

## Dr Max Price - Vice Chancellor University of Cape Town

The University of Cape Town began this year by looking back. We were just beginning to absorb the meaning of the death of former President Nelson Mandela in December 2013. And we were considering what it meant for the country to be celebrating 20 Years of Democracy: how far we had come as a nation and as a world-class university, and how far we all still have to go.

Part of my own retrospective this year has been on the progress of my first five years as Vice-Chancellor of Africa's highest-ranked university, and plans for the next few years until my second term ends. I am working with UCT's executive team to refine what distinctive elements will be needed to achieve the five strategic goals that will distinguish UCT in 2019:

- The recognition of UCT as the leading research-intensive university on the African continent. For example, we are working to increase the visibility of UCT's research internationally; grow new areas of study relevant to Africa and emerging markets; developing ways to store, manage and analyse big data and support e-Research; and looking to attract research grants from new sources.
- The extent and effectiveness of UCT's approach to ensuring student success through staff, student and curriculum interventions, including increasing our capacity to deliver interdisciplinary, and online, course and programmes; optimal placement of students through admissions policies and testing in academic development programmes; support provided through the "First Year Experience" and the residence system, with a high proportion of first years admitted to residence.
- UCT's approach to engaged scholarship (incorporating our role as a policy and development resource). We are examining the scope of our contributions to public policy formulation and inclusive development, and the provision of expert input on national policies and plans.
- UCT's approach to transformation - confronting history, creating the future. As you will know from media reports, this topic continues to spark heated discussion. We are seeking to nurture open and public debate about all aspects of transformation, particularly institutional culture; and to address not only student demography in race terms, but also in what race represents and how race works in creating inequality - the legacy of structural disadvantage. UCT also works with disadvantaged schools to increase the pool of students able to study here.
- The recognition of UCT as a premier academic meeting point between South Africa, the rest of Africa and the world (incorporating internationalisation and our Afropolitan character). One example of this recognition is the agreement we have signed with The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program, which is providing US\$23.5 million (R260.5 million at the current exchange rate) over 10 years to help develop 300 committed future leaders from economically disadvantaged communities across Sub-Saharan Africa. We are also developing far-reaching research collaboration agreements with the University of Basel, Switzerland, and other institutions in different parts of the world.

In contemplating Madiba's legacy to UCT and Twenty Years of Democracy at the beginning of the year, UCT leadership decided the most appropriate response was a celebration. This included a memorial to Madiba and the renaming of Ring Road on Upper Campus as Madiba Circle.

In a similar vein, I would like to close this message by thanking you for your own contribution to UCT. We recognise the many demands alumni face in building a career, nurturing a family and keeping up with the rapid pace of daily life. It means a great deal when alumni take an active role in the UCT community. I welcome your input into the strategic goals I have described above and your feedback on the progress we have made so far. Wherever you are, you represent UCT and you are part of this institution's contribution to the world.

Sincerely,



Dr Max Price.  
Vice-Chancellor

Dr Price on Mandela Day 2014

## UCT Legacy Society Newsletter October 2014

This year is tumbling towards December and at the UCT LS we are grateful once again for incredible support from all corners. The amazing response that we had for the July/August edition of the newsletter was wonderful and we could see that Ikeys from around the world are still committed to ensure that UCT stays at the top of university rankings on the African continent. In this edition we have some news from campus, UCT Legacy activities and again a variety of news from our global Alumni including a snippet on the infamous Pig and Whistle, interesting facts of Cycads and a plethora of other articles and events — past and coming up.

### Legacy Society Events

**Les Underhill of ADU** in JNB and CTN. The invitation to these two events caused a lot of excitement and within hours both events were fully booked. In Cape Town we actually had to move the venue to accommodate more guests.

Les is extremely passionate about his subject and it is difficult not to be transported by his of Africa as the home to an incredible abundance and diversity of life. His question to the audience was “How do we protect Africa’s biodiversity?” To answer this Les told us about the ADU campaign to become “Citizen Scientists”. These are ordinary people from all walks of life who give up a bit of time to collect data for statistics and maps coordinated by the ADU. Each fragment of biodiversity data collected by a Citizen Scientist is valuable, if it is contributed to an operation with the track record of the Animal Demography Unit (ADU). ADU build the jigsaw puzzle of biodiversity from all the pieces that they receive, and transform millions of bits of data into information that can be acted on.

Professor Underhill is Director of the Animal Demography Unit at the University of Cape Town (UCT). Les has an academic background in mathematical statistics, and a PhD (1973) in abstract multivariate analyses. In 1991 he established Avian Demography Unit within the Department of Statistical Sciences. While the original research focus of the ADU was mostly on birds, starting with bird ringing and the first bird atlas project, it rapidly broadened to cover other groups such as mammals, butterflies, frogs, fish, reptiles. That’s why the unit changed its name to the Animal Demography Unit (but remained the ADU) when it moved to the Department of Zoology (now Biological Sciences) in 2008. For more information link to: <http://adu.org.za/>



**D F MALAN AIRPORT 1950**



**CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL 2014**





## Thinking back of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)

I'm just thinking about the legacy that so many Rhodesians (Zimbabweans) left in the sixties, when it was fashionable for their parents to send them to UCT from Salisbury, Bulawayo and Victoria.

