

# UCT ALUMNI NEWS

2011

**Saunders at 80**  
MEMORIES  
& MEMOIRS

Landy to London  
Travels through  
**East Africa**

**AFRICA'S LAST CRUSADE**  
DIGITALLY PRESERVING OUR  
CULTURAL HERITAGE

**125 years**  
of women on campus  
**Michelle Obama**  
visits UCT

**Interviews:** Forensic pathologist Prof Lorna Martin/cryptographer Thyla van der Merwe/astrophysicist Dr Sarah Blyth/stock exchange fundi Maureen Dlamini



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# OUR 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.





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**COVER PHOTOGRAPH**  
Katherine Traut

**COVER CAPTION**

*US First Lady Michelle Obama visited Fuller Hall at UCT in June, meeting 50 local high-schoolers to share a message of hope and inspiration and extol the virtues of hard work and tertiary education.*



## Message from the vice-chancellor

Women occupy a special place in the University of Cape Town's ongoing chronicle. This year marks the 125th anniversary of women on campus and we are using the theme as a leitmotif in this edition of *UCT Alumni News*, beginning with our feature article on alumnae.

Serendipitously, UCT hosted a very special woman on campus on 23 June: US First Lady Michelle Obama, who met with 50 local high-school learners, with special guest Dr Mamphela Ramphele, a former vice-chancellor and one of UCT's most distinguished alumnae.

A down-to-earth and affable guest, Obama delivered a message that reinforced a core part of UCT's mandate: to provide opportunities to learners with the talent and motivation to gain access to a world-class higher education, regardless of their social class and despite their disadvantaged schooling. Many of these opportunities are made possible thanks to the generosity and ongoing support of our alumni and donors.

Interestingly, Obama is not the first US First Lady to grace the cover of *UCT Alumni News*. In 1997 Hillary Rodham Clinton visited this campus and featured on that year's cover.

Given our focus on women in this issue, it seems fitting that Obama's meeting with the high-schoolers took place in the iconic Fuller Hall women's residence. Founded in 1928, its forerunner was the Women's

Residence in the Gardens. In this edition of *UCT Alumni News*, we are also privileged to feature an interview with 92-year-old alumna Betty Whaley of Zimbabwe, a former Fullerite.

This has been a busy year on many fronts. At home our student admissions policy came under scrutiny and debate, on campus and in the media. As this matter goes to the core of transformation at your alma mater, we thought it would be useful to include an edited version of the op-ed that appeared in several newspapers.

To accommodate larger student numbers, the new Student Administration Building opened at the beginning of the year and the new School of Economics Building opened its doors in April. In 2012 the new Obz Square residence opens down the road from the medical school. In its scale, Obz Square is like nothing UCT has built before. It will increase our residence capacity by 15%, enabling UCT to attract more of the top students from around the country and the world. A place in residence is also the most important support one can offer a student from a disadvantaged background through the support of mentors and peers, after-hours access to libraries and study rooms, and good internet access.

This is the purpose of much of our fundraising at home and abroad. And it is built on the goodwill, generosity and vision of our alumni. We salute you all.

**Dr Max Price**



## Umyalezo ovela kwisekela-ngqonyela

A bantu basetyhini bakweyona ndawo ikhethekileyo kumqulu oqhubekayo wembali yezehlo kwiYunivesithi yaseKapa. Lo nyaka uphawuleka njengesikhumbuzo seminyaka engama-125 amakhosikazi ekho kumhlaba wale yunivesithi kwaye siza kusebenzisa lo mxholo njenjengomxholo oza kuhlala uvela kolu shicilelo lwe*UCT Alumni News*, sisusela kwelona nqaku lethu liphambili elingabo babesakuba ngabafundi bale yunivesithi.

Nanjengoko sisaziwa ngokubalasele ekubhaqeni izinto ezikhethekileyo, iUCT iye yasingatha umsitho wenenekazi elikhethekileyo kumhlaba wayo ngomhla wama-23 kujuni: Inkosikazi kaMongameli waseMelika uMichelle Obama, noye wahlangana naba-

fundi abangama-50 bezikolo ezikwingingqi yeKapa, ekunye nondwenwe olubekekileyo uGqirha Mamphela Ramphele, nowayesakuba lisekela-ngqonyela nongomnye woomakhwekhwetha ababalulekileyo baseUCT.

Nanjengondwendwe oluthobekileyo nolunobubele, ingxam yomyalezo kankosikazi Obama igxininise kumongo wenxenywe yomgomo weUCT: mgomo lowo uqulathe umyalezo wokunikezwa kwamathuba kubafundi abanezakhono nabakhuthuleyo ukuze bakwazi ukungena kumaziko emfundo ephakamileyo akwizinga lehlalathi, oku kusenzeka kungajongwanga nqanaba labo ngokwentlalo kwaye kungajongwa kuhleleleka kwabo ngokwemfundo abayifumene esikolweni. Uninzi lwalwa mathuba

aye afumaneke kwaye ngoku singabulela isisa nenkxaso engapheliyo yabo babesakuba yinxalenye yale Yunivesithi kunye nabaxhasi bethu.

Eyona nto inika umdla, kukuba uObama akayonkosikazi yokuqala kamongameli welo laseMelika ukuhombisa ngendili umphandle woshicilelo lwe*UCT Alumni News*. Ngomnyaka ka-1997, uHillary Rodham Clinton wandwendwela le yunivesithi, kunjalo nje wabekwa njengenqaku eliphambili lomphandle woshicilelo lwaloo nyaka.

Nanjengoko sigqalisela kumakhosikazi kolu shicilelo, kukhangeleka kufanelekile ukuba umhlangano kaObama nabafundi bezikolo zamabanga aphakamileyo ube ubuqhutyelwa kwindawo yokuhlala





**Welcome: US First Lady Michelle Obama meets VC Dr Max Price.**

## Boodskap van die visekanselier

**V**roue beklee 'n spesiale plek in die geskiedenis van die Universiteit van Kaapstad. Vanjaar herdenk ons 125 jaar van vroue op ons kampus, en ons gebruik hierdie tema as 'n leitmotief in hierdie uitgawe van *UCT Alumni News*, beginnende met ons insiggewende artikel oor alumnae.

Heel toevallig het die UK op 23 Junie 'n baie spesiale vrou verwelkom: Michelle Obama, Presidentsvrou van die USA. Sy en 50 plaaslike hoërskoolleerders het spesiale gas Dr Mamphela Ramphele, voormalige visekanselier en een van die UK se mees vooraanstaande alumnae, ontmoet.

