

2017



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

ALUMNI NEWS



**A NEW
STRATEGIC PLAN**
VISION 2020

**TRANSFORMATION
AT UCT**

**DISTINGUISHING
UCT CAMPAIGN**

**A FOCUS
ON RESEARCH**

MISSION

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

UCT STRATEGIC PLAN

2020 Vision

Our vision for UCT is to be an inclusive, engaged and research-intensive African university. UCT will inspire creativity through outstanding achievements in discovery and innovation. It will be celebrated for the quality of its learning and contribution to citizenship. We will enhance the lives of students and staff and advance a more equitable and sustainable social order. We aspire to be a leader in the global higher education landscape.

Our statement of values

- We embrace our African identity
- We widen educational and social opportunities
- We enhance the lives of individuals and communities
- We build an equitable social order based on respect for human rights
- We advance the public good by teaching, generating knowledge and actively engaging with the key challenges facing our society.

Creating a university culture that is

creative	rigorous	curious
research-informed	nurturing	honest
accountable	excellent	collegial
responsible	open	inclusive
respectful	open-minded	

A new, inclusive identity for UCT

We want a student and staff body that is more representative of the country and the continent, and for students and staff to see themselves – their cultures, values, heritage and knowledge systems – reflected at the university.

Global partnerships with a distinctive African lens

We want to advance the status and distinctiveness of scholarship in Africa, and attract and connect people from all over the world, by promoting a vibrant and supportive intellectual environment at UCT.

A research-intensive university

We want UCT researchers to continue making a distinctive contribution to local and global knowledge and to produce new solutions to challenges facing the African continent and the world.

Innovation in teaching and learning

We want to improve students' success rates, broaden their academic perspectives, stimulate their social consciousness and cultivate more critical citizens by renewing our approach to teaching and learning, and pioneering new methods.

Social impact through engaged scholarship

We want to enhance UCT's engaged scholarship to address critical development and social justice issues, including the expansion of community and external partnerships.

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VICE-CHANCELLOR'S FOREWORD

With this being the last annual alumni news foreword that I will write as Vice-Chancellor it seems appropriate to reflect on some highlights of what UCT has achieved on my watch. Looking back, I feel enormously privileged to have led your alma mater during a decade of great achievements and many challenges:

UCT as a globally competitive research university has been enhanced through strategies around internationalisation - developing new institutional linkages and research collaborations.

There has been a concerted focus on developing UCT's networks and partnerships on the African continent, as one way for UCT to differentiate itself amongst top universities globally, conceptualised as a vision to be an 'Afropolitan' university.

We have intensified and expanded our efforts to deal with histories of racialised educational disadvantage - with respect to student admissions, staffing demography, institutional culture and curricula, including a new admissions policy and a new financial aid system that enables needs-blind admission, and increased resources to interventions that will improve success rates.

We have moved UCT from 'research-led' to 'research-intensive' through the implementation of a sophisticated research management system, training and support for emerging researchers, policy and projects promoting open access and discoverability, investment in equipment and high performance computing and data visualisation, financial and organisational investment in post-doctoral programmes, growth of post-graduate numbers and quality, and creating new interdisciplinary programmes.

With the goal of valorising teaching and elevating its status in order to raise the commitment to, and quality of, teaching, we have amended promotion criteria and continue to recognise outstanding teachers.



Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price

Our commitment to engaged scholarship, or socially responsive scholarship has been strengthened through: the introduction of an annual report and awards to match those in teaching and research; the introduction of the Knowledge Partners programme through which post-graduates undertake research for community based projects; the institution of 'UCT Plus' - which offers formal recognition on the degree transcript of social responsiveness activities; the

introduction of an optional course available to all students covering global issues and social justice <http://www.globalcitizen.uct.ac.za/>; amongst other initiatives.

UCT has responded to the potentially disruptive developments in on-line learning technology by piloting some on-line qualifications, designing and delivering the first MOOCs (massive open online courses) at a South African university, and introducing "flipped classroom" approaches in some courses (i.e. lectures delivered on line and face-to-face time used for tutorials). In 2016 the UCT was ranked as the second best institution globally creating MOOCs. Generally, lecturers are moving more seriously (but still too cautiously) towards the use of educational technologies in learning and teaching. Thousands of lectures are now routinely captured on video and available on the web for revision purposes.

I established four flagship "Vice-Chancellor Strategic Initiatives" which are university-wide trans-disciplinary research initiatives to address key national challenges:

- African Climate and Development Initiative <http://www.acdi.uct.ac.za/about-us>
- Safety and Violence Initiative <http://www.savi.uct.ac.za/savi/aboutsavi>
- Poverty and Inequality Initiative <http://www.povertyandinequality.uct.ac.za/about-us-29>
- Schools Improvement Initiative <http://www.sii.uct.ac.za/sii/about/objectives>

Two of these are led by Pro-Vice-Chancellors - positions which did not exist before, and two by

directors, all reporting to the Vice-Chancellor's office, to ensure that they operate across disciplinary and faculty boundaries <http://www.uct.ac.za/main/about/management/pro-vice-chancellors>.

The Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice has been established which has raised our profile with senior public administration officials in SA and across the continent through its training programmes, thematic policy workshops, and fellowships. <http://www.gsdpp.uct.ac.za/gsdpp/about/school>

After researching different models, and significant fundraising, we have established the Hasso Plattner Institute for Design Thinking, a sister institute to two other HPI d-Schools at Stanford and Potsdam universities www.dschool.uct.ac.za.

I am very proud of the record levels of fund raising that we have achieved with an enlarged office of Development and Alumni – over 2,5 billion rand during my tenure. We have reconnected with alumni all over the world, and drawn in, for the first time, our black alumni. We have also achieved increases in our bequest programme that has gone from less than 30 known bequest commitments to over 300.

In the last two years, we have weathered the storms of challenging, often traumatic student and labour protests, which were part of a national protest movement. This has tested the mettle and leadership of VCs nationally. The central issue has been the demand for free education – something beyond the control of individual VCs. However, the continuing colonial imprint within South Africa's universities post-

apartheid has also been intensely controversial, demanding more concerted attention – rightly so, in my view – although methods of protest have sometimes been destructive and hostile. Protests have also paralleled similar student movement protests around the world relating to identity politics, LGBTIQ+ rights and recognition, gender based violence, and issues of disability and mental health. A key outcome of these protests at UCT was the insourcing of some 1300 workers who had been outsourced in the 1990s, in the interests of better conditions of employment and a more integrated, cohesive and humane workplace.

It is not possible in the space of a few hundred words to do justice to a decade of activity and progress. But the above mark of some of the highlights that I am most proud of during my tenure as VC of UCT.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Change is never an easy process. And for universities, which often go back many generations, change can be particularly unsettling writes Dr Russell Ally, Executive Director of the Development and Alumni Department

Next year UCT will be celebrating its centenary as a dedicated degree-issuing tertiary institution and in 2019 it will commemorate the 190th year since its founding. Over this long history deep traditions took root evolving into an institutional culture and academic milieu that has had a profound influence on generations of students, staff and communities. Unsurprising then that any perceived 'overhaul' of this past evokes strong reactions, particularly among alumni whose identities are often intertwined with this past.

UCT's new strategic plan is NOT about writing this past out of our history. Fundamentally the new

strategic plan is about the future. The plan recognises the solid academic platform of excellence that UCT's complex history has laid for future generations of alumni. But it also acknowledges UCT's flawed past of racial exclusion and white privilege. The past cannot be changed. But the future can.

This unavoidably means interrogating our past with honesty and courage and putting in place in the present, the building blocks for a new and inclusive identity for UCT.

In the pages which follow in this edition of UCT Alumni News we trust that you will gain better insight into the bold new future that



Executive Director, Development and Alumni Department, Dr Russell Ally

your alma mater is conscientiously working towards. Our wish is that you will realise this is not something to fear but to embrace. And most importantly our fervent hope is that you will continue to remain loyal to your alma mater and support it during these exciting and challenging times.

STORY BY HELEN SWINGLER

RENAMED KNOWLEDGE COMMONS HONOURS STRUGGLE LIBRARIAN

District Six-born community librarian Vincent Kolbe has taken a place of honour on UCT's upper campus. This follows the renaming of the Knowledge Commons in the Chancellor Oppenheimer Library as the Vincent Kolbe Knowledge Commons on 23 March

Kolbe joins AC Jordan, Neville Alexander and Cissy Gool, whose names grace buildings and a plaza on the main campus. They were activists and pioneers in the arenas of language, race and gender, as was Kolbe, who created a legacy of reading and knowledge and an open and inclusive reading culture in Cape Flats' communities through public libraries. Speaking

at the event, the executive director of the Development and Alumni Department, Dr Russell Ally, said the renaming of the Knowledge Commons is part of creating a "new, inclusive identity for the university".

Information for all

Kolbe's story is one of commitment to community and its development through reading, debate and access

to information at a restrictive time in South Africa's history. He saw the library as an indispensable communal space with a strong social, recreational and educational role. It was for this that UCT conferred an honorary Master of Arts degree in 2002. Speaking at the launch, the executive director of UCT Libraries, Gwenda Thomas, said: "The impact and influence of Vincent Kolbe



The renamed Vincent Kolbe Knowledge Commons honours the late Vincent Kolbe, the 'people's librarian', and is described as an innovative learning space embodying the values of blended learning and inclusive pedagogies. Photo UCT Special Collections.

lives on far beyond his lifetime. "The significance of this space reflects the wall of honour where UCT's robust and fraught journey in defence of academic freedom is portrayed in visual representation of both the role and activity of this university as well as the histories and legacies of those activists and educationalists, like Vincent Kolbe, who forged the way for our nation's democracy by upholding and defending the principles of equitable access to all to information."

Though delayed by campus unrest last year, the launch came at a significant juncture, she said. Last week was South African Library Week, which intersected strategically with Human Rights Day on 21 March. "The [Library Week] theme for 2017, My Library, Your Library, fittingly represents the spirit and ethos of Vincent Kolbe," said Thomas. "The focus on the notion of 'communal' and 'community' is pivotal to why we are here today."

Pioneering concept

UCT Libraries pioneered the concept of Knowledge Commons in the 1990s under Joan Rapp, now UCT Librarian Emeritus. It was a model that rapidly took hold at the country's academic libraries. "It's an innovative service, which is a dedicated UCT learning and research facility where students can access the Libraries' electronic resources via high-end workstations and software with skilled librarians on hand to provide expert assistance," said Thomas. When the project to rename UCT's buildings was initiated in 2014, it was the Libraries' staff who persuaded the committee that the Knowledge Commons was the most suited facility to honour Kolbe.

Library as a barber shop

Kolbe had a shaky start. His mother's illness forced him to leave school and he matriculated through part-time night school where a Catholic nun and teacher encouraged him to become a librarian. "I met Vincent in Bonteheuwel in 1974 when I worked as a student librarian," guest speaker Archie Dick, professor of information science at the University of Pretoria,

recalled. "Just before closing, I would join the other assistants in the backroom where Vincent regaled us with memories of his early library and other experiences. As a school boy, he ran errands for the City Councillor AZ Berman." The nun who helped him with his studies told him he should apply for a job at the SA Library. "A new world opened for him in the four-and-a-half years he worked there. He started as a stack attendant and ran up and down library stairs to collect materials for researchers like Eric Rosenthal and TV Bulpin."

The library director arranged for him to attend part-time studies at UCT's School of Librarianship. But while UCT may have provided the technical skills, Vincent's style of librarianship was shaped by the creole culture and people of District Six, said Dick. "This style was based on the idea of the barber shop that brought together the district's rich and its poor, its oral and its literate traditions, its professionals and its workers. It was this tradition and style of librarianship that Vincent carried into the Cape Flats townships and impressed on young librarians like myself and others."

Banned books in tog bags

But there was another aspect to Kolbe's dissemination of knowledge and information. It was, of necessity, more clandestine. "As a young, qualified librarian at the Cape Town City Libraries in the 1950s, he was expected to de-catalogue boxes of books that had been withdrawn from circulation and send them to be pulped or burned at the municipal incinerator. He vividly recalled the collection of withdrawn materials as a library of condemned books: surprising titles like John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*, Stuart Cloete's *The Turning Wheels* and Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty* ... even Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech and LPs of the rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar* were not spared by the censors."

In the 1970s and 1980s Kolbe became a source of banned materials. He had many contacts,

one an Anglican priest in Seattle who sent him books by African American activist Angela Davis. He also received BBC recordings and cassettes. Dick recalls, "These and other banned materials were kept in a sports tog bag under the lending desk at Observatory Library and used secretly by activists. When there were police raids, of course, no one knew whose tog bag it was or how it had got there!"

Separate libraries

Kolbe was a young professional when separate library associations were introduced in 1962. He refused to join the Cape Library Association for Coloureds despite UCT librarian Mr [Rene Ferdinand Malan] Immelman's attempts to persuade him. "When he retired in 1991, Vincent was described by a colleague as a 'people's librarian'," said Dick. "As proof of this, his retirement party was attended by 80-year-old Mr PF Jacobs, who was one of the first people he had registered at Bonteheuwel Library."

Keynote speaker, Trevor Manuel, deputy chairperson of Rothschild (RSA), described Kolbe as an eclectic person: "His life had so many dimensions because he was a reader, a storyteller, a jazz musician ... and an amateur historian." He invited us to listen to his old cassettes, part of his District Six oral history project ... people who understood what changes had taken place, the people who were there when the Group Areas Act came into being, and who could relate to their African neighbours who weren't there any longer. "He didn't need to occupy a position of authority to provide leadership ... it's about being non-doctrinaire and about being able to listen. It's about embracing ideas and never being afraid of ideas."

Speaking on behalf of the family, Kolbe's daughter, Juliette Bourne, said the nature of the Knowledge Commons fitted well with her father's style and legacy. "When Gwenda told us why they had chosen the Knowledge Commons as the place to remember him and to celebrate his legacy, it started clicking into place ... He was a constant source of information to all of us."

A NEW, INCLUSIVE IDENTITY: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Transformation, or rather the perceived slow pace of transformation within higher education, has been at the core of the student-led protests in South Africa since 2015. Since then, the pressure has been on the government to respond to calls for free tertiary education for all. At UCT, one of our new strategic goals is: “To forge a new inclusive identity that reflects a more representative profile of students and staff, and the cultures, values, heritage and epistemologies of the diversity of UCT’s staff and students”

UCT Alumni News Magazine sat down with Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Loretta Feris, who is responsible for providing strategic direction on transformation policies and implementation at UCT. We wanted to understand why transformation is an imperative for the University; how much progress has been made to date and, to get a sense of the road ahead. We started by asking her to explain what this process of change entails, within a rapidly changing higher education context.

LF: The University has come a long way when looking at student profiles - UCT is now a slightly majority black university, in line with the country’s demographics. When looking at staff demographics, particularly academic staff and institutional culture, we still have a long way to go. Classroom and workplace culture remains an unwelcome space for differently situated bodies (black, womxn, LGBT, disabled, etc). With regards to teaching and learning we have to ask what knowledge do we wish to impart : is it knowledge that includes or excludes, is it knowledge that is appropriate and contextually relevant, is it knowledge that takes into account indigenous knowledge systems, is it knowledge that bridges the divide with respect to the varied contexts from which our students arrive, is it knowledge that bridges the articulation gap in ways that empower rather than

discourage it knowledge that sees student as deficient or as diverse? Is it knowledge that sees the student as a receptacle or a co-creator?

Do you believe that the Higher Education sector has lagged behind transformation drives initiated in South Africa? If so, what would you attribute this to?

LF: Our understanding of transformation is constantly changing and deepening. Thirty years ago, our focus was solely on changing student profiles, but we haven’t interrogated institutional culture sufficiently. One reason for that might have been that we [the older generation] couldn’t look further than the end of the apartheid era and were somehow still shell-shocked from this brutal regime.

While the new generation is able to see the bigger picture, they can see further than the end of apartheid and are now challenging the notion of being ‘born free’. Are they truly born into freedom? Through the student protests, this new generation foregrounded the call for decolonisation in all spheres of education.

How is your office addressing the issues around equity at the University of Cape Town? For instance, what systems are being developed to implement the call for equal remuneration regardless of gender or race?

LF: Let’s talk about equity in terms

of employment. The University has an Employment Equity plan (2015-2020) which has set targets to support UCT in achieving its transformation agenda. Council, has however, asked us to think more aggressively about the targets we have set for ourselves as an institution. So we are going back to the drawing board to look at what we have achieved with respect to current targets and how we can expand on those targets. The executive will working closely with Human Resources to assist each department to reach these targets and we are developing an employment equity strategy that will look at the drivers of employment equity: recruitment, promotion and retention. We have already stepped up employment equity representative training and are systematically reviewing the EE representative policy and the data that emanates from selection policies to strengthen those policies. We have also reviewed the employment equity fund, a fund that is used to make strategic appointments to meet our EE targets. Access to the fund now requires a clear career development trajectory for anybody appointed through the fund. I should mention by the way that contributing to the EE fund can be an important way in which alumni can partner with us in ensuring that we employ talented black staff.



What interventions are being developed to support talented black academics and other previously marginalised groups?

LF: I have mentioned the development of a targeted EE strategy, but already across departments and faculties, a variety of initiatives are under way to develop the pipeline of black and female talent, each taking into account the unique circumstances of its own discipline and what it takes to recruit, develop and retain staff. The DVC for research, Prof Phakeng has taken the lead in providing support for black postgraduates that will enable them to further their studies and prepare them for a career in higher education. Another intervention launched in 2015 is the Next Generation Professoriate (NGP) which aims to expand and accelerate transformation of UCT’s professoriate by providing support for mid-career academics.

What initiatives are being developed to support gender equity and sexuality?

LF: We need to talk about gender equity not only in relation to employment, but also in terms of culture. All the initiatives mentioned above are aimed at ensuring gender equity. But we also need to ask ourselves: “Do we as the university provide a positive workplace, free from sexual harassment and insult?” As an answer to this question, the newly restructured Office for Inclusivity and Change (OIC, previously DISCHO and HAICU) works with the a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) which was set up in 2016 to ensure that survivors of sexual violence access survivor-centered, compassionate care, while assisting the campus community in matters of discrimination, sexual harassment, domestic violence and rape. The OIC uses an intersectional approach in its advocacy, awareness and training on issues pertaining to sexual harassment and discrimination. A new policy on sexuality has recently been approved by Senate and will hopefully be approved by Council

soon. We have also started the process of drafting a gender policy and of setting up a designated sexual offences tribunal.

Free education. A right or a privilege?

LF: Probably both! In many countries, it’s a right and I believe that access to higher education can be made possible through free education. The government of South Africa has to evaluate its contribution and funding for higher education. At UCT a Free Education Planning Group (FEPG) has been established and has, over the last year, worked towards the creation of a Free Education Research Unit (FERU) - a student-led and academically supervised research team, which is exploring models for free and accessible education, and comparing them with existing international models. One of the more promising models that have been examined is that of a graduate tax, which taxes graduates at a progressively higher tax rate than non-graduates. Another question this group is raising, evolves around the future of higher education - does higher education have to be in the form of universities or are there other possible models to achieve academic excellence?

How are you facilitating change and rebuilding trust between the University and its internal constituency: staff and students?

LF: I believe in collaboration. There is a book by Adam Kahane *Collaborating with the Enemy - How to Work with People You Don’t Agree with or Like or Trust*. Even though I don’t necessary like the title of the book, I agree with the sentiment that even if you do not agree with somebody, you can still build trust through collaboration, as long as you have a shared vision and a willingness to engage. Kahane also tells us that we need to re-imagine collaboration and that conflict should not necessarily be a barrier to collaboration, but it can in fact be an opportunity for innovation and transformation. So I do not see those

who do not agree with me as my enemy, whether they are protesting students or offended alumni. I am always open to courageous conversations, robust or perhaps more guarded; one-on- one, or in a more formal setting. As departments or faculties we all have to come together and talk through the issues facing us as a university, whether it is curriculum change, decolonisation or seemingly year -on-year protest action. We are all affected by the moment we find ourselves in as a university and we need to be able to articulate to each other our fears, concerns and anger. My portfolio through the OIC is willing to facilitate these conversations.

Since your appointment to the portfolio in January 2017 - what changes have you observed and what would you consider to be the most significant successes to date?

LF: It has been the year in which we had to face and resolve the issues students have persistently raised over the last few years - financial exclusion, academic exclusion, accommodation and social and psychological well-being. These are issues that ultimately have an impact on how students experience UCT and on student success. We have set up the Rapid Response Task Team (RRTT) a unique interim structure with representation of the executive, student movements and the SRC which looks at both operational and academic issues that impede student progress. It is not a decision-making body, but it works to resolve issues more rapidly or sometimes not so rapidly. Students are frustrated that processes are bureaucratic and slow, but we are making headway and progress.

What have we learned from the student and worker protests which took place on campuses across SA in 2015 and 2016?

LF: One of the many things we have learned from the student protests in 2015 is that they have forced us to interrogate who we are as a university, whether we



“ I was born into a family that questioned social justice. I was raised in a critical family, so one can say my whole family - my upbringing - is my inspiration.”

UCT Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Transformation, Professor Loretta Feris

truly are inclusive and importantly it has forced us to reflect on the academic project – the very core of the university. As a result we now reflect much more deeply on curriculum, pedagogy, assessment and classroom practice. The worker protests have similarly forced us to revisit who we are as an employer and the conditions on which we have previously employed people. Insourcing of staff has therefore been an important step forward for the university.

As a professor of law, why are you passionate about transformation? Who inspires you in this regard?

LF: Law is a discipline that allows you to question notions of justice and fairness. I was drawn to law because I was born into a family that questioned social justice. I was raised in a critical family, so one can say my whole family – my upbringing – is my inspiration.

Getting to know Professor Loretta Feris

Loretta Feris is professor of law in the Institute of Marine and Environmental Law. She joined the department of public law, at the University of Cape Town in July 2009. She holds a BA(law), LLB and LLD from the University of Stellenbosch and a LLM from Georgetown University in the USA. Previously, she was associate professor of law at the University of Pretoria, where she was also a research associate at the Centre for Human Rights. Prior to joining the University of Pretoria, she was based at American University's Washington College of Law first as an international fellow and later as Assistant Director of the International Legal Studies Programme. She remained an adjunct faculty member of this institution until 2006. She was also a senior research fellow at the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA). Loretta is an NRF rated researcher and her research interest includes environmental justice and trade and environment. Recently she started focusing on the connection between, space, identity and rights. She advises the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on priority areas for the environmental law agenda in respect of the Montevideo Programme IV process. She has also served on a UNEP experts group which has drafted a model law on liability for environmental damage. Loretta has served on the board of the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA), is a Law Commissioner of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and a member of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law where she served on the teaching and capacity building committee for three years. She was also the Western Cape regional representative of the ELA (the Environmental Law Association of South Africa) and serves on a number of editorial boards.

5 YEAR MILESTONE FOR UCT SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

On the 26th of August, 150 donors, supporters and high school learners gathered at the Centre of Science and Technology in Khayelitsha, Cape Town to celebrate a five year milestone for the University of Cape Town's innovative Schools Improvement Initiative

Launched in May 2012, the Schools Improvement Initiative (SII) was established at UCT to assist the Western Cape Education Department in improving the quality of education in the province and to strengthen the UCT Schools Development Unit's (SDU) interventions to address the crisis of education in the country. To date, 20 Khayelitsha schools now form part of the SII schools network. The Centre of Science and Technology (COSAT), a senior secondary school in Khayelitsha, is one such partner institution. Established in 1999, it is also the first of three Science, Technology, Engineering and

Mathematics (STEM) schools in the Western Cape.