Those students were much better prepared for university academic life than we, South Africans, because of their A-levels. I remember Nicky Driver-Jowette, who was Dux in my year (1963 - BA plus art). There was Janet Johnson, who did law. Irene Luginbuhl and Rosemary Elliot, who had very sensible opinions and who predicted the course that Rhodesian politics would take and the ruination of her beautiful and happy country, where there was no legally decreed discrimination.

Michael Coleman and Nicky Driver Jowette were always together throughout their studies and ended up married and as teachers at the outstanding Mariondellas school, just outside of Salisbury. I heard they emigrated later to England.

Janet Johnson married an ophthalmologist, who had a practice in Salisbury – wonder how they all are these days?

Then, in my teaching diploma year we had Profs Smit and Boerneef teaching us. Prof Smit claimed that teaching was the best and most secure profession of all, especially in times of depression. When he first taught many years before, he had to augment his meagre income by doing woodwork - but at least he had a job, while many other people did not because of the depression.

My close friends were Sue Gow and Conny. The three of us got on very well together. Conny was the salt-of-the-earth type. Once we had received our STD (Secondary Teacher's Diplomas) we each went home for Christmas, promising to keep up our friendship.

Well, I didn't ever hear from Conny again. I simply could not understand this. If I am not mistaken, she even had an Honours behind her. Both Sue and I got good teaching jobs immediately after our graduations - I, at Voortrekker High in Kenilworth, and Sue in an out-of-town country school, Wellington or Robertson - I'm not sure.

We were single and only admitted on to temporary staff. If we were fortunate to be appointed on to the permanent staff eventually, we were immediately taken off, as soon as we got married. Our husbands were to provide us with pensions. Those were the politics of the day.

After writing letters to Conny and receiving no reply, in desperation I wrote to Sue about Conny's



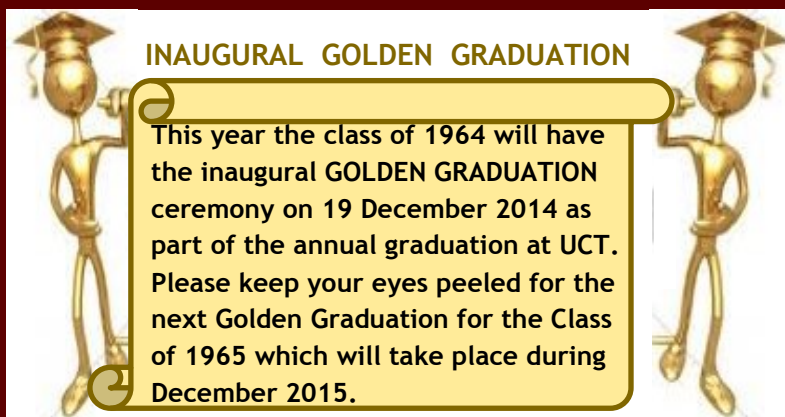
1961 UCT Friends at Fuller Hall Dance  
Sonja and Michael Mann (bottom right)

disappearance. She, too, was puzzled as to why she had not heard a single word from Conny. Then I wrote to Conny's parents directly and received the terribly sad reply that whilst being fetched from the station on the way home to their farm home on their winding dirt road, the truck got into a slide, and rolled over, killing Conny instantly. I believe her father survived. I still miss Conny to this day!

Sue was also devastated. I've never heard from Susan Gow again although I would love to hear from her. As far as Conny was concerned - she was a good student and we are proud of her accomplishments at UCT.

She was so looking forward to her reunion with her family for Christmas and to her coming career! What a terrible waste for her to have lost her life like that when in her prime! I wish to write this into this year's contribution, in honour of her memory. We received our teacher's diplomas in 1964.

**Sonja Mercier, nee Clausen. Edu STD 1964**

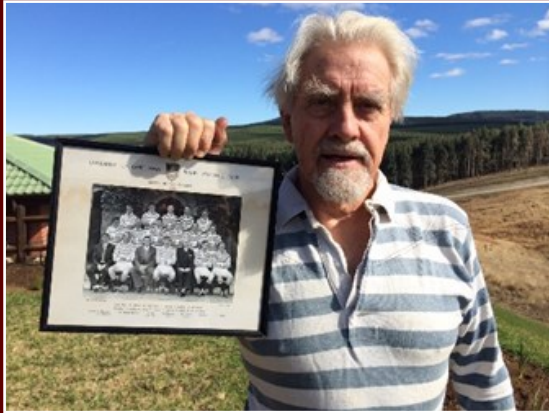


## DID YOU NOW? 1964

Sir Richard Luyt was awarded a knighthood on his appointment as Governor and Commander in Chief of British Guiana



## Some of us do keep our shape!



I am dressed in the same rugby jersey that I was wearing in the photograph, which I am holding, of the 1961 Under 19 AA team. The rugby jersey emerged when I was packing up for the move from my farm in the Estcourt District of KZN to Howick aka God's waiting room!! I was delighted to find that it still fitted me!!

The U19 AA team was the UCT Second U19 XV but it played in the A league with the First XV. Front: A Duncan (U19 Match Sec) R Fiddian-Green, B Bey (Club Capt) P Bentall (Capt.) D Wells (Coach) F Hart & T Kroon. 1st row: N Gurry, W Gau, J Loxton, T Robarts, R Kohn & P van den Berg 2nd row: J Adams, M Schweitzer, A Young, B Kantor & G McIntosh.

