both classical and modernist models of design. Kahn's respectful plans for worker houses in the 1930s and 1940s laid the foundation for Diamond's own engagement in resolving the urban design problems of the day.

With a Master of Architecture degree he moved to Canada in 1964, just as Toronto was about to experience a phenomenal expansion. From his position as founding director of the Master of Architecture programme at the University of Toronto, which he held until 1970, he encouraged his students to pursue

alternative means to nurture urban growth through the then-controversial ideas of infill and recycling of old buildings. His crusade slowly brought him new commissions that ultimately fed into his fledgling private practice, which became Diamond and Schmitt Architects in 1975.

Global influences have left their mark on Diamond's designs. He sees a direct correlation between a nation's prevalent culture and its built form. He draws parallels between the national socialist buildings of Germany in the late 1930s and the heavy-handed, austere buildings of Bloemfontein during the nationalist era.

Architecture today, he says, draws on two approaches: classical style, with well-defined space; and the opposing trend, to deconstruct those spaces with freer spatial designs. Today the two are mixed, which allows for a dialogue in design and exciting possibilities for architects to explore.

He has great admiration for the purposeful methods of Cape Dutch design.

"The secret of good design is making a virtue of necessity."

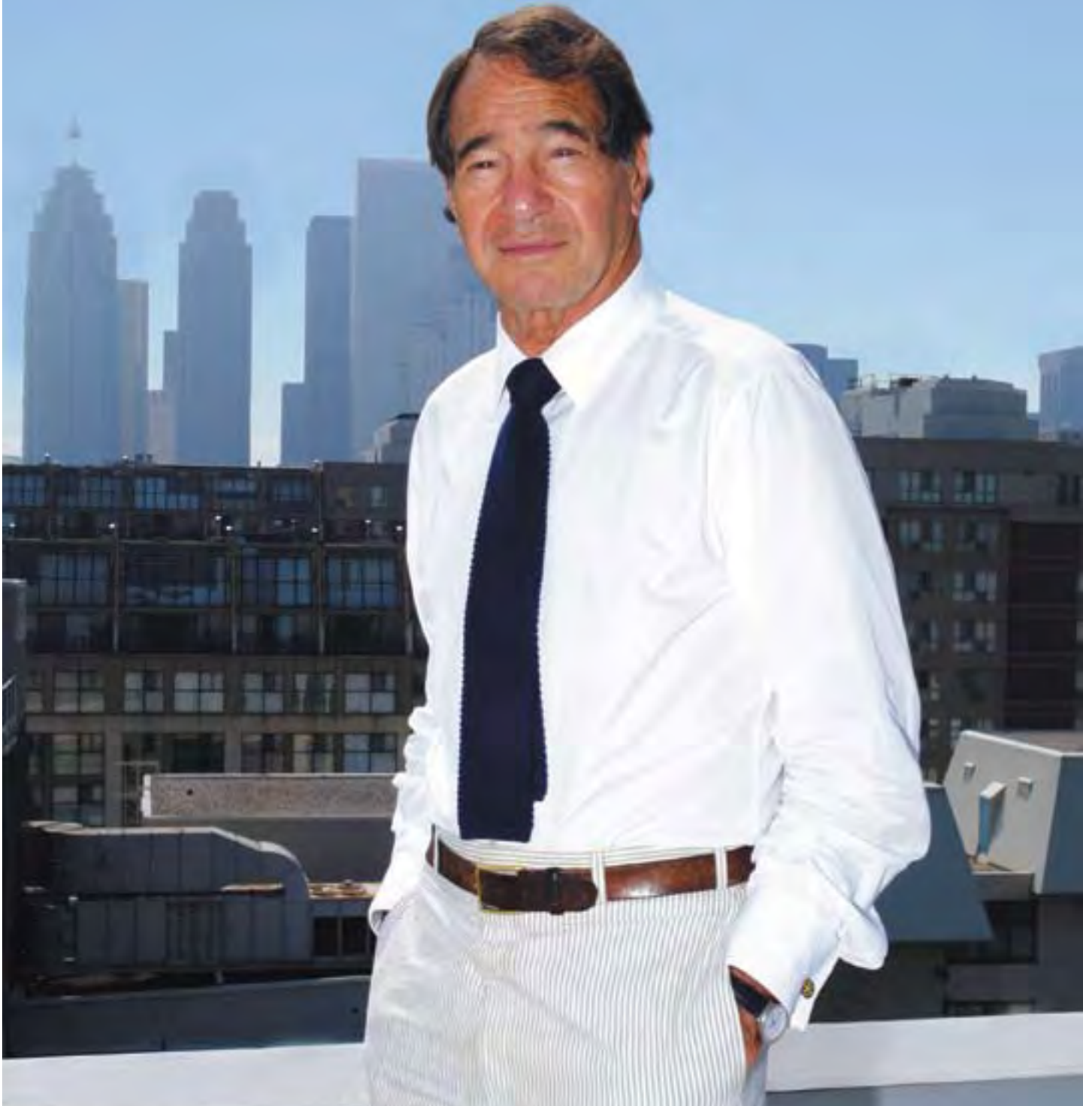
This is the essence of a Jack Diamond design. The Cape Dutch gable protected the front door as an escape route during a fire. In similar fashion, the clay brick above the ceiling provided protection from burning thatch as it fell onto the *brandsolder*.

Thatch provided insulation and the grand design of the split front door provided ventilation. Window size to room proportions ensured proper insulation from heat and cold while the white low-slung wall surrounding the homestead provided a datum in the landscape.

As much as the past can be an influence on the practice of architecture, nothing less than the future of the planet informs➔

ASIA, WITH LOVE

“Living unconventionally strengthens you.”



Impressive portfolio: UCT alumnus Jack Diamond, decorated as an Officer of the Order of Canada. Four of his buildings, the Israeli Foreign Ministry, Toronto's Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, the Harman Centre for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC and the Southbrook Winery in Niagara, Ontario, were named among the world's best buildings by *Business Week* and *Architectural Record*.



Above: An artist's rendition of the new Mariinsky Theatre in St Petersburg, Russia. Below (l-r): Alumbreira House, Israeli Foreign Ministry, Four Seasons Centre, and two more artist's renditions of the Mariinsky Theatre.



“The secret of good design is making a virtue of necessity.”

intelligent design solutions today, particularly as they relate to climate change. Diamond takes pride in having 35 architects on staff who are LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) qualified, as well as a growing body of projects that are either certified or on track for Silver, Gold and even Platinum certification.

The firm created the first BioWall, allowing a vertical garden to filter and humidify interior space. The University of Ontario's Institute of Technology just outside Toronto is the most environmentally responsible campus in North America, with geothermal heating, green roofs that provide solar protection, rainwater run-off from parking lots flowing through reed bed filters for re-use, and the pond/skating rink which serves the cooling plant.

A new project – the new Mariinsky Theatre is rising in St Petersburg, Russia. The commission to add to the legendary hall built in 1860, where the likes of Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Prokofiev, Rachmani-

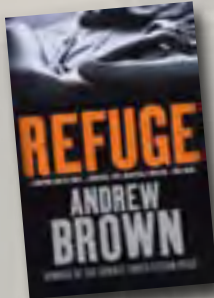
noff, Rimsky-Korsakov and Stravinsky premiered their work, is testament to his firm's growing reputation.

“This will be the first new opera house in Russia since the time of the Tsars,” he explains, adding that as an opera fan, he looks forward to being a spectator in the new auditorium.

“If time allows when I visit the site to attend a performance in the original house, which is directly across a canal from the one we are building, I am treated to the Tsar's Box – something I find gratifying. I often wonder what my grandfather – killed in 1917 by a Cossack pogrom in Lithuania – would think.” ●

Page-turners

New titles from alumni authors



Write what you know about, says the literary maxim. For his third novel, titled *Refuge*, writer, advocate and reservist **Andrew Brown** (BA, 1987; LLB, 1990) did just that by penning a tale of territory familiar to him. *Refuge* teems with lawyers, policemen and the underbelly of society as a disillusioned lawyer becomes infatuated with a beautiful Nigerian refugee who works as an erotic masseuse. The book was shortlisted for Africa's entry into the 2010 Commonwealth Writers' Prize. Brown won the *Sunday Times* Fiction Prize for his debut work, *Coldsleep Lullaby*.



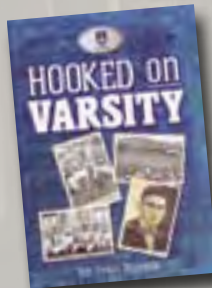
In Tristan de Chelain's (MSc, 1979; MB-ChB, 1984) *Wolf's Paw*, a rogue intelligence agent is killing doctors in Atlanta in revenge for the death of a beloved stepmother. One of his targets is a South African surgeon living in Atlanta. But their paths had already crossed 15 years earlier, in the killing fields of Angola...



Rosemund Handler (MA, 2005) launched her third novel (*Tsamma Season*, published by Penguin Books) at the 2009 Cape Town Book Fair. Described as something of a departure from her topically-themed earlier works – *Madlands* (schizophrenia) and *Katy's Kid* (abuse) – *Tsamma Season's* concerns are with love, the loss of love, and betrayal; as a couple try to build a home and a life in the Kalahari at the turn of the 20th century. The book, described by one reader as “lyrical storytelling at its best”, earned a spot on the regional (Africa) shortlist for the 2010 Commonwealth Writers' Prize.



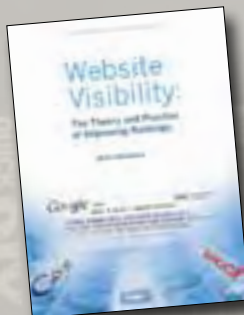
Anna Landsman (BA, 1979; BA[Hons], 1980) won both the 2009 *Sunday Times* Fiction Prize and the 2009 M-Net Literary Award for English Fiction for her second novel, *The Rowing Lesson*. The book recounts a daughter's conversation with her dying father in a Cape Town hospital. Reviews were unanimously enthusiastic – an *O Magazine* reviewer lauded the book for its “fluid metaphors”, while *Esquire* said it was “written with care, simplicity and devastating precision”.



In *Hooked on Varsity*, medical graduate **Ivan Nurick** (MBChB, 1958) reflects on his longstanding support of the UCT rugby club. It's a relationship that started in 1945 – before Nurick had even seen his first UCT game – when, aged but 10, he decided to support UCT to buck the Matie-mad trend in his hometown of Indwe. In this memoir, Nurick looks back at UCT's most famous victories, the memorable intervarsities against Stellenbosch University, the captains, coaches, Springboks, and many more highlights.



Selebelo Selamolela (BSc [Civ Eng], 2001; MSc, 2008) recounts his 2006 scaling of Mount Everest in his book, *You Don't Fool Around with Mountains*. That adventure made Selamolela only the second black African and the seventh South African to summit Everest. In this telling, he writes about the conflicts within the multinational team, the tedious waiting, the fraught conditions, and his own brush with death.



Melius Weideman (PhD, 2001), head of informatics and design at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and reputed to be the country's first professor of search-engine optimisation (SEO), had released his new SEO book, *Website Visibility*. The book deals with ways to achieve high website rankings in search engine results, and looks at elements that contribute to website visibility. Case studies abound. The text is said to provide “practical and real-world guidance for real-world situations”. ●

Around the World.....

IN 1 000 DAYS





One globe, three years, four Allies - and a 4x4

Dr Gary Allie’s kids don’t plead, à la Jeremy Taylor, “ag pleez deddy won’t you take us off to Durban, it’s only eight hours in the Chevrolet”. Why should they, when the entire globe beckons?

So it was that this intrepid family recently returned - 70 countries, five continents, 157 500km and 37 months later – from a journey that makes *Around the World in 80 Days* pale into insignificance.

And this former UCT graduate and his family undertook their astonishing odyssey in a 4x4.

Allie and wife Jo-anne, Jade (then aged 9) and Dane (then aged 7) began their marathon venture way back in 2007 and returned, mission accomplished, earlier this year.

Allie’s sister and brother-in-law, who have lived in New Zealand for the past few years, joined the trip to the UK and his brother and sister-in-law and two young children did half the trip to India, “until Vanita had enough of camping and struggling to live out of a vehicle”.

A friend accompanied them on three months of the trip to Kenya. In the end, though, only the four Allies completed the full, amazing “journey of a lifetime”.