The SII anniversary event held in August, provided an opportunity for learners, teachers, UCT staff and students to reflect on milestones achieved as well as critical insights obtained since inception. Speaking at the event, director of the SDU and SII, Professor Jonathan Clark said, "The negative impacts of the socioeconomic circumstances of the communities these schools serve, press heavily on every classroom. One of the programme's strengths is that it works to support each partner school's self-identified development needs related to

improving the quality of teaching and learning in the classroom. One way we achieve this is by engaging in teacher-professional and school-organisational development, which is undertaken by the SDU. Our modus operandi here is a combination of university-approved and South African Council of Educators-registered short courses, backed up by classroom-based support."

The 100UP programme is one of the SII's flagship initiatives. Selected high school learners from disadvantaged backgrounds are mentored and supported over a three-year period by members of UCT staff and students. Established as a pilot project in 2011 with five Grade 10 learners identified from each of the 20 high schools in the area, 100UP now boasts an enrolment of 300 learners per annum, across grades 10 to 12. An additional group of 'university potential' Grade 12 learners, identified as the GILL NET group, is brought on board after June each year from the 20 Khayelitsha schools. In 2014, 70 of the first cohort of 100UP and GILL NET learners entered UCT as 100UP+ students.

The Schools Improvement Initiative is one of several priority fundraising projects at the University of Cape Town. A longer-term objective is to use 100UP to build institutional knowledge and experience that can better inform the University's bridging programmes and school-based interventions.



Students from COSAT impressed the audience at the Schools Improvement Initiative anniversary event held in August 2017.



Solution Space Philippi is a vibrant hub for innovators and entrepreneurs, say team members (pictured from L-R): Tsepo Ngwenyama, Sivuyise Nomana, Ndileka Zantsi, Sarah-Anne Alman and Simnikiwe Xanga.

GSB PHILIPPI CAMPUS: A MODEL FOR UNIVERSITY SPACES

The University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business has launched a novel satellite campus, on the site of a disused cement factory in the Cape Flats. The new Solution Space Philippi is the first community campus to be established by UCT in the institution's history. The initiative forms part of a long-term strategy to support local entrepreneurship and to facilitate stakeholder and student interaction beyond the traditional spaces of the University.

UCT is one of the anchor tenants at Philippi Village, a 6 000m² mixed-use entrepreneurial zone, located at the intersection of the Nyanga, Gugulethu, Mitchell's Plain and Khayelitsha communities. The new development zone in Philippi was first conceptualised in 2012 and according to Manager Sarah-Anne Alman, the Graduate School of Business (GSB) was involved right from the start. She explains that the vision was to create broader economic opportunity for residents and to reverse the exodus of resources from the township to the CBD. Fast forward five years and a once derelict site has now become a vibrant, creative hub for innovation, technology and entrepreneurship involving community members, private stakeholders, donors, corporate entities and university students. The Bertha Foundation (sponsor of the GSB's Bertha Centre for Social

Innovation and Entrepreneurship), is one of two founding partners in the Philippi Village initiative; the other being Cape Town-based NGO, The Business Activator. Although the Philippi campus has been operating for almost year, the official launch or 'ukuvulindlu' (house-warming) event, was held on 24 July 2017.

Solution Space Philippi offers UCT students, alumni, clients and local entrepreneurs in the community, a place to meet and to exchange ideas. GSB students based at the Breakwater campus are encouraged to take at least one course on the Philippi satellite site. For the director of the GSB, Professor Mills Soko, this is one of the key advantages of the new satellite site. "This 'transfer' is essential if students are to become comfortable with uncertainty and paradox in a complex and fast-changing world," he said. "Being here helps our students to

develop empathy and resilience and to open their eyes to wider perspectives – all of which are vital attributes for the modern leader, especially one operating in an emerging market," said Soko. He believes that the Philippi site fulfills other important goals such as deepening roots in the local community, cementing the GSB's relevance as an African business school while developing socially relevant solutions to African challenges.

On-site facilities at UCT GSB's Solution Space Philippi include fully-equipped meeting rooms, state-of-the-art work spaces, a lounge area as well as lecture venues. To date, more than 100 workshops and educational programmes have been held in the space. Visitors have included the World Bank, Columbia University, the University of Warwick, George Washington University and Esade Business School.

STORY BY MILLS SOKO

LIGHTING THE FIRES TO FUEL AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT

To meet the scale of the continent's challenges, African entrepreneurs and innovators need to re-orientate their enterprises towards good business principles – and business schools must make sure they are on hand to support them

Things are looking tougher for Africa this year. After a decade of exuberant growth, recent GDP data shows that key economies in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) continue to slow, dragging growth in the region down to a disappointing average 1.1% per annum, its lowest for six years. Add to that global threats, including uncertainty surrounding a Trump administration in the US, and you could start to get quite gloomy about prospects on the continent.

Such pessimism, however, would be misplaced. As businessman and philanthropist Tony Elumelu – champion of the concept of Africans investing in Africa – has pointed out, the commercial rewards for investing on the continent are still significant. And done right they can bring significant economic and much needed social benefits.

There is already significant investment interest in the continent both at home and abroad, particularly in the impact investment space, which looks for businesses that deliver social value along with financial returns.

According to Rachel Keeler, writing in the Stanford Social Innovation Review (SSI) recently, Africa has been the top geographic focus for impact investment in the past few years. The only problem is that the number of interested investors far outstrips the number of investable enterprises.

To better position African business to take advantage of this interest, entrepreneurs need to learn to think like investors. This starts with

having a clear and articulate vision of what they are trying to achieve and a strong business model for how they plan to do this, along with clear measures in place to track and demonstrate impact.

In short, they need to embody good business principles first and innovative potential second. Innovation is frequently touted as the cure-all for creating new markets, jobs and solutions to age-old development problems, but despite its seductive lure as a quick fix for Africa's challenges, innovation in and of itself is never going to be a substitute for sound business. It is not – as Christian Seelos and Johanna Mair put it in their article in the SSI – a shortcut to development.

Innovation, they argue, does not magically solve big problems faster. More dangerously, the belief that it does can mean that value created by incremental improvements of the core, routine activities of organisations (which are altogether less glamorous) can be side lined – creating more harm than good.

A recent analysis of KPMG International Development Advisory Services' (IDAS) investment portfolio across Africa confirmed, perhaps unsurprisingly, that successful businesses also have the most impact. If we want to create impact in Africa, we need to attend therefore to the task of creating successful business – that includes paying more attention to the businesses that fail and understanding why this is, in addition to celebrating the ones that succeed. This will require



a coordinated effort from business, government, civil society, media and academia working together to support and build business on the continent. Business schools, of course, have a special role to play here, and collaborations like the African Academic Association on Entrepreneurship (AAAE) too will play a crucial role.

An institution like the GSB, which is a founding member of the AAAE and rated as the top business school on the continent, has a duty to facilitate and promote the growth of business on the continent. We can do this not only by making sure



Mills Soko is director of UCT Graduate School of Business

business leaders and entrepreneurs are equipped with the right skills and attitudes to build successful and profitable businesses that also move society forward, but also by convening spaces to enable the necessary conversations and connecting the right people.

If we don't do this, we risk the tragedy of exciting new ideas – no matter how good they are – burning brightly and briefly before crashing to the ground never to be seen again because they do not have the right business infrastructure in place to support them.

When it comes to the development challenges facing this continent, we don't just need bright flares and dazzling innovations – we need slow burning and sustainable fires that bring about systemic changes – and the GSB is positioning itself to ignite these.

Professor Mills Soko is director of the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business. He is a UCT alumnus who holds a Bachelor of Social Science degree (1992); a Masters in International Studies from the University of Stellenbosch as well as a Master's degree in International Political Economy from the University of Warwick. In 2004, he completed a doctoral thesis on the political economy of trade policy reform in post-apartheid South Africa at the same university. His areas of academic interest and expertise include: International trade; Foreign direct investment; Doing business in Africa; Government-business relations in South Africa; Economic diplomacy; Regional economic integration, with a specific focus on Southern Africa.

STORY BY **JESS OOSTHUIZEN**. PHOTO BY **MICHAEL HAMMOND**

UCT'S D-SCHOOL UNLOCKS CREATIVITY TO DRIVE INNOVATION

The Hasso Plattner Institute of Design Thinking (d-school) at UCT is one of only three in the world. Richard Perez, the founding director of the UCT d-school, was the guest speaker at the most recent Café Scientifique. He described how the d-school aims to equip multidisciplinary research teams at UCT with essential design thinking skills for developing innovative solutions to tackle real-world problems

“Volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous are the new normal,” says Perez.

So, supporting innovation in professional and academic environments requires a workforce that can respond and adapt to challenges as they arise. Design thinking involves developing a particular mindset to tackle problems and develop solutions within a changing environment.

“Finding sustainable solutions is about letting go of having the answer and dealing with the uncertainty,” says Perez. “We teach our students to be more comfortable with being creative, explorative and to step into uncertainty”.

Origins of design thinking

The d-school’s approach is centred on the principals of design thinking: a creative, human-centred approach to problem-solving that has its roots in industrial design. The theory behind the d-school’s design thinking approach emerged from Stanford University’s product design major in the early 2000s. Academics at Stanford began to explore the thinking processes that lead to a good design outcome. Instead of focusing on the aesthetic appeal of good design, they began to investigate the approach that designers followed to conceptualising good design. This new school of thought prompted the German businessman, Hasso Plattner, to start a school that was

centred on the principles of design thinking. The first school opened in Stanford in the USA in 2005 and a second school followed in 2008 in Potsdam, Germany.

Plattner had wanted to open up a d-school at UCT ever since his daughter studied here; the UCT d-school opened doors in 2016 and is the first of its kind in Africa.

Holding the problem space

“You can’t go into solution mode until you’ve held the problem space” says Perez. “It’s about holding the problem space for as long as you can.” Einstein reportedly said that if he only had one hour to solve a problem, he would spend 55 minutes defining the problem and the remaining five minutes solving it. This approach is echoed in the principles of design thinking.

Perez refers to the importance of taking an abductive approach, which involves relying on incomplete observations to develop a solution to a particular problem. Part of this process involves becoming familiar with failure.

“You’ll probably fail the first time, but over time the solution emerges,” says Perez.

The UCT d-school aims to empower students and staff to feel confident to embrace failure. One of the school’s founding principles is to recognise that failure is instrumental to the learning process. “Embracing failure is crucial to being able to

unlock our creativity,” says Perez. “It’s about making space for and allowing failure to enable people to become more creative.” Those familiar with the Lean Startup methodology will know that design teams have a particular idea at the outset and work on refining it until it is perfect. By comparison, design thinking involves starting the process without having any idea of what your solution will look like.

Design thinking ecosystem

In conceptual terms, the design thinking space – or ecosystem, as Perez describes it – is made up of three key elements: diversity, a process to follow and the space to do it in. “The innovation sits within the diversity,” says Perez. Team work is at the heart of d-school activities, and the focus is on working with interdisciplinary teams to achieve results by drawing on each individual’s different perspective and expertise. “Design thinking offers a paradigm shift in the way problems can be approached. It dismantles competition by fostering collaboration,” says Professor Ulrich Weinberg, director of the d-school in Potsdam.

“Real human needs should inform the initial search for solutions to a particular problem.”

Perez does not divulge what process is followed in detail, but it’s clear that design thinking occupies both a mental and a physical space.



Richard Perez, the founding director of the UCT d-school.

Most importantly, it retains a human-centred approach throughout. Real human needs should inform the initial search for solutions to a particular problem. One way to identify human needs is to understand issues from the perspective of the people affected, in the context in which they experience them. Identifying solutions to optimise patient care within a hospital environment, for example, could start with observing a patient lying in a hospital bed to understand their experience. Perez reports that this very exercise

led a project team to recognise that a large chunk of the patient experience involves looking at the ceiling. The design-thinking process also equips teams with the ability to take a variety of constraints – such as access to technology – into account and suspend these while they work together to identify the best-fit solution. “It’s about being agile and iterative,” says Perez. Flexibility is key in both mental and physical terms. The d-school is located in an open-plan space that allows project teams to rethink how they occupy

the space they’re working in. “As the project evolves, the space evolves,” he says.

The UCT d-school itself is also evolving. It is still in its infancy and Perez does not know how Plattner will measure its return on investment. “Part of the challenge is to use design thinking to solve this and to let the solution emerge,” he says.

Interested UCT postgraduates in any discipline can sign up for a foundation programme taking place in the first semester of 2018.

COMPILED BY **UCT NEWSROOM**

NONHLANHLA KHUMALO: REDEFINING BLACK HAIR, DEFENDING BLACK SKIN

This is the story of how a child who regarded a comb as an instrument of apartheid repression became an expert on hair research and dermatology, making headlines across the world with her revelations about the poisonous side effects of Brazilian hair straighteners and skin-lightening products



Associate Professor Nonhlanhla Khumalo.

“I would see my mom coming with that Afro comb, and I would just want to run away,” Associate Professor Nonhlanhla Khumalo remembers. “I think at that time I really believed that the comb was so painful, it must have been a tool of apartheid repression.” Eventually, she and her mom declared a truce: her mother would put aside the comb, and Khumalo would keep her hair short.

Rewind to two years after the 1976 Soweto uprisings. Khumalo – then 12 years old – found herself on a train headed from the centre of Johannesburg to Inanda Seminary, an elite boarding school near Durban. The school was an anomaly in apartheid South Africa. It was an all-girls school where the learners were all black, and the staff was multiracial and multinational; the school was known for its academic rigour, and as the preferred school for the daughters of the middle class. Even more importantly for Khumalo, it also had a black woman as a principal: “Mrs Khoza, the principal, would always say to us, ‘Girls, chests out, walk straight, be proud,’” recalls Khumalo. “You only had to look at her – a black woman who was the one in charge, and who did it all in sky-high heels – to know that anything was possible.”

Khumalo excelled academically at high school, but it wasn’t until she visited the University of Natal in her matric year that she had an

inkling of her future career. “I walked into a lab, and saw an electron microscope for the first time,” she said. “It was love at first sight.” She enrolled in a medical degree course at the university; her first year coincided with the declaration of a national state of emergency. Khumalo remembers it as a dark time: “The night before the Moroko Three were to be assassinated, all of us Alana Taylor Residence students held an all-night vigil. The next morning, we did not go home as we were supposed to: instead, we started marching. The police waited until we reached an industrial part of town, and that’s when they announced that we should disperse within three minutes. At the time I was with a new friend who was from the Transkei. He said, ‘Don’t worry, we have plenty of time,’ but I was from Soweto and knew better. The next moment the police let the dogs loose on us – well, let me tell you, my new friend changed his mind pretty quickly, and we all ran for our lives!” That new friend, Bongani Mayosi, would later become her husband, the father of their two daughters, and dean designate of the Faculty of Health Sciences at UCT.

After graduating, the newlyweds completed their internships in Port Elizabeth and then moved to Cape Town, a city they had fallen in love with on their honeymoon. Khumalo began practising as a general practitioner, first in Khayelitsha and later in Langa. “I remember it as a happy, busy time,” she said, “but there was still so much violence. Too often, people would come to my practice with severe trauma; and because there was no after-hours casualty close by, I felt it was my obligation to always be on duty.” Khumalo became a common sight on the streets of Langa, doing house calls with her doctor’s bag in hand. “It was during these years that I also had my two babies, but I never took maternity leave; I just took them with me to the practice,” she said.

After five years, Khumalo started her training to become a dermatologist at Groote Schuur hospital. Why this specialisation?

“I chose dermatology because it is so visual,” she explains. “The skin gives you clues for the diagnosis; you just need to learn the art of piecing the puzzle together.” Two years later, when her husband won a fellowship to complete his PhD at Oxford University, Khumalo went too. Thanks in part to Professor Saimon Gordon (a fellow South African, and Oxford professor), and in part to the fact that she offered to work for free, Khumalo started work in the Oxford University Department of Dermatology soon after. She hadn’t been there long when Fenella Wojnarowska, a professor, and – as Khumalo describes her – “a genius

a complete lack of original data on the subject – and, for that matter, little understanding of African hair in general. It was this that led her to working with Professor David Ferguson to create the first electron microscopy ‘root-to-tip’ scan of black African hair. She published this study in 2000 in the Journal of American Academy of Dermatology, under the title “What is normal black African hair: a light and scanning electron microscopy study”.

Not content to return to being a practising dermatologist when her family moved back to South Africa, Khumalo then embarked on a public health doctorate under

“ I chose dermatology because it is so visual. The skin gives you clues for the diagnosis; you just need to learn the art of piecing the puzzle together.”

at understanding auto-immune disorders” – called Khumalo into her office, and told her she thought she could handle doing a laboratory project on immunofluorescence for bullous pemphigoid, a skin-blistering disease. “I had never done research – I had always been a clinician; but I was determined to prove her right, so I worked harder than ever before, and in due time I published that paper,” Khumalo remembers. “Later, I found out I was not special; it was something she did with every new arrival. But by that time, it was too late – I was hooked.”

When Khumalo embarked on an evidence-based medicine course at Oxford she returned to the subject, publishing a seminal paper on the treatment of the disease and later becoming a member of the committee that compiled treatment guidelines for the British Association of Dermatologists. It was also in Oxford that Khumalo first started researching hair. For a long time she had wondered at the high prevalence of alopecia, or hair loss, she saw in black women patients in particular. When she investigated further, she realised there was almost

the supervision of Dr Susan Jessop and Prof Rodney Ehrlich, in which she focused on a wide-ranging population study. In 2013, she was appointed head of the division of dermatology at Groote Schuur and UCT.

Her continuing research further entrenched her concern over the long-term effects of commonly-used hair and skin products, especially those – such as chemical relaxers – used on black hair. “Do you know how chemical hair relaxers were invented?” Khumalo asks. “They were discovered accidentally by a tailor called Garret Morgan, in 1909, when he was trying to find a substance that would prevent needles from snagging fabric. Apparently he wiped the chemical off his hands on a piece of fleece, and noted that the texture changed. Later, he showed its straightening effect on hair, and registered the first patent. The main ingredient then, as now, was sodium hydroxide – the same substance used to clean blocked drains.”

Khumalo began to work towards opening a laboratory in which skin and hair products could be tested specifically for toxic and illegal



Khumalo with Dr Jennifer van Wyk, manager of the UCT Hair and Skin Research Laboratory, which opened last year.

ingredients. In 2015 the UCT Hair and Skin Research Laboratory (HSR) opened its doors, using funding from the National Skills Fund. “The reason that this lab is so unique and so exciting,” said Khumalo, “is the fact that it is truly a multidisciplinary collaboration.” The lab has three sections: a mechanical testing area in which the physical properties of hair, such as its tensile strength, can be tested; an analytical area, which tests the chemical properties of hair; and a genetic section, which is still being set up.

Last year, Khumalo was also one of five female South African Research (SARChI) Chairs appointed by the National Research Foundation. The intention behind the chair is to better understand human hair and facilitate the use of hair in medical testing, as well as to understand the effects that common cosmetic products have on users’ health in the long term. “Not many people really understand

what hair is,” said Khumalo. “When it comes to its biochemical makeup, new discoveries suggest it’s probable that curly hair has a greater lipid content. This may have huge implications when hair is used for medical testing, such as when hair is used to monitor HIV patients’ compliance in taking their antiretroviral medicine. Thus, testing for lipid-soluble drugs may require adjustment for hair curvature. This leads us to another important research focus – a move away from using ‘race’ to more scientific ways (e.g. geometry) of describing hair-curl variation.”

Now that the lab has been established and the chair appointed, what are Khumalo’s hopes for the future? “There are so many things we’d like to do,” she said. “Develop a solid research programme that will lead to the valid use of hair as a testing substrate in medicine. Improve our understanding of skin

inflammation (hair loss), and how to prevent and treat it. It would also be great to create an ongoing database of products containing common illegal ingredients, so that regulations can be better enforced when it comes to the cosmetic industry.”

“Through our department we now also offer a very exciting qualification in trichology, which has applications in different industries where hair is increasingly being used for testing, giving wide career options for students. It is my hope that this will reduce the divide between clinicians and basic scientists in skin/hair research in this country. A lot of cosmetic formulators have never seen what skin allergy looks like. Training at the HSR Lab will expose scientists to skin disease, and help them focus on product safety and the wellbeing of consumers. If my work can help this kind of cross-pollination, then I will be content.”

2016-17 IN NUMBERS

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN (UCT) WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

1st in Africa

191st
IN THE WORLD

QS 2018

171st
IN THE WORLD

THE 2018

112th
IN THE WORLD

US NEWS 2017 BEST
GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES

BRICS RANKINGS

THE 2017 BRICS and
emerging economies 4th

14th QS 2016
BRICS

SUBJECT RANKINGS

TOP 100

Clinical, pre-
clinical and
health

1st IN
AFRICA

61st IN THE
WORLD

THE 2016-17

TOP 10

Development
studies

10th IN THE
WORLD

QS 2017

8th IN THE
WORLD

Mining
and mineral
engineering

GRAS 2017

TOP 50

Geography

47th IN THE
WORLD

QS 2017

40th IN THE
WORLD

Public health

GRAS 2017

TOP 100

- Immunology
- Microbiology
- Social science
and public
health

US NEWS 2017
BEST GLOBAL
UNIVERSITIES

TOP 5

Omithology
3rd IN THE
WORLD

Area studies
4th IN THE
WORLD

CWUR 2017

TOP 100

- Anatomy and
physiology
- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Architecture and
built environment
- Education
- English language
and literature
- Law
- Sports-related
subjects
- Theology, divinity
and religious studies

QS 2017

KEY TERMS

THE Times Higher Education · QS Quacquarelli Symonds · CWUR Center for World University Rankings

GRAS Shanghai Rankings · BRICS Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa

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STORY BY **PROFESSOR MAMOKGETHI PHAKENG**

POSTGRADS URGENTLY NEED FUNDING

UCT Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Internationalisation, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng recently said: “The University of Cape Town is an inclusive and engaged research-intensive African university that inspires creativity through outstanding achievements in learning, discovery and citizenship; enhancing the lives of its students and staff, advancing a more equitable and sustainable social order and influencing the global higher education landscape.” She is unequivocal in her commitment to transformation and academic excellence and in this *opinion piece*, writes about the importance of prioritising funding for postgraduate students in higher education

Statistician general Pali Lehohla has said that tertiary education is the key to employing South Africa’s young people. However, the key to growing our economy is not just to put people into jobs, but to develop new business and professional sectors in which South Africans can apply their ingenuity to solving problems that can have a global effect.

Most of the world has entered the knowledge economy, which connects people globally. This is where South Africa needs to compete. It is also where postgraduate students can begin to make their mark: conducting research to address specific questions and problems in health, science, engineering and technology, computer science, law, business, media, education and social welfare – to name a few sectors. Although universities impart knowledge and skills to undergraduates, postgraduate students contribute in a very practical sense to the growth of our knowledge, economy and culture.

For instance, honours students in the University of Cape Town’s (UCT) computer science department helped to develop a micro plate reader app (available from Google) that allows technologists to measure samples in the field using their phones. This app has a range of medical and scientific uses.