Will Gau left Zimbabwe where he was farming and now lives in Hermanus, Fiddian-Green emigrated to Texas some decades ago, Brian Kantor is an Em Prof at UCT & Loxton emigrated to Brisbane, Australia. At a personal level, my father, who studied Quantity Surveying, played in the Wits University U19 XV in 1931 (I have the team photo) and my brother, who also became a QS, captained the Tukkie's U19 XV and played Northern Transvaal U19.

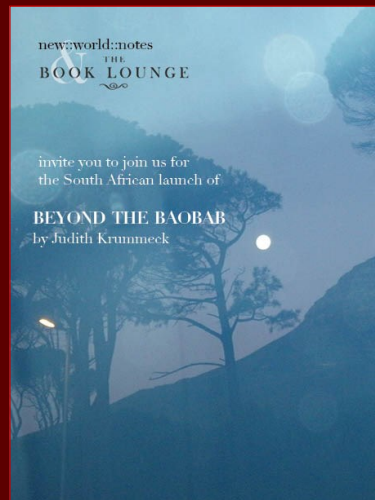
Graham McIntosh UDE STD 1964 - KZN

## Beyond the Baobab by Judith Krummeck

is a memoir about migrating from Africa to America. In a collection of twelve loosely linked essays, Judith Krummeck explores her roots in South Africa and, particularly, her abiding love for Cape Town. She examines the reasons for her decision to emigrate, and writes about the strange wonder of adopting the citizenship of another country. Michelle Junot, reviewing *Beyond the Baobab* for the online magazine, *Monologging*, writes, "From the first sentence of the first essay, to the very last line of the book, Krummeck uses subtle humor and rich allusions to invite readers into her head, into her heritage, into her hesitancy about becoming an American. Her story is not only one of emigration from South Africa to the United States. The essays chronicle her change, growth, unexpected adventures, and her search for a sense of identity and belonging."

*Beyond the Baobab* is available at the Book Lounge c/o Buitenkant & Roeland St, Cape Town

Judith Krummeck BA Drama & History of Art in 1986.



## Ergonomics

I worked in the Biomedical Eng Department at UCT Medical School from 1984 to 1999, where I taught a post graduate in Ergonomics which attracted a multi-disciplinary group of students from diverse fields, including engineering, occupational health, physiotherapy and psychology. Together with colleagues of other universities and research organisations we founded the Ergonomics Society of South Africa. I was awarded a Ph.D in 1991 after which I wrote a textbook on ergonomics, which is now in its 3rd edition. Many of my former UCT students are working in ergonomics in South Africa and elsewhere.



Times change, of course, and now I manage a Human Factors Department in the UK. Ergonomics, as a separate subject, no longer exists in the UK - it is now 'Ergonomics and Human Factors' and is more closely linked to engineering than it was twenty years ago. I have visited South Africa several times to attend conferences and I am pleased to see that ergonomics is alive and well and even more pleased to have been part of its development in south Africa from the very beginning.

Robert Bridger  
1991 Medicine PHD





## A mature graduate

I graduated from UCT on the 14th December 2000 with a Masters in Industrial Administration. So what, you may ask? Well at the age of 57 I was certainly one of the older graduates that day.

The point I want to make is that I originally left school in the UK at the age of 15 to take up a tool making apprenticeship and I did not start receiving any meaningful qualifications until I was in my late 40's after immigrating to South Africa. I had, however, accumulated a lot of experience progressing from apprentice to qualified tool-maker, to tool designer, to tooling planner and eventually tool-room manager. I had become a typical product of post war Britain of missing out on a university education and thrown on the scrap heap but by keeping up with technology and perseverance I had made it into senior management.

After my graduation I followed a successful career at Nissan South Africa. Since my "retirement" I have travelled the world and gave many keynote addresses on Business Excellence & Policy Deployment



The picture to the left is me giving a keynote address at a TQM conference in Shanghai. I now sit on a number of committees setting up programs to acknowledge the importance of the recognition of prior learning so that people like me do not have to rely on luck to achieve a tertiary education but rather follow a more formal development plan.

Thank you UCT for giving me the opportunity to grow and make a meaningful contribution to the development of our country.

**Paul Harding MD SA Quality Institute UCT ENG MIA 2000**

## This pensioner is no quitter

Tony Butler, 68-year-old from KZN South Coast, who graduated in 1969, recently completed the "JOGLE"- John O Groats to Lands End cycle ride.

As the crow flies the distance is just under 900 miles, but as the cyclists negotiated B roads and cycle paths where they could, they ended up having clocked 1,069 miles by the time they reached Lands End on Sunday June 8. The ride took them 14 days, which meant Tony and his companions spent over 100 hours in the saddle over two weeks.

It was like doing 14 Argus rides back to back. To say it was an endurance is an understatement. Although the cyclists were blessed with good weather most days, there were two days in particular which made the going really tough - wet, cold and driving rain didn't help the spirits when they'd spent 13 hours on the road, and arrived at camp in the dark at 11pm. The scenery is spectacular, the terrain undulating and the challenge frightening!