They called themselves “Globeriders Cape2Cape” and the full, fascinating account of their voyage is available on their carefully compiled website www.cape2cape.co.za.

Their journey makes them the first group of South Africans to cross the globe by 4x4 with children. And anyone who has ever been on a weekend break with the kids in the back of the car will no doubt readily acknowledge the unique challenges.

Allie graduated from UCT with an MBChB in 1987 and is currently in private practice again with his brother Dean, who graduated from Wits, in Springdale, Port Elizabeth.

He says the odyssey “grew” from a dream of a 4x4 excursion to Namibia and Botswana

to eventually include Africa – then Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Americas.

“We have always loved the outdoors and off-roading to get to those special places and when we weighed up all the logistics involved, like getting the right vehicle, kids’ schooling and so on, it all came down to the same thing. The only real difference between a trip of a month, and one of 37 months, was the expense,” he says.

“So we sold everything and freed ourselves from the material restraints of life with the simple goal of enjoying each second of the day with each other. The motivation was thus just to escape the system and to be together as a family.” They set off as 11 individuals in three Land Cruiser campervans with heads full of dreams.

“The trip was all we thought about, and all the kids say now is “awesome” and that they are ready to leave again! Africa was their highlight because of the closer contact with nature and the game,” says Allie.

Although the trip started off as somewhat extensive family outing (Jo-anne car-schooled them en route), it also grew to the point where it raised funds for disabled children in the Eastern Cape – the Disabled Children Action Group centre.

It took two-and-a-half years of planning, research and modifications of the Land Cruiser pick-up before they finally hit the road.

Vaccinations, visas, vehicle entry requirements such as carnets, shipping enquiries, safety protocols, etc, all had to be complied with. A lot of the logistical challenges had to be met and adapted to on the road, in typical ‘n boer maak a plan tradition. ➔

“So we sold everything and freed ourselves from the material restraints of life with the simple goal of enjoying each second of the day with each other.”

WORDS: DAVID CAPEL – PICTURES: ALLIE FAMILY

“The kids loved Namibia and Egypt (animals, and snorkelling in the Red Sea). Man-made wonders were Angkor Wat in Cambodia and Machu Picchu in Peru, but Disneyland and Las Vegas weren’t too shabby either!”

Asked about the highlights, and some of the more stressful or downright scary moments, Allie says: “Each country has its gems. Alaska and Norway have just magnificent, different topographies with lakes and mountains. Jo-anne loved Turkey because of the mix of cultures, historical sights, natural beauty, food and shopping!

“The kids loved Namibia and Egypt (animals, and snorkelling in the Red Sea). Man-made wonders were Angkor Wat in Cambodia and Machu Picchu in Peru, but Disneyland and Las Vegas weren’t too shabby either!

“Things got a bit stressful when we were stuck in the Nubian Desert in Sudan with a broken centre bearing, and when it took 10 days to clear customs into Iran from Turkey. Numerous tyre problems in Africa and a transmission problem in Mexico also stretched our resolve.

“Attempted bribes in Argentina and a drunk security guard in Honduras, wielding a shotgun to extort some cash, were further scary moments.”

What will they remember most about their amazing adventure?

“Everything!” says Allie. “Just the freedom and joy of being on the open road with one’s family and savouring the simple things that nature has to offer and not knowing what the next minute will bring... that’s what it’s all about.” ●



“Things got a bit stressful

when we were stuck in the Nubian Desert in Sudan with



a broken centre bearing, and when it took 10 days to clear customs into Iran from Turkey.”

Hugh Amoore Registrar



Part of the fabric: This year, alumnus and Registrar Hugh Amoore celebrated 35 years at UCT, not counting his student years.

35 years and counting

Registrar Hugh Amoore (BA, 1973) shies away from any comparisons with Sir Humphrey Appleby, the snooty and long-serving permanent secretary of the 1980s British comedy *Yes, Minister*, who views his minister (the Right Honourable Jim Hacker) as but the latest in a long line of bosses whose instructions have to be endured – but not necessarily followed. Nothing in common, insists Amoore with a laugh. Other than that, of course, as one of ten staff members who celebrated 35 years with UCT this year, Amoore's served as Registrar under a few bosses – Dr Stuart Saunders, Dr Mamphela Ramphele, Prof Njabulo S Ndebele, and now Dr Max Price. (Amoore was also a student – and held a few other administrative posts – during Sir Richard Luyt's tenure.) In office since 1987, Amoore is UCT's longest-serving Registrar. He's also known as a wellspring of institutional knowledge; there's just about nothing you can't ask him, said Price at the Long Service Awards presentation dinner. That was all the invitation we needed, so Morgan Morris posed a few questions to get to know the man behind the office door.

Tell us what a Registrar does.

One part of the Registrar's job is servicing and serving the organs of governance – Council, Senate, Convocation and the like. Another part relates to the academic administration, linking it to the traditional title of Registrar, the person who keeps a register. That is, everything from admissions to graduation to student records.

Do you ever get together with other South African registrars for chats or cocktails?

We do get together, yes, but we don't have cocktails – we work. There's a body that's called the Higher Education South Africa Registrars' Imbizo.

How many staff in the Registrar's Office?

We have a staff complement of 49.

To illustrate, what kinds of things did you have to deal with this morning?

Today's been a relatively quiet day. My first meeting this morning was on internal audits – from cash flow to internal controls. After that we had a meeting of the marketing and recruitment working group, which deals with undergrad and postgrad recruitment. Then I had a meeting with the vice-chancellor on some property issues. And then you. In between I dealt with some emails and a memorandum on student discipline at residences, following a meeting with wardens last night. I also had a meeting about UCT's PeopleSoft system and the need to introduce new programme codes for master's degrees.

A mixed bag, then.

That's this morning.

You have a reputation for knowing so much – little details no one else can recall – about UCT. How did this come about?

It's a combination of factors. The Registrar either has to be the repository of institutional knowledge, or has to be able to know where to get it, because you are at the centre of administration. And I have been here for quite a long time – over time, you pick these things up. I've also been in the fortunate position of having been involved in a lot of these activities, in many capacities. I got enmeshed in university business as a student, and I never got un-enmeshed. It interests me.

You've heard the joke about the UCT archaeologist who wakes a mummy, who looks up and asks if Hugh Amoore is still the Registrar?

Yes, I've heard it. Actually, it was originally used of Danie Craven back in his rugby days. And you won't be using it in the article, of course.

Of course. But what happens if you do leave UCT one day?

If I keel over tomorrow?

Yes. Is there a succession plan in place?

I'm not going to go public on succession planning, it wouldn't be appropriate. If all goes well, I'll be here another six years. That's a long time, but also not. So, yes, succession plans are part of what one is thinking about.

On a more personal note, tell us about the pens and the penmanship. You're known

for your copperplate script. You own a few nice pens – any ballpoint pens among them?

At my primary school, ballpoint pens were banned. I have a collection of pens and pencils I carry around with me, and there isn't a ballpoint pen in it.

Any favourite brands? Parker?

(A look of disgust.) I write with a Lamy.

You have a permanent number – number one, right? – for completing the first ten Two Oceans Ultra Marathons. Any thoughts of doing a couple more?

(A hint of a smile.) We'll see.

You're also known for your collection of natty bow ties. Anything special you can tell us about these? How many do you have?

I don't know how many I've got. There's nothing special about them. I wear a tie to work every day – sometimes I wear a tie, sometimes I wear a bow tie. The bow ties are what people notice because they're different.

Any special UCT memories?

It's difficult to isolate anything. We changed the UCT student number, which is now a model for other universities. Before it used to be just a number. And we changed the course numbers to what they are today, and many universities copied our system.

I know you have a teenage daughter, but what else keeps you occupied outside of work?

I collect stamps. ●

ABOUT FACE

Entrepreneur and responsible netizen Sam Paddock explores a virtual campus.

It takes gumption for an alumnus to tell UCT that he believes “face-to-face education is overrated”, but then Sam Paddock (BBusSci, 2004) has gumption in spades.

Four months after graduating from UCT he decided that working for an employer was for the birds and he became an entrepreneur.

While doing his honours year in the cutting-edge field of information systems, he had envisioned a virtual campus. This dream has now become a reality and his company, GetSmarter, grew by 400% in 2009.

“We made a strategic decision not to do any face-to-face education, but enable students to watch video lectures, complete practical exercises and have discussions online, in their own time.

“We give advice to students and try to answer queries within a 15-minute period. There is also a very social focus, with photographs of all students to make them feel more connected.”

He also runs a very successful online wine sales business, GetWine, which enables clients to customise labels on bottles and have quality, good value wines delivered in record time.

His phenomenal success story tracks the huge growth in the use of the internet – from 16 million users about 15 years ago to more than 1.7 billion now.

Paddock and his team have trained more than 4 000 students online. From his Google-like offices in Rondebosch large screens show the faces of his students as they log in to ask questions or have virtual chats with their tutors. Paddock offers nine part-time online courses with UCT, and one of his most popular courses is the Internet Super-User course.

The course catapults novice or intermediate Internet users into becoming ‘Super-Users’. Over 10 weeks they master an array of internet communication tools, publish



Virtual virtuoso: Information systems graduate and entrepreneur Sam Paddock.

blogs, understand web culture and become responsible netizens.

Head of information systems at UCT, Professor Jean-Paul van Belle says: “It’s important for us to consider options for making expertise and intellectual resources available to a wider community. E-learning has the potential to deliver optimised learning resources more efficiently than face-to-face teaching, thus enhancing quality while lowering cost.”

“The experiences gained from offering this online short course will feed back into our existing face-to-face courses,” adds Van Belle.

Masha du Toit, the specialist online teacher for the UCT Internet Super-User course, finds online education versatile – and valuable.

“Online teaching, by its very nature, helps students to teach themselves. While any good teacher will help students to take an

active role in their own education, that attitude is the core strength of the online learning experience.

“Online learning makes it possible for the student to be self-reliant, and encourages life-long learning.”

But back to business. Key to Paddock’s success is the clever use of social networking tools such as Facebook, where he has an avatar called Mr Smarty Pants.

He reckons that 40% of registrations come from Facebook. He also uses Twitter and he urges alumni to use Twitter as if it were a cocktail party.

“If you would benefit from attending a cocktail party where you could choose the guest list, then Twitter will be useful to you,” says the 28-year-old managing director.

A virtual glass of wine, anyone? ●

WORDS: CAROLYN MCGIBBON

New orator takes to the stand

Two aspects of her new job as University Orator that Professor Alison Lewis (BSc, 1985; MSc, 1987; PhD, 1993) looks forward to are the research and the writing.

And she certainly had plenty of practice in both as she prepared for her first sacraments in the distinctive mustard gown: the 2010 June graduation ceremonies. When first appointed to the post, after being nominated by previous incumbent Emeritus Professor Francis Wilson (BSc, 1962), Lewis had been told that the university would be handing out only two honorary doctorates at the graduation, for which she had to pen the citations; and that took about a weekend's worth of research and writing.

Within days of her appointment, however, Lewis heard that a further three nominees had accepted the university's offer of honorary doctorates. That would demand some more delving and scribing.

But as head of the Crystallisation and Precipitation Research Unit in the Department of Chemical Engineering, and an internationally rated researcher, that's bread-and-butter stuff for Lewis. On the other hand, the material she prepares for graduation ceremonies is a far cry from her day job's clinical, stick-to-the-facts writing, seen in recent papers on metal sulphide precipitation and the nucleation kinetics of selenium (+4) precipitation from an acidic copper sulphate solution.

Luckily, Lewis had Wilson at hand for guidance and tips. The citations, says Wilson, are all about finding as much information as possible (*de rigueur* for any scholar worth their rating), but then – in a departure from standard academic practice – condensing it all into one memorable citation. *Bonsai biographies*, Wilson calls them.

After all, in the five minutes it takes to read the citation on stage, the orator has to tell the recipient's entire life story, and keep an audience enthralled.

"I think the goal is to create something that's serious and dignified, but also quirky and interesting – and not boring," Lewis says.

And perhaps that explains why Wilson nominated Lewis as his successor.

At 47, Lewis is one of the youngest (if not the youngest) of the university's orators, of whom four or five have been formally appointed since the 1970s. She is also the first woman to be appointed to the position. (Although a few women have donned the gown on various occasions, reports Registrar Hugh Amoore.)