Obama, beskeie en innemend soos altyd, se boodskap het 'n kerngedeelte van die UK se mandaat bevestig: om talentvolle en gemotiveerde leerders die nodige geleenthede te bied om toegang tot hoër onderrig van wêreldgehalte te verkry, ongeag hul sosiale klas en agtergeblewe skoolopleiding. Baie van hierdie geleenthede word moontlik gemaak deur die ruimhartigheid en volgehoue ondersteuning van ons alumni en skenkers. Obama is, interessant genoeg, nie die eerste Amerikaanse Presidentsvrou om op die omslag van *UCT Alumni News* te pryk nie. Hillary Rodham Clinton het die kampus in 1997 besoek en op daardie jaar se voorblad verskyn.

Gegewe die fokus op vroue in hierdie uitgawe is dit gepas dat Obama se ontmoeting met die hoërskoolleerders in die ikoniese vrouekoshuis, Fuller Hall, plaasgevind het. Fuller Hall, wat in 1928 opgerig is, se voorganger was die Women's Residence

in die Tuine. Ons is ook bevoorreg om in hierdie uitgawe van *UCT Alumni News* 'n onderhoud te plaas met die 92-jarige Betty Whaley van Zimbabwe, 'n voormalige Fuller-inwoner.

Dit was 'n bedrywige jaar op talle fronte. Hier ter plaatse het ons studentetoelatingsbeleid sowel op kampus as in die media onder die vergrootglas gekom. Aangesien hierdie saak die wese van transformasie by u alma mater aanspreek, het ons dit nuttig geag om 'n geredigeerde weergawe hierby in te sluit van die artikel wat in verskeie koerante hieromtrent verskyn het.

Om groter studentegetalle te kan behartig, is die nuwe Studente-Administrasiegebou aan die begin van die jaar geopen, terwyl die nuwe Ekonomiegebou sy deure in April geopen het. Die nuwe Obz Square-koshuis, digby die mediese skool, sal in 2012 ingewy word. Obz Square is wat grootte betref 'n unieke gebou aan die UK. Dit sal ons kosgangerkapasiteit met 15% verhoog en die UK in staat stel om meer topstudente van regoor die land en internasionaal te lok. Koshuisverblyf is wonderlike ondersteuning vir studente van agtergeblewe gemeenskappe, danksy die ondersteuning van mentors en portuurgroepe, na-uurse toegang tot biblioteke en studielokale, asook bestendige internettoegang.

Dit is dan ook die doelwit van baie van ons fondsinsamelings, beide plaaslik en internasionaal. En dit is gebou op die goedgesindheid, ruimhartigheid en visie van ons alumni. Hartlike dank aan u almal.

**Dr Max Price**

yabafundi basetyhini engcwalisekileyo, iFuller Hall. Yasungulwa ngomnyaka ka-1928, yayisandulelwa yiNdawo yokuhlala yabafundi baseTyhini eyayiseGardens. Kolu shicilelo lwe*UCT Alumni News*, siziva siwongekile ngokukhupha udliwano-ndlebe obeluphakathi kwethu nomnye wabafundi bakudala bale yunivesithi noneminyaka engama-92, uBetty Whaley waseZimbabwe, owayefudula ehlala kwalapho eFuller.

Lo ibingoyena nyaka uxakekileyo kuzo zonke iinkalo. Apha ekhaya umgaqo-nkqubo wethu wokwamkela abafundi uye waphicothwa kwaye kwaxoxwa banzi ngawo apha ngaphakathi kwiyunivesithi nakumaziko eendaba. Nanjengoko lo mba usiya kwingxam yenguqu kuwo onke amaziko ababefunda kuwo abantu, siye safikelela kwingcinga yokuba kungalulutho xa sinokubandakanya

inguqulelo ehleliweyo yenqaku ebelisecale-ni kwenqaku lomhleli ebelivele kumaphepha-ndaba ohlukileyo.

Ukuze kube lula ukuhlangabezana namanani amaninzi abafundi, iSakhiwo esitsha soLawulo lwaBafundi kunye neSakhiwo esitsha seSikolo soQoqosho ziye zavula iingcango zazo ngokusesikweni kwinyanga ka-Aprili. Kumnyaka ka-2012, kuza kuvulwa indawo yokuhlala entsha ebizwa ngokuba yiObz square ngezantsi kwesikolo sonyango. Ngokomlinganiselo nenkangeleko, iObz square ayinakufaniswa naso nasiphi na kwizakhiwo ezakhe zabakho apha eUCT. Iza kukwazi ukunyusa umthamo wendawo yokuhlala yethu ngomyinge weepesenti ezili-15, nto leyo iza kubangela ukuba iUCT ikwazi ukutsala abafundi abakwiqondo eliphezulu kwilizwe lonke na-

kumanye amazwe. Ithuba lokuba kwindawo yokuhlala kwiziko lemfundo yeyona nxaso ibalulekileyo ubani anokuyinika umfundi ophuma kwindawo ehlelelekileyo, kuba kulapho anokuzusa khona uncedo kubacebisi abaziingcali nakubalingane, anganakho ukuba nethamsanqa lokuya kwithala leencwadi nakumagumbi okufundela nasemva kwexesha eliselwe izifundo, andisathethi ke ngokufumaneka okugqibeleleyo kwintanethi.

Le ke yeyona njongo yokunyusa kwethu ingxowa-mali apha ekhaya nakumazwe aphesheya. Kunjalo nje isekwe phantsi kwenzondelelo eyiyo, isisa kunye nombono wabo basebenzi nabafundi bethu ababesakuba yinxalenye yale yunivesithi. Sinothulela iminqwazi xa ninonke!

**Gqirha Max Price**

# 'Race' and disadvantage in a university selection policy?

The use of the concept of 'race' in UCT's admissions policy has come under considerable scrutiny over the past year, as evidenced at debates on campus, on television, and in the columns of the national newspapers. UCT's Senate and Council have regularly reassessed and confirmed their commitment to the policy as well as to ongoing efforts to find better proxies for inequality that underpin UCT's redress measures, writes vice-chancellor Dr Max Price.

The debate on affirmative action in admissions policies has moved significantly over the past few years. No doubt there are still some who argue that a meritocratic selection system would consider only the marks achieved in the National Senior Certificate school-leaving exam (NSC). However, anyone familiar with the school system will know that the difference between students' performance in a national exam has much more to do with the school they went to, their socioeconomic status, and the conditions under which they live and learn, than with intrinsic merit alone.

The reason for this is not hard to fathom. For a student in a township school to overcome the odds and get 60% in the Grade 12 exam requires a degree of motivation, commitment and raw talent that far exceeds that needed by a student achieving the same result at the average historically white public or private school who has the cards stacked in their favour.