The seed for this adventure was probably sewn when, as a much younger man, Tony cycled his son across England from Norwich to Falmouth. That time they stayed in youth hostels. This trip the group hired a campervan and made use of the excellent camp sites throughout the UK. In 2007, Tony and his friend, retired Scottburgh High School headmaster, Henry Parsons, cycled from Scottburgh to Cape Town - in time for the Argus.

## Education in Eden

I graduated from UCT in 2012. Now I am a teacher in the rural area of Eden Karoo district near Mosselbay. Since I started I have implemented many math strategies learnt at UCT



By using these methods our grade 3 class improved so much that we were awarded R30,000 from WCED. With this we were able to acquire critically needed aids to assist in teaching our learners.

Those 3 years at UCT have been the best years in my entire education. The best skill I have learnt was how to be a critical thinker. It taught me to stretch my mind and think outside of the box. I gained so much confidence and up to today, at the age of 64 I still have an intense desire to study further.

Thank-you! I can truly say UCT is the best university ever

**Jean Francke 2012 UCT ACE in Lit, Num & Curr Lead FPACE**



**Tony Butler BSC Eng 1969**

## My 'little' University

Shannon' said the registrar when I registered in 1951. 'I remember a Brian Shannon'. My father was born in 1896, and therefore the right age to join up when the First World War broke out. When he returned he completed a BSc Eng. Because he was older than most students and very tall he was nicknamed "Father Shannon". Once I spent a weekend with a friend on their Piketberg apple farm when her father, Dr Jan Dommissie (head of the Old Mutual) told me that after my father's graduation he inherited my father's bed as it was especially long. He also told me that my father had built the main road up the West coast, and I realized how anonymous the work of an engineer is. After graduation my father and his cousin Ninham Shand worked on the Colorado River in USA followed by a variety of projects in the Republic and eventually as 1st technical advisor to the new established National Roads Board. The grid of national roads which he drew up has remained the national framework for the roads built subsequently. It seemed to be a more environmentally friendly approach then; roads up passes and hillsides had to be as inconspicuous as possible and were lined with rocks. None of the steel crash barriers of today!

Although he was past the age to be called up for WW 2 he thought that he could not allow his young engineers to be put in danger while he stayed at home. The Sappers were seconded to Monty and renowned for the excellent work they did. Col Shannon was apparently a man of few words, but when he uttered everyone ran. His experience in the States proved useful as he had worked with huge American equipment like bulldozers and was able to get some of them. A landmine ended his life.

I was lucky to be in 'Women's Residence', under the wise and kind guidance of Mrs Emmet. Men were not allowed beyond the 'porch' and a familiar cry was Eunice calling up the stairs : "Miss X ! - pooorch!" Miss Pierce presided over the office, an elderly and simple lady'. When a friend and I were checking in one evening after attending a Bible Study at the YMCA she was very interested. There were words in the bible she did not understand and was worried about sins she might have committed for years -take fornication??!! We beat a hasty retreat, but did get some booklets for her.

How small our university was. There was one Men's and one Women's Res, as well as other odd places for more mature students. We still had the last of the ex-servicemen (living in Belsen) from WW2. Of our group only one had a car; she was also doing drama and had lectures at Hiddingh Hall. The rest of us hitched in groups otherwise we walked. UCT offered lots of sport and every kind of club, hiking, sailing, debating, ballroom (in ball gowns) and informal dancing. In the library you made notes on what you read as there were no copiers (and we had no money) and no computers. We all graduated at the beginning of December, an incredibly boring ceremony with the whole university except the medics involved.

When my husband left school there was no money and apparently no thought of university. As soon as war broke out he joined up and was sent to Potchefstroom where he became an expert horse handler. Fortunately in the desert they found tanks more relevant and so the horses were spared. He was taken prisoner at Tobruk and in spite of several attempts to escape he finished up in Heidelberg, Germany. As it was a prison camp for officers there were professors from British universities who set up a lecturing programme. Richard was able to pursue his love of Maths, inspired by his Maths teacher at Bosch Boys'. When he returned to South Africa he took up the government offer of the chance of qualifying in a chosen course and completed a BA/BCom. . His mother was so proud of the first university graduate in the family that she kept a copy of the lengthy programme.

Richard and his first wife Ruth lived in the married quarters in Belsen where the ex-servicemen gave Prof Rollo a hard time. My sister completed a post teacher's diploma and married a chem.eng from UCT. Two of their daughters graduated here. My brother fell to his death down Devil's Peak after six months of his engineering degree. At the other end of the age range my grandmother (Shand/Shannon) had worked in the medical laboratory for a friend of her father's. That was at the end of the 1800's!

So our association with UCT has been long and I find the talks by UCT LS to alumni fascinating and the reports on the research being done impressively. But where has my 'little' university gone?