In June this year, Aliko Saragas, a master of documentary arts graduate of the Centre for Film and Media Studies, showcased her feature-length documentary, *Strike a Rock*, at the Encounters International Documentary Film Festival in Cape Town and at the Sheffield International Documentary Film Festival in the United Kingdom. The production, which focuses on women in Marikana, was first conceived as her graduation film.

Maryam Fish, a PhD student at UCT, was a member of the international research team that identified the gene that causes arrhythmogenic right ventricle cardiomyopathy, a potentially fatal genetic disorder that predisposes young people to cardiac arrest. The ground-breaking discovery was announced in March in *Circulation: Cardiovascular Genetics*.

Earning a postgraduate degree is also the first step towards developing a successful academic career – an important area of transformation in South Africa, in which black and women academics remain the minority. Despite this potential for shaping the future, postgraduate education remains under-resourced in South Africa – accessible only to students from middle-class backgrounds who have the financial resources to support graduate studies. There is a crisis

brewing in postgraduate education in South Africa for the same reason that tertiary education is in turmoil now. The underlying issue is how much financial support the government will allocate to this important educational and economic resource.

Many postgraduate students face the same financial problems as undergraduates. Financial assistance from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) is available only to students earning their initial degree. So students who relied on NSFAS to earn their first degree must compete for a limited number of grants and scholarships to continue their education, no matter how well they performed in earning their initial degree. Many of these scholarships do not sufficiently cover university fees, materials, accommodation and living expenses.

This is short-sighted, considering, first, the need to grow our local academic capacity to transform the university sector and ensure growth, especially in terms of women and black professors; and second, the need to bring a fresh outlook to the country’s development hurdles by training up postgraduate students who have been raised in disadvantaged communities and deeply understand the kinds of problems we need to overcome as a nation.



UCT Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Internationalisation, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng.

The focus on financing only undergraduates limits the creative diversity we need to apply to these problems.

Postgraduate students point out that the higher education system puts critical obstacles in their way. These obstacles can be removed if the government applies the political will to do so. For instance, students who pursue a bachelor's degree that requires a fourth year of study, such as business science or engineering, qualify for NSFAS assistance, yet South African students in an honours programme do not. An honours degree should be treated with the same financial support as that provided for a fourth-year undergraduate programme.

The state's main funding body for postgraduate students, the National Research Foundation (NRF), provided only R815-million in financial support to honours, master's and doctoral students in

2015-2016, according to its annual report for that period. In 2015, universities had 128 747 full-degree postgraduate students, according to the Centre for Higher Education Trust. So the total NRF contribution would have averaged out to R6 330 a student, for a programme of study that may cost 10 times that amount, not including other costs such as housing. (By contrast, in the same period NSFAS disbursed R9.3-billion to 418 949 university, technical and vocational students. This averages out to R22 198 a student.) In addition, postgraduate students are often not eligible for services that are provided for free to undergraduates, such as healthcare. I know of one promising postgraduate student who is devoting critical study time to washing cars to raise funds.

Support from the NRF is often paid late in the academic year, putting the student recipients in financial jeopardy. UCT is

considering how to cover the funding gap in situations where the future payment of a bursary or scholarship is confirmed. Other institutions, such as the University of KwaZulu-Natal, allow for a rebate on the repayment of a student loan when the degree is awarded before the normal required time.

The NRF is not the only source of funding for postgraduate students. Research in health, science and technology in particular receives funding from a number of outside sources, including the private sector. In such cases, the principal investigator for a project can budget for postgraduate students to join the project.

In April this year the Black Postgraduate Student Caucus at UCT asked to meet me on this issue and other grievances. I established a task team to examine their concerns and to make recommendations, including what UCT could do to improve support to postgraduate students. Individual universities have limited resources for this purpose. In 2016, for instance, UCT contributed R23 693 941 to postgraduate students at the university. The lion's share of funding comes from the additional efforts of departments and individual academics in various faculties. Not every university has the resources to provide such support. Even UCT, one of the better-resourced universities, is not able to meet the vast need.

Difficult choices need to be made. It would make sense to support fewer postgraduate students fully with the available funding rather than to spread small allocations to more students who will still struggle to meet all their expenses. For the good of the country and its influence in Africa and the world, the government needs to give postgraduate funding its immediate attention.

This challenge we face is a magnificent opportunity to unlock and support the brilliance of young post-graduate talent in South Africa, but left unattended spells a sad loss of human potential and the deep contribution these scholars could have made in South Africa.

****This article originally appeared as an Opinion Piece in the Mail Guardian on 15 September 2017.***

HONORARY DOCTORATES 2016 AND 2017

June 2016:



Emeritus Professor El Anatsui was awarded an honorary doctorate in Fine Arts. His Oration was delivered by Professor Sandra Klopper.

“ El Anatsui has been described as “the most significant living African artist”. In 1968 Anatsui obtained his first degree from the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana. By 1975, he had become professor of sculpture at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, where he taught for the next 35 years. Emerging as an artist during the vibrant West African post-independence art movements of the 1960s and 1970s, he has gone on to receive international acclaim for his constantly evolving and highly experimental sculpture. He is one of a handful of highly revered, internationally acclaimed contemporary artists whose inventive works are widely acknowledged.”

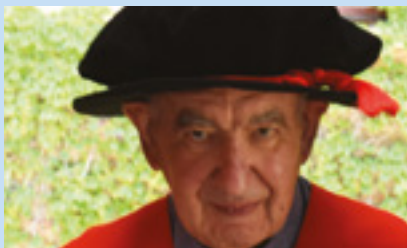
“ Janette Deacon, the well-published and highly acclaimed archaeologist, graduated from UCT with a BA (1960), MA (1969) and PhD (1982). Throughout her career as an academic and later as archaeologist at the National Monuments Council she displayed exceptional scholarship and advocacy and it is in the intersection of these two that she has made a significant contribution. Deacon’s work contributed significantly to the Bleek and Lloyd archive at UCT, achieving the recognition by the United Nations as a site of the Memory of the World.”

Dr. Janette Deacon was awarded an honorary doctorate in Literature. Her oration was delivered by Professor Joan Hambidge.



Emeritus Professor Francis Wilson was awarded an honorary doctorate in Literature. His oration was delivered by Emeritus Professor Marion Jacobs.

“ For over 40 years Wilson has made a unique contribution to documenting and analysing key social issues affecting South African society. Even more unique though is how he has used his research and that of others to promote social change for good in South Africa. He has been an academic pioneer, embodying the vision of UCT, to produce rigorous, relevant, critical research promoting engaged scholarship and social justice. Through his academic teaching, scholarship, mentorship and national convening power, Wilson has brought great credit and honour to this institution.”

December 2016:

Emeritus Professor Peter Folb was awarded an honorary doctorate in Science. His oration was read by Professor Danie Visser.

“ Peter Folb established the discipline of Clinical Pharmacology in South Africa and is recognised as a leading authority internationally on the scientific basis of drug development. He is considered a world leader in drug regulation and served as Chair of the South African Medicines Control Council for 18 years, bringing it to a position where it was the World Health Organisation reference and training centre for drug regulation in the developing world.

In 1977, the death of Steve Biko while in police detention generated considerable professional and public ethical discussion, as there were clear ethical breaches on the part of the doctors who were responsible for him. Peter Folb, along with three other professors, pursued disciplinary action against the doctors. This case played an important role in sensitising the medical profession to medical ethical issues in South Africa. He went on to lead the investigation of the Apartheid government's chemical and biological warfare programme for the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission.”

“ Wicomb, an academic and novelist, is also among the most significant and widely-read literary interpreters of South Africa. There are over a hundred critical studies that engage with each of her first two works, *You Can't Get Lost in Cape Town* (1987) and *David's Story* (2000), a comparable scholarly impact to the work of Nobel Laureate Nadine Gordimer. JM Coetzee describes *David's Story* as “a tremendous achievement and a huge step in the remaking of the South Africa novel”. Wicomb writes from the political subject position of black womanhood. Yet, while her fictional and critical oeuvre pricks holes in the pretensions of patriarchy and intervenes in structures of racialisation, it simultaneously refuses to retreat into identity politics, resisting in turn the complacencies or violence such politics can spawn.”



Dr. Zoë Wicomb was awarded an honorary doctorate in Literature. Her oration was read by Professor Joan Hambidge.

May 2017:

Abdurrazak 'Zackie' Achmat was awarded an honorary doctorate (LLD honoris causa). His oration was delivered by Professor Joan Hambidge.

“ Zackie Achmat has devoted his life to fighting social injustice and discrimination. In 1977, at the age of 15, he was detained by the security police for 14 days, and was a member of the ANC underground and UDF structures. Yet his activism did not end with the transition to democracy in 1994. Taking on a position at the AIDS Law Project, and working under the tutelage of Edwin Cameron, one of South Africa's most eminent legal minds, Achmat turned his indefatigable energies first towards issues of gay and lesbian rights, and then to the issue of antiretroviral provision. Through his work at the AIDS Law Project and his role as co-founder (and, later, director) of the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality (NCGLE), Achmat was involved in a number of cases from the mid-1990s onwards that first established, and then enforced, the constitutional rights of gay and lesbian people in South Africa.”

[Read the full citations online](#)

STORY BY HELEN SWINGLER

CRACKING THE WORLD MARATHON BARRIER



ESSM's Prof Andrew Bosch, co-leader of the Sub2hr Marathon Project to crack the two-hour barrier. Photo Saadiq Behardien.

A UCT sports scientist is a member of the international Sub2hr marathon project to crack the elusive two-hour barrier – without drugs. The project, which is the brainchild of Professor Yannis Pitsiladis (University of Brighton), harnesses the best of sports science and an elite team of athletes.

The Sub2hr Marathon Project in Africa was launched on 22 August and will be hosted by UCT's Division of Exercise Science and Sports Medicine (ESSM) at the Sports Science Institute of South Africa (SSISA). ESSM's Professor Andrew Bosch is Pitsiladis's co-leader on the project.

The original Sub2hr project was launched in 2015, partly for the challenge of achieving what many believe to be impossible, partly as a test bed of sports medicine and sports science, and also to address the problem of doping among

top athletes, said Bosch. Pitsiladis wanted to show that by applying rigorous sports science and medicine, top runners could break records without drugs.

“What we have here is an opportunity to put a concerted effort into using sports science and sports medicine to break the marathon record, making sure that all the athletes are tested regularly, and ensuring that it's a ‘clean’ record,” said Bosch.

To showcase this, the Sub2hr team of approximately five elite, drug-free athletes, which includes multiple world-record-holder Ethiopian Kenenisa Bekele, will be attacking the current world marathon record and, ultimately, the two-hour barrier at various marathon events. They've also enlisted support from high-end nutrition, shoe and tech companies. Several new products in sports nutrition and telemedicine have

already emerged as a result. One example is Maurten, a Swedish start-up which is tackling glycogen depletion in endurance athletes with a new drink. The drink converts to a hydrogel, based on the acidity (pH) of the stomach. “The hydrogel enables a more concentrated carbohydrate drink to be consumed while running,” said Bosch. “Bekele is one of the first ... to use the drink in training and the results are very encouraging.”

Ready, set, go

The project is divided into three phases. The first phase is recruiting the athletes and securing the finances that will underpin phase two. This is to break the current world record and the two-hour barrier by applying physiology, sports medicine, sports nutrition, biomechanics, training science and sports psychology in a focused way

to a cohort of the top runners. The final phase is about legacy: centres of excellence will be established to assist and groom promising young athletes. The first of these centres will be hosted in Ethiopia. The campaign has excited the public imagination. Many recall the inspirational story of Roger Bannister cracking the four-minute mile at the Iffley Road track at Oxford on a gloomy day in 1954. Pundits believed it couldn't be done. It was a breakthrough.

"Running sub-two hours is to the marathon what sub-four minutes was to the mile 63 years ago," said Bosch. It's expected that an East African – a Kenyan or an Ethiopian runner – will crack the marathon record. They've already had some success with Bekele. After just a few months on the programme, he produced his best marathon time, missing the world record by six seconds. "It showed that we've got the right ideas," said Bosch.

However, the Sub2 team is not the only one in the race. The Nike Breaking2 campaign (a later rival) saw Olympic marathon champion Eliud Kipchoge almost clip the two-

hour mark earlier this year. Running at the Monza F1 track at Milan exactly 63 years after Bannister's feat, Kipchoge was just 25 seconds short. Although it was the fastest time on record, it was unofficial – the race did not meet International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) regulations. "It didn't come off, but it did come close enough to shut up the naysayers who said it wasn't possible in our lifetime."

“Running sub-two hours is to the marathon what sub-four minutes was to the mile 63 years ago.”

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Clean pair of heels

However, it's the anti-drug angle, or the 'clean' win that's key to the Sub2 campaign. "We're linking a drug research programme into this, which my PhD student Shaun Sutehall is working on," said Bosch. Sutehall,



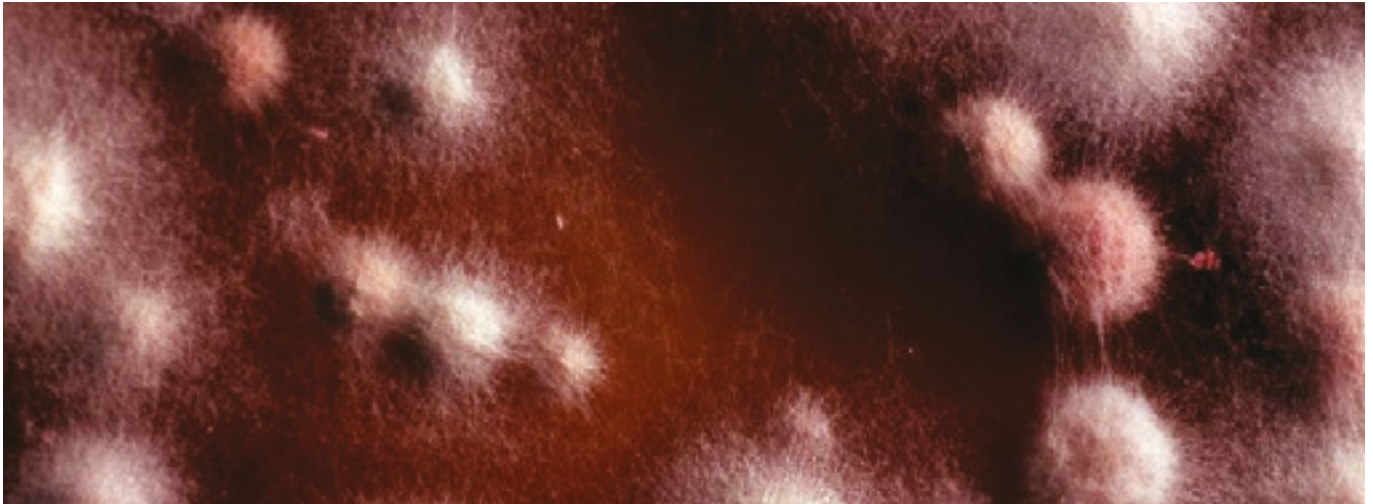
It's in the mind

Physiology and sports science aside, the group has not discounted the key ingredient of a winning strategy: the cognitive battle between emotion and winning. "Physiology is what is. The mind is what might be," UCT's Emeritus Professor Tim Noakes said at the launch. Noakes believes that the Nike attempt earlier this year failed because of the focus on physiological factors. "You have to convince the brain that the sub-two-hour marathon is possible. Belief and support of that belief are essential, he adds. These are psychological factors that play into running at high speeds for extended periods. Bannister's sub-four-minute mile record lasted just 46 days, broken

by rival John Landy. It was more than the tape that Bannister broke; he'd shattered a perception. After that the field was open. Noakes believes that the same will happen with the sub-two-hour marathon. Mental strength is a huge part of the strategy, said Bosch. "But it's also the little things that need to be taken care of." Clothing for example; wind tunnel tests show that loose, flapping gear can cost 30 seconds. They've also worked on a different race strategy: Their five runners will rotate the lead, to benefit from the effect of drafting, as happens in cycling. This is also worth 30 to 45 seconds, said Bosch. "They're all in it together," said Bosch. "No matter who breaks the record, the spoils will be spread among the group, cancelling the individual runner's fear of 'blowing' the race and losing prize money. The aim is to collaborate rather than just compete." Timelines are difficult to set. For now, their goal remains Kenyan Dennis Kimetto's record 02:02:57 marathon. The Sub2 team's next attempt will be the Berlin Marathon on 28 September, a fast, smooth run in cool temperatures in front of a large and enthusiastic crowd, which is one of the motivating factors that science can't replicate. A keen distance runner himself (he's run 10 Comrades, with a top 20 placing, and posted a marathon time of 02:22 in the 1980s, winning the interprovincial champs), Bosch wants to see their research model spread around.

There's no reason it can't be replicated for shorter distances and even other sporting disciplines. It should also benefit amateur runners he said – part of SSISA and ESSM's campaign to use research programmes for the public good.

"This work doesn't just apply to the super-duper athlete, but also to the guy wanting to run a sub-three-hour marathon, or the club runner wanting to run under four hours," said Bosch. "Many of these runners are as dedicated and passionate about breaking their own barriers as the sub-two-hour elite athletes."

STORY BY **HELEN SWINGLER**. PHOTO BY **WIKIPEDIA***Athlete's Foot fungus under microscope*

LAUNCH OF NEW MYCOLOGY UNIT

A new international research centre for tackling deadly fungal infections has been established at the University of Cape Town. This is a joint initiative between the Aberdeen Fungal Group (University of Aberdeen) and the University of Cape Town's Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine. The new £600 000 AFGrica Unit in Medical Mycology was launched in August, at the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM), where it will be based. The University of Aberdeen's Professor Gordon Brown will lead the initiative

The AFGrica Unit is the world's first international research centre set up in Africa for tackling fungal infections. It is estimated that fungal infections kill some 1.3 million people globally every year. In sub-Saharan Africa, around 50% of people diagnosed with invasive fungal infections die from the infection. In 2008, there were a million cases of cryptococcal meningitis in patients with HIV/AIDS, resulting in more than 500 000 related deaths. The new unit will provide the Aberdeen Fungal Group (AFG) with a centre of operations in Africa where they can work in collaboration with UCT experts to establish research programmes that target priority areas in fungal diseases in Africa.

According to Professor Brown, fungal infections are understudied and under-diagnosed compared

with other infectious diseases. "Fungal infections kill more people in Africa than anywhere else on the planet. The AFGrica Unit is a unique opportunity to address the urgent need to improve basic knowledge and clinical management of fungal infections in Africa," said Brown.

The development of the new medical mycology unit within UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences forms part of ongoing initiatives of the prestigious MRC Centre for Medical Mycology, established at the University of Aberdeen in February 2016, to spearhead innovative research. This latest collaboration also builds on an existing Wellcome Trust-funded Strategic Award (led by the Aberdeen Fungal Group), where PhD students from low and middle-income nations (including Africa) are trained in Aberdeen and

other medical mycology centres in the rest of the UK. Upon obtaining their degree, these students then return home with their new skills to help address critical fungal research and training needs in their own countries.

Commenting on the initiative, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Bongani Mayosi said that the establishment of the AFGrica Unit would "enhance the excellent clinical and basic research that is taking place on cryptococcal meningitis and other fungal diseases at the University of Cape Town. This initiative will also contribute to the training of a new generation of African scientific leaders, who will produce high-quality research to combat the scourge of fungal infections in Africa."

STORY BY **JESS OOSTHUIZEN**

KELLY CHIBALE NAMED ONE OF THE 2017 QUARTZ AFRICA INNOVATORS

Professor Kelly Chibale is one of the 33 innovators in Africa honoured in 2017 by the digital news agency, Quartz. Chibale heads up UCT's Drug Discovery and Development Centre (H3D) and has been at the helm of ground-breaking research to manufacture a single-dose drug to combat malaria.

According to the Quartz Africa editor, Yinka Adegoke, the reason for the annual publication of this list is to showcase innovation in Africa. "The narrative in Africa has moved from seeking foreign-solutions-to-African-problems, to discussing African-solutions-to-African-problems," he said.

This is the third year that the Quartz Africa team published its list of innovators. This year the nominees are picked from 18 countries. "The influence of their work goes well beyond their immediate community and will ultimately impact millions of lives," said the Quartz Africa team in their announcement.

"I am grateful for this recognition, which is not just a recognition of

me as an individual but also of my past and present team members at H3D, as well as my network of collaborators, funders and finally but not least, UCT for the conducive and supportive research environment. Through our work at H3D, we have demonstrated that research and development is not a luxury. It provides solutions, creates jobs, builds infrastructure, attracts foreign direct investment, contributes to reversing the brain drain and can seed a new industry," said Chibale.

Around 429 000 people died from malaria in 2015, mostly in Africa, according to the World Health Organisation's World Malaria Report. In their most recent discovery, Chibale and his team at H3D discovered a new anti-malarial clinical drug candidate, MMV390048, which holds the potential to cure and protect in a single dose. H3D conducted the research in collaboration with Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) and a team of international researchers.

Chibale holds the DST/NRF South Africa Research Chair (SARChI)



position in Drug Discovery. He has a PhD in Synthetic Organic Chemistry from the University of Cambridge in the UK. This was followed by postdoctoral stints at the University of Liverpool in the UK and at the Scripps Research Institute in the USA. He was also a United States Fulbright Senior Research Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and a visiting professor at Pfizer in the United Kingdom

STORY SUPPLIED TO **UCT NEWSROOM**

UCT'S LATEST A-RATED RESEARCHER

Professor Peter Ryan, director of the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, is the latest UCT researcher to receive the coveted A rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF). A-rated researchers are recognised by their peers – through the NRF rating system – as leading international scholars in their field.

Ryan's research interests focus on the understanding and management of environmental issues that affect birds. This includes plastic pollution at sea, island restoration, the impact of fisheries on seabirds and the effects of infrastructure on land birds. To date, Ryan has written more than 300 peer-reviewed papers and 12 popular books on birds and the wildlife of sub-Antarctic islands. "It's a great honour that reflects the hard work of the entire Fitz team, especially our students and postdocs, and is largely thanks to the generous support we receive as a Centre of Excellence from the Department of Science and Technology through the National Research Foundation," said Ryan. His rating brings UCT's total number of A-rated researchers to 40, the highest in South Africa.

STORY BY **DR KEVIN WINTER**

ADAPTING TO WATER SCARCITY

Since February 2017, Capetonians have had to deal with tighter controls over a dwindling water supply. How low can they go before limited supplies are unhealthy?

The last five years of rainfall measured at the Cape Town International Airport has been 30% below the average compared to the years from 1979 to 2000 (378 mm per annum as opposed to 527 mm). The city is drier.

Not only is there a decrease in the rainfall averages, but at least 25% of the total rainfall for the year fell during one month of the year followed by seven months of below average monthly rainfall, sometimes by as much as 50%. Rainfall patterns are uncertain and less predictable, which is consistent with climate model predictions. Water storage levels in the six major dams supplying water to Cape Town and the surrounding region have declined each year.

The City of Cape Town has dealt with dwindling water supplies by implementing a Water Demand Management programme that includes increasing block tariffs, fixing leaks, reducing pressure and educating consumers. The programme has achieved impressive results. Despite a rising population, urbanisation and increasing demand, the growth in water demand has been restricted to just 2% per annum. In 2015 the City received international recognition from members of the C40 Cities on its leadership on climate change, and rightly so.