Fairness demands that we do not consider marks on their own, but that we moderate them by recognising the obstacles a student has overcome in achieving those results. There are various ways of doing this. One way might be to design weights to be applied to the marks for different school systems. However, this does not take into account that even within a given school system, there will be children with widely varying degrees of disadvantage that affect their school performance. For example, one might assume that all black students at good suburban public schools are not disadvantaged any longer and should compete on an equal footing. Yet, the fact is that some of those children are deeply disadvantaged in terms of home circumstances, for example, the children of domestic workers who have never had an opportunity to be educated.

Another approach might be to have a test that measures academic potential unaffected

by differential life opportunities, and to select those with equal potential to succeed. Such a test has been the aspiration of those who research selection policy – not only because it may be fairer, but because it would grow the pool of university candidates with a high success rate. For obvious reasons, tests of this kind are difficult to create – because potential is so difficult to isolate from the myriad environmental factors. And even if such tests existed, they could not stand alone, since potential is inadequate as a predictor of success at university, which will always be dependent on mastery of certain subjects to the necessary level. Moreover, fairness would require that motivation and hard work count as well.

Another method, which recognises potential and personal effort, is to put students with comparable degrees of disadvantage into separate groupings, and select the top performers within each grouping so that they are not competing with students who are much more or much less advantaged. The assumption here is that in any given set of circumstances, the students with the most natural talent and motivation will rise to the top of their particular grouping.

In short, there are now few people who disagree that affirmative action is necessary and desirable in admitting students to higher education in South Africa. In the main, the controversy is not about disadvantage having a place in the selection process, but rather about using race as a marker for disadvantage and redress.

There are two fundamental arguments against the use of race. The first is that racial categorisation undermines our national commitment to non-racialism. It forces us, and especially youngsters born at the time of the first democratic elections, to view the world, themselves and others, in terms of racial categories. The second argument against race as a basis for affirmative action is that it

may include black students who are not disadvantaged, who may come from wealthier homes than most whites, and who may have had the benefits of 12 years of private school education. This then unfairly disadvantages a hard-working, and perhaps less well-off, white student in favour of a black student who has achieved lower marks, solely because the latter is black.

These are the reasons we ought to move away from a race-based policy. We should accept it in the interim only if there is no better solution, and only if the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Unfortunately, UCT's experience is that this is still the case.

If the task were only to identify economic disadvantage, this could be done by asking about income or by looking at the school a potential student attended. But the problem is that educational disadvantage has been the consequence of many determinants – including (but not limited to) economic disadvantage. Experts worldwide recognise that these educational determinants take at least a generation to improve after the obvious economic measures of disadvantage and inequality have been addressed. In the South African setting, the assumption underlying the demand that the selection of applicants from privileged private schools should be race-blind is that there is no longer any educational disadvantage for black students in private schools.

The reality is different. If one looks at the distributions of NSC marks by race at UCT's top 30 feeder schools nationally – almost all private or ex-Model C – one finds that while the distributions overlap (there are a few black students who perform in the top percentile and some white students in the bottom percentiles), they are generally distinct, with black students performing an average of seven percentage points lower than white students.

So why is there a difference in the per-



formance by race even in students from the same privileged schools and middle-class socio-economic status? Three distinct types of explanations are prominent in the international literature. First, the performance of students is affected by the educational experience of their parents. The South African education system advantages those with a good command of English. It favours those whose parents completed school – with maths and science as added advantages – and especially higher education, which enables them to provide additional learning support.

Even the attitudes of parents to their children's scholastic performance may differ, based on the parents' different personal schooling experience – with far-reaching consequences. For example, a mother who was subjected to the system of Bantu Education might place a heightened emphasis on the value of education – because of her deprived background – but may not always know how to assist, motivate and inspire a child to achieve an A aggregate. The parent that had advantaged schooling is obviously much more experienced and competent to assess whether a child is underperforming, might insist on a distinction or two, and intervene when difficulties occur. There can be no question that the unfairness of the inferior education is perpetuated to the next generation.

The second group of explanations is about 'cultural capital'. The South African school system, like all educational systems, favours those who share the cultural capital of that school system. The particular cultural knowledge, values and histories and even the particular valorisation of some ways of knowing over others (for example, science and empiricism over religious, mythological or traditional authorities) and ways of acquiring knowledge (for example, individual achievement and competitiveness over shared knowledge and collective achievement) may all advantage those students whose cultural capital is aligned with that of the school system.

The South African school system favours children who have been brought up with an intimate familiarity with Western culture, inculcated early through books, stories, theatre, film, family activities, museums, international travel, and much more. This is not to value Western culture above others. It simply recognises the reality that in South Africa, and through much of the world, this culture dominates educational systems and disadvantages students with different cultural capital – often linked to class, language, ethnicity, and geography.

In terms of the above explanations, it should be clear that students' performance is not a racial attribute. Moreover, there are some black parents who escaped the strictures of Bantu Education, others who transcended them. And being white didn't guarantee children parents who were committed to, or able to afford, enriching their children's education. In the aggregate, however, apartheid differentially distributed the opportunities for people who were classified white and those classified black. The education and everyday life of the parents of our current black matriculants was extremely restricted and constricting. They had fewer opportunities to access and practise the kind of cultural capital valued in the school. It is this that is largely responsible for the performance patterns that we see in schools.

The third type of explanation for the race differential in educational performance relates to the persistence of racism and racial stereotypes in the experience of the current generation of schoolchildren. There is extensive research worldwide in social psychology demonstrating that where racial or gender stereotypes are perceived to be operative, their effect is to trigger underperformance. (See, for example, Claude Steele, social psychologist and provost of Columbia University, U.S.) For example, women students writing a maths exam are likely to underperform if they are worried about conforming to a popular stereotype that women are less competent than men at maths. The daily experience of black students at high-quality, racially integrated schools, and also outside of the schools, does not protect them from these stereotypes and their effects, and may even exacerbate them.

It is hardly surprising then that this first generation of black students at top schools perform as a group less well than white students. It does not reflect different talent, and generally not different motivation, but rather the legacy of different parental education, differences in cultural capital, and the effects of racial stereotypes, which are all direct consequences of our apartheid pasts.

Levelling the proverbial playing fields through the admission criteria is thus extremely difficult, for how do you measure the aggregate effect of all these subtle deprivations? Race, in fact, is a very good proxy, for the logical reason that the past population group classification of the parents explains almost all of the contributing factors. In most cases, the use of race to give additional points to black, middle-class students from private schools compensates for ongoing educational disadvantage, in the absence of which many of these students

would have performed better. It effectively recognises potential and obstacles overcome and therefore is not unfair to their white classmates. The proportion of black applicants not affected by that historical, trans-generational disadvantage is so small that very few black applicants are gaining an undeserved advantage.