Barbara Hall BA Arts 1953 EDU 1955



## DID YOU NOW? 1888

In this year the College Coat of Arms was rediscovered, readapted and re-inaugurated as the official symbol of the SAC. (South African College) This is the same Coat of Arms which has borne the annals of time to remain the official emblem of UCT





## Birthdays

On Friday 17th October the student leadership of Graça Machel Residence together with staff from the Development and Alumni Department commemorated the 69th birthday of UCT Chancellor, Mrs Graça Machel. The students wrote beautiful personal notes to Mrs Machel quoting: *"Happy Birthday Graça, Thank you for being an example to all of us. We admire and love you dearly as members of Graça Machel Hall. Wishing you many more years to come, may God Bless you in abundance."*  
From: Zinhle Novazi (Deputy Head Student 2014)



Sunday 26th October Alumni, students and friends celebrated the 100th birthday of former Baxter Hall Warden, Joan van den Ende. Joan graduated from UCT in 1957 with a BSc Science. Her husband was the late doyen of medical education at UCT, Prof Marinus van den Ende

**We wish the following UCT Legacy Members a happy birthday for the following dates:**

Jeanette Hodgson 6 November  
Susan Peenrith 6 November  
Ronald Marks 7 November  
Moses Ngobi 11 November  
Glynne Case 14 November  
Sharon Reddy 16 November  
Dee Smythe 22 November  
Derek Jowell 22 November  
Henry Blumberg 26 November  
Michael Ihlenfeldt 27 November  
Karin Chubb 9 December  
Fiona Been 10 December  
Edwin Valentine 11 December  
Bill Powell 14 December  
Max Locketz 14 December  
Peter Gugg 21 December  
Gillian Lindner 23 December  
Francois Greeff 27 December  
John Hansen 27 December  
J P van der Merwe 29 December  
Stephen Swartz 29 December



## Congratulations on your selection to NACI National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI)

Prof. Jennifer Thomson

(Member of UCT Legacy Society)



Jennifer Thomson has a BSc in Zoology from the University of Cape Town, an MA in Genetics from Cambridge University and a PhD in Microbiology from Rhodes University in South Africa. She was a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School. She was a lecturer, senior lecturer and Associate Professor in the Department of Genetics at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa before starting and being the Director of the Laboratory for Molecular and Cell Biology for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. She then became Professor and Head of the Department of Microbiology at the University of Cape Town, a post she held for 12 years until the Department merged with the Department of Biochemistry. She is now an Emeritus Professor of Microbiology in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology at UCT. Her main current research interests are in the development of maize resistant to the African endemic maize streak virus and tolerant to drought.

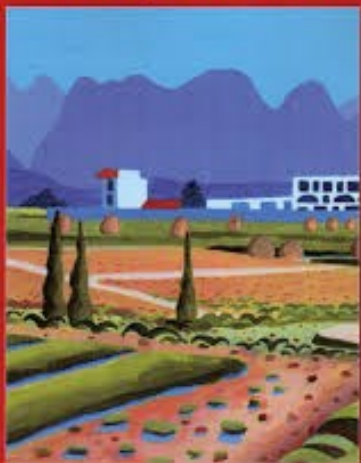
Other positions held include the Deputy Dean of Science at UCT, a former chair and member of the South African Genetic Engineering Committee, co-founder and current chair of SA Women in Science and Engineering, Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa and former Vice-President of the SA Academy of Science. She is the Chair of the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) and a member of the board of the International Service for the Acquisition of Agribiotech Applications (ISAAA), BIO-EARN, and the European Action Group on Life Sciences (EAGLES).

She is a regular writer and speaker internationally on the subject of genetically modified organisms, especially crops and foods derived from them. Her book, *Genes for Africa*, is geared towards the layperson.

## Milk Delivery in Baghdad

As a new young bride my first home was in Baghdad, Iraq. It was 1946, just after World War 2. My husband, Bill was on loan from BOAC to help Iraq set up their own airline and I was a staff wife. Getting to our first home is quite a story. First I followed Bill to England, only to find he had one week of his leave left and was off to Cairo. It took me two months to get a flight to Cairo, only to find that he had gone to Baghdad. I followed him to Baghdad but he had been sent to Basra. I declined a seat to Basra and waited for him to return. That is how we started our married life.

### Letters from China



NICOLETTE QUEKETT  
A tremendously interesting and moving book ... Diana Ashill

At first we lived in the Regent Palace Hotel but Bill told me I had to find an apartment. I didn't even know the currency, let alone the language. But I managed. It was in a block of four on the outskirts of town, almost in the desert. There were no other foreigners out there. It was rather isolated, but it was a home. We were thrilled.

With the apartment came two servants, Toby and Cook. Cook did all the shopping and cooking and Toby did the rest. I was allowed into the kitchen once a week for inspection. I gave Cook money for the shopping at the market every day and orders for the day. I looked at his account book. That was all.

At first I thought it would be fun because I would have more time for writing and reading but soon I began to wonder how it all worked. Where did all the food come from? I had to find out. The conversation went like this.

Me: "Toby, where does the milk come from?"

Toby: "The milk, Madam, he come from the cow."

Me: "Yes Toby, I know that milk comes from a cow, but how does it get to my house?"

Toby: "The cow he bring it, madam."

This, I thought, I must see. I asked Toby to fetch me, when the milk arrived. The next morning he tapped on the door where I was writing. "Madam, the milk he come".