However, supplying more water and containing the demand is clearly not enough. By 2019 Cape Town's water is likely to run dry unless supplies are augmented further, but most of all, unless consumers adapt to a new norm.

Ohlsson and Turton (1999) provide some thought provoking theory in a paper entitled "The Turning of a Screw". They explain how water resource management moves through four distinct phases:

- a supply phase that is dominated by the provision of water infrastructure, such as dams and diversions
- a water demand programme to control water consumption
- a phase in which allocation of water is regulated through stringent laws and punitive measures
- a final phase that features an adaptation to water scarcity. Successful adaptation is achieved when consumers accept a diversity of water supplies that are fit for particular purposes, which includes water reuse and recycling.

Struggling to make the change

What makes it difficult to shift from a supply mode (getting more water) and water demand management modes to the next phases? Why are we struggling to shift?

The water deficit lies at the heart of the struggle to ensure that consumption is aligned with available water resources and those that are planned for the future. Dealing with the deficit begins with an integrated water management approach that recognises that all water is valuable, that there is no such thing as 'waste' water and that a diversity of water sources are acceptable. This phase requires a huge increase in human and financial capacity to regulate the allocation of water fairly, and to have systems in place that are capable of penalising offenders, but more importantly to create new channels for the development of proven, reliable green technologies.

The business of managing our water resources is no longer the domain of institutional authorities, but is shared

in a strong partnership between local government, the private sector and the public. These are the prerequisites to enter the final phase: the shift from efficiency to adaptation. A key feature of the final phase is a reduction in population growth, urbanisation and water demand, and most of all, it is demonstrated by the capacity of society to adapt to using water sustainably.

The importance of adaptation

Are we stuck?

There is no denying that the challenges are enormous. Factors such as population growth, urbanisation, increasing water demand and climate change are holding back the move toward adaptation. Closely following these factors is a value system that is characterised by lawlessness, corruption, a lack of accountability and behaviour that seeks to opt out of contributing to an ailing public



system and inefficiencies.

However, in the long term, adaptation is essential. It will require bold new leadership to steer the city and its citizens into this era of uncertainty. It will also require fresh investments and programmes that are directed specifically to building the capacity of institutions and society to embrace new green technologies in water management.

We are struggling to achieve the next phases of water management

because the vision is constrained by crisis management and short-term political mandates that are marred by five-year plans and programmes. The struggle will not be achieved by increasing water supply or managing the demand alone, but by reducing the water deficit and by adapting to water scarcity without doing harm to human health, ecosystem services and the environment.

It is a long-term vision that is missing. It is a vision that goes

beyond future plans for increasing water supply to one that recognises the need to develop the capacity of society to adapt to water scarcity so as to ensure the well-being of the city and region.

Dr Kevin Winter is a senior lecturer at the Department of Environmental & Geographical Science at the University of Cape Town. He specialises in urban water management. Read the full story, available at: www.news.uct.ac.za

STORY BY **NATALIE SIMON**

A RAY OF HOPE FOR NEGLECTED AFRICAN DISEASE: SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a gene mutation that affects over 300 000 newborn babies every year, nearly three-quarters of those in sub-Saharan Africa. Ninety per cent of babies with SCD in Africa are believed to die before the age of five years. To respond to this disease on the continent, a range of research groups under the leadership of UCT's Professor Ambroise Wonkam have secured US\$3.7 million to establish the Sickle Africa Data Coordinating Center (SADaCC), which will build capacity to help Africa tackle this disease

We rely on our red blood cells, specifically the haemoglobin in those cells, to carry oxygen from our lungs to all the tissues of our body. These red blood cells are disc shaped, so they can easily move through both the large and small blood vessels all over the body. But sickle cell disease is a genetic mutation that causes haemoglobin to develop into stiff little rods within the red blood cell. That misshaped haemoglobin forces the red blood cell into a crescent or sickle shape, which hampers its ability to move through blood vessels. These sickle cells cause blockages in the blood vessels, cutting off oxygen supply to critical parts of the body like the organs, brain and eyes.

"Sickle cell disease impacts extremely negatively on the quality of life of a patient," said Professor Ambroise Wonkam, professor and senior specialist in the Division of Human Genetics in the Faculty of Health Sciences, and principal investigator for SADaCC. "Symptoms of the disease include anaemia (due to the short lifespan of the deformed red blood cells), episodes of severe pain caused by the sickle-shaped red blood cells blocking blood flow in the body, frequent infections, and delayed growth and vision problems as the sickle cells block blood vessels to the eyes."

The disease is also accompanied



Professor Ambroise Wonkam, professor and senior specialist in the Division of Human Genetics at UCT, and the principal investigator for the Sickle Africa Data Coordinating Center (SADaCC).

by major risk factors – such as pulmonary hypertension (high blood pressure in the lungs), organ damage, stroke, blindness and kidney dysfunctions and failure – that ultimately lead to a short life expectancy, if untreated.

A turning point for SCD?

Despite the high incidence of SCD, there has been little investment in basic research into the disease, specifically in Africa.

"The first case of SCD was described more than 100 years ago, but there is still only one medication (hydroxyurea) available for treatment," said Wonkam.

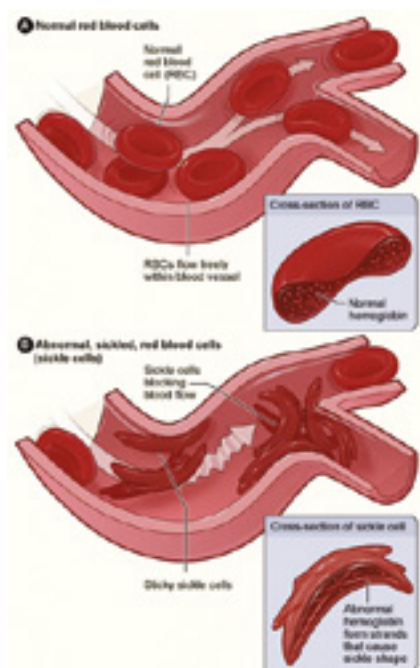
His research has been dedicated to remedy this history of neglect. This work has recently paid off with the announcement of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) funding SADaCC.

"The centre will allow us to build

AWARDS FROM US HEALTH AGENCY

Professor Ambroise Wonkam received three awards from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 2017. The first, an NIH1 U24 award for his research entitled *Sickle Africa Data Coordinating Centre (SADaCC)* which aims to establish a coordinating centre to image the activities of a sister Sickle Cell Disease Consortium in Africa (Tanzania, Nigeria and Ghana). The second is an NIH1 U01 Award, for the project entitled: *Hearing Impairment Genetics Studies in Africa (HI-GENES Africa) (Principal Investigator Ambroise Wonkam)* which will aim to investigate the genetic aetiology of hearing impairment in Africa, with research focused in South Africa, Cameroon, Ghana and Mali. Exceptionally, this award will be co-funded by the Wellcome Trust, UK. His third successful project application is entitled: *Individual Findings in Genetic Research in Africa (IFGeneRA), a Multiple PI Collaborative Centre Award* for which Wonkam is PI/Director, together with Jantina De Vries (Senior Researcher in Bioethics in the Department of Medicine, UCT). They will aim to explore incidental findings in genetic research in Africa, with research conducted in South Africa, Cameroon and Botswana.

The National Institutes of Health is the primary agency of the United States government responsible for biomedical and public health research, founded in the late 1870s. The NIH offers funding for many types of grants, contracts and programmes for researchers. The Wellcome Trust is a UK based charitable organisation.



Cross-section: normal blood cells versus sickle blood cells

a robust platform to support the activities of a companion Pan African Sickle Cell Disease Consortium (SPARCo), which brings together leading SCD researchers and clinicians from high-, middle- and low-income countries to bring about real change – not only for victims of SCD but affected communities and regions.

“The work of SADaCC can be described as that of a conductor of a pan-African sickle research orchestra,” said Wonkam. “The four main activities of the centre include administrative planning and coordination across various sites in Africa, research design and training of field investigators, monitoring and implementation of the research and data management, and analysis and publication of research results.”

Key to the work of SADaCC is the coordination of longitudinal cohort studies. “These are the most scientifically rigorous methods in understanding the risk factors, health and disease outcomes, as well as training and public policy for the disease,” said Wonkam.

“The SADaCC will measure its success not only by research impact in the way we understand both the scientific and clinical aspects of the disease at the scientific and clinical level, but by the way

that understanding helps us treat patients effectively. The centre will therefore have a direct impact on how patients are treated in clinics,” he said.

Critical to the future work of SADaCC is the focus on translating the research into policy and practice changes. One of the main conditions of the NIH/NHLBI grant was a formal commitment from the ministries of health in the collaborating countries.

African research for African diseases

Wonkam said it is critical that the research for effective management and treatment for SCD is developed in Africa, as it is Africans who are worst affected.

“The mutation that causes SCD is the same as those that confer a resistance to malaria,” explains Wonkam. “SCD is thus most prevalent in populations living in areas of the world where malaria has been endemic for a long time – and so Africa and its populations are worst affected.”

The mutation is also highly prevalent in the Arabian peninsula and India, and among some people of European descent who have been exposed to malaria for a long time, such as those in the southern parts of Italy and Portugal. Sections of Africa – such as South Africa – that have not been affected by malaria for thousands of years do not experience high levels of the mutation. SCD does, however, affect African Americans, whose genetics still contain the mutation.

“It is important to say that, while more than 70% of SCD patients worldwide live in Africa, most advances in the molecular understanding and management of SCD have been based on research conducted in either the US or the UK,” said Wonkam.

“Clearly contemporary research tools must now be widely implemented in Africa. Therefore, SADaCC has a capacity-building dimension, as the SCD studies will be performed from design, clinical and molecular analysis and reporting, right here on the African continent.”

STORY BY **HELEN SWINGLER**. PHOTO BY **MICHAEL HAMMOND**

Prof Jill Farrant has studied how resurrection plants can survive in the face of extreme water loss, aiming to introduce these characteristics into smart crops that will feed Africa in the face of climate change and increasing and extended drought.

NEW SMART CROPS TO UNDERPIN FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA

If you walk by plant molecular physiologist Professor Jill Farrant's laboratories, you'll see row on row of bright green plants which are close relatives of tef, or love grass. Tef is an orphan crop in South Africa (we feed it to cattle), but its highly nutritious seeds – which are gluten free – serve as the main food source in countries like Ethiopia.

Its 'resurrection' relative is being analysed by Farrant's students to identify the properties that make this species more drought tolerant than tef, and to use this knowledge to boost its resilience during prolonged dry seasons.

"Drought will affect our crops, whether it's wheat in the Western Cape or, more importantly, our maize belt in the centre of the country or elsewhere in Africa where it's the biggest staple crop," said Farrant.

Under severe drought, crops can no longer resist water loss and under extreme pressure they die after just a small water loss.

"There are no crops we yet know of that can lose an extreme amount of water (desiccation) and not die. Increasing and prolonged droughts will threaten the very base of the food chain."

If climate change continues unchecked, it is predicted that by 2050 most of South Africa (and the global south) will be desert.

"We need to start identifying strategies now to grow more smart crops," said the A-rated National Research Foundation researcher.

Smart crops, like tef, are the answer. But in South Africa, farmers grow tef to feed animals.

"My father grew tef to feed our dairy and beef herds in Limpopo," said Farrant.

The farm was also where Rupert Farrant introduced his inquisitive daughter to a miracle of nature. At the age of nine, Farrant identified what are now called resurrection plants: *Xerophyta retinervis* and other *Xerophyta* species that can desiccate without dying.

Farrant never forgot the wonder of watching seemingly dead plants turn green almost overnight, regaining full life in all existing tissues within 12 to 72 hours after rain. The drought-tolerant genetics of resurrection plants came to underpin her life's work.

She is now looking at a tef plant with bigger seeds and a 'dwarf' profile: a plant that doesn't grow too tall, so that the heads don't lodge (fall to the ground) when heavy with seeds, which makes harvesting difficult and reduces yields.

Plant survivors

In her research, Farrant has shown that the genetic survival mechanisms found in resurrection plants are like the desiccation processes found in seeds.

"All our crops produce desiccated seeds and thus have the genetic mechanisms to make seed tissue dry without them dying."

What resurrection plants appear to be doing, said Farrant, is "turning on" those seed genes in their roots and leaves when faced with a severe drought.

The challenge is to unlock these mechanisms that resurrection plants use to turn on these genes in their roots and leaves and use this knowledge to induce the same process in dry times to make crop plants more tolerant of drought.

Desiccation tolerance is a complex phenomenon involving both "switching on" and "switching off" many genes. These are controlled by master switches and her group, in collaboration with Dr Henk Hilhorst of Wageningen University & Research (WUR) in the Netherlands, have identified at least two that seem to play a significant role in the acquisition of desiccation tolerance in a plant.

By understanding how these operate in the vegetative tissue of desiccation plants reacting to loss of water, Farrant hopes to enable the same reaction in crops.

Feeding Africa

Important headway is being made. A paper in the latest edition of *Nature Plants* has published the genome sequence of *Xerophyta viscosa* – the work was done by an international consortium that includes Farrant and is led by Hilhorst of WUR (who raised most of the funding for the project).

The paper details the genetic footprint of the resurrection plant's ability to withstand severe drought for long periods. They hope the finding will contribute to faster development of food crops resilient enough to cope with foreseen

global climate change and growing world population.

"Resurrection species such as *Xerophyta viscosa* may serve as ideal models for the ultimate design of crops with enhanced drought tolerance," Hilhorst said.

The paper's first author, Maria-Cecilia Costa, pointed out that *Xerophyta viscosa* was also able to suppress drought-related senescence (ageing) and that genes involved in seed dormancy, a process that allows seeds to survive many years of dry storage, are also involved.

Adopt orphan crops

In pursuing this research in South Africa, Farrant's focus is on orphan crops – crops that haven't taken off commercially on a large scale. Apart from tef, these include local varieties of beans, which are an important source of protein in Africa.

"Cowpea, black-eyed peas and bambara beans are excellent sources of protein that can be grown quickly, with high yields."

The other concept she is investigating is the biofortification of crops: enriching plants with, for example, vitamin A and an available source of iron to reduce deficiencies common in Africa that result in conditions such as blindness.

Commercially, she's also keen to see the bio-economy grow in lean times. Plants like *Myrothamnus flabellifolia*, a woody plant that grows in rock crevices in dry parts of southern Africa, is a particularly promising candidate. Ground into leaves for

tea, it offers potent antioxidant and antibacterial properties.

"We must grow our bio-economy using our amazing plant diversity. As we are increasingly understanding the roles of microbiota and field environments, the treasure trove of knowledge is just growing. Nature has all the answers."

Time and money

But time is running out and big money is needed to drive this research.

Farrant and Hilhorst believe that with enough financial backing, they can get to a proof-of-concept plant that will yield an extremely drought-tolerant crop.

"But it will take another five to 10 years before all the biosafety concerns have been addressed to release it out into the wild. So, even with money, it will be at least 15 to 20 years before we even taste the fruit of my work – and that's the fast track.

"But I'm very patient."

Food and water go hand in hand as important collaborative research fields.

"Though plants form the basis of the food chain, they don't survive without water and in Africa 85% of agriculture is based on rainfall," said Farrant. "Africa needs to invest in desalination and alternative water sources. We need a combined effort by water and plant researchers, augmented by new, creative water-harvesting and irrigation techniques.

"And we must look to nature for ideas on how to trap water."

“ “ Though plants form the basis of the food chain, they don't survive without water and in Africa 85% of agriculture is based on rainfall,” said Farrant. “Africa needs to invest in desalination and alternative water sources. We need a combined effort by water and plant researchers, augmented by new, creative water-harvesting and irrigation techniques.”

STORY BY **YUSUF OMAR**. PHOTO BY **KELVIN SONG VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Funding for Prof Musa Mhlanga lab will enable the exploration and development of tools for future phases of mapping and characterising of all human cells

HUMAN CELL RESEARCHER GETS FUNDING BOOST

Professor Musa Mhlanga has received a grant for funding by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative to contribute to a global project to map all the cells in the human body

Mhlanga, of UCT's Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM), will be involved with the philanthropic organisation's Human Cell Atlas project, an ambitious global collaboration that involves dozens of researchers. "The Human Cell Atlas is not only going to revolutionise the way we see human biology, but it's also going to revolutionise medicine," said Mhlanga, who was among nearly 500 applicants for funding. Mhlanga said he hopes to harness the opportunity to extend South Africa's involvement in collaborative, world-leading research. Of the 38 applicants who were recommended for funding, only nine are from outside the USA.

The Human Cell Atlas will study and document the types, numbers, locations, relationships and molecular parts of every human cell. This will allow scientists to better understand how healthy cells work and what goes wrong when cells are not healthy. The data generated by the project will be made openly and freely available. Mhlanga compared the significance of the Human Cell Atlas to that of

the Human Genome Project, a 13-year, international collaboration to sequence the entire human genome. "Once we have cellular resolution for the trillions of cells in your body, we will be able to say whether a particular cell signature or cell structure signifies the onset of Alzheimer's or schizophrenia, or infectious disease, for example," he said. "Diseases like mental illness will change dramatically because we will have the ability to peer into the brain and understand the onset, and potentially how to rebalance things. This will be absolutely transformative. And that's just giving you a glimpse of the possibilities that the Human Cell Atlas will create."

The Mhlanga Lab's funding enables it to explore and develop tools that will be applied in the project's future phases of mapping and characterising all human cells. They are developing a technique that they hope will apply cell biology methods in a novel way to visualise – at the level of an individual cell and single molecules – the relationship between where ribonucleic acid (RNA) is located in a

cell and where proteins from that RNA are located. RNA is a molecule similar to deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), both of which carry genetic code which dictates how proteins are constructed and thus how bodies are built. This technique is called spatially resolved omics. If successful, the new technique will help to answer questions like where RNA goes in the cell once it has been made, where in the cell proteins are made, and where proteins move to once they are made. The Human Cell Atlas project, with its global reach, could make a groundbreaking impact on the understanding of human disease and medicine.

"It's an opportunity for Africa to participate in high-impact research – a region that normally isn't involved in this type of work," said Mhlanga. "It's a way to make scientific knowledge creation, and access to it, more equitable."

"This grant is another step in my personal journey to make an impact and contribute positively to developing basic scientific research and knowledge creation in South Africa."

STORY BY MICHAEL MORRIS. PHOTO SUPPLIED

HEATHER ZAR NAMED 2018 WOMAN IN SCIENCE LAUREATE

Professor Heather Zar has been announced as the 2018 L’Oreal-UNESCO Women in Science Laureate for Africa and the Arab States, in recognition of her wide-ranging contributions to child health, which have improved – and saved – children’s lives across the globe, as well as helping to shape international policy. The prestigious award is given annually to five women scientists worldwide, one from each continent

Respiratory illnesses, such as pneumonia, tuberculosis (TB) and asthma are leading causes of mortality and debilitating illness in children worldwide, but especially for children in Africa. These illnesses are also a serious complication in HIV-infected children. Zar, chair of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health and director of the Medical Research Council Unit on Child and Adolescent Health, has devoted much of her working life to finding ways to tackle these conditions, and to developing capacity in Africa in this field. The recent award acknowledges her “outstanding contributions in the epidemiology, diagnosis, prevention and management of pulmonary illness, achieving reductions in childhood mortality globally”, as well as for “establishing a cutting-edge research programme in pneumonia, tuberculosis (TB) and asthma”. Receiving the award was “very humbling”, said Zar, and “a really wonderful acknowledgement of the work we’ve been doing in child health over many years”.

Emphasising the role of her collaborators and study staff, she noted that “the award reflects the extraordinary teams and people I’m fortunate to work with and the strong collaborations that we’ve built”. Zar’s work focuses on key illnesses that cause most childhood deaths and disease in Africa and



Heather Zar announced as a 2018 L’Oreal-UNESCO Women in Science Laureate for her work on child health in Africa.

globally, including childhood pneumonia, TB, HIV-associated disease and asthma. Her work in childhood pneumonia has identified new methods for diagnosis and prevention and provided new knowledge on the causes and long-term impact. Studies in childhood TB led by Zar have fundamentally changed the way in which the disease is diagnosed, using new samples (such as induced sputum) and rapid molecular diagnostics for quick, effective diagnosis and treatment.

Zar has also conducted seminal work in improving and saving lives of HIV-infected children, including defining the spectrum

and causes of lung disease and in developing effective preventative and management strategies. She led studies to develop better preventive strategies for TB in HIV-infected children, reducing mortality by 50%. More recent research has focused on chronic diseases in HIV-infected adolescents on antiretroviral therapy.

In asthma, epidemiological studies have delineated the large burden of childhood asthma in Africa; Zar is well known for her innovation in the development of a low-cost alternative to spacers for asthma, using a simple 500ml plastic cool drink bottle.

Read the full story, available at:
www.news.uct.ac.za

IMPROVING ACADEMIC SUCCESS RATES AT UCT

‘Innovation in teaching and learning’, ‘Improving student success rates’ and, ‘Cultivating critical citizens’ – just some of the objectives that feature prominently in the University of Cape Town’s new 2020 strategic vision. UCT Alumni News Magazine spoke with Professor Daya Reddy, acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning at UCT, about some of the innovative projects currently under way at the University aimed at supporting students. Professor Reddy is an internationally recognised mathematician whose research interests lie in the intersection of applied mathematics and engineering sciences. He is also a proud UCT alumnus

You are an internationally recognised academic whose research interests include applied Mathematics and computational mechanics. Did you always know that this would be your academic calling?

DR: My career has been a long winding road with mathematics being my strong subject at school. The teacher advised me that I should study engineering, which I did at UCT. After my studies and PhD in mechanics at Cambridge University, I came back to UCT with a joint appointment to build bridges between applied mathematics and engineering. Later on, I moved into the Applied Mathematics Department. A key interest has been the link between mathematical modelling of complex phenomena, and the use of computational techniques to solve the problems arising out of these models.

As the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, can you outline your vision for this portfolio at the University of Cape Town?

DR: What I would like to achieve while in the position as acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, is what will happen after I leave this post. The

new strategic plan says it all, “the goal is to address accountability of teaching, while constantly reviewing what we teach and how we teach it and essentially measuring it on the success of our students”. We have to realise and act upon the importance of innovative curricula. When comparing our success rates from two to three years ago, a greater proportion of students are succeeding, and graduation rates have increased. This is due to a number of interventions such as online and blended approaches to teaching and learning and tailored approaches to courses that impede graduation. We still, however, have some way to go in achieving the success rates that are consistent with our high-quality intake.

What are some of the critical opportunities for change and innovation within the existing curriculum at UCT?

DR: There are massive opportunities for innovation in various forms of online learning. These include Flipped Classes - where students gain first exposure to new material outside of class, usually via reading or lecture videos, and then class time is used to assimilate that knowledge through strategies

such as problem-solving, discussion or debates - and blended learning - the combination of traditional face-to-face teaching and online learning. Online learning has been developing steadily in recent years and is set to expand substantially as a strategic priority, with an online education policy recently approved by the Senate.

Returning to the topic of success rates: in some Mathematics courses, for instance, the success rate stands at around 75%. We must ask ourselves why 25% are not succeeding. Some of those factors are social or economic, include difficulties in making the transition from school to university. As a response to these issues, we have put in place early warning systems to track and support students. These systems form part of the innovation in teaching at the university.