"I wanted the job to go to someone who's younger, interested and, especially, understands the scientific stuff," Wilson says. "Also, as a woman, she brings a different perspective."

As for Lewis, she likes the hit-and-run aspect of the job: graduation comes around just twice a year. "It's short and sweet. There are no long meetings or big committees. And when it's over in June I can go back into my laboratory, and come out again in December."

Lewis is not likely to be caught off guard. By August she had already started on her prep work for the four honorary doctorates to be handed out at those end-of-year graduations. As with the mixed bag of recipients in June – two economists, a paediatrician, a photographer and an educator – Lewis is expecting to explore a few more fields off her beaten track. Joining her on the stage as recipients will be United Nations lawyer Navi Pillay, acting greats Sir Antony Sher and Janet Suzman, and British politician Baroness Linda Chalker. Not an engineer in sight.

"But it's fun," says Lewis. "What else am I going to read at night? I might as well read Antony Sher's biography." ●



On stage: Prof Alison Lewis dons the University Orator's gown, which she took over from Emer Prof Francis Wilson.

PAST IMPERFECT

WORDS: DAVID CAPEL AND HELEN THERON

It took vision - and the people who came up alongside him - to help alumnus Michael Tladi escape life on the streets.

Michael Tladi began life on the wrong side of the tracks. Abandoned by his mother, he lived on the streets of Pretoria for many years, eking out an existence and struggling to survive on a daily basis.

If ever it could be said that someone made something of an opportunity, Tladi is a standout case.

From the age of five he lived on the hard streets of Dipompong in the North West Province, fending for himself in a hostile world. He turned to crime to survive and seemed destined for Pretoria Central Prison rather than for life as an electromechanical engineer in Cape Town.

The pattern of his life seemed set, but for a seemingly small gesture of faith.

In Grade 11 he was taken in at a shelter called Love-in-Action, where he met American Becky Young, whom he calls 'mother'. Young was a volunteer assisting disadvantaged children, and she helped put Tladi through school.

When it comes to homeless shelters, hand-outs, starvation and hardship, this young man has been there, done that. He came to UCT in 2001, having applied to various universities and colleges without success.

"I could not speak English when I arrived in Cape Town, but I was determined to overcome that obstacle," he recalls.

Tladi was on the extended Academic Support Programme for Engineering in Cape Town (ASPECT), which was developed to assist students from schools that do not prepare students adequately for tertiary study.

These students are given five years to complete what is usually a four-year degree. Importantly, ASPECT provides all-round academic, social and emotional support.

Tladi also attributes his astonishing success in the face of extreme adversity to Dr Chris Parnell, who worked with a pastor called Ruben Mamatsinya, running shelters for the homeless in Pretoria.

"He moulded me into a better person, supporting and encouraging me in all I did," says Tladi. Sadly, Parnell died in 2007, and Tladi regards it as the greatest regret of his life that his former mentor did not live long enough to see him graduate.

Today though, this fresh-faced 29-year-old is full of the proverbial joys of spring. He graduated in December 2009 with a degree in electromechanical engineering, despite the sort of odds that would have had lesser mortals running for cover.

And, when it comes to thanking those behind his success, he reads off a long list: Mary Hilton, manager of communication, development and marketing in the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment; Dr Howard Pearce, who headed up the ASPECT programme, psychologist Rosanna Strauss who helped him come to terms with his past; Adelaide Rooks, Jasmine Erasmus and Ethney Diedericks, who helped him get financial aid at UCT, to name a few.

Despite his tough beginnings, Tladi says he always found the courage to move on. And always, there was something driving him towards a better education.

Tladi is currently working for the Depart-

ment of Transport and Public Works in the Western Cape and says he is adamant he won't "disappoint those people who believed in me".

A hands-on kind of guy, Tladi works with Grades 11 and 12 students from the townships every Saturday. On the cusp of life, UCT is not a pipe dream, he tells them; the university has academic programmes to offer at all levels. He gets a thrill when youngsters stop him in Shoprite Checkers or on the main street to tell him how his encouragement spurred them on.

Tladi is also involved at a children's home, Emasithande, in Nyanga. These are children who need young black role models and Tladi is keen to be their "reference point".

"They need to know there is someone who took the same route as they did."

Tladi is raising funds to extend the facility. "The most important thing is a study room," he says emphatically. "That's where their future starts. Then we'll see more success stories."

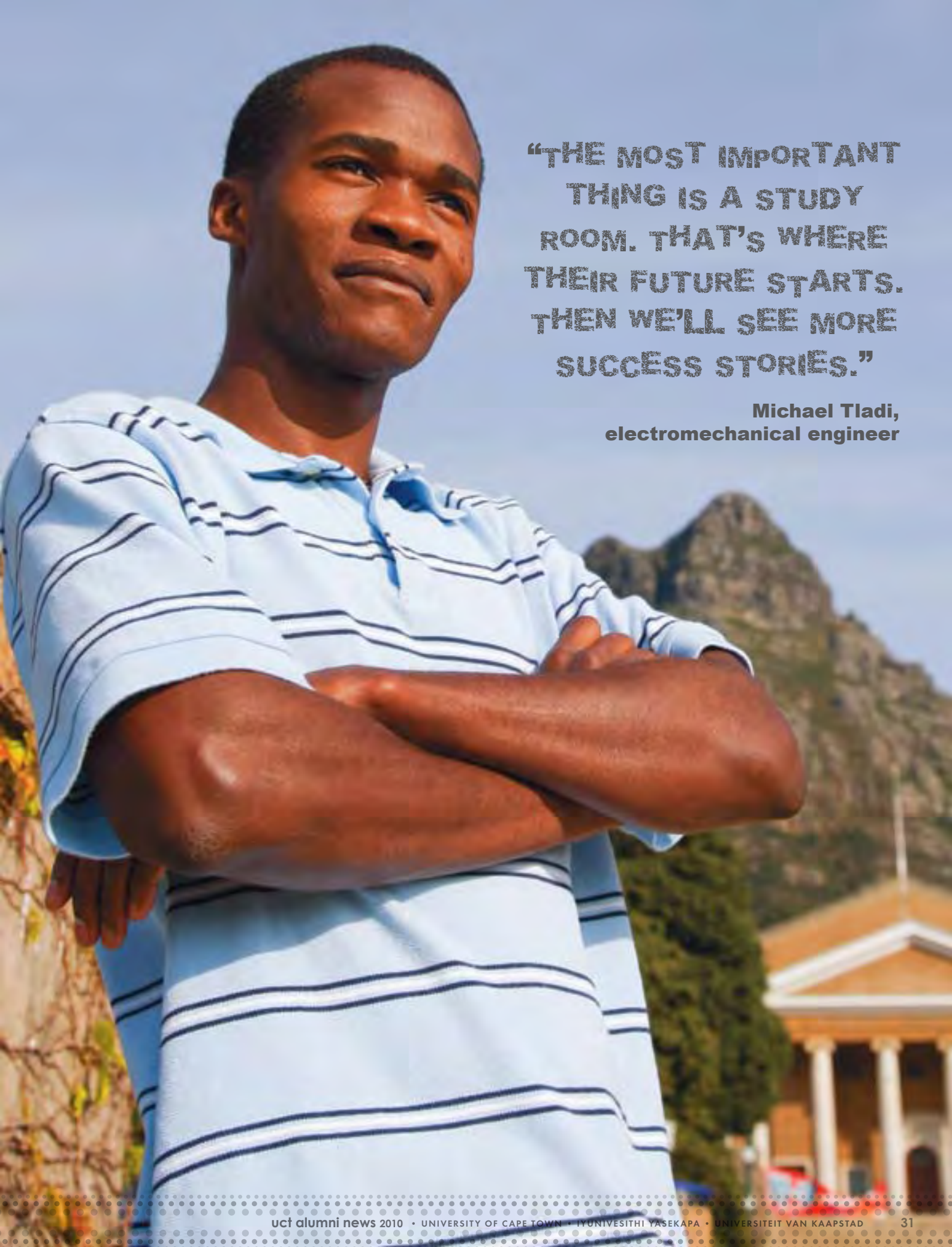
He is also a sought-after motivational speaker at schools. This is the part of Tladi's life that feeds him. He recently returned, full of plans, from a four-week trip to visit 'mother' Becky Young in North Carolina.

"I have seen my future," he says modestly.

The first step is to repay his government bursary.

"Then I can go wherever I want to. I will probably have to get more international exposure at some point. I don't want to limit myself or I won't be inspirational. I want to change lives through what I'm doing." ●

"THEY NEED TO KNOW THERE IS SOMEONE WHO TOOK THE SAME ROUTE AS THEY DID."



**“THE MOST IMPORTANT
THING IS A STUDY
ROOM. THAT’S WHERE
THEIR FUTURE STARTS.
THEN WE’LL SEE MORE
SUCCESS STORIES.”**

**Michael Tladi,
electromechanical engineer**

Operation rescue

Alumnus Dr Paul Firth (MBCChB, 1992) was a volunteer aboard the USNS *Comfort* in the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake.

WORDS: ANDREW ALEXANDER

A paediatric anaesthesiologist at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Dr Paul Firth's blog reads like an episode of *ER* in which even seasoned viewers might wonder, "Does it really get that hectic?"

On the USNS *Comfort* – moored off the beleaguered Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck the impoverished nation in February this year – it did.

Firth had left his family at home to volunteer for a Project Hope initiative treating earthquake victims aboard the vessel, an aircraft carrier converted to a medical ship.

On the first day there were 80 admissions, and more than 350 by the fourth.

In his words: "Some of the cases were gut-wrenching – impossibly broken and infected arms and legs. But for every irretrievable case, there was an amazing case – a

limb hanging by a thread for more than two weeks that was somehow still viable. [There were] horrible, terse notes in referral letters – 'pulled from the school rubble: father's whereabouts unknown' – but also happy discoveries that wounds were not as severe as expected."

It's clear from Firth's blog that the vocational nature of medicine is central to this kind of altruism. (It is possible that many chartered accountants volunteered to be shipped out to Indonesia after the tsunami in 2005 to rescue floating invoice books, but none of the major news networks seem to have pounced on the story!)

Having completed his early medical training at UCT, he is now ensconced at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

According to the Webometrics Ranking of World Hospitals*, this institution is one of the top 50 academic hospitals worldwide.

By implication, Firth is probably pretty highly regarded himself.

He is also a veteran of about 25 marathons and ultra-marathons. Marathon running seems a great hobby for doctors, who are already used to exhaustion, the occasional bout of heavy sweating and long hours on their feet.

For example, at 04h30 one morning on the ship, Firth was informed via an overhead paging device that a patient was dying in ICU.

He sprinted up eight flights of stairs and then along the length of the ship (just under 300 metres, according to the US Navy website) to reach the ICU, where he was able to save the young boy's life.

"That was one of the more important races of my life." ●

*<http://hospitals.webometrics.info/top1000.asp>

"That was one of the more important races of my life."



UNITED NATIONS PHOTO/LOGAN ABASSI

Mercy ship: Dr Paul Firth (above) in an operating theatre aboard the USNS *Comfort* following the Haitian earthquake in February.

BRAIN WAVE

WORDS: MORGAN MORRIS

It's easy to see why Dr Henry Markram (BSc, 1984; BSc [Hons], 1985) ran into a wall of derision and criticism when he first revealed the ambitions of the Blue Brain Project.

Initiated in 2005 by École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) – one of two Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology, located in Lausanne, Switzerland – the Blue Brain Project sets out to study the brain's architectural and functional principles. To be more specific, the institute has built a super-computer – the Blue Brain of the Blue Brain Project – that it hopes will mimic, to a tee, the workings of the brain, each microchip programmed to act like a real neuron.

Hence the sceptics. Too little is known about the brain, say many, for a computer to be able to simulate its wonders. The money – many billions, according to one article – could have been better spent; perhaps on the training of more molecular biologists.

As director of the project, Markram has become known for what some would consider hyperbole when he speaks of the project and its goals. In one interview, he described the Blue Brain model as “the only one that is

totally biologically accurate”. It's also, he says, the first model that has been built from the bottom up, starting from the most basic facts known about the brain.