I followed him out of the front door and across the garden. The whole complex was surrounded by a high brick wall, with broken glass on top. The entrance was a huge solid wooden door. Toby had an enormous key. He opened the door and there, standing on the sandy track that was our access road, stood a cow. Squatting on the ground beside it was his Arab owner. Toby gave him one of my jugs and he very deftly milked the cow into my jug. Then Toby gave him a few coins and took the jug. I stood and watched in disbelief, as the cow and owner ambled on to the next client. That was the first of many shocks in Baghdad, but this was one of the really amazing ones. After that I decided I would rather not know where the rest of the food came from and left it all to Cook. At least we survived. **Nicolette Quekett EDU P/G PTC 1956** (95 years old and still going strong)

## New Assistant Legacy Officer:

At long last we have been joined by Sandiswa Gwele who has 15 years of working experience, stretching from being the sales and marketing consultant, admin clerk, administrator, project coordinator, alumni relations officer, events coordinator and customer service representative. Her skills include project management, entrepreneurship, ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines, planning and organising, management skills, team player, database management, communication skills, relationship building, client orientated and an ability to show initiative.

Before joining Development and Alumni office (DAD) Sandiswa worked at the UCT Graduate School of Business (GSB) for five years in Alumni Relations Department. While working at the GSB she completed Associate in Management (AIM) in 2011. Sandiswa has a bubbly personality and fits in well with the DAD fundraising team. We are extremely happy to welcome her on board and wish her a long and fruitful association with DAD



With International Staff: At the back: Lenore Plummer (AUS) René Nolte, Angela Edwards (UK)  
Front: Johanna Fausto (USA) Diane Stafford (CAN) Ruth Thornton (AUS) Sandiswa Gwele



## Rarer than rhino and just as prized by poachers

Story by Carolyn Newton. Photo by Michael Hammond.

Critically endangered cycads are disappearing from the wild and botanical gardens, ripped up by the roots to feed the lucrative landscaping market. UCT researchers are using a novel method to help the Hawks combat the theft of these ancient plants.



A method that has been used to trace cocaine, explosives and bank notes is being applied for the first time to help combat the illegal trade in cycads. In a paper published this week in the Journal of Forensic Sciences and reported on in Nature, Kirsten Retief and colleagues at UCT and the South African National Botanical Institute (SANBI) describe their use of stable isotopes and radiocarbon dating to identify cycads removed from the wild.

Cycads are the world's oldest seed plants - they have been in existence for 340 million years - but they are also the most endangered plant group on the planet. South Africa is home to 38 indigenous cycad species, and is therefore an important centre for cycad diversity; however, 12 of those species are critically endangered, and three of them are classified by SANBI as extinct in the wild.

There are fewer than 100 cycads of the species *Encephalartos latifrons* left in the wild: it is this species that was targeted by thieves in two separate raids at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden in Cape Town in August. The poachers stole 24 cycads, a haul worth more than R700 000.

It was a very well-orchestrated operation," says uPhakamani Xaba, senior horticulturist at Kirstenbosch. "It was a rainy night on both occasions. They knew exactly which plants they were targeting - they even went for female plants, which are normally worth more than male plants." Some of these slow-growing plants had been nurtured in the Kirstenbosch nurseries for 20 years and were only planted a year or two ago.

Thefts like this have posed an urgent challenge to those charged with protecting South Africa's cycads. Kirstenbosch has ramped up its security in the wake of the two raids, but the plants in the wild remain extremely vulnerable.

"These plants sell by the centimeter," says Dr Adam West, senior lecturer in UCT's Department of Biological Sciences and lead principal investigator on the project. "A large, rare plant will sell for around R400 000. When you put a price tag like that on a plant, there's an incentive."

"SANBI approached us for help in developing a technique to trace cycads that had never been seen before that showed up in suspicious locations," says West. "Cycads have very localised distributions, so we can characterise their environment relatively well using stable isotope composition."



When plants turn up in suspicious locations, UCT researchers turn detective. Kirsten Retief, a researcher with both UCT and SANBI, and Michèle Pfab, scientific co-ordinator at SANBI, have accompanied the Hawks and the Green Scorpions on raids in Gauteng. "I've been to a number of private gardens where owners of cycads claim they are legitimate, and yet you can see burn marks and porcupine bites on them," says Retief. "Our method will test their stories."

"The advantage of this method," explains West, "is that the signature has been locked up in the plant's tissue, and you can't get rid of that. It's not like a microchip, which you can pull out. It's not like a DNA marker, which tells you about parentage but doesn't tell you about origin. And it's not like most methods where you have to go into the wild to label the plants - we can trace these plants without having seen them before"



## Random Memories of the PIG & WHISTLE

In the early 80's I drove past the Pig and Whistle which had become derelict and forlorn. I thought it would be a great opportunity to acquire the site for redevelopment. I bought it without actually walking inside.

Imagine my surprise when I eventually went into the Pig and saw a structure that was very sound but very dirty and neglected. There must have been about 2 inches of grime on the floors and in the pots in the kitchen. As I had grown up in a hotel (my grandfather and father were hoteliers) I thought I'd clean it up and give it a try. I closed the Pig and brought in a team of cleaners. At about one am one morning a bunch of students (smashed of course) came out of the Hard Rock Café and asked me what I was doing. I invited them in, we sat down and had a couple of beers and they left at 10h00 that morning. By that evening the word had spread around the UCT campus and the Pig was back in business! Within the first month the turnover increased by 600%! It got so busy that I eventually extended the main pub at the back and remodelled the ladies bar and ran a competition amongst the students to rename it. The ladies bar became Flashman's, named after the character Harry Flashman. The winning student received a case of Castle.