The quality of school Mathematics education in South Africa is the subject of ongoing debate with some reports indicating that we rank among the poorest performers on the continent. As one of the matric subjects that impact university entrance, what are your thoughts on the role of the university in addressing this deficit?

DR: There is a huge diversity in the quality of mathematics education at school level. In our top-end public schools the quality of teaching is very high, while in some public schools there are too few mathematics teachers, or none able to teach at senior certificate level. There is a great need to expand the programmes for in-service training of teachers, to ensure they are able to adapt to changes in the curriculum. The university is working to attract more students into teaching as a career, whatever their basic degrees. The point about a university education is that it provides one with the background and skills to adapt, to learn continuously, and to be able to move into new areas or careers.

Tell us more about the scope of work being done by the University of Cape Towns' Curriculum Change Working Group?

DR: The Curriculum Change Working Group was set up early last year by the Vice-Chancellor, in response to the demand for decolonised education. Its key role is to facilitate and initiate dialogue about curriculum change within the faculties. The group's objective is to develop a framework for curriculum development, identify forums of curriculum innovation, and engage the faculties with this framework. This group has a strong student involvement and has initiated a number of workshops with groups in the various faculties.

What initiatives are being developed at UCT in the area of online teaching and e-learning? Are there initiatives designed to extend access to technology for all students?

DR: As mentioned earlier, an essential part of the plan includes blended learning, which implies that students have access to devices such as smartphones or laptops. Our computer labs and facilities in the student residences are constantly updated and there are numerous initiatives to raise funds to purchase additional laptops. We provide



Acting UCT Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, Professor Daya Reddy is an internationally recognized mathematician whose research interests lie in the intersection of applied mathematics and engineering sciences

laptops to students who are on financial aid.

What short, medium and long-term interventions are being developed to stimulate social consciousness and critical thinking at the university?

DR: The strategic plan addresses the need for a socially aware university community and to provide a work environment that is inclusive. Students and staff must be aware of the social context they are working in and have the ability to think critically. Academic staff must build historically conscious interventions into their curriculum. In each subject, we must ask ourselves ‘where does this subject stand today?’. We cannot develop a decolonised curriculum without getting to grips with the historical context.

What other ‘beyond the classroom’ initiatives have been implemented in order to support UCT students? What are the challenges and opportunities for these initiatives?

DR: We are supporting students in their learning activities through technology and online learning and through increased recording of lectures. We have changed the recording policy to an ‘opt-out’ rather than an ‘opt-in’ approach. The perceptions were that students would skip lectures altogether if they are recorded; however, surveys have shown that this is not the case. Rather, there are other factors that lead to students skipping lectures, for example, those scheduled in the early morning, especially during the winter months. Apart from turning to technology, wardens and house committees are placing an increased importance on study groups in student residences.

Some of the innovative teaching practices include the use of online technology – can you discuss the influence projects such as the MOOC series and the e/merge Africa are having in addressing calls for increased access to academia?



DR: MOOCs and online learning in general have had a massive influence on how we perceive learning. I believe it will transform the way in which society learns in the future, but it will not replace the university as a place of learning. Time spent at university is more than just about learning in class – residential universities offer multiple opportunities for all-round development.

What advantages does the UCT Global Citizenship Programme offer to students engaging in this programme?

DR: The programme consists of critical debate, voluntary service activities and reflection. Janice McMillan has done an amazing job by setting up this programme to address the development challenges in South Africa, by giving students the opportunity to engage in and reflect on service learning programmes and community engagement while at UCT. It is

especially important in programmes such as engineering in which the social context, including community engagement, has to form part of the approach to designing solutions, for example in developing sustainable approaches to water supply.

Finally, Professor Reddy, who are the most influential people in your life and why?

DR: There are many, but let me highlight the late Professor John Martin, a head of civil engineering and later a dean and deputy vice-chancellor, who inspired me to follow this path in my career. He was most influential in my application to do a postgraduate scholarship and encouraged me to come back to South Africa after completing my studies at Cambridge. On my return, he supported my early research career by involving me as an equal partner from day one. He was hugely influential in my life as well as in my career as a mentor and leader in the academic environment.

EXPLORING THE DIVERSITY OF LIFE ON EARTH

What would UCT be without its cohort of academics and researchers who are at the forefront of their fields? Professor Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan, a palaeo-biologist in the department of Biological Sciences is recognised as an A-rated researcher who, besides all her academic work which places her at the forefront of her field, is committed to promoting and stimulating an interest in science. She has presented numerous public talks, written articles and published two books for popular audiences (Famous Dinosaurs of Africa and Fossils for Africa).

Chinsamy-Turan became a scientist quite unintentionally. Growing up as a black (Indian) woman in segregated South Africa, without a TV in her home, and in the pre-internet days, she knew little about the scope of careers that were available for a young person who enjoyed science at school. Coming from a typical middle-class community, teachers, doctors, and nurses were the people she looked up to, and her ambition then was to be a teacher. But when she started university her eyes and mind were opened to the wider world of science, and she realised that she too could actively contribute to this knowledge. In her third-year she discovered fossils, and immediately felt the field of palaeontology beckoning her. "So began my love for understanding earth's history and biodiversity, and my fascination for understanding the origins of our modern biodiversity" she remarked, reflecting on her personal journey.

Her passion for communicating science made Chinsamy-Turan the perfect candidate to create a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) as part of UCT's programme to showcase its teaching and research to the wider world.

MOOCs are free online courses which provide learners with access to knowledge at a pace which they can set themselves. Thus far 10 courses have been launched on topics including Extinctions, Social Innovation, the Medical Humanities and Organ Donation with a global reach of over 150 000 people.

In Chinsamy-Turan MOOC, Extinctions: Past and Present, she prompts learners to examine the five past mass extinctions the Earth experienced - where entire species went extinct - and how we may be living through a sixth. The course features discussions with several other scientists (including amongst others, A-rated UCT researchers such as William Bond, Ed Rybicki, and Peter Ryan), on how their research informs us about past/present biodiversity. The course has garnered rave reviews from participants who have been captivated by not only the subject matter but Anusuya's teaching approach in an online space.

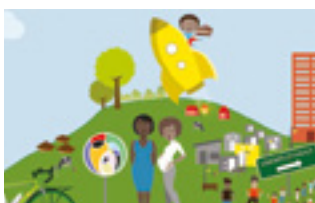
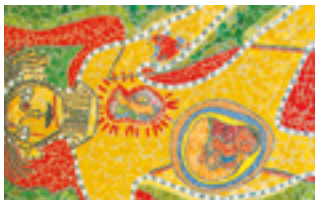
If you are interested in enrolling in the Extinctions MOOC or seeing what other free online courses UCT has to offer please visit: <http://www.cilt.uct.ac.za/cilt/moocs-uct>

EXTINCTIONS PAST AND PRESENT

PRESENTED BY: PROFESSOR ANUSUYA CHINSAMY-TURAN

FREE ONLINE COURSES

MOOCs by UCT:



PHOTOS BY SUPPLIED BY ICA

LIVE ART 2017

Continuing the Institute for Creative Arts' history as an initiator of innovative projects, the international Live Art Festival got under way with an even bigger programme this year. The third in a series of biennial festivals showcased work from some of the most influential artists from across the continent to push the boundaries of audiences and artists alike. With the aim to disrupt public spaces, the city of Cape Town was used as the stage for a range of public, collaborative and performative artworks

ICA LIVE ART 2017 has established itself as a pioneer in the region, forming a unique platform for cutting-edge interdisciplinary art by blurring the fields of fine art, dance, theatre, music and literature. With an emphasis on works by African artists and those from the diaspora, the festival allowed for new and transformative interactions within diverse personal, political, public and architectural spaces. ICA Director, Associate Professor Jay Pather, commented on the significance of the Festival: "LIVE ART 2017 represents the intersection of visual and performing arts and culture with some of the enduring personal and political themes of our time and provides an arena for these elements to clash, marry, and influence each other. Our efforts to engage audiences and expand their expectations of the possibilities of live theatre and art, brings to life some of the most esoteric and experimental work by key African artists."

The 2017 programme featured screenings, performances, artworks and interactive installations by over thirty contemporary artists from Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Mozambique and South Africa. One of the veteran local artists included in the programme, was Standard Bank Young Artist Award-winner Donna Kukama. She is well known for her use of multiple media in her performances, with which she deconstructs art production and process.



Donna Kukama performing 'Chapter Y: Is survival not archival?'

Zimbabwean-born, New York-based celebrated choreographer and performer Nora Chipaumire performed as part of the Diasporic Travellers artists, who emerged from the continent, but traverse several spaces. With her performance 'Self-Un-contained # punk' she continued her investigation into portraiture and self-portraiture. Focusing on the construction of identities in an 'instagrammed' world.

Two other performances stood out in the Diasporic Travellers section. South African born theatre performer Rudi van der Merwe, activated the Sea Point promenade with an outdoor performance exploring the clash of culture, gender and nature. The title of the piece, *Trophée*, was a reference to the submission of

women (trophy wife), of nature (hunting trophy) and the Other, by means of war throughout history.

Swiss dancer and choreographer Foofwa d'Imobilité, orchestrated a five-hour long dancewalk from Cape Town CBD, via Observatory and Athlone, ending in Langa. His walk challenged the lack of adequate transport and affordable housing close to the city.

Another outstanding performance was presented by Cape Town based Sethembile Msezane. In her work, she addresses the absence of the black female body in the monumentalisation of public space. Her performance at the festival, 'Excerpts from the Past', highlighted current conversations of land in relation to the colonial conquest of



Rudi van der Merwe, Trophée.

Africa. By using sound clips from the colonial and apartheid era, she brought associations of belonging, dislocation, displacement and claims to African land to present day context.

Pather concluded: "The relevance of live art today as an appropriate retort to the irrationality of much of what is happening globally and nationally is plain to see. Several artists who are students, fellows or graduates of our institution have subsequently appeared at international Festivals in Germany, Austria and the Netherlands. These have included Msezane, mentioned above, Chuma Sopotela, Mamela Nyamza, Buhlebeze Siwane, Dean Hutton and Gabrielle Goliath."



Sethembile Msezane 'Excerpts from the Past'.

INSPIRING DIALOGUE THROUGH CREATIVE ART

The Institute for Creative Arts (ICA), formerly known as the Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts (GIPCA), is an interdisciplinary institute that facilitates new, collaborative research projects in the performing and creative arts. This year, a variety of innovative ICA projects and events focused on transformation and decolonisation. Black Art and Communities at Heart (BACAH), was among these



Pastor Xola Skosana interacts with Zanekhaya Mhlana as he performs the installation Lizobuya in the lead up to the first Black Art and Communities at Heart (BACAH) talk. Photo: Xolani Tulumani.

BACAH is a three-part series designed as public conversations exploring the importance of Black art, Black artists and Black communities. The initiative was conceptualised and hosted by Mandisi Sindo, a recipient of a National Fellowship from the Institute for Creative Arts (ICA). Sindo is a theatre practitioner, community activist and,

the founder and artistic director of Theatre4Change, a non-profit organisation based in Khayelitsha that provides art activities and mentorship. The concept, he said was derived from his interest in finding new ways to use art and theatre to address social ills and effect positive change. His vision: to take theatre performances away from traditional spaces and bring

them into communities where social change is needed. "I hope to see these conversations not only becoming a talk, but to see people fighting for their rights and reclaiming what is rightfully theirs. I want to see black communities becoming confident to talk about the social issues that they face," he said in an interview with UCT Daily News.

Prior to each BACAH event, an invited writer was asked to submit commentary on a specific theme, to a selected respondent. The first of these events took place at the Makukhanye Art Room in Khayelitsha on South Africa's National Youth Day (16 June). Titled "State of the Townships", the talk saw academic and political analyst Pastor Xola Skosana in discussion with Ukhona Mlandu, a creative entrepreneur and facilitator, on the issue of underprivileged communities and artists and how they affect the growth of the art industry and South Africa at large. Audience members were given the opportunity to contribute to discussions on racism, crime, xenophobia, feminism, colonisation, exclusion and homophobia.

In the second instalment, themed: 'Homophobia, Queerness and Patriarchy in the Townships', well-known activist Chumani Maxwele, conversed with Lwando Scott, a sociologist, blogger and advocate for queer consciousness. This event featured Bongoletu Women in Poetry and Music, who presented their performance piece, titled *Black Woman Say Something*, which concerns the ill treatment of women in the townships - the ways in which they are undervalued and misunderstood in their own communities. A third conversation, titled 'Defining Community Theatre', featured Sindo who challenged the state of community theatre in South Africa commenting: "The name community theatre has been carelessly used; to an extent being misused and misunderstood even by theatre artists and academics, and has been given a cheap label," said Sindo. In his opinion, this has contributed to the confusion that exists around Community Theatre in South Africa today.

The fourth and final instalment of the BACAH series took place on 4 November and focused on the exclusion and marginalisation of black artists in theatre institutions, universities, theatre awards ceremonies and the ways in which this affects the growth of the industry and South Africa at large.



Bongoletu Women in Poetry and Music, during their performance, conceptualised and composed by young black females who want to create positive change in the townships. Photo: Xolani Tulumani.



UCT Graduate Lwando Scott delivers his address "Homophobia, Queerness and Patriarchy in the Townships" in the second iteration of the series. Photo: Xolani Tulumani.

ICA Director Professor Jay Pather said: "The topics for conversation and engagement, the place of these events and the choice of speakers all evoked strong responses and capacity audiences. The combination of performance and lecture and then discussion made for fresh insights. This has been the structure of ICA events since our inception but to collaborate on BACAH with Mandisi Sindo and the Makukhanye Art Room was particularly rewarding as they

brought these perspectives into spaces of crisis and need."

The BACAH initiative aims to find concrete ways for art to be used effectively to address social ills and to effect positive change. An important feature of these public conversations is that they are located away from their traditional centre (the university) and are instead situated inside the marginalised working-class communities most affected by the subject of the talks.

THE REAL MEANING OF SOCIAL RESPONSIVENESS

Social responsiveness is not just a catch phrase at the University of Cape Town, but a philosophy that aligns teaching, learning and academic research activities with very real development issues facing South Africa. Here, social responsiveness is about connecting staff members and students with communities in need through engaged scholarship and volunteerism initiatives. Sonwabo Ngcelwane, Research and Development Coordinator for UCT's Social Responsiveness programme, explains why this matters, how it links to the 2020 strategic vision and, which partnerships he thinks are the most exciting

Why are Social Responsiveness and Engaged Scholarship such important initiatives for the University of Cape Town? How do these link with the broader 2020 strategic vision for the University?

SN: The University is a public institution and we lie in a country with intractable challenges which are borne by poverty, inequality and unemployment. It is befitting for a public university to bring to bear its resources (research, teaching and service) to address these challenges. Social Responsiveness is part of the institution's accountability to the public. The University of Cape Town's Strategic Planning Framework has social responsiveness embedded in each of the five goals, but particularly foregrounded the concept of responsiveness and engagement in goal number five.

As a UCT alumnus and current staff member, why does this work matter to you?

SN: UCT is one of Africa's top universities and through this work, which is captured in our annual reports, I have seen how academics use their knowledge and expertise to grapple with challenges. Much of the work profiled in our reports falls within the ambit of "activist scholarship" As a social activist, this is the kind of work that resonates with

my values. UCT students through student development agencies like Ubunye and SHAWCO, have shown their commitment to engaging with the country's challenges and that to me is important in terms of the kind of graduates UCT produces to society. I am extremely proud of the calibre of socially conscious students I have worked with over the years.

A conceptual framework for Social Responsiveness was developed and approved by Senate in 2006. What are some of the key initiatives that have come out of its three tiers? (engaged scholarship; civic engagement and PASS staff activities)

SN: Some of the initiatives we are particularly proud of are profiled in our Social Responsiveness award list. As a former educator in Khayelitsha, the Schools Improvement Initiative (SII) is one of the flagship projects I am extremely proud of. The SII recently celebrated its 5th anniversary and draws on the University's broader resources to assist the Western Cape Education Department in improving the quality of education in the Province. The SII model for school improvement is forged through the development of strong university-school partnerships and is committed to working with community structures.

The programme initially focused only on Khayelitsha, a community that has historically been under-represented at UCT in terms of student numbers, but now also involves schools in Mitchells Plain. There are many more outstanding projects to mention, including the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (UCT Graduate School of Business) and the Southern Africa Sustainable Development Initiative Starting Chance Campaign, which aims to upgrade 30 shack-based crèches into formal centres of excellence.

How is social responsiveness embedded within the University and what has been the response from the internal community?

SN: It is very difficult to embed social responsiveness into a research-led institution which still valorises 'basic research' as the only legitimate form of scholarship. Having said that, it is a huge achievement to have placed Social Responsiveness on agenda as one of the core mission of the university in addition to research and teaching and many people have expressed interest in engaged scholarship as a methodology to generate knowledge. The newly developed policies have created an enabling framework to engage faculties and challenge them within their own practice.

In terms of wider societal impact, which innovative UCT SR research collaborations stand out as having achieved this?

SN: Again, I want to mention the School Improvement Initiative programme as an example of making a difference by significantly increasing the number of learners accessing higher education. At the 5th anniversary event it was announced that since its inception in 2013, the programme has increased the number of enrolled matriculants from Khayelitha from 29 to currently 79.

Please elaborate on some of the milestones achieved to date, identifying highlights from the latest Social Responsiveness Report?

SN: We are very proud to have published articles on some of our Social Responsiveness work and presented them at international conferences. The launch of the Social Responsiveness Award to recognise the work is a huge incentive for people. I was part of a team that was commissioned by the Council on Higher Education to write a review of higher education 20 years after democracy. This was a confirmation that UCT was a leading institution in the field. The Engaged Scholarship programme was launched in 2015 and consists of four workshop-seminars, which are combined with preparatory reading, reflection and practical applications. 23 academics were enrolled in the programme in 2017.

Is there a social impact ranking among higher education institutions? If so, how does UCT fare?

SN: Unfortunately, international rankings do not reflect social impact – although funders demand that research demonstrates social impact. Nonetheless, UCT has been recognised for producing socially impactful research. I believe that social impact will become an indicator for university rankings in the future.



Sonwabo Ngcelwane is the Research and Development Coordinator (engaged scholarship) in the University of Cape Town's social responsiveness unit.

What opportunities exist for alumni to become involved in supporting Social Responsiveness activities at UCT?

SN: One way of getting involved as an alumnus is to offer one's expertise or services to your own community and thereby increase the chances of learners gaining access to higher education. Many learners in rural areas have never heard of UCT nor its opportunities. If you own a company for instance, you can offer students an internship to gain work

experience. Another way of getting involved is to financially support students from disadvantaged communities. In short, to be a role model for your own community. Internally, alumni need to take part in the conversation around decolonisation and transformation. Alumni chapters could be used to engage executives proactively and together they should envision a transformed university of the future, instead of waiting for the next crisis to arise.

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY **UCT KNOWLEDGE CO-OP**



One of the UCT Knowledge Co-op research projects explores the role of “urban farmers” who are running 11 big food gardens in Guguletu.

RESEARCH GETS PRACTICAL IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Masters student Zakiyah Ebrahim’s work *StreetsCapes*, illustrates the ambitions of the UCT Knowledge Co-op. Ebrahim worked together with the Khulisa Social Solutions who rehabilitate homeless people living on the streets of Cape Town. Her aim was to document stories of 10 street-based individuals, exploring and addressing the challenges of the larger social and systemic issues they face on a daily

basis. She published her written and photographic documentation on a website to raise awareness on issues that are very scarcely documented in South Africa.

Her research also examined the significance of job creation for street-based people in regaining their dignity. Khulisa’s *StreetsCapes* project creates work opportunities and is described as a ‘hand-up’ not a ‘hand-out’ project.

Under the motto ‘Putting Knowledge to work for communities,’ the UCT Knowledge Co-op was launched in 2010 with funding from the Vice-Chancellor’s Strategic Fund and modelled on the ‘Science Shop’ concept developed in Europe in the 1970s. Since then, the Knowledge Co-op has provided the structure and support to the university’s social responsiveness involvement with local communities.



ICTS students teaching computer skills.



Jolene Daniels changed priorities and a changed life "When I smoked [drugs] I got money easily. When I was sober, I didn't want to beg".

The Knowledge Co-op allows community groups to approach the university with proposals and requests for joint projects. The office, staffed by Barbara Schmid, in turn, approaches departments to identify students and staff whose research matched the needs of the communities. Back in 2010 she and her team started with community outreach through NGO forums and since then the programme has seen increasing interest from the communities and about 800 to 1000 topics are still waiting to be tackled by students. Available topics can be accessed on the website and, on a



Local residents clearing the community gardens of alien vegetation.

regular basis, Schmid sends a list of sought-after topics to the different departments. She also talks directly to students or posts availabilities on Vula and other student platforms to advertise among students.

In 2017 about 45 projects were conducted under the Knowledge Co-op banner. Schmid emphasises that "these projects run on a very low budget and are predominantly based on work students and academics, currently conducting, to better match them with the needs of the communities."

Some of the most popular topics are sexuality and research into sex work. Currently under way is a project on male sex workers and prison experiences and another is documenting stories around sexual abuse and hate crimes.

Agriculture is another very popular topic with several ongoing projects on gardening and social cohesion. One of the projects is exploring the relationships between food gardening and (mental) wellness, while another is assessing the welfare effect of the Harvest of Hope programme on its beneficiaries.

Another major reoccurring theme evolves around information systems and computer literacy. This is partly due to the fact that ICTS students can now complete their community outreach through the Knowledge Co-op. Between 2012 and 2017 some 110 students have assisted schools and NGOs with website and database development, social media guidance and software training for high school learners, children and NGO staff members.

Going forward, the Knowledge Co-op is hoping to increase the number of projects in 2019 to 60, focusing more on environmental issues. Schmid concludes: "For this to happen we need to engage more UCT staff and students and need more funding to get their research off the ground and into the communities".

STORY BY **KATE-LYN MOORE**. PHOTOS BY **ROBYN WALKER**

UNPACKING THE SPATIAL PARADOX

Is a truly integrated and spatially just Cape Town possible? It is this question that the Integration Syndicate (IS) hopes to answer

The collective brings together research centres at three Western Cape universities, including UCT's African Centre for Cities (ACC), experts on urban development and planning, and civil society groups such as Reclaim the City and the Development Action Group (DAG). "The idea is to recognise that at the moment it feels like we are really stuck in Cape Town, that we know that there is a profound problem with the spatial form of the city, the continued reproduction of all kinds of inequality and segregation and we sort of jump from one burning platform to the next, but we don't seem to resolve anything," explained Professor Edgar Pieterse, head of the ACC.

Pieterse, together with Professor Premesh Lalu (University of the Western Cape) and Dr Adi Kumar (DAG) gave a sense of the syndicate's thinking at a panel discussion entitled "Integration Complexities" at Cape Town's Open Book Festival. They outlined the problems with the popular narrative surrounding spatial exclusion and inequality in Cape Town, as well as the steps that Cape Town citizens, together with government, academia and civil society, might take to realise spatial justice in the city.