Ideally, we should have a measure of disadvantage that assesses not only socio-economic disadvantage, but also the many intermediate determinants of school performance. This is complex. At UCT we are researching such measures, and hope in time that they will replace the concept of race. The effort is necessary because of our commitment to non-racialism. Such a measure will also favour those white applicants whose backgrounds have adversely affected their school performance.

Is this a problem peculiar to UCT? To some extent it is, because the competition for admission to UCT is so fierce that the number of points required to get into many programmes falls between the black and white distributions of marks at our top feeder schools. Allowing in only those above the cut-off would mean admitting mainly white students, even though almost all the black students from those schools could easily complete their UCT degrees and do very well. They are well educated and well prepared. Over 80% of students admitted to medicine on an affirmative action basis complete their degrees. But the competition is such that they would not get in to UCT in significant numbers (the class graduating in 2014, 20 years after democracy, would be about 12% black African). Other universities are less competitive, except in medicine (where they too continue to use race-based selection), and the cut-off at those institutions would generally capture all the eligible applicants from our top 30 schools – black and white – thus rendering unnecessary any specific affirmative action for this group.

Finally, one cannot dispute that policies using race or disadvantage will reduce the number of white students gaining entry. But we must not forget the context in which white students still gain access to higher education today and at UCT still constitute 45% of the student body. Any reduction in opportunities for white students as a result of affirmative action is not nearly as great as it would be if the township and rural school system had already been corrected and there were half a million more qualified black applicants competing for the same number of university places. We need to recognise where the primary unfairness lies.



# 125 years of women on campus

Marking the 125th anniversary of women on campus, this feature highlights a handful of alumnae who've been newsmakers in recent years. It is but a sample of the very many alumnae who have earned their degrees from UCT and gone on to make valuable contributions, both at home and abroad, sometimes in lesser known and highly specialised fields.

Many were – and are – pioneers.



*(From left) The BA Lit class of 1899: Margarete von Oppell, Hettie McGregor, Selina Gordon, May le Roux, Helen Ethel Bennett, Agnes Bissett and Madeline Russell. In 2010, over half of the approximately 25 000 students registered at UCT were women.*

## The first women on campus

- Between 2011 and 2012 UCT marks a milestone in its history: 125 years of women on campus. Women first registered as students in 1886/7.
- In August 1886 four students of the Good Hope Seminary registered for Professor PD Hahn's chemistry class at the South African College, in which UCT has its roots.
- On 29 August 1887 a special meeting of the South African College Council was held "...to consider an application from the professors to admit lady students..." to the general course in all departments. With Council's approval of this motion, the South African College became a fully co-educational institution for higher education.
- Some nine women (the records are not clear on the number) registered in 1887, among them two married women, Jessie Rose-Innes (married to James Rose-Innes, later Sir James) and Mary Sauer (married to JW Sauer and mother of Paul Sauer, former Minister of Lands and Leader of the Assembly).
- The South African College song, first sung in 1887, had an additional verse written in celebration of the women students.
- The South African College Debating Society encouraged women to join and in December 1894 reported that "Miss Ayers opposed in debate, carrying the evening by 45 votes to 27".
- Miss AW Tucker was elected to the first Students' Representative Council in 1906 and in 1913 became the first student to win the Croll Scholarship for 'advanced research'.
- One of the most outstanding students was Isabel Stephens who gained first-class matric in 1888 and was awarded the Governor's prize in the intermediate exams in 1889. In 1890 she won the gold medal for literature. In 1891 she was first in the literature and philosophy section. She went to Cambridge in 1894 and became a lecturer in classics at the Victoria University College, Belfast. She was awarded an MA from Dublin University.



# Codes, ciphers and secret messages



Coded conduct: Cryptographer Thyla van der Merwe.

Kids call it a secret language; it's used as a weapon during war; Da Vinci has been called the father of it, and authors cash in on its suitability for pop-lit. But, besides being the stuff of spy stories and conspiracy theories, cryptography also finds itself hard at work in the codes for your ATM card, your PC's passwords – and in national defence and security.

Enter cryptographer alumna Thyla van der Merwe. She works in the Defence Department at Tellumat (Pty) Ltd in Cape Town. We'll never know what she really does (top secret), but we know that her company makes telecommunications devices that are fitted to aeroplanes, ships and submarines. It's her job to design encryption algorithms that are used to protect sensitive information between allies.

"I work mainly with existing symmetric ciphers," she says. That is, taking plain text and combining it with random bits in some algorithmic way to create unrecognisable text, and so encrypt a message.

But how many cryptographers will one ever encounter outside of fiction?

After finishing a triple major BCom (math, stats and economics) and BSc honours at UCT, Thyla completed a master's in mathematics.

It's her job to design encryption algorithms that are used to protect sensitive information between allies.

"It was in my final undergraduate year, under the supervision of Dr Christine Swart, that a project in coin flipping over the phone (there exists a protocol in which there's no way to cheat) got me interested in cryptography," she says.

She decided to hold off on her PhD and joined Tellumat as their first cryptographer. She's also the secretary of SAWISE (Association of South African Women in Science and Engineering) and she sure walks the walk.

"Some people have even called me pushy," she quips.

"My job is such a specialised role," she adds. "I've really had to learn to stand my ground – it's not for everyone."

But she loves the mental challenge.

"Even if many days here are challenging, and I find it difficult not to talk about what I do... the mathematics never ceases to amaze me."

# Body of evidence



Voice for the dead: Forensic pathologist Prof Lorna Martin.

Professor Lorna Martin really knows her crime fiction. Even during a brief chat at the Salt River morgue, she makes reference to everything and anyone from Quincy and Kay Scarpetta to *Silent Witness* and *CSI*.

It was an early introduction to crime and mystery whodunnits that lit a spark in the young Martin; and later, a compelling fourth-year teacher of forensic medicine at Wits clinched the deal. At the end of fifth year she did her elective in forensic medicine, and after graduating became a district surgeon, providing the essential background that was to shape her career.

Martin, now head of the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, made history in 2004 when she became the first female



and also the youngest appointed professor and head of a department of forensic pathology (this at UCT) in South Africa. In the same year she was appointed chief specialist for the Western Cape Government Department of Health forensic pathology services.

But hers is not the realm of fiction. Martin has done her time. She has performed more than 12 000 autopsies to date, most of these in the wee hours on on-call nights. The one case that she will never forget is the Sizzlers massacre – nine men killed in one night. Martin was the leading pathologist on the case.

**But stress is part-and-parcel. “You develop coping mechanisms, like trauma doctors.”**

“When we visited the scene, we didn’t know who was who.”