Which required that his team programme into their super-computer just about everything that is known about how neurons work. But that assumed that the scientists *did* know how neurons actually work; which, even they had to admit, they didn't.

To fix that, the team dedicated the first part of the project to simulating a rat's neocortical column. This column, which holds about 10 000 neurons in a rat compared to about 60 000 neurons in the human brain, is said to be the smallest functional unit of the neocortex, the ‘grey matter’ of the brain thought to be responsible for higher functions such as conscious thought, sensory perception and language.

Once that building block is in place, Blue Brain plans to simulate the workings of the entire brain.

“It is not impossible to build a human brain, and we can do it in 10 years,” Markram said with trademark boldness at a 2009 conference.

And if another of his fearless predictions (as quoted in an article in *Seed* magazine) comes good, Blue Brain will be able to behave very much as a human does. “If we build this brain right, it will do everything,” Markram said. ●

Mind over matter: Dr Henry Markram, one of the architects of the world's first simulated human brain.



**“IF WE
BUILD THIS
BRAIN RIGHT,
IT WILL DO
EVERYTHING”**



50 years after Sharpeville: What legacy for human rights?

Fifty years ago, on 21 March 1960, Sharpeville exploded. Sixty-nine people were killed and scores injured by police in the hitherto unremarkable town, sandwiched between the industrial cities of Vanderbijlpark and Vereeniging. The Sharpeville massacre is now commemorated annually as Human Rights Day in South Africa. To mark this event, the Democratic Governance and Rights Unit (DGRU) of the law faculty at UCT, in partnership with the Political Studies Department at the University of the Western Cape, convened a round-table panel and public discussion to reflect on the legacy of Sharpeville, particularly on current human rights practices. Dr Kristina Bentley, a senior researcher in the DGRU, penned this piece.

The significance of Sharpeville for contemporary human rights practitioners and activists is twofold. The first is the power of visual representations and their role in the construction of memory.

In 1960, television had not yet arrived in South Africa, and in the rest of the world it enjoyed limited availability. The images of Sharpeville that were seen around the world were therefore largely still, black-and-white photographs, haunting in their stark portrayal of the murder of some 69 of the nearly 5 000 protesters that day.

Some of these images, and other contemporary photographs, were exhibited at the discussion at UWC this year by the UWC/Robben Island Museum Mayibuye Archive. Today, our television screens and computers are flooded with full-colour, sometimes real-time, images of violence, at the click of a button. Offerings such as those on the internet allow anyone to view massacres, executions, torture and violence.

It's trite but true to say that we have become desensitised and inured to representations of violence. By contrast, the iconic images of 21 March 1960 present us with moments frozen in time, and these grainy images retain the

power to shock, startle and provoke. However, because Sharpeville occurred before digital technology, and because the events of that day came about as a result of the protest actions of a small splinter of the dominant wing of the struggle at the time, the significance of Sharpeville is susceptible to being co-opted, distorted and misrepresented by contemporary political actors and activists, who seek in Sharpeville a meaning relevant to their own struggles and agendas.

One of the main questions generated by the events of 21 March 1960 is: what role do opposition parties have in driving forward a radical, and even unpopular, political agenda in times of struggle?

And this raises the second significant point about commemorating our human rights legacy in South Africa. What is the dominant discourse in our country in relation to human rights and their abuse, and who is responsible for setting the tone of that discourse?

It's a difficult topic to confront in 2010, a year of celebration, and in the afterglow of our successful hosting of the first FIFA World Cup on this continent. June and July saw a revival of the kind of images not seen since the 1990s, of South Africans of all races

arm in arm in shared celebration and mutual goodwill.

As compelling as these images are, and as churlish as it seems to question their authenticity, they cannot be allowed to subsume other more disturbing facts about and images of our society.

South Africa in 2010 is a vastly different place to South Africa in 1960. But it shares with its past the features of inequality and discrimination, and these are no less a threat to human rights today than they were 50 years ago. So how does our state – albeit a legitimate and democratic one – mediate the demands of citizens that challenge its power, and how is this mediation different from that of the previous, repressive regime?

Democracy in South Africa is as yet nascent, and articulations of state power involve constant negotiation and monitoring. One alarming feature that has reared its head is draft legislation that threatens to suppress information held by the state. South Africa has led the way in Africa in terms of access to information, notably with instruments such as the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA), and civil society has played a leading role in monitoring and enforcing this Act.

What is the dominant discourse in our country in relation to human rights and their abuse, and who is responsible for setting the tone of that discourse?

But in a move reminiscent of the apartheid state, a draft Protection of Information Bill has been reintroduced in Parliament, (having previously been rejected as too draconian and referred back for redrafting); if passed, it will effectively allow the state to classify information in advance, and thereby scupper the provisions of PAIA, which allows citizens to demand information from the state and hold the state to account.

Incredibly, the reworked draft contains provisions even more iron-clad than its rejected predecessor. This goes hand in hand with a Media Tribunal being proposed by the ANC to bring errant journalists to book. The proposed tribunal will have the power to fine and imprison journalists who fail to toe the line and “don’t contribute to the South Africa we want”, in the words of ANC spokesman Jackson Mthembu.

An additional feature of the articulation of state power that prompts us to reflect on our human rights legacy in this year of the Sharpeville anniversary is how the demands of the poor, who often resort to illegitimate forms of protest to articulate their needs, are treated by the state.

Since the celebrated Grootboom case, there has been something of a struggle between the protection offered to the poor in the articulation of their socio-economic rights by the judiciary, and resistance on the

part of the executive branch of the state.

Recently this has spilled over into a spate of violent protests over poor service delivery, and in the forced removals of people living in informal settlements to make way for more formalised housing. In the most recent of these, in July 2010 at Cemetery Estate in Tshwane, police moved in 24 hours after an eviction order was granted and destroyed residents’ shacks and their belongings. It took an order from the North Gauteng High Court to compel the municipality to provide those evicted with alternative accommodation. Ironically, this is in the form of tents erected on the same land that their destroyed shacks had occupied.

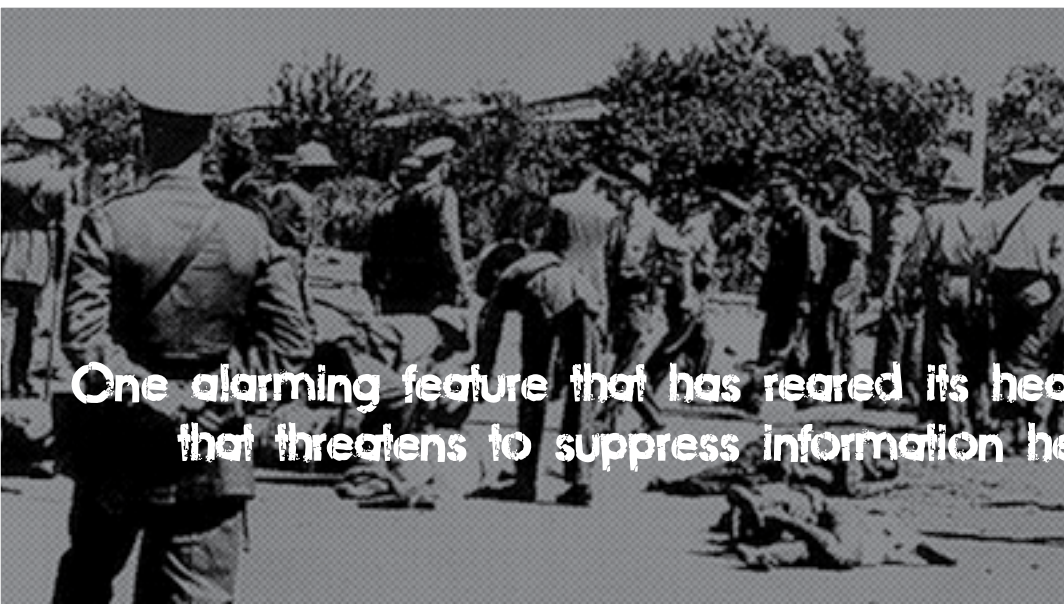
This highlights further the need for “meaningful engagement” on the part of the state in dealing with poor and disenfranchised citizens, as laid down by the Constitutional Court in the Olivia Road case last year.

The state cannot behave in an authoritarian and high-handed manner, even when it has the best of intentions. It is this differently-defined relationship between state and citizen which separates us from the South Africa of 1960. However, the hard work of continuing to hold the state to account continues, and our ability to do so depends on constant vigilance, lest wolves in sheep’s clothing – such as the Protection of Information Bill – be allowed in. ●



Dr Kristina Bentley.

The images of Sharpeville that were seen around the world were therefore largely still, black-and-white photographs, haunting in their stark portrayal of the murder of some 69 of the nearly 5 000 protesters that day.



One alarming feature that has reared its head is draft legislation that threatens to suppress information held by the state.

Social butterflies

UCT has joined other local and international universities in the great migration to social media, connecting and interacting with its stakeholders, including alumni.



Switched on: UCT web editor Shumi Chimombe (MA, 2009) (back) and Mamello Mongoatu (BCom, 2006; Dip Marketing Management, 2007) keep tabs on the university's social media sites.

Not everyone will consciously or regularly visit their alma-mater's website to stay abreast of the newest developments on campus. But after graduation, many alumni take with them the memories of their student days – and deep down there's bound to be some curiosity about what is happening at UCT, five, ten, twenty years or more later.

This is the beauty of social networking sites such as Facebook, Flickr, YouTube and LinkedIn, which tap into those memories as they deliver the latest news, photos and videos of what's happening on Jammie Steps, on the Plaza and in the lecture halls and laboratories.

Yes, *SAX Appeal*, RAG and SHAWCO are still alive and well and going strong,

as are O-Week, SRC elections and student leadership initiatives. Photos of graduation in Jameson Hall kindle memories of your own graduation, as does that photo of Upper Campus against the backdrop of Devil's Peak.

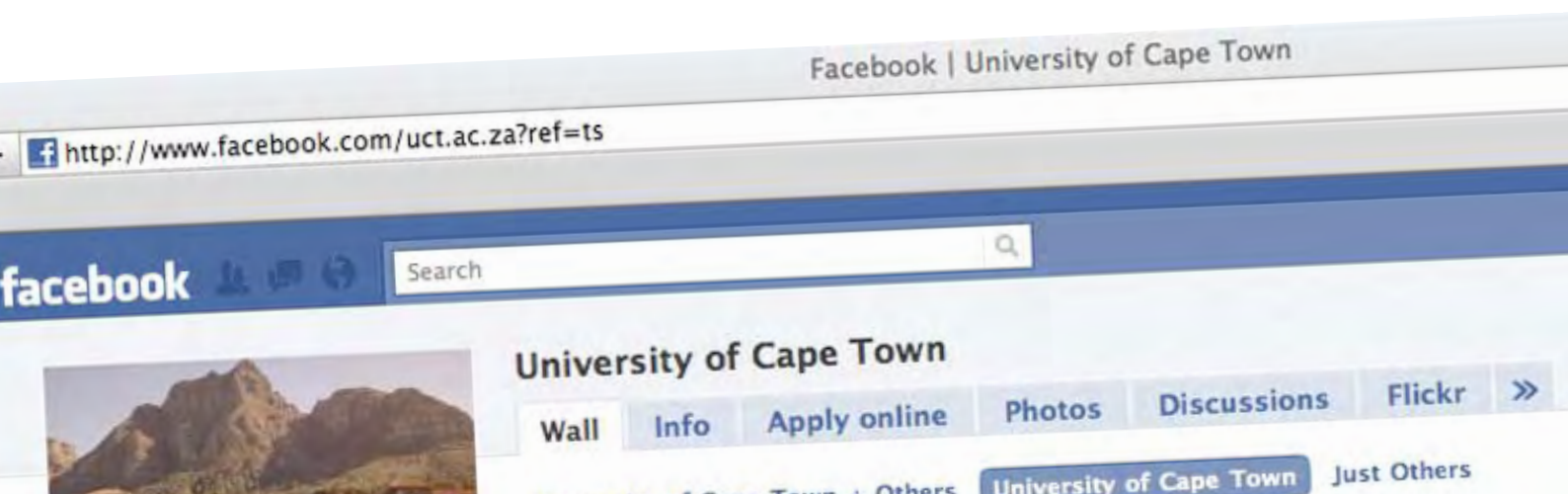
Social media is a phenomenon that has taken the world by storm. Let's start with probably the most recognisable examples: Facebook, which has some 500 million users, LinkedIn with about 70 million, and YouTube, the world's largest online video website, which reaches 450 million users worldwide and gets two billion views a day.