Discussion around the sale of the Tafelberg site and gentrification in Woodstock and Salt River are good examples of the kinds of issues that reach the public domain, said Pieterse. They demonstrate the highly polarised views portrayed in the media, without any sense of what to do about it. Having worked in both academia and public policy, it was clear to him that in the past few years there has been a real shift in coming to terms with the underlying drivers of spatial inequality and exclusion. This is reflected in the latest Built



Prof Pieterse, head of UCT's African Centre for Cities, explains the aims of the integration syndicate, which hopes to reimagine the city of Cape Town into a space of inclusivity and justice.

Environment Performance Plan (BEPP). "It struck me that if we can build a shared understanding among a diverse group of Capetonians around the assumptions of this plan and the potential for shifting the debate - we could potentially really make an impact and escape this ... sort of sensibility that one has in Cape Town; that you just come back to the same debates over and over, and nothing fundamentally changes."

The spatial paradox

South Africa has a redistributive investment approach, he explained, through free housing and transport subsidies. "So what we have seen since '94 is a massive redistributive investment to alleviate poverty through these various subsidies. But effectively it has worsened the spatial form of the settlements in South

Africa." The private sector tends to invest in areas as far from the poor and as close to economic centres as possible. "This is a spatial paradox: the more we redistribute, the greater spatial injustice becomes."

It is this paradox that South Africa's eight metropolitan governments have been tasked with addressing. The City of Cape Town has put forward five catalytic interventions. "What we as civil society and academia have not done is to respond in a considered and focused manner."

Trapped in a hardening narrative

"I think we've trapped ourselves in a very, very hardening narrative of the divided city. Let me be clear, I don't think we're beyond that narrative," said Lalu. "We've got to think about new ways of anticipating

a concept of freedom. And where we have become very neglectful in our rendering of this city is to think about it as a divided city, without recourse to other forms of narrating its past.” He highlighted the cinema as an example of a crossover space in Cape Town during apartheid. Spaces like Elsie’s River had six or seven cinemas, he said. Thousands of people would go to the cinema on a Saturday morning.

“This was a worldliness that was unavailable to the rest of Cape Town,” he said. Pieterse added: “The core of Premesh’s perspective on this, and the provocation that he continuously brings into the debate in the syndicate, is that it’s in the mundane spaces of everyday life within the township that we’ve got incredibly rich and productive capacities for imagination, desire and transcendence.” How then could public infrastructure be reimagined to create a city that is both integrated and connected to these alternative histories within the city? Imagine if we placed a moratorium on sprawl for the next decade, Pieterse said. This would mean no more public housing built on the outskirts of the city. Instead, we would look to the underutilised and neglected public spaces in the city. “So imagine the fences go down, the [unused public school] sports field ... repurposed with two-to three-storey walk-ups of public and rental housing. You insert into that laundromats, workshops, repair

shops, early childhood development centres.” There is immense potential in the city, given the institutions and the lands that we have, he said.

How to promote inclusionary housing

But in planning development, it is essential that one uses the correct data sets. This has been shown to be a significant issue during Kumar’s work in promoting inclusionary housing in the city. The information collected through community organisations and civil society groups differed vastly from data sources such as Statistics SA. These sources do not reveal how areas are really operating, or the wishes of the people who are living and working there, said Kumar.

He referred to the Philippi horticultural area, by way of example. This area is surrounded by approximately 15 shopping malls. “But what the Cape Flats civics are actually asking for is cultural amenities, socio-economic amenities, and that is not actually being factored into the development process at all.”

So why do developers insist on building malls? This is influenced by a number of factors, said Kumar, including how landowners and developers determine the commercial value of a property. Land in the Cape Flats is relatively central in the context of the city, Kumar explains. Philippi, for instance, now sits between Khayelitsha

and the CBD. “So the centrality of these particular parcels of land make massive commercial sense,” he said. But these developments do not respond to the city’s other imperatives. “In the context of the Cape Flats, what civics have been struggling with are issues around crime, safety, cultural amenities and all those kinds of things, but developers have cornered the market because the land is available at a cheap price.” The interventions like this result in pervasive gentrification. This, in turn, leads to further sets of removals to the periphery.

Competing impulses

“We feel very self-satisfied when we ‘like’ a critique of gentrification by Reclaim the City, but at the same time, we are so happy there is a Biscuit Mill”, said Pieterse. “It is that contradiction between our own desires, our own yearning for the kind of creativity that is embedded there, along with a political rectitude that, I think, disallows us from really engaging with these dynamics ... And it is not just about the townships, or just about Woodstock, or just about reclaiming Hout Bay, for that matter, it is about all of Cape Town.

“Let’s be clear that change comes about through specific sites, through specific people, but we have to be able to think that in relation to the city as a whole. And that is what I think has been missing from our discourse.”

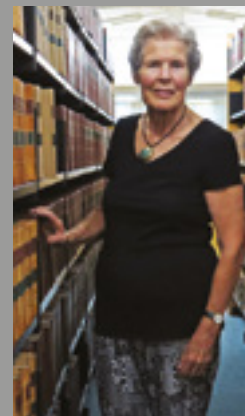
COMPILED BY **UCT NEWSROOM**. PHOTO BY **MICHAEL HAMMOND**

MARY BURTON: PATRON OF THE BLACK SASH

Mary Burton, who joined the Black Sash in 1965, is only the second person to be honoured by being named as the movement’s patron.

Burton served as regional chair for several terms, as national president from 1986 to 1990, and is a founder of what is now known as The Black Sash Trust. Besides holding high office within the organisation, she has always been known for her work ‘on the ground’.

Apart from her extensive work in the Black Sash, Burton was the provincial electoral officer of the Independent Electoral Commission in the Western Cape during the 1994 elections, and a commissioner for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She served as deputy chairperson of the Council of the University of Cape Town and as chairperson of Convocation. Burton has been the recipient of many awards and commendations, including the UCT Vice-Chancellor’s medal. She received an honorary doctorate from the university in 2011. Her acclaimed history of the Black Sash, entitled *The Black Sash: Women for Justice and Peace*, was published in 2015.



STORY BY **CARLA BERNARDO**. PHOTO BY **ELIA FESTER UNDER CREATIVE COMMONS**

RESPECT AND RESEARCH: LESSONS FROM THE SAN CODE OF ETHICS

The recent launch of the San code of ethics received an overwhelming amount of media and academic coverage across the world. For the first time, the oldest and most over-researched community alive had formalised their demands for ethical research. Representatives from the coalition who launched the code visited UCT to discuss the role of research and the responsibilities of the researcher when conducting community-based studies

“There was a lot of harm done by researchers,” said Collin Louw, a member of the South African San Council (SASC). “The presence of researchers caused conflict in our communities and opened a lot of old wounds.”

But, he said, they understood the enormous benefits of research.

“Without it, the world will stand still. So this code is used to bridge the divide between researchers and communities.”

The code, which was launched in Cape Town in March, was a collaborative effort between SASC, the South African San Institute (SASI), !Khwatla, and two communal property organisations. The launch formed part of a conference hosted by TRUST, an international network funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Programme, and is aimed at ensuring researchers maintain high ethical standards. UCT is one of 14 TRUST partners.

The launch was the culmination of almost 20 years of consultative work with San communities in South Africa, Botswana and Namibia. The group also studied the existing codes of the First People of Canada and Australia: the Inuit and the Aborigine. “It was a huge job getting to this point,” said Hennie Swart, SASI director.

There were, said Swart, many aspects of the research process that needed amending, including translations and the use of

academic language, incentives and value systems. Often, when research proposals do find their way to the council responsible for granting permission, the academic language makes them inaccessible. Researchers hoping for a successful outcome need to be aware of this and amend their proposals accordingly.

Translation of interviewees’ input

the San: justice and fairness; care; process; honesty; and respect.

Swart explained why engaging with the code, consulting with the council and committing to the pillars is so important.

He described how the San, young and old, would walk far distances in search of watering holes. When the elderly could no longer walk,

“ “ In the west, we’re told to respect life. According to the San, we must respect the choice to die”

is also of concern to the council, as a lot can be lost in translation. Researchers are encouraged to find a suitable local partner who can provide translations in exchange for insight into the investigation process and a daily stipend.

On remuneration, Swart said the time had long passed where researchers could get away with “You’re going to be on TV!” as payment. He added that researchers had also previously paid the San in cigarettes and mielie pap.

Now, the code requires that researchers apply for permission to conduct their studies, and if there is a commercial element, the community under investigation should reap some of the financial benefits.

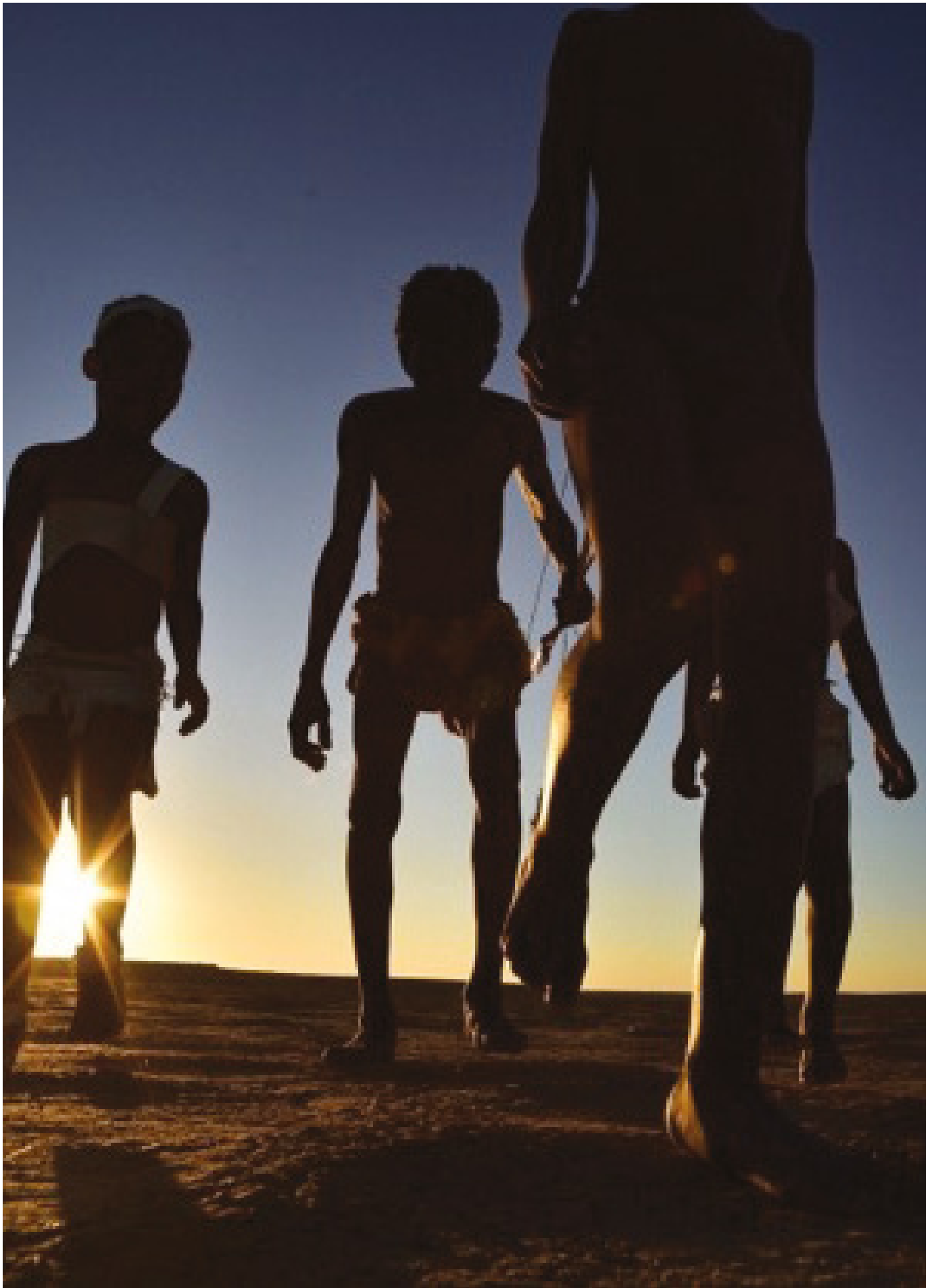
The code also requires that researchers agree to the five pillars underlying the value system of

they would announce that they would sit under a tree, wait and welcome death.

“In the west, we’re told to respect life. According to the San, we must respect the choice to die,” said Swart.

With their Code officially launched and celebrated the world over, the group were making plans to digitise the research application process, which will include a requirement that researchers report their findings to the council. “That way you can have your PhD and we can have the knowledge,” said Swart.

The Research Ethics and Communities workshop at which the San code of ethics was discussed, in the context of UCT’s Engaged Scholarship Programme, formed part of the series of workshops organised and hosted by the senate Ethics in Research Committee.



Elia Fester and children, Kalahari Khomani San Bushman, Boesmansrus camp, Northern Cape, South Africa.



Prof Jacqueline Rose delivered the Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture at UCT on 16 March 2017.

COMPILED BY **UCT NEWSROOM**

‘STARE STRAIGHT INTO THE EYE OF THE PERPETRATOR’, SAID FEMINIST SCHOLAR

Author Professor Jacqueline Rose, renowned worldwide for her scholarship on the intersection of feminism, psychoanalysis, literature and politics, delivered the Vice-Chancellor’s Open Lecture at UCT on 16 March 2017.

Titled *Legacy, or What I Have Learned From You*, Rose’s lecture touched on a range of subjects relating to South Africa and the global south in general, from the student-driven protests against tertiary education fees that started in 2015 to “transgenerational haunting” that might explain otherwise inexplicable incidents such as a group of girls in Mlungisi township in the Eastern Cape, born after the end of apartheid, re-enacting a grisly necklacing scene.

“The 1913 Land Act, an act of sheer theft initiated by the British which laid the groundwork for segregation and then apartheid, would be a good enough place to begin not least because I know the still unresolved question of land, its cruelly unequal distribution, is at the heart of a continuing struggle in South Africa,” Rose said. The author linked mainstream attitudes to public protest in South Africa to her experience as a student in Europe. Rose, who participated in student protests in the 1960s, recalled hysteria in France, with a major newspaper proclaiming that France was crumbling, ostensibly because of the discontent. “The same hyperbole of destruction is thrown at the protests [in South Africa]. After all, France did not crumble or fall apart in the 1960s.”

How much had any of that changed, Rose wondered. Recalling her own state-funded tertiary education, Rose expressed “solidarity” with the

demand of free education for all, or at least for the poor, in South Africa. “I have witnessed the deleterious effect on the house of critical thought of any whittling down of that fundamental right in the so-called free world,” she said.

A crucial question for Rose was what was passed down to younger generations in moments of historical crisis. Citing South African academics, Sampie Terreblanche and Patrick Bond, who explained some of the challenges in post-apartheid South Africa which resulted in, say, the decolonisation project barely getting off the ground, Rose was certain that what should not be passed down was a responsibility for the next generation not to “cry foul, or claim that apartheid had not ended, or that their future was blighted by a past that had not gone away”. Rose presented a smorgasbord of ideas from a range of contemporary philosophers. She threaded together strands of argument from scholars such as philosopher Hannah Arendt, who cautioned that the idea of “progress was dangerous in so far as it allowed rulers of the present dispensation to pretend that everything is just fine when it is not and allows those in powers to ignore the world forever”, and Frantz Fanon, who called for “radical empathy” in *Wretched of the Earth*. “There is a violence in the human heart, perhaps implanted but certainly hugely aggravated by social injustice and cruelty,” said Rose.

She also used French psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan’s idea of “disjointed but generative temporality”, to offer an explanation for some of the peculiarities on the South African socio-political landscape. Rose further emphasised that no political struggle could escape the social arrangements of gender and sexuality. She concluded with some advice: “Stare straight into the eye of the perpetrator still at large who ... takes no responsibility for what he has done. Above all, do not blame those who erupt because they were burdened with an injunction to transcend history, an impossible demand that can have no place in any attempt to build a better world.”

Rose is Professor of Humanities and co-director for the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities at the University of London. She spent the week of 13 to 17 March engaging with academics and students at UCT about issues ranging from an identity seminar held with the Trans Collective to sex and race as they related to the aftermath of Oscar Pistorius’s murder trial.

Dr Victoria Collis-Buthelezi of the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research delivered a formal response to Rose’s lecture.

STORY BY **KATE-LYN MOORE**. PHOTOS **SUPPLIED**

ANOTHER 40 YEARS OF THEATRICAL EXCELLENCE

The Baxter Theatre Centre turned 40 this year, having opened its doors on 1st August 1977. To celebrate this milestone, the iconic venue launched an exciting fundraising drive called the 40/80 campaign. The space came into being through a bequest by the late Dr William Duncan Baxter, who earmarked R553 866 to set up and finance the project.

Baxter envisioned a space that would “develop and cultivate the arts in Cape Town and the adjacent districts for all artists”. Now, four decades later, the theatre has launched a fundraising campaign to secure its future and make it possible to deliver another 40 years of theatrical excellence.

A time of divisions

The theatre was built during a time of entrenched racial divisions. The Publications and Entertainment Act of 1963 separated black and white audiences. South African actor, director and playwright Dr John Kani wrote: “The Baxter Theatre opened its doors during the most difficult time of history in our country. There were no theatres in Cape Town in the 1980s that would take the risk of presenting works by black artists. The Baxter Theatre became the only theatre that allowed the alternative voice to be heard especially from the black communities.”

The University of Cape Town was selected as a strategic location for a theatre that hoped to open itself to all. “Because of the Baxter Theatre’s fortunate location, situated inside the grounds of the University of Cape Town, they could present and produce the so-called ‘protest theatre’ plays,” Kani explained. These included pieces such as *Sizwe Banzi is Dead* and *The Island*.

Funding misconceptions

There are a number of misconceptions about the Baxter’s finances that have proven to be barriers to the centre’s fundraising efforts. “UCT covers approximately 40% of our operational costs and we have to raise the remainder ourselves. The Baxter is a UCT project and we get considerable support from the university. However, they cannot give us all that we need to do our work,” explained CEO and artistic director Lara Foot.

UCT meets the costs associated with the Concert Hall, which functions primarily as a teaching and performance venue for the South African College of Music. It also contributes an annual operating grant, to cover part of the Baxter’s infrastructure costs. “Currently, the Baxter Theatre does not receive funding from the national government or from the National Lotteries Commission. The Baxter Theatre is not considered

a state owned entity and is therefore not considered eligible for national government funding,” continued Foot.

The Baxter raises the remaining 60% of its funding (which covers all artistic projects, salaries, security, cleaning, maintenance and electricity, production staff, ad hoc artists, marketing, publicity and staff transport). “Unfortunately, these aforementioned misconceptions have severely compromised our efforts to raise funds,” Foot said.

The theatre hopes to turn this around with the 40/80 campaign: ensuring that the Baxter’s 40-year legacy of theatre excellence becomes an 80-year commitment to the same. All money raised through this initiative will go directly into the theatre’s Endowment and Production Funds. The public and the business sector are encouraged to join forces and contribute in any number of ways.

““ South African actor, director and playwright Dr John Kani wrote: “The Baxter Theatre opened its doors during the most difficult time of history in our country. There were no theatres in Cape Town in the 1980s that would take the risk of presenting works by black artists. The Baxter Theatre became the only theatre that allowed the alternative voice to be heard especially from the black communities.



Donations of any amount can be made by visiting the Baxter's website

There is a 'Donate' icon on the homepage, making it easy and simple to give generously

Subscribe to the online newsletter or like the facebook page and for just R100, enter our online competition and win a trip overseas

A Snapscan payment option has also been introduced – the QR code can be found throughout the foyers or on the website

When buying tickets online there is the option of donating each time a booking is made

The Name-A-Seat option offers the public the opportunity to do just that – the perfect birthday, anniversary or retirement gift, or a

very special tribute in memory of a loved one will be displayed on a plaque.

ALIGN YOUR BRAND WITH THE BAXTER

As a trailblazer in the performing arts and a centre for artistic excellence, the Baxter offers exceptional promotional opportunities to brands, which will be exposed to over 2 700 patrons on a daily basis.

Naming rights are available for the Baxter Main Theatre, Concert Hall, Zabalaza Festival and Dance Festival.

All contributors are eligible for tax deductions under section 18A of the Income Tax Act.

Contact Baxter CEO Lara Foot about branding options.

DISTINGUISHING UCT CAMPAIGN TARGETS R1 BILLION

The University of Cape Town will celebrate its centenary in 2018, as a degree-issuing university and in 2019, will commemorate 190 years since it was first established as the South African College. These two milestones form the backdrop to one of the most important fundraising campaigns currently under way at the University of Cape Town: the Distinguishing UCT campaign, which aims to grow the general endowment from R500 million to 1 billion rand by the end of 2019.

An endowment is a dedicated and permanent source of funding that underwrites a university's ability to work towards its vision and mission. Sources of funding for a university endowment come in the form of large gifts as well as regular giving. The primary goal of the Distinguishing UCT campaign is to grow the value of the general or 'undesignated' endowment fund from R500 million to R1 billion for which the university has set a target for 2019. The current value of the endowment has grown to R633 million in the last two years, thanks to the generous support received from the donor and alumni communities.

Underpinned by the University's new Strategic Plan for 2016-20, the three pillars of the Distinguishing UCT campaign are: Advancing Excellence, Investing in Talent and Realising Transformation. The campaign is focused on creating a new, inclusive identity for UCT as the leading university on the African continent. According to Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price: "A successful campaign will not only serve as a resource towards financial sustainability, but will also make a bold statement about our commitment to maintaining our position as a premier university,

connecting the most talented students and scholars from our continent and the rest of the world." Through its thought leadership, the education of future professionals and the creation of knowledge and innovation, UCT makes a huge contribution to the development of our country and our continent and, in many disciplines, the world. This campaign illustrates UCT's drive to continuously improve, develop and create a sustainable future for the university, for South Africa and Africa."

Executive Director of the Development and Alumni Department, Dr Russell Ally, said that a significantly stronger general endowment will not only contribute meaningfully towards the university's continued sustainability – financially and through producing the next generation of academics – but will also enable financial assistance for deserving students. "The endowment income will boost our bursary programmes making higher education accessible to talented young people in our country. The particular funding gap is for postgraduate students and the absence of such funding is the key reason for the small number of black South African students pursuing

doctorates and planning academic careers," said Dr Ally.

As at the end of November 2017, the campaign has received a total of 320 donations with the majority of these coming from individual donors (alumni and friends) resident in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, New Zealand, South Africa, in the UK and in the USA. Under the umbrella of the Distinguishing UCT campaign other significant donations, totalling in excess of R53 million, have been secured for key strategic capital works projects at UCT. One example is funding received in support of the Neurosciences Institute at Groote Schuur Hospital, a project intended to enhance patient care, improve teaching, increase research and foster closer interaction between the clinical disciplines of neurosurgery, neurology, neuropsychology and neuropsychiatry. This initiative will also provide a platform for the translation of basic science advances into clinical practice, public education and advocacy, and development of new postgraduate programmes.

Campaign highlights include successful fundraising dinners hosted in London, New York, Sydney and more recently in Cape Town and Johannesburg. 2017 also saw



Distinguishing UCT campaign highlights include successful fundraising dinners hosted in London, New York, Sydney, Cape Town and Johannesburg.

the establishment of an inaugural Distinguishing UCT Golf Day, which was held at Steenberg Golf Club, in Cape Town. “All these events proved to be highly successful not only in raising awareness for the campaign, but also in securing financial support for our efforts. Locally the campaign has been very well-supported by corporate South Africa and in particular by First National Bank and Standard Bank, as well as Sun International.