And to make her task more difficult, she could not remove evidence such as gags, which made identification even more traumatic for the families.

But stress is part-and-parcel. “You develop coping mechanisms, like trauma doctors.”

At the end of the day, it’s worth it. “I can be a voice for the dead,” she says. “It’s about helping that person who died an unnatural death. And here in Salt River, where we deal mostly with murders, it’s about helping to put someone away for that murder.”

These days she’s mostly absorbed in administrative responsibilities, but her first love will always be unravelling forensic mysteries.

“I am here (Salt River morgue) most days in a supervisory capacity. That’s when I’m not travelling. I travel a lot to do opinions internationally.”

There’s a wry smile. “With South Africa’s high crime rate and our expertise in murder, rape and gunshot wounds, we’re very sought after internationally.

“You need a particular disposition to do this job,” Martin concludes.

## Sky’s the limit

*“When I grow up I want to be an astronaut” the pony-tailed Dr Sarah Blyth used to tell her dad.*

It was he who first piqued her interest in the sky. “My dad used to read to me out of *National Geographic*,” says Blyth, a lecturer at the UCT Astrophysics, Cosmology and Gravity Centre (ACGC). It was this that planted the seed for a lifelong fascination with space. And so she completed a BSc in astrophysics, honours and master’s in physics and a PhD in high energy nuclear physics – she was the first woman (in the memory of the department) to receive a PhD in experimental physics from UCT. She then took up a postdoctoral position at UCT in 2007, and started lecturing in 2009.

She’s since hung up any ambitions of doing the moonwalk, and focuses her attention instead on staring into space. Good thing too, because it’s exactly that staring that’s made her one of the country’s up-and-coming astronomers.

In addition to lecturing at UCT, she is also one of three principal investigators on the Looking at the Distant Universe with the MeerKAT Array (LADUMA) key project on SA’s Karoo Array Telescope or MeerKAT, a precursor interferometer for the Square Kilometre Array, or SKA.

The latter needs little introduction. South Africa is mid-bid (with stiff competition coming from a co-contender Down Under) to host the world’s most sensitive radio telescope. Widespread media coverage has all of SA (science cohort or not) abuzz in anticipation of the final decision next year.

And UCT is in a prime place (through its astronomy, maths, and engineering departments) to maximise these opportunities. UCT’s Department of Astronomy is the largest university-based astronomy group in SA and has strong ties and joint positions with the South African Astronomical Observatory and the SKA office. Four ACGC key science proposals from

**“We will look at the hydrogen gas content of galaxies of different types at different stages of the Universe’s history and compare them to see how they evolve over time. At the moment we only have theories.”**

*No moon walk: Astrophysicist Dr Sarah Blyth.*





UCT have been listed among the ten successful international bids for the 43 000 hours of observing time on the MeerKAT telescope, with the LADUMA project being granted 5 000 of those hours.

The name, LADUMA, was an obvious choice. For one, MeerKAT is SA-funded, constructed and operated... and there's nothing more South African than a 'Laduma!' chant at a football game.

"Also, the field of view of the MeerKAT antennas increases at lower frequencies, giving the cosmological volume that will be probed by this survey a shape

resembling that of the vuvuzela horn," Blyth adds.

"LADUMA will look at one patch centred on the Extended Chandra Deep Field South," she explains. "With MeerKAT, we can probe back in time to when the Universe was about half its present age." And so, understanding the fundamental physics and science makes for a better understanding of the evolution of the Universe.

The project will be the deepest neutral hydrogen survey to date. "We will look at the hydrogen gas content of galaxies

of different types at different stages of the Universe's history and compare them to see how they evolve over time. At the moment we only have theories. With this data, we'll be able to refine our models and gain much more insight into how galaxies evolve."

They hope to start collecting data at the end of the year using the MeerKAT prototype, KAT7. And what would be her advice to aspiring rocket scientist/astro-naut girlchildren?

"Go for it, girl!"

The sky is, after all, the limit.

## From teacher to top job

*Some people are infectiously inspirational, Maureen Dlamini, executive head of the Africa board at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), fits the bill. But how did a school teacher from Zambia make it to the world of high finance? Hard work, a passion for developing Africa, faith – and buckets of determination.*

After working first as a teacher in Zambia, Dlamini spent 10 years at Barclays Bank where she headed the training and development division. In 1996 she moved to Johannesburg, where she initially worked at First Central Insurance as a personal assistant and later joined the Lion of Africa as head of administration. Here, she worked her way up to executive head of corporate affairs.

Then, following a one-year stint at UCT, she completed an Advanced Certificate in Leadership at the GSB – and was head-hunted by the JSE to lead its education division. In 2009, she was appointed executive head of the JSE Africa Board. The latter was a new addition to the JSE, and it was Dlamini's job to set it up. The Africa Board gives companies across Africa the opportunity to dual-list on the JSE, and so offers them increased exposure to international investors and improved liquidity.

Her greatest challenge was convincing regulators and companies that the Africa board isn't about the JSE taking on other African exchanges, but about creating

**"Being appointed to this position was definitely a defining moment for me. I was stretched but I believe I proved that I had it within me to be able to do almost anything that is put in front of me."**

widespread interest in African stocks.

Her journey thus far has surprised her.

"I amaze myself sometimes. But then I know that God has seriously blessed me. Without Him I am not sure I would be where I am. I may have worked hard but there was something greater giving me the courage and the strength to do what I have done."

She believes women possess a certain tenacity.

"We don't shy away from challenges

and once we commit we deliver, despite the obstacles or burdens that we have to overcome."

Her inspiration?

"My parents – especially my mum. She is a formidable woman!"



*Good stock: Maureen Dlamini, executive head of the JSE Africa Board.*

# Gitau **Google**s herself to an international award

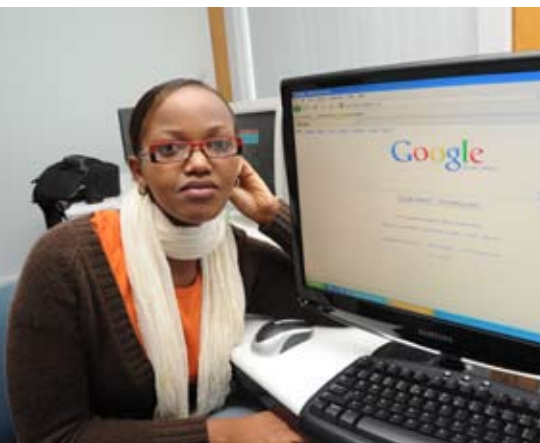
Shikoh Gitau, a PhD student in the Department of Computer Science, who bagged the prestigious Google Anita Borg Memorial Award for 2010, is the first recipient from sub-Saharan Africa.