The Pig became the venue for every student leaving school to have his or her first drink. The end of matric exams was followed by hundreds of students flocking into the Pig after the exams. We coined the expression "Cape Town grew up at the Pig" and this name stuck for a long time. Many lecturers and students used to sit in the beer garden and hold their tutorials over a few glasses of beer. In fact we instituted a 'Bachelor of Pig' degree for the most "balanced" student who could both imbibe and succeed at varsity. I recall the winning student virtually every year was a guy called Budgie Buitendag.

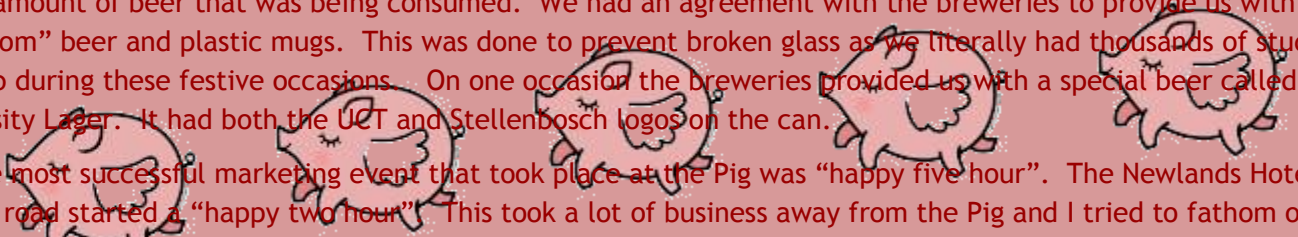
I recall having a band called éVoid playing at the Pig. I managed to obtain their services for one night only. The queue ran from the Pig past the Baxter Theatre. It was impossible for everybody to get in so I managed to get the band to agree to a further night and we stood selling tickets in the queue to satisfy those who couldn't get in. On both nights 1000 students per night paid to watch the band!

Sunday nights we used to have a band playing regularly called Late Final — still in existence today. There was a strange liquor law in existence which stated that you couldn't serve liquor without serving food on a Sunday. Sundays became so popular that customers started coming in at three o'clock in the afternoon for the function that only started at six. At one stage I installed a breathalyser machine in the Pig. By putting in a 50c coin and blowing into a straw the result would show on the screen. Needless to say, this became very profitable as the students used it to see who could get the highest and not the lowest score on the breathalyser.

The Pig and Whistle also had a reasonable rugby team that used to play in the Sunday league. They would return to the pub after the game and be given a case of Castle and a free meal. This was very popular and mainly consisted of graduated students who just could not let go. One of our staff members came up with the idea of selling Pig and Whistle t-shirts. We went to a designer and the phrase "The Pig's the Place" was coined. Unbelievably, these pink Pig and Whistle t-shirts became so popular that we literally sold thousands.



When inter-varsity took place at Newlands we had a Pig and Whistle mascot who used to parade before the game on the field. After the game there was a continuous snake of students pouring out of Newlands and into the Pig. The breweries were very supportive at these times. They provided us with refrigerated trucks as the pub could not cope with the amount of beer that was being consumed. We had an agreement with the breweries to provide us with cans of "long tom" beer and plastic mugs. This was done to prevent broken glass as we literally had thousands of students in the pub during these festive occasions. On one occasion the breweries provided us with a special beer called Inter-Varsity Lager. It had both the UCT and Stellenbosch logos on the can.



By far the most successful marketing event that took place at the Pig was "happy five hour". The Newlands Hotel down the road started a "happy two hour". This took a lot of business away from the Pig and I tried to fathom out how to overcome this problem. Their happy two hour used to be from five to seven. We then came up with the idea of having a happy five hour from three to eight. It became so successful that people still stop me today to remind me of happy five hour. There are numerous other interesting anecdotes that could fill pages but these are just some of the great times that I remember during my period as owner of the Pig. GEOFF CHIAT— owner PIG & WHISTLE



## Memories

### Robert Katz Born 1923 , died 2014

Robert Katz, of Westport, Connecticut passed away peacefully at age 90 at Norwalk Hospital, Connecticut, on May 25th from complications of Alzheimer's Disease. He was born in Fauresmith, Orange Free State, South Africa on September 23rd, 1923. During World War II he served as an air mechanic and non-commissioned officer in the South African Air Force. He was awarded the Africa Service Medal in 1944. At age 21 he graduated from UCT with a BSc in Civil Engineering, and was appointed assistant professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at UCT. Robert designed factory machinery and worked for the Engineering Department of the Cape Town City Council from 1945 to 1948. Later he became a partner in a construction company, and then started his own company, Robert Katz Construction Company in 1956, heading the company until he left South Africa in 1978. He developed a system for building portable homes constructed of precast concrete panels that were then transported to the building site. His system could put up a house in six hours, and construct eight apartments per day. During this time he also lectured at the UCT Business School, and took part in government budget symposia and economic conferences both in South Africa and abroad. In 1978 Robert and his family emigrated to the United States, settling in Westport, CT. There he worked as a consultant to the Major Building Corporation. In 1950 he married Ray Kriger, who had just qualified as a lawyer in Cape Town. Robert was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather who enjoyed telling family stories, relaxing at the beach, traveling throughout Europe, and spending time with his family. In his youth he was a long distance runner and tennis player. His many interests included history, archaeology, classical music, art, architecture, science, technology and cosmology.