We are indeed privileged to have such prominent institutions support the campaign, both financially and logistically,” said Sidney Van Heerden, Campaign Director.

As the University approaches its centenary in 2018 and the half-way point in the campaign lifespan, UCT alumni, donors, staff members and friends of the university are encouraged to pledge their support to the Distinguishing UCT campaign. “Having already strengthened the

general endowment by R 133 million it is within our reach to raise the current shortfall of R367 million in order to achieve our target of 1 BILLION RAND. We need UCT alumni and friends to join hands and invest in the future of Africa’s leading university,” said van Heerden.

For additional information on the Distinguishing UCT Campaigns well as information on how you can pledge your support, visit: www.distinguishinguct.uct.ac.za



UCT Student Wellness Service provides professional health and counselling services to all UCT students

UCT STUDENT WELLNESS: SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN DISTRESS

Located in the Department of Students Affairs, the University of Cape Town’s Student Wellness Service provides professional health and counselling services at a primary health care level. It is an invaluable resource, one that has benefited generations of UCT student. However, the current realities of campus life combined with the socio-economic challenges faced by many in South Africa place a heavy burden on this, most crucial of student services.

At UCT, Student Wellness Services (SWS) comprises medical practitioners, nurses and clinical psychologists who together, look after the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of close to 30 000 students. Internally, resources are stretched and the Department of Student Affairs recently employed external health care services to meet the rising demand for on-site

services; in particular, counselling services. New interventions include a dedicated crisis care line as well as on-site, after hours crisis intervention. Speaking at the launch of the UCT crisis care line in 2016, Dr Max Price said: “We are deeply concerned about the increase in mental health issues in society in general and amongst our students in particular. We are constantly striving to increase our support to students.”

Present realities

A reduction in government subsidies for higher education coupled with the climate of austerity, have made it difficult to provide adequate SWS interventions for a growing student population. To help address this challenge, the Development and Alumni Department has raised over R3 million which has been earmarked for the recruitment of additional psychologists.

Creating a supportive environment for students, through the provision of academic and psychosocial support is imperative to helping them achieve academic excellence. The university is grateful for the contributions received from donors and the alumni community to date.

Should you wish to make a donation in support of UCT Student Wellness Services, contact Cindy De Oliveira at: cindy.deoliveira@uct.ac.za

FAST FACTS:

- 40% of consultations with the clinical health nurses are women’s health related
- One clinical social worker sees approximately 40 students per month
- 44% of cases relate to mental health issues, up from 30% in 2012
- The Upper Campus clinic nurse sees on average 20 consults per day

COMPILED BY **MERLIN INCE**

ALUMNI HELPING TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE STUDENT FUNDING

A space of calm, tranquillity, and sustenance, is conjured up by the idea of an oasis. Company CEO, Adam Ebrahim, of Oasis Group Holdings explains that this is the spirit in which he set up the asset management firm with two of his brothers twenty years ago, all of them UCT alumni. With a comprehensive giving portfolio, Oasis not only shares its value through educational initiatives but also contributes towards public healthcare facilities, as well as homes for children and the aged.

Oasis' deep commitment to education is embodied in its investments into this sector and under their watch, the company has engaged with projects that encompass early childhood development facilities as well as secondary and tertiary level initiatives. Earlier this year, the brothers made a generous donation of R10 million to the University of Cape Town as part of the company's commitment to building sustainable solutions to the student funding crisis that threatens the future of South Africa's talented youth. Through this multi-pronged funding approach, they express the hope that this donation will reinforce efforts to "address inequality and strengthen a competitive workforce, leaving nobody behind".

Over the next five years, an annual R2 million allocation of the fund from Oasis will be used to support: The First Year Experience Programme, hosted by UCT's Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED) which provides comprehensive support to all first year students, from mentoring to tutoring and career pathing, so that students are empowered to perform at their optimal capacity; Undergraduate Bursaries which provide financial support for student fees across a wide range of disciplines; and Postgraduate Bursaries that will provide exceptional students with



opportunities for Master's and Doctoral qualifications.

Education has always been a pivotal value for Ebrahim and his brothers, who were students at UCT during the turbulent years of the country's history in the 1970s and 1980s. In the context of country-wide university and school boycotts at the time, they took on the initiative, along with 150 other UCT students, of hosting free "Saturday Schools" at three locations across Cape Town for approximately 3 000 students who participated in the boycotts. The initiative helped ensure that while taking up the struggle, students still kept up with the curriculum and passed their examinations.

While the struggle for equality of education opportunities still continues in many respects, it is through building strong partnerships of support that more of the country's talented youth will be able to fulfil their academic and career pursuits. The brothers are enthused by the remarkable capacities that bursary recipients demonstrate, not only in their academic aptitudes but also their drive to be innovative leaders. To this extent, they consider it an imperative that the business sector "plays a strong role in supporting our universities so that we produce more outstanding professionals and continue to be a globally competitive society".

ABSA INCREASES SUPPORT TO UCT

A total of 250 “missing middle” students from the University of Cape Town (UCT) will receive scholarships after a R10 million donation was handed over to the university by the Barclays Africa Group on Tuesday, 24 October.



Representatives from Absa handed over a R10 million cheque to UCT executives on 24 October. L-R: Dr Russell Ally, ED Development and Alumni Department; Clinton Clarke, head of SA coastal regions, Absa Corporate and Investment Banking; DVC Prof Loretta Feris; Bonisile Magewu, corporate banker, Absa Corporate and Investment Banking; VC Dr Max Price; Anastasia Peters, citizenship manager for the Western Cape; John Tshabalala, Absa managing executive for the Western Cape.

This follows an almost three-fold increase in the Barclays Africa Group’s CEO Scholarship Fund, which will finance the studies of 3 000 students across Africa. The fund, now valued at R210 million (up from R80 million in 2016, which funded 2 000 students), has dedicated R35 million to universities in the Western Cape specifically. This includes UCT, the University of the Western Cape, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and Stellenbosch University.

The CEO Scholarship Fund is a component of Barclays Africa’s Shared Growth strategy, which endeavours to create shared value for communities and stakeholders.

The group has pledged to invest R1.4 billion in education and skills training between 2016 and 2018. “University education unlocks opportunities that can change the lives of young people and the future of our continent. This is an expression of our Shared Growth commitment to help realise Africa’s potential and contribute to long-term economic growth,” said Barclays Africa Group chief executive Maria Ramos. “This investment has been made possible by the hard work and dedication of colleagues in our business and I am proud of their commitment to making a visible difference in the lives of thousands of young Africans.”

Of the 3 000 scholarships, 2 250 will be allocated to South African students. The remaining 750 are earmarked for students in Barclays Africa operating regions throughout the continent. Of the South African scholarships, 500 will be granted to dependants of Absa staff members. Universities will identify qualifying students on the basis of academic performance and financial need, and will allocate scholarships after consultation with Absa. The funding is also available to students from the so-called “missing middle”.

The scholarship programme includes essential psycho-social support and leadership training.



UCT alumnus Dr Sven Thönell

ALUMNI COUPLE REMEMBER THEIR ALMA MATER WITH A GIFT

Judy Thönell has recently established the Sven Thönell Grant for Continuing Paediatric Radiology Education and Training in honour of her late husband, Dr. Sven Thönell. The couple are both UCT alumni who met and married during their first years of study at UCT.

Sven Thönell was born in Southern Zimbabwe where his early upbringing instilled in him the core values of: service to others, humility and selflessness. At the University of Cape Town he completed two years towards a Bachelor of Science degree before transferring to medicine in his third year. It was during this time that he met and later married his wife, Judy O'Hagan who was studying music.

Dr Thönell commenced his medical career in 1970, completing his internship at Grey's Hospital in Pietermaritzburg. In 1971, the couple moved to Sweden where their son Peter was born but feeling homesick, they returned to Africa spending almost four years in Zimbabwe, where Dr Thönell ran three hospitals and several clinics. During this period, he obtained his pilot licence and purchased a small Cessna plane with another doctor, they used to visit clinics and transport patients. The Thönell family returned to Sweden in 1976, where completed his medical accreditation and their daughter Marie-Louise was born. After a few years in adult radiology at Nacka Hospital, he underwent specialist training in paediatric radiology at Karolinska Hospital, where he was later employed as a consultant paediatric radiologist (1983 to 1989). In 1990, he was appointed Director of Radiology at Princess Margaret

Hospital for Children in Perth (PMH), where he remained for the next 22 years. Colleagues at the hospital remember him for his unique skill in pacifying young children - he was referred to as the 'baby whisperer'.

Dr Thönell received several accolades during his professional career. He was an examiner for the Royal Australasian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) and was awarded life membership in 2010; he was awarded the Turab Chakera Award for Excellence in Teaching, by the registrars in 2012 and served as the Chairman of the Australian Society of Paediatric Imaging and, during his tenure was instrumental in raising the profile of paediatric radiology in Australia. Poor health resulted in his stepping down from his position in 2012.

In 2000, Dr Fujioka of Tokyo University and Dr Thönell took the initiative to start the AOSPR (Asian Oceanic Society of Paediatric Radiology) which has now grown to involve all the Asian countries and include Australia and New Zealand. After an active life which includes a passion for exploring the outback and for four-wheel driving, he tragically succumbed to his illness in 2013.

Commenting on why she had chosen to honour her late husband in this way, Judy Thönell said that she had established the Grant at UCT because of her husband's dedication

to medicine and to his work in the field of paediatric radiology. "That was Sven's chosen field, although he could have chosen any other - he was an achiever in whatever he did. Sven was passionate about his work. He examined for the Australian College of Radiologists for several years, he tutored students in Australia, but also taught nurses for over three years, who excelled in the exams, in what was then Rhodesia and, he was very good with children," she said. Through this donation, Thönell said that she would like to encourage other UCT alumni to support future generations of students and graduates. "It is up to us to secure the quality and expertise of future generations, we who have the experience and have 'been there and done that' need to encourage and support those following after us," concluded Thönell.

The Sven Thönell Grant for Continuing Paediatric Radiology Education and Training is a 10-year grant agreement worth a minimum of R20 000 per annum. It is intended to assist a registrar in annually attending and participating in national and international Paediatric Radiology conferences. Applications will be reviewed by a Faculty of Health Sciences panel at the University of Cape Town. The grant will be administered from 1 January 2018.

FOUNDATIONS, TRUSTS AND CORPORATES

Platinum Circle

Foundations, trusts and corporates that have made donations to UCT totalling R50 million and above (alphabetically)

- The Andrew W Mellon Foundation
- The Atlantic Philanthropies (Bermuda) Ltd
- The Bertha Foundation
- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Claude Leon Foundation
- The Ford Foundation USA
- The Harry Crossley Foundation
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- Cancer Research Trust
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- WK Kellogg Foundation, USA

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- AECI Ltd
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- JRS Biodiversity Foundation
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- Kaplan Kushlick Educational Foundation
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Bronze Circle

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- The Lewis Foundation
- Life Healthcare Foundation
- Lily & Ernst Hausmann Research Trust
- Linbury Trust
- Link-SA Fund
- The Little Tew Charitable Trust
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- The MAC AIDS Fund
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- The Zenex Foundation

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Individuals whose gifts to UCT over the last five years have amounted to less than R100 000

3 316 individuals who have generously shown their support by making a gift to the University of Cape Town.

Bequests

Individuals who have bequeathed a legacy gift to UCT in their wills.

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- Linda Doreen Beckett
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Note:

As of January 2015, the levels of individual donors' giving circles have changed as follows:

- Chancellor's circle: formerly R250 000+, now R500 000+;
- Vice-Chancellor's Circle: formerly R100 000 – R250 000, now R250 000 – R500 000;
- Dean's circle: formerly R60 000 – R100 000, now R100 000 – R250 000;
- Friends of UCT: formerly <R60 000, now <R100 000.

Please note that these changes only affect donations received after 1 January 2015. All donors who were members of particular circles prior to January 2015, will continue to be recognised in their original circles, until the rolling five-year giving period has elapsed.

We apologise for any omissions or errors. If you would like to query your donations totals, circle membership, or any other matter related to your gifts to UCT, please email giving@uct.ac.za.

A full list of UCT donors is also available at www.uct.ac.za/main/donating-to-uct/donor-recognition

STORY BY **DIANA CAELERS** PHOTO BY **JE'NINE MAY**

WORKPLACE GENDER EQUITY: A FULL-TIME JOB

Even one of the most powerful businesswomen in the world had to learn the hard way that maintaining high numbers of women in top company posts is a full-time job. Workplace gender equity must be prioritised, firm strategies introduced, and the momentum maintained, said author and world-respected banker Gail Kelly, whose lesson came in her own job as the first woman chief executive of one of Australia's big four banks.

Kelly, in Cape Town to address nearly 200 fellow University of Cape Town alumni as part of the Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series, said it was a "very bitter pill" when she, a role model for the empowerment of women, was blamed for the declining numbers of her counterparts in top jobs at Westpac Banking Corporation, where she took the reins in 2008. "I had such a full agenda when I moved from St. George Bank, my first CEO post, and I knew that Westpac was oriented to giving women help. So I thought I didn't have to worry. I took my eye off the ball and it was only about 18 months before the number of women in top positions first plateaued, then declined because I hadn't prioritised the issue. People said I didn't care, which was very painful for me," Kelly revealed.

Putting into action her strength and resilience, primary themes in her new book *Live Lead Learn: My stories of life and leadership* Kelly committed to changing recruitment, training and even parental leave policies at the bank. Her aim? A target of 40% of women in leadership roles by 2014. She nailed the target in 2012.

Not content to leave it at that, Kelly set a new goal – 50% by 2017, the bank's bicentenary year, and although she'd retired two years earlier, her successor hit the target this September. For women, her message is to always back yourself, be prepared to "give it a go", and stare down the fear of failure. For men – and she attributes her stellar career to men who identified her talent and



Gail Kelly pictured here with UCT applicants for the Gail Kelly Global Scholarship Programme. Successful applicants from UCT will spend a term at the uNiversity of New South Wales.

kickstarted her progress – she urges male bosses to always look for opportunities to support, grow and develop the women in their teams.

Her book, explained Kelly, is a natural progression of her "very lucky, even improbable" career, that saw her spend 13 years as a CEO of major banks in Australia, including during the global financial crisis, while raising four children, three of them triplets. "I decided to capture my learnings, ideas, thoughts, insights and perspectives to share with everyone what I have learned about leadership, and how it requires a generosity of spirit in people who are supremely self-aware and know how to listen. I don't think the hierarchical approach works, I don't think it allows leaders to create an environment where each individual can flourish and grow," she said.

Kelly has proved her generosity with the announcement of a AUD\$1

million (approximately R10 million) accredited exchange programme between UCT and the University of New South Wales, where she is today an Adjunct Professor. Starting next year (2018), The Gail Kelly Global Leaders Scholarship programme will see one student from each university spend a term on the other's home turf, learning about politics, economics and lifestyle. "Now these two powerful universities that I love, and these two cities that I love, will be linked in a very special way that I hope will build bridges into the future," Kelly told the audience.

The South African students can also look forward to mentoring from Kelly, the woman who began her career as a teller at a building society in Johannesburg, and ended up being named the eighth most powerful woman in the world by Forbes in 2010 – wedged right between Lady Gaga and Beyonce.

FAREWELL TO UCT LEGACY SOCIETY PRESIDENT

The University of Cape Town's Legacy Society recently bid a fond farewell to esteemed academic, Emeritus Professor Francis Wilson who has enjoyed a deep connection with the institution spanning five decades. He taught at the university's School of Economics, founded and directed the Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU). Professor Wilson recently stepped down as the UCT Legacy Society's President, following a seven year tenure.



Wilson is an economist and pioneering academic, credited for his significant contribution to advancing scholarship in the field of social equality. Throughout his academic career, he has published widely on the migrant labour system as well as on poverty and social inequality in South Africa. His research has informed South African policy formulation in these areas. In 1974, he launched the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU). In 1982, he directed the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in South Africa, a massive independent research process which documented the impoverishment black South Africans endured under apartheid. In 2012, he was appointed Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor for Poverty and Inequality at UCT, tasked with organising a conference to launch

a national inquiry into strategies to overcome poverty and inequality. Wilson took over as president of the Legacy Society in 2010, from former Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Stuart Saunders. During his tenure, he has worked tirelessly to engage UCT alumni both locally and abroad, promoting the benefits of Legacy Society membership.

Speaking at the farewell event held in his honour, Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price said that Wilson would be remembered for the integral role he had played in engaging with alumni and, for his contribution to the university. "Most people come to these events because of Francis. Francis is an iconic figure. He used his book launches around the world to invite alumni and draw them to the society. He has played a fantastic role through his stature," said Dr Price. At the event, the Vice-Chancellor presented him with the Vice-Chancellor's Medal for his contribution to the University.

In his last speech as the President of the Society, Wilson said that an important role of the Legacy Society was to bridge the inter-generational gap between alumni and students. "The legacy society's key role is to interpret between the generations, to help explain to those who left UCT 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, even 60 years ago, what is happening on campus today and what the students are thinking. This is important, to bridge the gap between generations and to facilitate the process of change within the society," said Wilson. "In this work I have been part of a team, in which my closest mates have been Rene Nolte and Lu Nteya. I wish to pay tribute to them for all their help," said Wilson.

This year the Legacy Society also bid a fond farewell to Mr Rene Nolte, under whose guidance, the society has expanded and gained membership since its inception in 2011. The number of Legacy members increased from 22 members locally to over 300 members across the globe. During the period June 2011 to June 2017 a total of over R62 million was donated to the university from executed estates. This amounts to an average of almost R9 million per annum which allows UCT to support more development projects, conduct intensive research and change the lives of hundreds of UCT students through financial aid support.

FORMER DVC URGES ALUMNI TO REFLECT ON PROTESTS

UCT Emeritus Professor Crain Soudien presented his audience with some food for thought at the fourth instalment of the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series.



UCT Emeritus Professor Crain Soudien provided alumni with food for thought at an event held in Grassy Park earlier this year

On Saturday, 20 May, UCT Emeritus Professor Crain Soudien addressed a packed audience of alumni at the Buck Road Primary School in Grassy Park.

This was the fourth instalment of the Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series in 2017, an initiative designed to profile extraordinary graduates of the University of Cape Town among the institution's wider alumni community and public.

His talk in Grassy Park, entitled: "What is the significance of the student protests for universities in the context of their transformation strategies?", challenged the audience to re-examine their understanding of the national student protests, specifically the legitimacy of the issues raised by the students alongside the academy's responsibility to transform.

One of the stark realities, he said, was that almost one-third of all South African students (African students in particular) who embark on a university education do not complete their first year of studies.

Given the low throughput rates, he posed several questions to the audience, namely:

- What should the South African university be?
- Who should be admitted into it?
- Who should teach?
- What should be researched?
- What should be the responsibility of the university to its context?

Transitions in higher education

His talk offered two explanations for what has happened in South Africa over the past two years. The first:

the radical changes and mergers that have occurred within our higher education system post 1994, which were intended to remove apartheid from within it, resulted in the 26 academic institutions that are operating today and the removal of the divide between technical institutions and universities.

Citing the work of renowned higher-education scholar Professor Martin Trow, his second explanation is that South Africa's higher education system is undergoing a process of "tipping over" from an elite system towards a mass-based system, from a Eurocentric model to one that seeks to empower.

Trow's model, he said, was useful in helping us understand that what has happened in South Africa over the past two years has precedence in many other parts of the world and that these transitions (from elite to mass to universal) are often accompanied by periods of great turbulence. He said that this change or process of "massification" has an important but often ignored sociological context.

"Since 1994, something incredible has happened in South Africa and that has been the growth of the black middle class. From a base of around 350 000 in 1994 to anywhere between 4 and 14 million by 2014, this significant sociological shift has implications for universities also," he said.

"In 1993 enrolments stood at 191 000, but between 1993, and 2013 these had increased by almost 261%. This, however, stands in stark contrast to the fact that the professoriate and academic teaching core are still largely white," said Professor Soudien.

He reiterated that the university has an obligation to respond to these current realities and fluctuations.

On the issue of decolonisation he made the point that the South African university was established on the basis of delegitimising other people's understanding while validating all knowledge as it comes from Europe. He said that the decolonial project seeks to validate all knowledge, insight and wisdom and that "we need to bring back and legitimise all forms of

knowledge which continue to occur in the everyday".

Reaching out to a broader audience

The event was attended by more than 60 alumni, students and UCT staff members. Some guests, including UCT Executive Director for Finance Ashley Francis, who attended Buck Road Primary School as a child, expressed a deep connection to the site and to the community.

"The decision to host some of our Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series events in communities like Grassy Park is part of an ongoing strategy to reach out to a much broader, more diverse audience of UCT alumni on topics that resonate with them," said Libo Msengana-Bam, head of Alumni Relations at UCT.

"As one of the former 'dumping grounds' for non-white South Africans during apartheid rule, Grassy Park remains politically active. It is also home to many UCT students, staff and alumni and is therefore an ideal venue for a meaningful conversation about transformation," said Msengana-Bam.

Professor Soudien is the chief executive officer of the Human Sciences Research Council and is a UCT alumnus, having obtained a number of qualifications from the university, including a Master's in Comparative African Government and Law in 1979 as well as a postgraduate higher diploma in education in that same year. He joined the university staff in 1988 and was later appointed as director of the School of Education. In 2009 he was appointed as deputy vice-chancellor, a position he held until his departure in 2015. He remains an emeritus professor in education and African studies at UCT. He has published widely in the areas of social difference, culture, education policy, comparative education, educational change, public history and popular culture.

Professor Soudien has co-edited three books on District Six, Cape Town; a jointly edited book on comparative education; and is the author of *The Making of Youth Identity in Contemporary South Africa: Race, Culture and Schooling*;

and *Realising the Dream: Unlearning the Logic of Race in the South African School*; and the co-author of *Inclusion and Exclusion in South African and Indian Schools*. His new book on the educational significance of Mandela is titled: *Nelson Mandela: Comparative Perspectives of his Significance for Education*.

He is involved in a number of local, national and international social and cultural organisations and is the chairperson of the Independent Examinations Board, the former chairperson of the District Six Museum Foundation, a former president of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies and former chair of the ministerial committee on transformation in higher education. He is currently the chair of the ministerial committee to evaluate textbooks for discrimination. He is a fellow of several local and international academies and serves on the boards of a number of cultural, heritage, education and civil society structures.

ALUMNA INSPIRES THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS

ICT thought leader and entrepreneur Rapelang Rabana returned to her alma mater in July to address an audience of UCT alumni and students on the topic of ‘youth and entrepreneurship’. At the Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series event, she shared her journey of self-discovery - from UCT student to successful technology entrepreneur - along with some of the life lessons she has acquired along the way.



Rapelang Rabana co-founded Yeigo Communications, one of the world's the first VoIP with former UCT classmates Wilter du Toit and Lungisa Matshoba.

Rabana was a founding member of Yeigo Communications, one of the world's first Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) applications. She was recently honoured by the World Economic Forum as a

Young Global Leader for 2017 and, has been featured on the cover of Forbes Africa magazine. Her latest project, Rekindle Learning, develops mobile learning technology for both academia and corporate

training environments. Botswana-born Rabana completed a BSc in computer science at the University of Cape Town in 2005.