The award is given to women students who show exceptional academic and leadership skills in computing and technology. The award carries a cash prize and a visit to Google's Engineering Centre in Zurich for a networking retreat.

After obtaining a computer science degree in Kenya, Gitau wondered how her qualification could help millions of poverty-stricken Kenyans. Then she learnt of UCT's Information Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) Centre. Based in the Department of Computer Science, the centre looks at how information technologies can be designed and implemented to tackle socio-economic problems in developing countries.

Gitau's award-winning proposal recommends M-Ganga (Mobile-Healer), a

*Life applications: Shikoh Gitau, a PhD student in the Department of Computer Science, has bagged the prestigious Google Anita Borg Memorial Award for 2010, for information technology solutions to socioeconomic problems.*



mobile phone-based application that will record, catalogue and map traditional medicine knowledge both for archival purposes and to be passed on to the next generation. The doctor-to-patient ratio in many African countries is as high as 1:50 000, compared to traditional medicine, for which there is at least one traditional healer in every village.

This raises an opportunity for a more proactive means to provide healthcare through this traditional means, which can be optimised through technology.

**She is now designing a service that allows poor people in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, to find employment and upgrade their skills at minimal cost, through the mobile internet.**

Her proposed system includes a web-based application that will capture and disseminate traditional healing sessions through a cell phone. The system records the sessions in both audio and video, and stores them in an online database. It will also show where medicinal plants are available, how they should be used, and whether they are endangered or not.

Gitau is also involved in a study on the use of mobile internet. This examines the challenges faced by people whose only access to the internet is via cell phone. She is now designing a service that allows poor people in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, to find employment and upgrade their skills at minimal cost, through the mobile internet.

## Structure is crucial in building UCT

For renowned architect Anya van der Merwe, whose company designed the new Student Administration Building and School of Economics on middle campus, structure is the key – not only in her career, but also as a way of life. “People think it’s strange for a woman, but I love structure,” says Van der Merwe, who admits that she has never been in a city without visiting at least 10 to 20 buildings. This mindset extends beyond the walls of her Cape Town offices. Van der Merwe says that the only reason she can still find the time to cook every night is because she structures her meals to such an extent that she knows what will be on the table a month in advance. It’s this obsession that has led Van der Merwe to the top of a male-dominated field. As a director of Cape Town-based Van Der Merwe Miszewski Architects for 20 years, she has made her mark on the South African urban landscape. Among her many projects are the De Beers Global headquarters in Johannesburg; the Tree House in Cape Town – an environmentally responsive mansion; and UCT’s latest addition, the new School of Economics and Student Administration buildings on middle campus.

“Size doesn’t matter. If you’re designing anything, from a chair to a convention centre, one uses exactly the same disciplined process.”

But Van der Merwe admits that working on the new building for her alma mater presented a fresh set of challenges.

“It was a huge responsibility,” she says. “UCT has meant so much to so many people for so long, and we knew that whatever we did we could not detract from that. So the key word here was





*Identity and cohesion: Top architect and alumna Anya van der Merwe, instrumental in the design of UCT's new School of Economics and Student Administration Building (where she was photographed) on middle campus.*

respect – for UCT's identity and its natural environment."

Van Der Merwe's respect is reflected in the building's vast walls of glass that detract from their function as boundaries, and open users up to the environment. Natural light is a strong feature, and artificial air conditioning has been kept to a bare minimum.

"UCT shouldn't be spending its money on fancy structural solutions," says Van der Merwe, "but on making fundamentally efficient and wonderful buildings to work in. This means as much light as possible, an airiness to the space and also a flexibility, so things can change if needed."

Van der Merwe is excited by UCT's expansion to satellite campuses, but warns that care must be taken to prevent new

**"Size doesn't matter. If you're designing anything, from a chair to a convention centre, one uses exactly the same disciplined process."**

structures from disseminating into a loose collection of random buildings.

"Hiddingh is a perfect example of a satellite campus," says Van der Merwe. "It has its own identity, a heart, a character, and you know where its boundaries are."

"But satellite campuses must also have a connection with the mother ship. They need to stay in touch through shared subjects, social events and student clubs, so that UCT maintains its identity as a single, cohesive force."

## PhD on the trot for septuagenarian

*Dr Marianne Balarin-Pieters makes most 20-somethings look a lacklustre lot. At 77, this mother of four, gran of five, and half-marathon veteran received a PhD from UCT in December 2010 for her work on phytoplankton.*

Balarin-Pieters runs, too; and this is not mere 'around the block' running, either. When Balarin-Pieters took up running in 2000, she used to do half marathons. These days, now aged 78, she mostly runs tenners.

So how did the girl who grew up in Nazi-occupied Holland discover a love for drifting ocean organisms? The Pieters family immigrated to South Africa in 1949, and Balarin-Pieters completed her schooling at Hoërskool Jan Van Riebeeck in Cape Town. She then registered for a BSc at UCT, but as she had signed up as an honorary crew member at the Royal Cape Yacht Club, sailing took precedence, and she flunked.

The pattern of her life seemed set: she moved to the former Rhodesia, married and qualified as a teacher, started a family and taught for 16 years at various schools in Salisbury (Harare), returning to South Africa in 1977.

When her youngest, Jody, finished school, Balarin returned to university and read for her BSc, honours and master's degrees at Rhodes University.

"At first I thought I'd complete a BSc and that would be that, but the bug had bitten and I just kept going."

Her studies provided the opportunities to carry out research off Marion Island and Antarctica, where she spent one Christmas on board the oceanographic research ship, the Agulhus, with her son, Emlyn. In 2000 she moved back to Cape Town and registered for a PhD at UCT.

Always the mature student among the young 'uns, Balarin-Pieters never felt marginalised, and during field work in earlier years, she insisted on roughing it alongside the youngsters.

What's she up to these days? Broad grin.

"I'm taking a gap year!" she says with satisfaction. This is time out to read up on



*"I can't sit still. I've got to be busy." – 2010 PhD graduate Dr Marianne Balarin-Pieters.*

things that interest her ("I'm not one for an armchair."). She also plans a walking tour in Europe. Her advice to fellow seniors is direct: "Don't vegetate. Being active physically makes a big difference. If you don't have that oomph, you fall into disrepair."



# Siblings in science

*Professors Anna-Lise and Carolyn Williamson are in the business of hope for HIV prevention.*

They are part of a UCT team working on a vaccine for a disease that has precipitated major research worldwide in the past three decades. Carolyn's research looks to a better understanding of the virus, while Anna-Lise specialises in HIV vaccine development for the human papilloma virus (HPV). They're sisters, too. And their interest in the same field of study must be the work of shared genes, they'll say.