Through these social networking sites, communication becomes a quick, dynamic and two-way process. Alumni can receive the latest updates from campus directly into their news feeds, enabling them to interact with the university – and with each other, contributing their ideas and reconnecting with their old classmates.

We invite our alumni around the world to connect with us via our University of Cape Town Facebook page (established in January 2010, the page has garnered over 4 000 members so far); the University of Cape Town Alumni group on LinkedIn (where you can interact with fellow UCT graduates on a professional level); our YouTube channel (UCTSouthAfrica) and our Flickr photo-sharing page (UniversityofCapeTown).

Contact shumi.chimombe@uct.ac.za should you have any queries. ●

WORDS: SHUMI CHIMOMBE (WEB EDITOR AT UCT)



Spinning the wwwweb

A Quirky tale about eMarketing and social media

Founding his company, Quirk eMarketing, in his third year gave substance to his studies at UCT and a context in which to learn, says alumnus Rob Stokes (BBusSc, 2000).

Like many successful entrepreneurs (think of alumnus Mark Shuttleworth in his garage), Rob Stokes started in a back room. Actually, it was his bedroom.

“And then in 2001, in my first year out of university, I graduated to the lounge,” says the UCT alumnus. “We moved to our first office in 2002.”

The first five years were difficult. Internet marketing was not just a novelty in South Africa, “It was nowhere,” says Stokes.

He remembers speaking about search engine optimisation (optimising a website to achieve preferred rankings on search engine results) to big corporations and they had no idea what he was talking about. But from about 2005 the web started taking off in corporate South Africa from a marketing perspective.

“People realised that you can’t simply put up a good website – you have to get people to come to it.”

Stokes says that although the web struggles to create mass awareness very quickly – unlike television – its ability to draw individuals in and give each one a deep and meaningful experience is unparalleled. And thanks to mobile, broadband and ADSL technology the internet is fast becoming an integral part of people’s lives, which makes for a better marketing target.

“Marketers started to realise the benefits of the web and things got better – and I started to eat proper food.”

Quirk’s success lies in finding a balance between creativity and effectiveness.

“We are good at making money for our clients, not just creating pretty pictures. We’re also very innovative.”

Two examples of this innovation are Brandseye, an online reputation management software package that allows for real-time monitoring of a brand on the web, and Idea Bounty, an interactive website where brands invite the public to submit ideas for product development (known as crowd-sourcing).



Social space: eMarketer Rob Stokes.

As for social media, it’s taken off very quickly, says Stokes. (See p 36).

“It has a certain amount of first-world cool about it, and South Africans tend to love something that’s imported. Even if it’s not better, we tend to love it.”

The social networking sites Facebook and Twitter are hugely popular. Facebook has doubled in size in the last year, reaching almost three million users locally, while the FIFA World Cup (and the vuvuzela!) dominated the Twitter top trending topics globally.

“South Africans like communicating; we like doing it cheaply and if there is a platform then we are likely to jump onto it,” says Stokes.

But most businesses aren’t taking advantage of this popularity.

“There’s the perception that social media doesn’t cover the whole landscape. Yet in terms of people online with the money to spend, then yes, it does.”

He gives the example of an employee he

spotted behind the counter in a convenience store.

“This is the kind of guy that marketers are targeting – 28 years old, lives in Soweto, your typical urban South African. Our clients don’t think that he is on Facebook, yet there he is, Facebooking it up with his friends on his mobile.”

And even for those companies that do see the benefits of social media, there is still a steep learning curve. Setting up a blog or Twitter account and then pushing out content is not enough.

“To actually use it in a strategic way and drive value to the business is not that easy.

“Most brands need to be more active in the social space, especially if your customers are talking about your brand. There is always the possibility that what is being said about you is negative, so companies need to engage with and respond to their audiences.

“Social media is a kind of mirror for people’s perception of your brand.” ●

There's only one cause that will rally first-year students to a dawn sortie, often wearing indiscreet outfits designed to inveigle cash from bemused motorists (all in the name of charity). It's a phenomenon known as *SAX Appeal*. In May this year 78 years of satire, censorship and controversy were on display in a unique exhibition of *SAX Appeal* covers, hosted at UCT's Centre for African Studies.

Sax Appeal is UCT RAG's largest contributor, and the magazine's covers showcase its many changes since the first edition – published in 1933 – “when men were men and women were so loose they rattled”, according to a 1940s *SAX Appeal* editor

Selling at one shilling (these days, it'll cost you R20) and weighing in at 32 pages, the 1933 edition featured cartoons, limericks, an advert for electricity (when many Capetonians were yet to enjoy the benefits of an electrified city) and an advert for Springbok cigarettes, which – true to the times – featured a confident doctor smoking the product before operating on a scantily-clad woman.

Established as a beacon of free speech, the magazine and its penchant for ruffling feathers have resulted in several instances of controversy and two outright bannings, the first leading to the magazine's dissolution for several years.

SAX Appeal's first banning was in 1942, for the publication of a humorous – and fictional – story titled *Visit to a Nudist Colony*. It was banned again in 1971 after publishing a joke about St Peter, Jesus and God playing golf. This so incensed a student Christian society that they publicly burnt copies of the magazine. *SAX Appeal* was replaced by the short-lived *Boomalak*, which proved too tame for student tastes.

Speaking at the exhibition's launch on 13 May, deputy vice-chancellor Professor Crain Soudien praised the curator, Siona O'Connell, for spearheading the project from concept to exhibition.

“The archive of *SAX Appeal* covers serves as an accurate reflection of the moods, fancies and complexities of UCT life,” he said. ●

Exhibition covers *SAX Appeal's* history



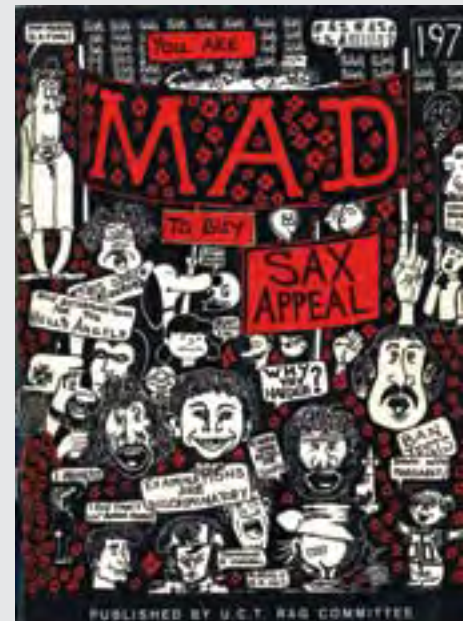
1934



1936



1967



1971

Established as a beacon of free speech, the magazine and its

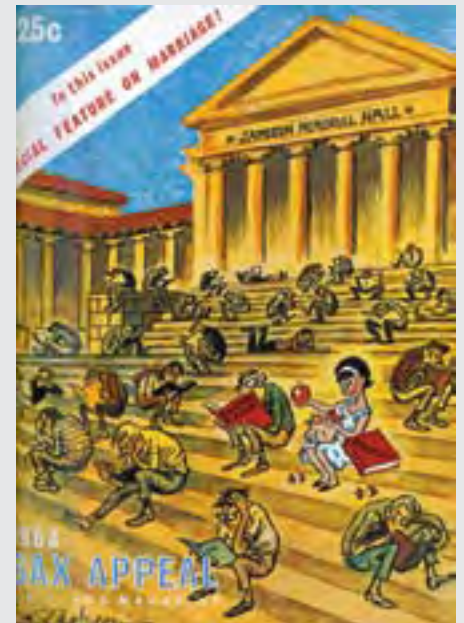
COVER STORIES COVER



1949



1951



1963



1988



2002



2008

penchant for ruffling feathers have resulted in several instances of controversy and two outright bannings.

Reunions and gatherings

October 2009



1 Graduates from 1979, 1984 and 1989 were back on campus in October 2009 for the Faculty of Law's annual Reunion Weekend, a tradition that was started in 2002 by former dean Professor Hugh Corder. Some 600 law alumni have attended these weekends, and this is apart from the many who have attended other alumni events; in the past twelve months alone, informal gatherings have been held in London, New York, Toronto, Sydney, Melbourne, Harare, Nairobi and Kampala, as well as (of course) in Johannesburg and Cape Town. Among those at the law reunion were the following members of the class of 1989, (back) Clive Rubin and Shannon Hctor, and (front) Renee Dente, Marlese von Broembesen and Nicola Caine.

2 The UCT Association of Black Alumni (UCTABA) One Thousand for One Million campaign began on a promising note when more than R300 000 was raised at the campaign's launch in Johannesburg.



The campaign aims to get 1 000 black alumni each to pledge R100 for 12 months, which will bring in R1 million that will go towards bursaries for UCT students. Photographed at the lunch were (from left) chancellor Graça Machel, bursary recipient Sinazo Yolwa and vice-chancellor Dr Max Price.

3 The UCT Trust organised tickets for UCT alumni to attend performances of Cape Town Opera's production of *Porgy & Bess* at venues in London and Cardiff. Alumni at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff enjoyed dinner together before the show and included Chantal (née Solan) and Peter Sargent.

4 Alumni came together for pre-theatre drinks and snacks at the International Lounge Bar in London, prior to attending a performance of *The Mysteries – Yimimangaliso* at the Garrick Theatre. Guests included Ursula and Adrienne Barnett.



Vice-Chancellor's Medal for Nobel Laureate

The Vice-Chancellor's Medal has been awarded to Sir Aaron Klug, OM, FRS, Nobel Laureate, and outgoing chair of the University of Cape Town Trust in the UK. VC Dr Max Price presented the medal during his visit to the country earlier this year. Price paid tribute to Sir Aaron's "enormous contribution" to UCT over the years. Sir Aaron was one of the founding Trustees of the UCT Trust, and held the position of chair from 1993 until this year. During his time, over £17 million was raised for projects at UCT. Price said Sir Aaron had brought the full weight of his scholarship, distinction and ethical reputation to the trust, and had always been available to give advice and guidance. His wife, Liebe, had also played a guiding role behind the scenes. After receiving his BSc degree at Wits, Sir Aaron studied crystallography under Professor Reginald William (RW) James at UCT and obtained an MSc degree. His PhD followed at Trinity College, Cambridge in 1953. In 1982 he became Nobel Laureate in chemistry, was knighted by the Queen in 1988, held the position of President of the Royal Society from 1995-2000, and received the Order of Merit in 1995. He was awarded the Order of Mapungubwe (Gold) by the South African president in 2005. This is his fourth UCT award; apart from the President of Convocation Medal, Sir Aaron is a recipient of the Chancellor's Gold Medal of Merit (1982) and an honorary doctorate (1997). ●



High honour: VC Dr Max Price (left) awards the Vice-Chancellor's Medal to Nobel Laureate Sir Aaron Klug, outgoing chair of the University of Cape Town Trust in the UK.

November 2009

⑤ **UK-based alumni donors** enjoyed canapés at the VC Donor Reception in central London, at which VC Dr Max Price thanked them for their valuable support. Photographed here are Tapiwa Ngara and Philip Read.



⑥ **The Development and Alumni Department (DAD)** launched UCT AIR, aka UCT Alumni in Residence, a campaign to foster pride among UCT students. "The campaign aims to educate students about how great it is to be a UCT alum, and also to participate in our alumni programmes once they have left campus," says DAD's Lungile Jacobs.



March 2010

About 20 alumni from the architecture class of 1960 enjoyed lunch at the UCT Club, followed by a visit to the new Green Point Stadium. Further events during their reunion weekend included a visit to the new City Library, dinner at the Suikerbossie restaurant and Sunday brunch at Kirstenbosch gardens.

⑦ **Describing his 15-year tenure** at the Constitutional Court at the Alumni Leadership Forum at UCT, retired Justice Albie Sachs said that at times he cried because of the intensity of debates. "It was far more interesting, far more problematic than can be assessed from a reading of any specific judgement," he said. Photographed here were (from left) Margie le Roux, panelist Meryl du Plessis, Justice Albie Sachs, panelist Prof Pierre de Vos, and Julie Kourie.



Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price used his travels to meet as many alumni ~ here and abroad ~ as possible.

April 2010

❶ **Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price**, accompanied by deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo and senior alumni manager Lungile Jacobs, embarked on a first-ever UCT Alumni Office visit to the East African countries of Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. The main purpose of the visit was to interact with UCT alumni from the region and to bring them up to speed regarding developments at the university. Price was photographed in conversation with Nicole Ntungine (left) and Gladys Kavuma.

Ciko Thomas, group marketing director of Barloworld Automotive, delivered an address titled *Regional Development Through Entrepreneurship: Policy challenges and citizen responses*, at an Alumni Leadership Forum in Johannesburg.

Brian S Kantor, investment strategist and economist at Investec Private Securities, Investec Bank and Professor Emeritus of UCT presented *The SA Economy: The way forward*, at an Alumni Leadership Forum in Port Elizabeth. Kantor is a proud son of Cape Town who earned his BCom and BA (Honours) at UCT. He retired in 2007.

May

Forty-seven alumni in Vancouver gathered at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club to enjoy a line-up of top South African wines. Dr Ivan Nurick, visiting from Cape Town, presented his views on Cape Town and UCT, past and present, much to the enjoyment of the crowd. The evening ended with a group photograph and the singing of a UCT/Maties rugby song, led by Dave Smith.



❷ **Around 100 UCT alumni** gathered at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London to hear vice-chancellor Dr Max Price and Prof Walter Baets, director of UCT's Graduate School of Business. Music was provided by talented, award-winning alumni James Baillieu and Pumeza Matshikiza. The majority of attendees travelled from Waterloo Pier to Greenwich in a specially chartered Thames Clipper. Guests included Guy and Michelle Parker and Ian Stephenson.



❸ **During the vice-chancellor's** trip to the UK, Dr Max Price gave a well-received lecture at the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society. This was attended by a number of UCT alumni who live in the North-West of England, some of whom joined Price for dinner at the Royal Northern College of Music. Photographed with Price (right) were Dr Scott Rutherford, Dr Kim Linton, and Emer Prof Max Elstein.





Lerato Mbele presented Raising the Bar on Africa: Focus on Africa as an investment destination - the role of the media in encouraging a change in perspective about the continent at an Alumni Leadership Forum in Durban.

Sandile Zungu, executive chair of the Zungu Investment Company and member of President Jacob Zuma's newly formed Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) Council, was the guest speaker at a forum held by UCT's Association of Black Alumni. Pulling no punches, Zungu looked at why BEE has not achieved its transformation objectives, and what should be done to ensure that it does its job in the long term.

Senior alumni were treated to a Heritage Society lunch at the Bull Run in Sandton by UCT's Development and Alumni Department (DAD). Guests included Owen Garvie, Vince Bender, Dr Hilary Geber and Peter Horwitz, as well as spouses Geraldine and Allistair Williams, who met at UCT in the 1960s when she was in Fuller and he in Smuts.

June

④ **UCT's Director of AEON** (Africa Earth Observatory Network) and Phillipson Stow Chair in Geology and Mineralogy, Professor Maarten de Wit, gave a fascinating talk on Earth Stewardship Science at South Africa House in London. The lecture, titled *Africa Alive Corridors: Journeys through Africa's autobiography with everyone a stake-*

holder, was attended by around 45 alumni and friends such as Helena van der Merwe, Paul van der Vegt, and Dr Robin Catchpole.

⑤ **UCT alumni and members** of the South African Business Club, based in the UK, joined forces to launch a bursary scheme aimed at poor students who want to study at the university. The South African Business Club Bursary will give young South Africans from disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to study towards business science degrees at UCT from next year. Second-year BBusSc management studies student, Sonia Ramautar, is the first candidate to benefit from the new bursary initiative.

July

Sam Paddock (see feature on pg 28), who graduated from UCT in 2004 with a degree in Business Science Information Systems, told a group of young UCT alumni that with more than five million South Africans online – about 11% of the wealthier population – “the internet can give a business direct access to the most affluent market in the country”. At 28, Paddock is one of a band of youthful entrepreneurs who are cashing in on the benefits that the internet can bring to business.

Mike Jackson, CEO of the Professional Provident Society, delivered an address titled *Do Business Leaders Understand Risk?* at an Alumni Leadership Forum in Johannesburg. Jackson has 35 years' experience in the life industry, including as a head of

human resources, sales and marketing, customer services and distribution.

August

⑥ **Harare in Zimbabwe** was the venue of choice for some 80 UCT alumni who collectively represented over 50 years of the university's history. One of the alumni to whom both speakers – Judge Dennis Davis and Professor PJ Schwikkard (dean of the Faculty of Law) – referred to with pride was the Minister of Education, David Coltart, who was present at the function. Catching up were DAD's Lungile Jacobs (middle) with alumnae Nyasha Bimha (BSocSc, 2008), and Irene Chikumbo (BA 2007).

Forthcoming events

Medical class reunion dates for 2010:

19-21 November – Class of 1995

26-28 November – Class of 1970

3-5 December – Class of 1985

10-12 December – Class of 1960

Medical class reunion dates for 2011:

18-20 November – Class of 1996

25-27 November – Class of 1971

2-4 December – Class of 1961

9-11 December – Class of 1986

where are they now? where a

1959

BROOKS, LEON (MBChB) is a semi retired orthopaedic surgeon from Beverley Hills, California, US. Married to Rochelle, they have six children and 19 grandchildren.



FINE, STUART (MBChB) is a retired emeritus professor of psychiatry from the University of British Columbia where he was a consultant child psychiatrist in the Department of Psychiatry at the British Columbia Children's and Women's Hospital. Stuart lives in Vancouver with his wife, Rosalie (née Goldberg (BSc Hon, 1959), a retired systems analyst. They have two sons, both of whom are medical doctors.

MULLER, MARINA (MBChB) works in the field of bariatric medicine, with a special interest in obesity, in a private practice in Polokwane. She is widowed and has two children, a son who is a gynaecologist in George and a daughter who is a professor in forensic pathology at Wits University. Hobbies include music, reading and travel.



TONKIN, PETER (MBChB) of Gonubie, Eastern Cape, was formerly chief medical officer and head of the Accident and Emergency Unit at Frere Hospital in East London. Married for 51 years to Noreen, they have four children and nine grandchildren. Peter enjoys fishing, mountaineering, gardening and reading.



1960

RABKIN, RALPH (MBChB) of Stanford in the US is currently doing part-time medical research and training postdoctoral students. He is married to Melanie and has three sons

and two grandchildren. Ralph enjoys Middle East politics, gardening and cycling.

1969

DARLISON, MIKE (MBChB) works in general practice at Westwood Road Surgery in Reading, UK. He is married with two daughters and is a gym enthusiast.



ODES, SELWYN (MBChB) works in the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, and is married to Sandra (née Harris – MBChB, 1970). They have five children and ten grandchildren.



OOSTHUIZEN, OCKIE (MBChB) is a consultant physician and medical director of the Windhoek Kidney and Dialysis Centre in Namibia. Married to Erica, they have three children and seven grandchildren. Hobbies include safari travel, photography, birding and golf.

1970

COOK, MICHAEL (MBChB) is a consultant ear, nose and throat surgeon for the Bahrain Petroleum Company in the Arabian Gulf. He is married to Heather, a nursing sister, and has two children, Catherine and Robert. Michael enjoys golf, swimming, cycling and walking.



DALRYMPLE, RHIDIAN (MBChB) is a radiologist in a large private practice in Perth, Australia. Married to Gwen with two children, Rhidian says his 25th medical class reunion was a particularly memorable occasion. His hobbies include surfing, cycling and rowing.

1983

LOUW, SHELLEY (MBChB) is a general practitioner from Christchurch, New Zealand. She is married to Rob Donaldson [BA(Hons), HDE(PG)SEC UCT], a deputy headmaster at Christs College in Christchurch and they have three children. A memorable moment for Shelley was listening to one of her children sing in the Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, with his school choir. She enjoys playing the piano and is learning French.

CRISP, NICHOLAS (MBChB) is managing director of a health management consulting company and lives in Fish Hoek, Cape. He is married to Nicole and has three daughters. He enjoys road and trail running, cycling and home maintenance.

JOHNSON, BRUCE (MBChB) of Nunavut in Canada, works in a rural hospital-based general practice with his wife, Jane, who is also a general practitioner in the same practice. They have two sons, Michael and William.

SLATER, STUART (MBChB) is a radiologist in private practice in Newcastle, Australia. Married with three children, Stuart enjoys golf, hydroponics and making biltong. He counts a hole-in-one in golf in 2005 among his memorable moments.

1984

BRISCOE, CHARLES (MBChB) is the sole doctor on the Chatham Island archipelago, situated 750 kilometres east of New Zealand. He is married to Janet, a born-and-bred Kiwi, and they have four children. Charles also worked for NASA in Antarctica for 21 years.

JONES, RICHARD (MBChB) is an anaesthesiologist in private practice in Pietermaritzburg. Married to Helen with two children, he enjoys golf, occasional cycling and jogging.

SPERRYN, CLIVE (MBChB) is President of the Radiological Society of South Africa and is in private practice in Cape Town. Married to Linda, a physiotherapist, they have one daughter.



are they now? where are they now



Photographed at their reunion were members of the health sciences Class of 1959 (from left) Annette van Niekerk, JP van Niekerk (former dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences), Nan van der Merwe, and CP van der Merwe.



Photographed at their reunion were members of the health sciences Class of 1984 (from left) Paul Bohmer, Greg Munro, Arnold Manley, David Dix, David Swingler, and Thomas Hanck.

1985

VENTER, CHRISTINE (nee Tosh) (LLB) lectures in international human rights law in Indiana, US.

ROSS, ANDREW (MBChB) coordinates the post graduate training in Family Medicine at the University of KwaZulu Natal. Married with two sons, Andrew has won various awards for the Friends of Mosvold scholarship scheme which is aimed at supporting professional training of local students to serve the community of Ingwavuma in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

1992

SEKHA, FELLENG (LLB) has been appointed to the board of the SABC, and is deputy chair.

1994

COWEN, SUSANNAH (LLB) is now with the Constitutional Litigation Unit at the LRC in Johannesburg.

BARDAY, NASEEMA (MBChB) is a general practitioner at Medicross in Kenilworth, Cape. She has four children.

HONIKMAN, SIMONE (MBChB) works in the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health at UCT where she is also the director of the Perinatal Mental Health Proj-

ect. She is married to James Nuttall (MBChB, 1992) and has two daughters.

LEVIN, MIKE (MBChB) is a senior specialist and head of the Department of Paediatrics at the New Somerset Hospital in Cape Town. Married with one child, he enjoys travel and scuba diving.

ROSENTHAL, JONATHAN (MBChB) practices in diving and submarine medicine and is medical director of National Hyperbarics. From Bergvliet in the Cape, he is married to Nicky and has three children. Hobbies include photography, diving and cycling.

1995

GALLOWAY, GAVIN (MBChB) is an ophthalmologist who specialised in England before returning to Cape Town to start his own practice in Wynberg, Cape. Married to Nicola, they have one daughter. Gavin plays tennis and is a helicopter pilot.

GAJJAR, PRIY (MBChB) is a paediatric nephrologist at the School of Child and Adolescent Health at both UCT and Red Cross Children's Hospital where she works in the management of acute and chronic renal impairment in children, including dialysis and



transplant. Priya is married and enjoys Indian folk dancing and cooking.

WIMBUSH, STEPHEN (MBChB) works in the field of anaesthetics and intensive care medicine at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, in Winchester, UK. Married to Debbie with two children, he enjoys skiing and fly-fishing.

1998

HOLLMAN, HUGH (LLB) is doing a Bachelor of Civic Law Oxford, having completed his master's at Duke.

1999

CONCO, NTOMBENHLE (LLB) is managing sustainable development at a mine in Limpopo Province.

2002

MACLAY, CATHERINE (LLB) has, since mid 2009, worked with a firm specialising in UK immigration law.