Speaking at the alumni event, Rabana said that she was unsure

about which programme to pursue at university and that computer science was not at all on her radar during high school. "I really had no idea what I wanted to study after matric. Since my parents refused to allow me to take a gap year, I spoke to my brother and asked him 'what can I do?'. He picked computer science for me. Those first few days in class were terrifying - seeing all that code on the wall. I wanted to change my degree but I stuck with it because I realised that it was the one commerce subject that would allow me to create stuff from my imagination, to literally inject ideas into reality. This seemed like a worthwhile pursuit. Less than eight years later, I was featured on the cover of Forbes Africa Magazine alongside Wendy Ackerman, as this symbol of the next generation of young, aspirant African entrepreneurs who are trying to make their mark."

Rabana co-founded Yeigo Communications with former UCT classmates Wilter du Toit and Lungisa Matshoba as soon as they graduated from UCT in 2005. Together they built one of the earliest mobile VoIP applications in the world. "When I think back, I am amazed that a group of young students with no real social or financial capital could use cheap laptops, cheap internet access, sit in an apartment and prototype technology that was world class. We literally googled our way to success. We had no mentors, instead we taught ourselves how to build the software and how to run a business, online," said Rabana. During the initial stages, one of the biggest challenges the trio faced was access to funding for their business. Fortunately, they persevered. "Our parents agreed to feed and house us; this is actually the most critical form of funding because it freed us to pursue every waking moment of the business venture," says Rabana.

In the months immediately following graduation, the Yeigo team focused their attention on building a prototype, expanding their networks within the industry and building relationships with potential investors, including banks



Rabana was featured on the cover of Forbes Africa Magazine alongside Wendy Ackerman

and private investors. Although Rabana concedes that this was a difficult time, their hard work did eventually pay off. Within nine short months they had completed work on the prototype, enabling them to secure funding from their first angel investors in September 2006. "The lessons that experience brought with it were innumerable and engendered in me a hardy belief in the power of diligence and perseverance - no doubt these lessons remain with me to this day," said Rabana.

Fast forward to Rekindle Learning, an education technology business and Rabana's latest venture. Rekindle Learning utilises the concept of micro-learning to help financial services professionals

prepare for regulatory examinations and significantly improve success rates. The product offering includes smart learning apps and the business has launched its first solution for universities, English Word Power, - an online bridging programme designed to students to improve their level of English proficiency. "With Rekindle Learning, we are trying merge the best that we know about learning science and smart learning technologies to deliver better learning outcomes so that we learn better, we build skills better and so that we can assimilate knowledge faster," concluded Rabana.

Watch the video from this alumni event on the [UCT alumni Youtube channel](#).

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

It is now two years since I was elected Chair of the Alumni Advisory Board. Much has been achieved, despite the challenging environment in which everyone has lived, studied and worked and much remains to be done.



In particular, I believe that we need to redouble our efforts to address a key function of the Alumni Association – encouraging alumni to support UCT by offering their time, talent or treasure to the University. Although many of us are actively involved, some of us may feel isolated or disillusioned or just not know how to become engaged. Some of us are radical and progressive, if not revolutionary; others of us are conservative if not reactionary. Some of us believe fervently in the fundamental principle as stated by Paulo Freire – that “nobody is superior to anybody”. Some of us are confident in our own skin, knowing who we are and where we came from, if not where we are going.

Many of us feel we are part of a Global Majority with a commitment to building an educational culture that is equitable, inclusive and supportive. Many of us are protagonists for social change, equality inclusivity and human rights. Some of us are change blockers. Many of us see the need to understand each other better so that we learn to live, learn and work together harmoniously. Many of us share the belief that knowledge knows no colour, gender or sexual orientation, nor is it validated only when it is Eurocentric. Many of us are committed to healing the past in order to transform the future and time is running out.

Transformation is not a spectator sport – we are all in this together. If we stay silent or ambivalent in the face of injustice or inequality, we are part of the problem not part of the solution. As we all know, transformation is a process that goes beyond numbers – facing up to people’s lived experiences which may be very different from our own, being willing to engage in open, respectful and honest conversation even when we may disagree with each other, being willing to critically review our institutional culture to expose the “unwritten rules” and “micro indignities”. We all need to work together to advance equality, inclusivity and human rights in our day-to-day activities – we are all of equal worth. This necessarily means doing things differently – it also requires personal and collective responsibility. Our new Strategic Plan requires that all alumni are fully engaged in the transformation and renewal of our beloved UCT.

Transformation will not happen of its own accord. We all need to invest our time, energy and treasure to help UCT reach the next level of excellence in ways that address current and future challenges. I want to acknowledge all those in the Development and Alumni Department and fundraising offices for their steadfast support during the year and also, all alumni who have been and continue to be willing to go the extra mile for UCT.

Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa said: “We should seek to pursue at all time that which is right and true and just, no matter how inconvenient, how unpopular or how difficult...”

I look forward to working with the Alumni Association in the new year. Wishing all alumni and friends of the University of Cape Town, a safe and joyous festive season!

Dianna M. Yach
Chair, UCT Alumni Advisory Board

STORY BY **NAMETSO MAIKANO**

BOTSWANA CHAPTER GALA DINNER

The Botswana Alumni Chapter held its first Annual Scholarship Gala event on the 26th of October 2017 at Masa Square Hotel. The objective was to establish a scholarship fund to benefit future UCT applicants from Botswana.

Guest speakers included Honorable Bogolo Kenewendo, the Special Elect Minister of Parliament of the Republic of Botswana), Executive Director of the Development and Alumni Department, Dr Russell Ally as well as local entrepreneur, Ms Iona Omphile. In her speech, Honorable Bogolo Kenewendo spoke about the importance of giving back. "It might seem to many that [this] may be just one other scholarship... but that one person that will get to benefit from this scholarship will have their lives transformed forever, I cannot stress enough how important this [scholarship] is," said Kenewendo.

The Botswana Alumni Chapter (BACUCT), is a volunteer society that aims to create a platform for fellow alumni in Botswana to come together, to share their UCT pride and forge long lasting business and personal relationships. In keeping with UCT tradition, the Botswana Chapter has held a variety of networking evenings termed "Lifestart Thursdays" - informal networking and socialising sessions held every Thursday at the Lengau Wine Company. Thanks to generous sponsorship received from this venue, BACUCT members enjoy discounted wine and cheese tasting as well as the opportunity to network and share their experiences. Mr Bk Ramahobo, Ms Sethebe Manake, Ms Lerato Motshwarakgole, Mr Lesley Mmokele and Ms Mimi Gowoka were among those who shared their experiences with those in attendance.

Current chapter chairperson Nametso Maikona, who coordinated the Gala dinner said the Botswana chapter is committed to amplifying the work of the University of Cape Town through active fundraising for future applicants and ongoing engagement with graduates who are based in the region. "The Botswana Alumni Chapter is committed to creating connections between past and current generations of UCT alumni and, to being the central liaison point for UCT alumni who are based in Botswana," she said.



The Honorable Bogolo Kenewendo with the Executive Director of the Development and Alumni Department, Dr Russell Ally (UCT)

For more information on how to pledge your support to the BACUCT fundraising drive, please contact us at: bacuctalumni@gmail.com.

- 2016 Pledgers (Society AGM): Mr Lerang Selolwane
- 2017 Pledgers (Scholarship Gala): Mr Ewetse Khama, Hon. Bogolo Kenewendo, Ms Primrose Gowoka & Ms Tuduetsu Mokgosi, Mr Thabiso Nkile, Ms Emang Molojwane, Ms Gorata Molojwane, Mr & Mrs Modiega, Mr Andrew Pooe, Ms Marea Olyn, Ms Tina Chikane, Colonel Mdau, Mr Judika Tladi, Mr Wazha Omphile, Mrs Tebatso Lekalake,
- 2017 sponsors and friends of the Alumni: BMW (Capital Motors), Lengau Wine Companies, Yarona FM, Fine Promotions, 750ml, UCT, South African High Commission, Brownstone Foundation, Nayang Association



Members of the UCT alumni chapter attended a wine tasting event held in Wädenswil. Pictured here (L-R): Scott Wilson; Nomthandazo “Thandie” Mtwebana; PhiweMtwebana and Rolf Kuhn.

SWITZERLAND ALUMNI CHAPTER REPORT BY ROLF KUHN

The Alumni Zurich Chapter held an Annual General Meeting in the first semester of 2017. During the assembly the financials and budget were discussed. The president of the chapter reported on the activities during the last year. One of the highlights was VC Max Price’s visit to Zurich. Max Price gave the members an insight into the happenings at UCT and explained the difficulties UCT is currently facing. Gary Bull was elected as a new member of the

board, while Marcel Frey retired as a board member. The assembly took the opportunity to thank Marcel Frey for his work for the Chapter over the years. Marcel Frey is one of the founding members of the Chapter and remains an important link to UCT.

A main topic during the assembly was how to gain new members. This has been one of the major topics discussed amongst the current members of the Chapter in recent years. Since its establishment, the Alumni Zurich Chapter intends to

grow and become a networking platform for Swiss-based former UCT students.

In the second semester a social event, namely a wine tasting, took place in Wädenswil, a Zurich suburb. The wine tasting was organised by Kapweine, a Swiss company importing wines from South Africa. Members of the Alumni Chapter Zurich regularly visit these wine tastings as they are always a good opportunity to get together and share memories of studying at UCT.

TRIPLE TRIUMPH FOR STAR SPURTER MHLONGO

Sprint sensation Mpumelelo Mhlongo won his third consecutive UCT Sportsperson of the Year prize at the university's annual sports awards dinner on 3 November 2017. It is the first time in history that an athlete has taken home the top trophy three years in a row.

This was a poignant ceremony. The joy of the victors played out against a sad backdrop, with Lydia Hall, the eminent sports administrator who coordinated the sports awards dinner for 31 years, having passed away in May this year. Hall was posthumously honoured with the Chairperson's Award, presented to the person who has made a huge and positive impact on sports at UCT. Hall's bereaved partner, Tish, received the trophy and plaque on her behalf.

Associate Professor Tessa Minter, chair of the Sports Council, recalled words spoken at a memorial service for Hall in May: "Lydia's testimony was a life lived for others, with integrity and fulfilment. To live on in people's hearts, is not to die."

Soon after, the guests were to hear that former sports administrator Patrick Williams had, sadly, died earlier that day. It was the hard work of people like Hall, Williams and their colleagues that laid the foundations for the attendant athletes to flourish. And flourish over the past year they did, evidenced by the myriad half colours, full colours and trophies being handed out.

UCT Sportsperson of the Year

None flourished more than Mhlongo. The T44-division sprinter was given a standing ovation as he made his way to the podium in apparent disbelief. Nobody had taken the Jamison Cup – the huge trophy given to UCT's top athlete – home thrice in a row before. To put it in perspective, all-time rugby great HO de Villiers won it twice, in 1966 and 1967. Mhlongo's hand must



UCT Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price presented Mpumelelo Mhlongo with his third consecutive UCT Sportsperson of the Year prize.

be imprinted around its neck by now.

The fastest athlete at UCT, Mhlongo excels in three events: 100m, 200m and long jump. Among a long list of notable performances in 2017, Mhlongo was particularly impressive at a University Sports South Africa (USSA) 100m race, where he was up against non-disabled athletes, tripped on his blade at the start, fell, picked himself up and finished sixth with a time of 11.7 seconds.

Mhlongo represented UCT at Varsity Athletics in the team that won the B section and has been invited to participate in the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation World Games in Portugal in December 2017. All this while battling knee and back injuries.

Read the full story, available at:
www.news.uct.ac.za





PhD candidate Megan Lukas receives her Green Talents award in Berlin, Germany. Lukas was one of 25 green visionaries from across the globe who were honoured.

PHD CANDIDATE WINS INTERNATIONAL GREEN AWARD

PhD candidate Megan Lukas was one of 25 young scientists honoured with a Green Talents award at the International Forum for High Potentials in Sustainable Development, which took place in Germany during October.

The Green Talents award is conferred by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research to provide young researchers across the globe with a platform for sharing their views on green concepts, with a mind to changing the world for the better. Lukas, who is pursuing her doctoral degree in environmental and geographical science, was selected from hundreds of applicants from 95 different countries. “I still can’t believe I was selected and that I went to the forum. But I obviously felt very honoured, especially knowing that I was selected out of 602 applications,” she commented.

Lukas was recognised for her

research on how people connect to their environment within the under-resourced township setting of Nyanga, in Cape Town. Her work is concerned with how pro-environmental behaviour, sustainable living and attachment to place unfold in such settings, where green space, trees and recycling facilities are often lacking.

This year’s forum focused on sustainable production and consumption and took place over two weeks, between several German cities. During this time, awardees visited key research sites and sustainability hotspots in order to gain insight into the German research landscape.

They were also presented with opportunities to engage with experts and key innovators to discuss their research and to gauge opportunities for potential collaboration. Indeed, as part of their award, these young researchers are invited to return to Germany in 2018 for a fully funded research stay at an institution of their choice. And Lukas intends to take full advantage of this opportunity.

Inequality and environmentalism

“In such an unequal city, where access to nature is not always easy for people living in a township such as Nyanga, the people living there

are still connecting to the natural through sustainable living practices and pro-environmental enactments,” she explained. Through her research into pro-environmental behaviour, Lukas introduces the concept of home. She argues that human connection to and ways of imagining the idea of home are a result of this pro-environmental behaviour. “The concept of home is considered to hold an abundant area for understanding the social and the spatial and offers a range of research within the subject geography.

“As a result of social and economic problems, people are creating ways to reconnect to their homes and engage in home-making activities that ultimately provide pro-environmental opportunities,” she explained.

Lukas strives to identify ways in which people in poorer urban communities can improve their lives, using sustainable methods that are both self-motivated and self-implemented.

“Human behaviour is the prominent cause of the environmental crisis in the world today. So it is important

“ Human behaviour is the prominent cause of the environmental crisis in the world today.”

to understand, at a grassroots level, how and why people are behaving the way they are towards their environment.”

The judging panel noted significant value in Lukas’s long-term aims. She hopes her work will provide political decision-makers with an understanding of what is required, at a social and grassroots level, to achieve sustainability and improved socio-economic well-being within townships.

International collaborations

The tour was an unbelievable experience, according to Lukas. “We visited six institutions that focus on different forms of sustainability

and met with various experts in particular fields. Highlights include meeting the German coordinators and the 24 other awardees, who were from 21 different countries – the stories we shared about each other’s countries were very interesting; staying in eight cities in Germany; and meeting two professors who were interested in my research with whom I could collaborate next year.”

The trip provided grist to Lukas’s mill. Her work was embraced with positivity. “In fact, my research was mentioned in the keynote address at the awards ceremony,” she said. “From the interest expressed by the awardees, to the interest and similar research shown by the professors I met, I felt acknowledged in the field. Many of the people I met want to visit Cape Town now!

“I now see that there is room for me in the field. Unfortunately, I haven’t received much support for my research here in Cape Town, so to be welcomed with open arms in Germany, where environmental work is taken so seriously, was an affirmation of note for me!”



Lukas, (pictured centre, back row) accompanied 24 other researchers on a two-week-long tour of key sites of sustainability research in Germany.



UCT group *AnecNote* claimed the top prize at the 2017 SA's Got Talent competition. Members of the group are all UCT alumni and current students. Photo supplied

UCT GROUP WINS SA'S GOT TALENT 2017

A Cape Town acapella group has secured the coveted top prize at the 2017 SA's Got Talent competition. *AnecNote* received the most public votes at the televised grand finale event on Sunday, 12 November, walking away with the prize of R500 000 in cash. What is unique about this victory is that the group is comprised exclusively of UCT alumni and current students from the South African College of Music.

Established in 2014, *AnecNote* has become the leading a cappella group in Cape Town with monthly television appearances and a growing performance schedule which includes performances at Kirstenbosch Gardens, Cape Town City Hall, Baxter Theatre as well as various corporate events. Over the last three years, *AnecNote* has gained a strong public following on social media platforms, where they regularly upload "couch videos" of their latest arrangements. They won the SA's Got Talent 2017 competition after receiving DJ Fresh's Golden Buzzer in the audition round and being winners of every subsequent round in the competition.

Group member Morne Kahts said the group were thrilled and overwhelmed by the competition victory. "We have been overwhelmed by the support and appreciation we

received - we weren't expecting to win SA's Got Talent. We entered the competition hoping to reach out to a wider South African audience and are ecstatic that our journey through the competition has allowed for this. Our plans for next year include recording a full-length album of original music, as well as setting up an a cappella festival. We are all very excited!" said Kahts.

For this UCT alumnus, the competition win forms part of a much bigger and more personal celebration story. Kahts will receive his MBChB degree (medicine and surgery specialization) at the graduation ceremony to be held on 20 December 2017. This, after obtaining a Performers Diploma in Music in 2012, followed by Bachelor of Music (Honours) degree obtained in 2014. "I completed my BMus Honours concurrently over my second and

third years of my MBChB. I will be graduating this December and will be completing my two-year internship at Khayelitsha District Hospital from 2018. I am incredibly happy that I will still be able to perform with *AnecNote* next year," he said.

The multi-talented student said that his academic success was possible thanks to generous funding received from the Ackerman Family Education Trust, who funded his BMus Honours as well as his fourth, fifth and sixth year of medicine. During this time, Kahts established another performance group called *Jazz Between Friends*, which helped support his studies at UCT.

AnecNote will perform at the Kirstenbosch Gardens 2017 Christmas Carols event in December. This will be their third year of featuring in this popular Cape Town annual event series.

EVENTS



1. Class of 1966 UCT graduates attended a Golden Graduation event in May 2017. Guests enjoyed a full day of activities which included breakfast with the Executive Director of the Development and Alumni Department, Dr. Russell Ally; walking in the graduation procession and a campus tour **2.** Former chair of the Cape Town chapter Karen Daniels and UCT alumna Phindile Gina attended the Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series event held at Buck Road Primary School in Grassy Park. **3.** Ndileka Zantsi welcomed alumni at the pre-launch event for GSB's new Solution Space Philippi, the first community campus to be established by UCT in the institution's history.



4. From L-R: Khulekani Dlamini; Anthony Moore; Brayton Paulse and Hershell Gibbs at the 2017 Varsity Cup Golf Day held at the King David Mowbray Golf Club in February. 5. Professor Pumla Gqola; Shafieka Isaacs and Dianna Yach were panelists at a Women's Month UCT alumni event held in Johannesburg. The topic was 'Patriarchy: women's experiences in the workplace'



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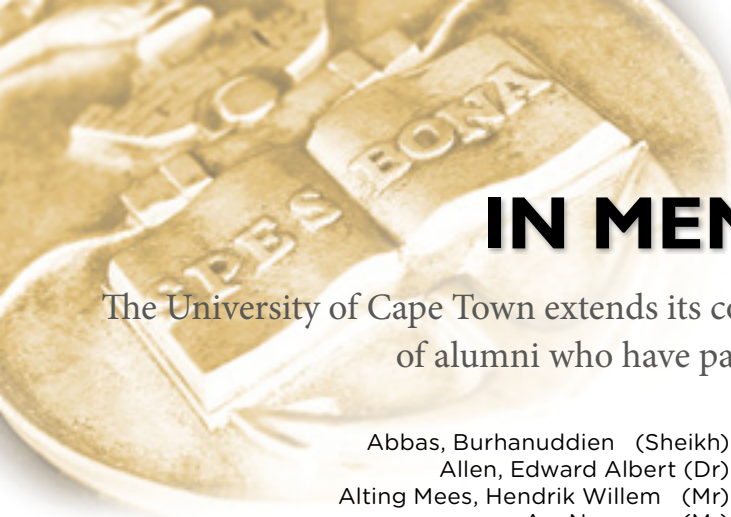


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6. The Development and Alumni Department hosted an alumni networking event in Kampala Uganda in July as part of a visit to the region. A new Uganda alumni chapter was formed as a result. **7.** Spotted at a shopping mall in Nairobi: whilst in Kenya this July, the alumni relations teams ran into alumna Tony Wafula and his son, pictured here with UCT senior manager for research and systems, Josiah Mavundla. We spotted a gentleman wearing a UCT hoodie and introduced ourselves! **8.** UCT alumni marathon runners were hosted to refreshments at the Old Mutual Soweto Marathon in November. This was a pilot event which enabled engagement with a broader community of UCT alumni. The 2018 alumni relations events calendar will include a similar presence at the Two Oceans and Cape Argus sporting events.



IN MEMORIAM

The University of Cape Town extends its condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of alumni who have passed away over the last year.

- Abbas, Burhanuddin (Sheikh)
Allen, Edward Albert (Dr)
Alting Mees, Hendrik Willem (Mr)
Au, Norman (Mr)
Averbuch, Samuel Morris (Mr)
Barnett, Ursula Annemarie (Dr)
Bartie, Frederick (Mr)
Bates, Mary Murray (The Lady)
Black, Diana Louise (Mrs)
Boonzaaier, Nico John (Mr)
Bowman, William Russell (Dr)
Bromley, Thomas Francis (Mr)
Brook, Rita Beatrice (Mrs)
Caradoc-Davies, Gillian Louise (Mrs)
Cardoc-Davies, Gillian (Dr)
Caviggia, John Leo paul Joseph mario (Mr)
Chapman, Carol Socha Phillip (Mr)
Cox, Jennifer Maeve (Mrs)
Craig, Cecil John Tainton (Dr)
Crankshaw, Herbert James (Mr)
Davies, Jane Elizabeth (Mrs)
De Groot, Eduard Christiaan Constantijn (Dr)
De Villiers, Charente Gerard (Dr)
De Villiers, Geneza (Mrs)
De Vos, Wouter (Em Prof)
Dyer, Marjorie Harriet (Dr)
Ferreira, Albertus Johannes Roux (Dr)
Finnemore, Paul Unwin (Mr)
Fouche, Gustav Wilhelmus (Prof)
Freemantle, Aubrey Charles (Dr)
Fullard, Alice Marsephine (Ms)
Futeran, Gerald (Dr)
Gerber, Maurice Hyman (Mr)
Gericke, Erol Nico (Mr)
Gray, Robert Norman (Mr)
Green, Terence Richard (Mr)
Greyling, Susanna Cornelia Francina (Dr)
Griffin, John Malcolm (Mr)
Gross, Gloria (Ms)
Hanmer, Richmond Norman Montagu (Mr)
Hart, Christopher Goyen (Mr)
Hawke, Patricia Faith (Dr)
Hawtrey, Arthur Owen (Prof)
Helm, Brunhilde (Em Prof)
Hoberg, Friedrich August Hermann (Mr)
Hodgson, Michael Hugh (Mr)
Hoffman, Francois (Mr)
Host, Beverley Anne (Mrs)
Humphreys, Carol Anne (Mrs)
Kesting, Jean Gideon (Em Prof)
Kilgour, Audrey Dorothea (Ms)
Kinross, Donald Barry (Mr)
Kleinman, Gerald (Mr)
Krause, Milton Frederick (Assoc Prof)
Krikler, Dennis Michael (Dr)
Lange, Myron (Dr)
Law, David Lawrence (Mr)
Leclezio, Raymond Andre Joseph (Dr)
Leech, Daniel Paul (Mr)
Lerner, Laurence David (Prof)
Libby, Rosemary Coral (Mrs)
Lilford, Colin Sandys (Dr)
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We apologise for any errors or omissions.



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