Anna-Lise and Carolyn are both based at the Institute for Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM), just doors apart. Anna-Lise (a Wits graduate) holds a joint post as leader of the vaccine development team at the IIDMM and the National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS), as well as a South African Research Chairs Initiative chair in Vaccinology. Carolyn (a UCT alumna) is the head of the Division of Medical Virology, as part of UCT and the NHLS, where she leads the HIV Diversity and Pathogenesis research group.

Their individual efforts were instrumental in the development of an HIV vaccine that was put to trial in 2009. The trial, called SAAVI 102/HVTN 073, was a first for Africa, and also a milestone for South Africa. The country is one of the few developing nations, and the first in Africa, to have developed an HIV vaccine and put it forward for human clinical trials.

The vaccine designs were based on HIV subtype C, the dominant strain circulating in Southern Africa, and were jointly funded by the South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative (SAAVI) and the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

As part of the SAAVI initiative to develop a vaccine specifically for subtype C,



*Knowledge inc: Sisters Profs Anna-Lise (below) and Carolyn Williamson are at the forefront of research into HIV prevention.*

The country is one of the few developing nations, and the first in Africa, to have developed an HIV vaccine and put it forward for human clinical trials.

Carolyn and her team at the IIDMM surveyed HIV from newly-infected patients and selected genes that best represented local strains. Building on this, she and Anna-Lise refined the two vaccines by incorporating additional subtype-C genes and modifications to make them more effective.

The Phase I trial, now complete, showed great promise too. "Phase I showed immunogenicity," Carolyn says. "There are two more trials planned on SAAVI DNA-C2 and SAAVI MVA-C." But efficacy trials on these vaccines and further vaccine trials on other South African vaccines are in the balance – the SA government has pulled the plug on its funding. "If we can get the funding, we can do more trials," Anna-Lise adds. "Vaccines are the most appropriate solution for Africa."

Their research continues on the up-and-up, though. Anna-Lise is currently working on a project looking at HIV/HPV co-morbidity in women, and has plans for a greater study looking at the extent of HPV transmission in HIV discordant couples (where one partner is HIV-negative).

Carolyn believes that knowledge is key. "Research is a continuum. I am continuing my research to understand the virus. It is a privilege to be working on finding a potential solution to such an important problem."



# New ombud takes office in Lovers Walk



*Pioneer: UCT's first Ombud Officer, Zetu Makamandela-Mguqulwa.*

It's mid-morning on a Tuesday and UCT's new Ombud, Zetu Makamandela-Mguqulwa, the first Ombud in the university's history, is signing for furniture destined for her office in the cottages along historic Lovers Walk, opposite the School of Dance.

It's a quiet cul de sac, a good locale for an Ombud's headquarters: part of the campus but distinct and separate from the administrative functions. In this sense, it mirrors her own role as a designated neutral or impartial dispute resolution practitioner. Appointed as part of the university's broader transformation initiative, Makamandela-Mguqulwa is not 'part of the furniture' in the administration at Bremner.

Her office in Lovers Walk will accentuate what is so important to the job: the creation of a safe and informal space to be heard, an alternative to the other formal modes of dispute resolution at the university.

As she explained to members of the various university constituencies and community she has been visiting since early January 2011, when she took of-

office, she reports to the chair of Council, Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane.

Almost all universities abroad have such an office, she says. But South African institutions have been slower to act, with only three other universities hosting Ombud offices.

The Ombud's office adheres to the International Ombudsman Association (IOA) Standards of Practice and Codes of Ethics. The tenets require that Ombud offices shall function independently of the organisation, shall be confidential and neutral, and shall limit scope of their services to informal

**The tenets require that Ombud offices shall function independently of the organisation, shall be confidential and neutral...**

means of dispute resolution, she said.

A UCT graduate, (she has a Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons) from UCT and a Master's in Social Science from UWC) Makamandela-Mguqulwa was the transformation co-ordinator in the Faculty of Health Sciences from 2003 to 2006.

This is her third stint at UCT in a career that has been steeped in conflict management and resolution.

Now she's keen to get the message out to the community: the Ombud office is open for business.

This business is to establish a fair and restorative process in the settlements of disputes or disagreements.

"The underlying values are that disputes should be resolved in ways that reconcile competing interests, are relationship-enhancing, and are transformative."

# Transformation Hot Seat



*Human rights veteran: Glenda Wildschut, director of UCT's Transformation Services.*

The measure of your integrity is how you care for the most vulnerable.

This is the philosophy of human rights advocacy veteran Glenda Wildschut, appointed director of UCT's newly formed Transformation Services to gear up change on campus and make UCT a home to all who work and study at the institution. In her portfolio Wildschut is responsible for transformation activities, events and interventions at the university, from concept to execution.

Wildschut's human rights activism dates back to the early 1980s. She was appointed by former president Nelson Mandela to serve as a commissioner on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1995. She worked with political prisoners, their families, exiles and orphaned returnee children in South Africa and Namibia, and pioneered, together with other health workers, the establishment of a trauma centre for violence and torture survivors, the first centre of its kind in the country.

Wildschut has also worked with the United Nations' World Health Organisation.

*We've often overlooked the success stories of our sporting alumni. Yet, over the years, there would've been much to write about. Think of the countless rugby-playing graduates who've donned the Springboks' green and gold over the years. Or those who padded up for the Proteas. And these are just the high-profile codes. (We never really managed to break into the soccer ranks, though.) We've had swimmers, cyclists, runners, divers, triathletes, rowers, volleyballers, squash players, paddlers, netballers; all making their mark at one level or another. So this year, we've dedicated space to some of these high-flying sporting heroes.*

## Mountain high

*The best training ultra-distance runner Professor Andrzej 'AO' Okreglicki (MBChB, 1983; MMed, 1996) gets is not on the turf, track or tarmac, but under the glare of lights in the operating theatre. The cardiologist sometimes operates for eight hours straight, the perfect training for endurance races like the 243km-Marathon des Sables in the Moroccan Sahara. This is his report of his first Tor des Géants race in the Italian Alps.*

This unique race, the 332km Tor des Géants – the longest multi-participant ultra marathon in the world, in the high Italian Alps – would cover 31 day-hike stages, but with a cut-off of 150 hours (six days, six hours).

What attracted me was that the race wouldn't follow the formulaic daily stages of races such as the TransAlpine Ultra and the TransRockies Ultra. Also, this was an event for individuals, not teams. After months of planning, I registered with 352 other entrants in Courmayeur, at the head of the Aosta Valley, on 11 September.