2009

RUCKERT, VANJIE (LLB) is enjoying a varied life as the only clerk in a small firm in Cape Town. ●

Many UCT alumni make the journey to the graduation podium in the stately Jameson Memorial Hall more than once in their lives. Some do so well into their retirement years. At the end of 2009, Kenny Penkin, 76, was awarded a master's degree and physicist Professor Robert Segall, 74, received his second PhD.

From physics to philosophy for PhD

Retired physics professor Robert Segall has embraced the concept of lifelong learning. At 74, Segall received his PhD in philosophy at the December graduation last year and was hooded by his wife, Dean of the Centre for Higher Education Development, Professor Nan Yeld (BA [Hons], 2002; MA, 2003).

He is modest about his remarkable achievement though, putting it down to "hard slog" rather than brains.

With a physics PhD and now a PhD in philosophy, you have to be up on your game if you want to engage him in even a brief discussion on the meaning of life.

Segall found himself in the unique position of being older than his supervisor, and



Times two: Prof Robert Segall with his wife, Prof Nan Yeld.

says he found the PhD to be "a wonderful education".

The second PhD didn't tackle atoms and particles, or mathematical equations. Per-

haps we should summarise it (purely for the sake of brevity) by saying Segall's PhD dealt with a mix of things like moral realities, "mind independent worlds", social constructs and moral philosophy.

Although the jump from physics to philosophy may have been a leap in most people's book, Segall's long-standing interest in the subject made it a natural one for him.

"I enjoyed it immensely," he says. "Philosophy is a subject that has always been close to my heart."

In his retirement he spends much of his free time reading. Nobel Prize-winner JM Coetzee stands out as one of his favourite writers.

Is there another PhD in the offing? You'll have to watch this space. ●

WORDS: DAVID CAPEL

On a learning curve ... at 76

Like a good red wine, some students just get better with age.

Take Kenny Penkin (CTA, 1953), the sprightly 76-year-old from Sea Point, who clinched his master's degree through the Faculty of Commerce in December last year.

A chartered accountant by trade, Penkin made the decision to return to UCT when he was 74.

"I was inspired by my love of learning and also to overcome the bogey of my matric, when I had to write a supplementary examination in order to get a varsity pass. I thoroughly enjoyed my Bachelor of Commerce degree at UCT and obtained quite a few firsts and seconds, particularly in taxation, accounting, costing, and company law."

Penkin passed the CA Board exams a few days before his 21st birthday, breaking the record for the youngest person to qualify as a CA in South Africa. He then went on to build up a practice, employing 60 staff and eight partners at its peak. He also spent



Lifelong learning: Kenny Penkin.

nearly a decade serving Cape Town as a councillor.

But the learning bug kept biting and in 1986 he obtained a Certified Public Accounting degree in Israel. When his son Jonathan, also a UCT graduate, earned his third degree, Penkin decided that it was a matter of pride to pace him.

He enrolled for the popular Master's in Commerce (MCom) and found the course hugely satisfying, thanks to lecturers Professors Mike Wormald, Glen Holman, Carlos Correia, Mark Graham, Peter Cramer and Colin Smith.

For his thesis, he explored the hot topic of remuneration committees and executive compensation, as little had been written on the subject.

To cope with the demands of being a student again Penkin had to put much of his life on hold.

Following graduation he said: "After the gruelling master's degree, I had so much to catch up on. I was in arrears on my reading and needed to continue with my religious studies. I also planned to learn chess with my grandsons, update my family tree, study modern Israeli history, swim, walk and travel."

As to his main achievements in life, they are his four children: Jacqui and two granddaughters own Charly's Bakery, Beverley (BSocSci, 1983) manages a Cinémathèque in Jerusalem, artist Tammi is publishing a book and Jonathan (BA, 1986) is in Hong Kong.

The competition is now on for the grandchildren to outstrip the older generation with degrees. And Penkin needs to answer the question on everyone's lips: "When are you undertaking a PhD?" ●

FAMILY TIES

is there a doctor in the house?

It's true that MBChB graduate (2009) Jennifer Steyn's bloodline on her father's side goes all the way back to the founding of UCT.

It all started with her great-grandfather, Dr Tommie Steyn (MBChB, 1924), a medical student at the South African College (SAC) - now South African College Schools or SACS - when parts of it officially became UCT in 1918. Not only would Steyn become the first captain of the UCT rugby first team that year, but in that capacity would also serve on the university's first Students Representative Council in 1919.

Also in 1919, he captained UCT in the first intervarsity against Stellenbosch University, eight years after sibling Cecil had captained the SAC in the first intercollege against Victoria College of Stellenbosch. (It's often overlooked - this side of the world, anyway - that Stellenbosch University was also established in 1918, springing out of Victoria College, although SACS claims bragging rights as the country's oldest school by a few decades, depending on when you start counting.)

Tommie would spend much of his career at the Dutch Reformed Church's Morgenster mission hospital - where he earned his local Shona name, Murapi Wedu, meaning "our doctor" - in what was then Bulawayo, Rho-

desia. He would receive an MBE (Member of the British Empire) in 1951 for his work at Morgenster.

Tommie and Annie Steyn's oldest son, Pieter (MBChB, 1953), would carry on the family's medical tradition, graduating from UCT in 1953 alongside the likes of classmate Stuart Saunders, who would later become vice-chancellor.

The doctor gene then skipped a generation, as dad Murray Steyn, marketing manager in UCT's Department of Communication and Marketing, and aunt Jennifer, the renowned stage and television actress, opted for drama instead, as would big sister Lauren. Uncle Andrew taught in the African Studies section at UCT for a while, but now works in alternative healing. (There's family talk that the brothers deliberately forewent medicine as acts of rebellion.)

It's grandfather Pieter, however, who in part inspired Jennifer's medical ambitions. She recalls well the times they visited the family home in George.

"I can still remember that he would have his stethoscope around his neck hours after he had come home from work," she says. Jennifer still has that stethoscope. And granddad's



In the bag: Jennifer Steyn and dad Murray, with grandfather Pieter Steyn's doctor's bag and his graduating certificate.

medical bag, which she's inherited alongside a few odds and ends of his trade, such as a blade (with that one-of-a-kind surgery smell), little pots of ointments and his ophthalmoscope.

"The bag's still got that old medicine smell, which reminds me so much of walking into his surgery," says Jennifer.

The bag, now neatly stacked with her own professional and first-aid wares, went with her to Kimberley Hospital, where she is doing her two-year internship.

Thanks to that bag, she has a little bit of family with her no matter where she goes.

"The one thing that was emotional and déjà vu-esque," Steyn says, "was visiting my daughter in her final year at the hospital and seeing her walk down the passage with her stethoscope around her neck."

Don't be surprised if the next generation of Steyns follow suit. ●

a family affair

Professor Peter Meissner (BSc, 1977; BSc (Med) [Hons], 1982; PhD, 1990) is a man who believes in freedom of choice. So, when his children were of an age to go to university, he gave them carte blanche to choose any institution they liked ... as long as it was UCT.

Who could blame him? The university is in his bones, and in his blood. With a history at UCT stretching back many years, Meissner is currently Professor and Chair of Medical Biochemistry.

The family's ties to this institution run so deep that Meissner hooded his daughter, Robyn, when she graduated with a BSc in Occupational Therapy in December 2009.

His son, Bruce, married his sweetheart, recent UCT BA graduate Rebecca (nee Blundell) (BA, 2007), in Jammie Hall the following month.

But the ties to UCT don't end there: Bruce obtained his BA in visual arts in 2006. And younger brother Murray is studying towards a BSc.

Meissner says it's a wonderful gesture on UCT's part to allow family members to hood each other.

On the subject of the wedding at Jammie Hall, Meissner says he suggested it "in jest" at first, but it wasn't long before the idea took hold in the couple's minds.

Perhaps the only question that remains to be answered is where future grandchildren will be educated. If Meissner has his way, the answer will be short and simple: anywhere they like, of course. ●



Ties that bind: (Front left, back) Bruce Meissner, Prof Peter Meissner, and Murray Meissner. (Front) Rebecca Meissner (nee Blundell) and Robyn Meissner.

Locum in polar bear country

From Dr Graham White (MBChB, 1970)

Having worked in Canada for eight years as a general practitioner, I have read widely of the diversity of Canadian life and lore. Canada is a massive country with six time zones and a population of 33 million, far fewer than my country of origin – South Africa – which has a population of 49 million.

It extends from “coast to coast to coast” and is encompassed by three oceans. There is almost no limit to the interest invoked by this diversity. Having had small tastes of each area, apart from my staple diet of the prairies where I live, I recently decided to soak in the northern extremes working as a six-week locum GP/emergency doctor in Churchill, a very northern town situated on the shores of Hudson Bay.

Churchill is well known in the tourist industry as the Polar Bear Capital of the world, but there is much more to Churchill than polar bears, as interesting as these white monsters are. Its environs are well established as part of the history of the attempted discovery of the Northwest Passage.

My visit coincided with polar bear season and I did see several, some quite close, in the tundra (from the safety of a truck) and some in the town itself. The latter are seen – or “heard” – via the explosions of ‘bear crackers’ set off by the shotguns of the ever-

present, circulating nature conservation vehicles, encouraging the animals to move up the coast. Nobody really blames the bears for coming to town; they are very hungry by October, as their last meal (usually a young seal) would have been six months prior and they still have another two months to go before the bay freezes up and allows them access to their food supply. The smell wafting from restaurants and garbage bins must be irresistible.

During my sojourn, a bear tried to break into the hospital garage where the garbage is stored, damaging the roll-up door. It was spotted near the airport later in the day and darted, and then spent the next two months in the Polar Bear Compound for naughty urbanites. This compound holds about 30 bears. Nearer ocean freeze-up, all are eventually helicoptered about 40km up the coast, at enormous cost.

Another bear appeared, exhausted no doubt, from the cold unfrozen sea oppo-

site the hospital. It had been trying to catch a seal – a fruitless activity, before the ice has formed – but such is their desperation. Some tourists nearby were admiring an *inukshuk* (an Inuit word for a structure made of unworked stones “in the likeness of a human”), but they managed to get back into their vehicle minutes before the frightened bear lumbered past them.

The average July summer temperature is only 11.8° C, and the January winter temperature is -28° C, but is actually much colder (-45° C is common) because of the wind chill factor. The average annual snowfall is 195cm.

Churchill’s population is around 960 inhabitants, but thousands of seasonal tourists boost this figure exponentially during the peak polar bear season (October to November) and beluga whale season (July to September). From December onwards, Hudson Bay is frozen solid and Churchill is safe from polar bears.





The medical milieu of an isolated place like Churchill is always interesting and often challenging. Obstetrics and surgery (apart from minor and emergency room surgery) is not done in Churchill and such patients are flown to Winnipeg on daily scheduled flights. Emergencies, however, are “medevac’d” in a Cessna King Air, which is stationed in Churchill. Medevacs – either from Churchill to Winnipeg, or from a northern nursing station to Churchill – are an almost daily occurrence.

Each trip costs about \$12 000 (R60 000) or more and is paid for by the state. Canada has a publicly-funded health care system, which works extremely well in my opinion. The most common emergencies I encountered were babies with bronchiolitis or pneumonia – and, regrettably, attempted suicides, averaging one to two a week. Most of these attempts are a cry for help or a means of escaping the stress of living in a socially dysfunctional home in an isolated

northern community, which is hostile even for trees.

One of the nail-biting situations I faced during my stay involved an elderly tourist who presented with intestinal obstruction soon after arrival from Europe. An X-ray invoked a prompt call to the surgeon in Winnipeg and the arrangement of a mercy flight. This process commenced at 12 noon. As the Churchill air ambulance had already been sent to Winnipeg with another patient, an aircraft was sent from Thompson, and landed at 16h00. But it burst a tyre on landing, and another aircraft had to be dispatched. The patient eventually landed in Winnipeg at midnight! However, a phone call the next day told me the patient was “OK”.

Buying food at the store is an interesting experience. There is plenty of it, but one has to get used to the cost. For instance, potatoes cost me R10 each!

I found dealing with such rich cultural groups as the Inuit, Cree and Dene fas-

inating and rewarding. I met all these groupings both socially and professionally and this stimulated me to familiarise myself with their history, some of which is quite tragic. Of course, I ended up buying some books as well. One particular group, the Sayisi Dene, were relocated to a spot near Churchill in 1960, and completely cut off from their traditional, self-sufficient hunting lifestyle.