### Donald Ross

#### Born October 1922, died July 6 2014

Donald Ross was a cardiac surgeon who hit the headlines in 1968 when he carried out Britain's first heart transplant. Donald who has died aged 91, led the team that carried out Britain's first heart transplant in 1968, though perhaps his greater achievement was the development of the pulmonary auto graft (also known the Ross procedure) whereby a diseased aortic valve is replaced with the person's own pulmonary valve. Donald Ross was born to Scottish parents on October 4 1922 in Kimberley, South Africa, and trained in Medicine at the University of Cape Town, winning the University Gold Medal for the most distinguished graduate in Medicine in 1946.

Three years later he moved to Britain for surgical training, and, after appointments in Bath and Bristol, in 1953 he was appointed cardiovascular research fellow at Guy's Hospital, where the following year he became Senior Thoracic Registrar under Sir Russell (later Lord) Brock, a pioneer in British cardiac surgery.

Ross travelled widely, introducing open heart surgery to India and Egypt, and was honoured by many international colleges and surgical societies. His reputation was such that former students and admirers in the profession established a Donald Ross Surgical Society.



**Our thoughts are with the families and friends who lost a loved one during 2014.**

(Alphabetical order)

Dr Robert Louwens, Bardin  
Sec T Cert 1947, BSc 1944

Dr Ashfaq Ali, Bawa  
MBChB 1990

Ms Nokuzola Portia, Bonga  
BED (HONS) 2003

Dr Melissa Thandi, Bosenberg  
MBChB 2000

Mr Robin Albert, Bosomworth  
BSC 1960

Mr Tor Norman, Bovim  
BSc(CivilEng) 1960

Mr Chester Centlivres, Chase  
BSC(ENG) 1950

Mr Charles Ronald, Coppin  
BA(FA) 1965

Ms Nthabiseng Sarah, Dlula  
BSC 2013

Em Prof Johannes, Dommissie  
MBChB 1953

Prof Alexander Basil, Edwards  
LLD 1984

Mr John Steven, Farquhar  
BCOM 1963

Dr John Edward, Gasson  
MBChB 1951

Mr Peter Joseph, Hayes  
BA (Hons) 1991, BA 1986

Mr John Gray, Heldzingen  
BCOM 1940

Mr Platon Apostolatos, James  
BA 1950

Mr Heinrich, Jansen v Rensburg  
PGDIP in Law 2010

Dr Stanley Manfred, Kaplan  
MBChB 1948

Dr Reuben, Kay  
MBChB 1954

Dr Solomon, Kaye  
MBChB 1946

## Memories

**“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.” Nelson Mandela**

Mrs Eileen Wilson, Kent  
SEC T CERT 1934, BA 1933

Dr David Percy, Kidron  
MBChB 1947

Dr Leon Brink, Knoll  
BSC 1943

Mr Gerald Vincent, Kraak  
BA 1977

Mr Michael Peter, Mamacos  
BARCH 1954

Dr Norman, Robinson  
MBChB 1949

Dr David Ross, Ryrie  
MBChB 1949

Mr Jochem Adolf, Mars  
Dip Arch 1969

Ms Sheila Rose, Maspero  
DIP EDUC Adults 1983

Mr Peter Graham, Meredith  
CTA 1972

Dr William, Mukheiber  
MBChB 1948

Mrs Amy Mary, Rae  
BA 1938

Mr Ezreal, Sakinofsky  
BSc (CivEng) 1940, BA 1952, LLB 1953

Mrs Miriam, Schapera  
BA 1941

Dr Oscar Michael, Segal  
MBChB 1958

Mrs Diana Georgina, Shaw  
BA 1967

Mr Anthony Clarence, Sparks  
BA Arts 1974

Dr Winifred M, v d Ross-Charles  
MBChB 1954

Thank you so much for taking the time to read the UCT Legacy Newsletter. What I find very exciting about this publication is that it is by Alumni and Friends, for Alumni and Friends. The majority of articles in this edition come from Alumni and friends from all over the globe which is a clear indication that the hearts still burn warm for “Moscow on the Hill”. We encourage you to keep on sending us anecdotes about your time at UCT, your life after UCT, your children’s life at UCT, and grand children - well I am sure you get the picture!

The UCT Legacy News is particularly aimed at the age group 55+ (count me in) which I find quite a ‘bitter sweet’ era. There is so much nostalgia and memories about the years gone by and we are also now at an age where we are saying good-bye to many good friends and family members. This is one of the reasons why we chose the Mandela quote above. I am sure that during our lives we will and have definitely made a difference in somebody’s life, whether it is a child, colleague or friend. What is wonderful however is that we are also in a position to make a difference to someone’s life whom we don’t even know. As Alumni and friends of UCT we can ensure that the legacy of UCT lives on by supporting our bequest programme. There are many ways to support UCT. By planning your support as part of your long-term estate and financial plans, you can make an investment in the future of UCT – one that will support future generations of students and alumni. Please make contact with us if you want to learn more about estate planning, how to include a gift to us as part of those plans and how you can benefit from your gift.

As this will be our final UCT Newsletter for 2014 we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing care and encouragement. Enjoy the festive season and we trust that you will find yourselves amongst warm and devoted family and friends.

With heartfelt Ikey regards,

<u>René Nolte</u>	&	<u>Sandiswa Gwele</u>
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