Soon they became familiar with alcohol, and within a short period many alcohol-related deaths ensued. To be fair, the relocation was predicated by a rapid decline in the caribou population and a ‘bear market’ in the fur trade, but the move was made bureaucratically, devoid of any community consultation, with disastrous results.

There is much more to write about, but web searches for ‘Churchill Manitoba’, Sayisi Dene and so on will provide the reader with more interesting details and amazing pictures of the stark environment. ●



a year in the life of uct

august 2010

❶ The Department of Science and Technology announces that plant physiologist Prof Jill Farrant is the winner of the Distinguished Woman Scientist in the Life Sciences award, and cardiovascular researcher Prof Karen Sliwa-Hahnle is the runner-up.

● The university launches an extra-curricular, free course to help students become hot property internationally. Beyond their academic development, students are schooled in social justice, global citizenship and the value of voluntary service.

● In various forums, the UCT academic community rallies against the proposed Protection of Information Bill 6 of 2010, which legitimises numerous potential violations of Constitutional values.



july 2010

❷ Professor Chuma Himonga is awarded the DST NRF Chair in Customary Law, part of the South African Research Chairs Initiative.

● The Faculty of Health Sciences launches the Retreat Student Learning Centre, its second such teaching and learning facility on the Cape Flats.

● UCT zoologist Dr Gary Bonner has a fossil named after him, recognising his "major contributions" to understanding the biology of Africa's endemic and enigmatic golden moles.

● A partnership between Sasol and UCT's Centre for Catalysis Research results in the invention of a magnetometer that is fully computer-controlled and enables scientists to examine ferro-metallic catalysts in situ. It's the first in the world.



june 2010

❸ UCT surgeon Dr Elmi Muller and colleagues are lauded for their historic transplants of kidneys from HIV-positive donors to HIV-positive recipients.

❹ UCT's Campus Accommodation 2010 initiative for the World Cup provides a great experience for visitors – and also serves UCT students well; many work as volunteers and translators.

● Five UCT researchers – among 12 from South Africa – are selected to contribute to the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.



● UCT's Graduate School of Business is placed 49th in the world for customised programmes on the Financial Times' executive education custom ranking for 2010.

may 2010

● Prof Anton Eberhard and Assoc Prof Vivienne Taylor are included in the South African government's new National Planning Commission.

● Funding of R1.8 million per annum for 2010 and 2011 is granted to UCT's Marine Research Institute, for launching a new programme under the Vice-Chancellor's Climate Change Strategic Initiative.

● UCT, the Nansen Environmental Centre in Norway and partners start a venture to gather information on the three oceans around Southern Africa – this to better understand global change across the continent.

april 2010

● Dermatologist Assoc Prof Nonhlanhla Khumalo's research shows that hair relaxers used by many black women may lead to scalp conditions and hair loss.

● Profs Margit Härting and David Britton are winners of the Academic R&D Award at the IDTechEx Printed Electronics Europe Awards 2010, beating competitors from some of the world's most illustrious universities.

● UCT launches an e-Waste Project to dispose of redundant electronic equipment.

● A new study by the Higher Education HIV and AIDS programme shows that UCT has low HIV prevalence, but there are concerns that the study may underestimate the real prevalence rate.

march 2010

❺ Graça Machel is re-elected as UCT chancellor, and will serve until 2019.

● Helping first-year students adapt to academic life is the goal of the Student Development Programme, a new R500 000-initiative by Student Wellness.

● The Department of Medicine celebrates its 90th anniversary.

february 2010

- 6 Thousands of UCT staff and students take to the streets to protest the attack and murder of student Dominic Giddy (21) in Observatory. UCT contributes R4.5 million towards the establishment of the Groote Schuur Community Improvement District, which will address concerns relating to crime, grime, drug dealing, prostitution, and homelessness along a lengthy strip of the Main Road, from Dean Street in Newlands to Anzio Road in Observatory.
- 7 The Summer School celebrates its 60th anniversary.
 - The Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology celebrates its 50th birthday. The institute is renowned for its contributions to *Roberts Birds of Southern Africa*.
 - UCT joins forces with the University of Regensburg in Germany to start a FynbosWiki that makes information on fynbos and fynbos ecology easily accessible online.
 - The university launches OpenContent Directory, which allows easy, free online access to a selection of UCT teaching and learning resources.

january 2010

- 8 Prof Jean-Paul van Belle wins the International Business Machines (IBM) Faculty Award, leading to funding of more than R162 000 for creating an ICT resource toolkit to assist small African organisations in assessing their readiness for e-commerce.
 - UCT students have the opportunity to study Mandarin and learn about Chinese culture with the launch of the UCT Confucius Institute.

december 2009

- Profs Johann Lutjeharms and Bongani Mayosi are two of the three South Africans – all academics – to receive the national Order of Mapungubwe from President Jacob Zuma.
- UCT Astronomy is awarded the Chair in Extragalactic Multi-Wavelength Astronomy, part of the South African Research Chairs Initiative, in collaboration with the South African Square Kilometre Array project.

november 2009

- UCT hosts the new Sub-Saharan Africa Centre for Chronic Diseases, which will focus on chronic and lifestyle diseases.
- 9 UCT student and Miss Earth South Africa 2009, Chanel Grantham, is a finalist in the Global Miss Earth pageant.



10 Professor Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan is part of an international team to discover a new and very special African dinosaur, *Aardonyx celestae*.

- Assoc Prof Jennifer Case, Prof Alan Flisher, Prof John Higgins and Emer Prof Christopher Saunders are initiated into the Academy of Science of South Africa.

october 2009

- UCT joins the Worldwide Universities Network, making it the first African member of this global network.
- Three specialists at UCT's Lung Infection and Immunity Unit, Drs Shahieda Adams, Jonny Peter and Richard van Zyl-Smit, win substantial US fellowships for their doctoral studies on tuberculosis.

september 2009

- 11 The fast-growing Green Campus Initiative hosts Green Week to highlight and showcase environmentally-conscious living and working at UCT.
 - The release of results from the National Benchmark Tests (developed by UCT's Centre for Higher Education Development) conducted with 11 500 first-time-entering students at seven South African universities in February 2009, show that about half would need academic support to complete their studies.
 - The Democratic Alliance Students Organisation (DASO) affirms control of student politics at UCT when seven of its eight candidates are elected to the SRC for the 2009/2010 term.

august 2009

- Two UCT researchers are part of an international team to discover evidence that early modern humans employed pyrotechnology to hone their stone-tool-manufacturing process.
- UCT will play a pivotal role in the Southern African Consortium for Research Excellence, one of seven new international consortia formed by the Wellcome Trust's African Institutions Initiatives to develop local capacity and health research.
- Dr Mathieu Rouault is among the UCT and European researchers who report on the important influence of the local Agulhas Current on global climate.
- A four-month-old baby is the first in 80 years to be vaccinated in a proof-of-concept efficacy trial of a candidate TB vaccine at the site of UCT's South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI) in Worcester. •

we remember

· **Jan Brand** (BSc (Civil Eng), 1946), former City of Cape Town engineer and a member of several international engineering institutes, who died in Sydney, Australia in July 2010, aged 85. After completing his studies at UCT, Brand went into the Cape Provincial Roads Department, and would move on to become deputy town engineer of Parow and city engineer of Windhoek. He joined the City of Cape Town as senior assistant city engineer in planning in 1965, was promoted to deputy city engineer and was appointed city engineer in 1975. His department was responsible for the housing construction in Mitchell's Plain (today, South Africa's fourth-largest township), among other developments. He and his wife Yvonne moved to Australia in 2005 to join their children.

· **William Carstens** (PhD, 1961) who died on 5 May 2010 in Toronto, Canada, due to complications from pneumonia and frail health. After earning his doctorate, he lectured in social anthropology at UCT's School of African Studies until 1964. He emigrated to Canada in 1965. His doctoral thesis on the village of Steinkopf – published as *The Social Structure of a Cape Coloured Reserve* – was the first of several books and articles on the social and historical dynamics of life in small communities, both in South Africa and in Canada. He is survived by three children, all living in Toronto, as well as his wife, Chantal.

· Community leader and philanthropist **Mendel Kaplan** (BCom, 1957; LLB, 1958; LLM, 1968) who died in November 2009, aged 73. Kaplan initiated, led and funded numerous Jewish, Zionist and other projects in South Africa and throughout the Jewish world. In 1980 he and his brother Robert established the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at UCT. Kaplan also founded the South African Jewish Museum, opened by Nelson Mandela in 2000. "Mendel Kaplan once told me that the key to success was focus," wrote Professor Milton Shain, director of the UCT centre. "I witnessed it in all

his efforts. Details concerned him greatly, but he never lost sight of the big picture. Indeed, he created the big picture."

· **Dr Suzanne Kaufmann** (MBChB, 1947) who died in Canada on 22 February 2010. She was 89. Kaufmann was born in Belgium in 1920 to a French mother and a Belgian father. She met her husband, John, while studying medicine at UCT. The couple married in 1948 and had three children – Carol, Pierre and Michele, all born in Cape Town. The family moved to Canada in 1972. Kaufmann had a lifelong interest in the arts, and would return to school to study visual arts at the University of Western Ontario when in her 50s.

· Former UCT Council member **Joan Kenyon** died in Cape Town on 10 June 2009, aged 90. Kenyon taught history at Rustenburg Junior School for Girls from 1956 to 1960, before becoming the first headmistress of San Souci Girls' High School in Newlands. After retiring in 1978, she returned to Rustenburg at intervals to help out in the History Department. Kenyon was active in the SA Council for English Education, and was a respected and admired Honorary Life Member of the South African Association of Woman Graduates. She served on UCT Council from 1990 to 1993.

· **Emeritus Professor Ralph Kirsch** (MBChB, 1964; MD, 1968; DSc (Medicine), 1993), a pioneer of liver research and medicine, who died on 9 February 2010 after a battle with cancer. Kirsch was a leading academic and administrative figure in the world of medicine and scientific endeavour in South Africa, Africa and beyond. UCT vice-chancellor Dr Max Price said Kirsch was an icon in the medical profession, enjoying a brilliant career as a clinician, scientist and teacher. "Professor Kirsch made a huge contribution to the field of medicine over many years, through teaching, research and participating in professional structures."

· **Dr Les Pitt** (MBChB, 1967), a founder member, past chairperson and director of Clouds of Hope Children's Christian Care

Centre, who died in Pietermaritzburg in September 2008, aged 65. Pitt, who had run a rural general practice for many years, was in the process of setting up AIDS infrastructure in the town, working with the Valley Trust organisation. Pitt was instrumental in the charity society Edzimkulu's ability to provide treatment for people with HIV/AIDS in Ndawana, where he oversaw the implementation of anti-retroviral therapy.

· **Lloyd Skinner** (MBA, 2005) a 37-year-old engineer and marathon runner from Zimbabwe, was killed by a shark while swimming in Fish Hoek on 12 January 2010. In 2004, Skinner had taken a year off from his work in the Democratic Republic of Congo to do an MBA at the Graduate School of Business. He returned to the DRC in 2005 to build a cobalt-processing plant in Katanga Province. Skinner had run five Two Oceans Marathons and 10 Comrades Marathons.

· **Professor Alan Flisher** (BSc, 1977; BSocSc (Hons), 1978; MSc, 1981; MBChB, 1988; MMed, 1994; PhD, 1996; MPhil, 2002), head of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in UCT's Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, who died of leukemia on 18 April. He was 53. Flisher held seven degrees from UCT, including an MSc in clinical psychology, an MBChB, an MMed in psychiatry, an MPhil in child and adolescent psychiatry, and a PhD in psychiatry. He also held a Diploma in Child Health and a Fellowship of the College of Psychiatrists from the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa. He joined UCT in 1998 in a joint appointment with the Provincial Administration of the Western Cape. He was the first incumbent of the Sue Struengmann Chair in Child Psychiatry and Mental Health. His principal academic interests were adolescent health and mental-health services research. He has served as principal investigator for a number of school-based epidemiological and intervention studies that addressed a range of aspects of adolescent risk behaviour. ●



Dr Suzanne Kaufmann.



Emer Prof Ralph Kirsch.



Prof Alan Flisher.



Mendel Kaplan.



THE MISSION

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

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.