My previous experience in the Alps – the Tour du Mont Blanc (158km), the TransAlpine Ultra (250km) and the recent non-stop UltraBalaton (212km) in Hungary – made me reasonably confident that I could finish the distance. The weather was the great unknown, and now and then rain had made things challenging during my previous races. However, the weather was perfect.

At 10h00 on Sunday 12 September we were off. Immediately the gradient rose sharply, and the route began to follow the spectacular paths at the foot of Mont Blanc and the highest Four-Thousanders in the Alps, paralleling glaciers and reducing towns way below to specks. By day three or four, we had thinned out



*Adrenaline high: Cardiologist and endurance athlete Prof 'AO' Okreglicki tackled the Tor des Géants, the longest multi-participant ultra marathon in the world, in the high Italian Alps.*

so much that at times I wouldn't see a fellow runner for hours. At checkpoints, on average 10km apart, the offerings were water, cola, wine and beer, cheese, bread and biscuits. There were six 'life bases' with hot pasta meals and the chance of a quick snooze.

Hurling down mountains three times higher than Table Mountain, on loose gravel paths in the middle of the night in pitch darkness, while sleep-deprived, was the greatest challenge – and probable madness – and made this the toughest and most dangerous endurance event that I have done. But the incredible views in the daytime almost made up for the nocturnal life-risks! Not only had I survived and completed the 332km distance, but in touching the sky, I had fought off gravity and gained a remarkable accumulative 24 000m (yes, 24km) in vertical altitude. This achievement will remain a defining bookmark in the saga of my life.



# Sevens heaven

Kyle Brown's superb performance in the 2009/2010 International Rugby Sevens Series earned him the South African Rugby Union's Springbok Sevens Player of the Year award for 2010. Although he was injured towards the end of the season, Brown, a former member of the UCT first team, captained the Springbok Sevens side on a number of occasions, and was one of the top performers. Other key regulars in the Sevens squad have been Paul Delport and Mpho Mbiyozo.



*(Picture by Wessel Oosthuizen)*

## HAND UP FOR Olympic paddlers

Here's a platitude for you – in elite sport, the line between success and failure can be a very thin one.

Ask the South African canoeing crew that took part in a recent World Championship event. Leading at the halfway mark, they mistimed their final burst, ran out of steam, and had to watch the French team – and others – cruise past them.

The result was a call to Julia Thomas, a master's student at the Medical Research Council/UCT Research Unit for Exercise and Sports Medicine (ESSM). Appointed as a physiotherapist to the national canoeing squad hoping to qualify for the 2012 Olympics in London, Thomas is also running a few studies with the paddlers. Over the past months she's been working with the likes of the 200m K2 team of Mike Arthur and Shaun Rubenstein, and their coach, Marcus Melck. Thomas' assistance will take the form of two studies, both conducted at the labs at the Sports Science Institute of South Africa in Newlands, Cape Town, and on the water at Zandvlei and the canals around the V&A Waterfront. In her first set of experiments, she'll investigate why



*Focus: Julia Thomas keeps count for paddler Shaun Rubenstein.*

sprint athletes like Arthur and Rubenstein are more efficient at different stroke rates. (At the world championship event, for example, it's reasoned that the South Africans were out of the blocks too fast and couldn't maintain that initial furious pace.) "It's not always about going out guns blazing," she explains.

In her second study, Thomas will scrutinise different strategies that could help the South African teams. So, for example, she'll look at what would make for the right combination of paddlers, the best set-up of the crew (who sits where) and even the ideal length of the blades.

It's attention to that kind of detail that could make the difference between winning a medal and obscurity.

"We want to get a database of all the information, and then see what it means for efficiency," says Thomas. "So it's quite an integrated approach." For coach Melck, the input of Thomas and others at ESSM marks a break with old-school coaching that once eyed sports science with scepticism.

The world's best teams have long embraced such support, he says. "I've never really held with the view that the coach is the be-all and end-all of all knowledge. For me, the coach is the facilitator between all the experts – I consult with the experts and I harness what they've got to offer."

## Epic ride for father and son

Professor Marc Mendelson, head of the Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine, and his son, Ben, a first-year student at UCT, were among the 496 teams that finished this year's Absa Cape Epic. The duo rode in the colours of KidzPositive, hoping to raise awareness of the work done by this NGO in looking after the interests of HIV-infected children and adolescents. A number of projects are based at UCT.

It was Mendelson's second Epic – he rode the same bike he did in his debut in 2006, a full suspension Santa Cruz Blur LT – and Ben's first. (Ben, 18, opted for a Bianchi Pulse hardtail.)

Father and son have ridden one-day races together before, but had never competed in a stage race together. The duo came 481st in a saddle-sore 57 hours 19 minutes. Of the 600 teams that started, 496 finished.

"It's the hardest mountain bike race in the world," Mendelson commented afterwards.

The father-son duo made for "interesting" dynamics. Ben's younger legs meant that he had to hold back at times to allow dad to stay with him.

"We worked well as a team, although he gave the old man hell at the water points," says Mendelson.

Those flare-ups notwithstanding, the two plan to team up again in 2012.



*Tough ride: Prof Marc Mendelson and his son, Ben, finish the Absa Cape Epic. (Picture courtesy of Sportograph.)*

## Eau de chlorine

*Daniella Pollock had a poolside chat with UCT law alumnus and South African water polo goalie Matt Kemp about the sport, family history at UCT, and giving back.*



*Law alumnus and Springbok water polo goalkeeper, Matt Kemp.*

Springbok water polo goalkeeper Matt Kemp has always been on a tight schedule.

Pivotal to the development of water polo at UCT in recent years and to the coaching at sibling institution, local boys' school SACS, he is also a rugby referee on the South African Rugby Union's (SARU) list of provincial referees.

Front-running has always been a Kemp family staple. His father, Dirk Kemp, was a UCT

Students' Representative Council president during the 1970s, and sat in this capacity on the management committee of the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS), for which he was arrested. During his school years, Kemp senior also played SA schools hockey.

"The bar was set high," says Kemp. "But we often also joke about my dad being the one in the family with the criminal record," he laughs. Kemp sticks with sporting records. His interest in water polo started when he was in grade five at Kloof Senior Primary School in Durban and continued when he went to Maritzburg College. It was there too that he started refereeing rugby, at the age of 13.

Kemp landed a scholarship to UCT, where he played for the first team, got involved with running the club, became its chairperson, and coached the first women's and men's teams. His two brothers (they're triplets), Rupert and Nick, also studied at UCT. "Nick played water polo for UCT as well, but Rupert couldn't, thanks to a rugby injury."

Wanting to give back, Kemp started coaching schoolboy-level in 2004.

"I wanted to get involved with coaching, and my dad is a SACS old boy, so it was the natural first choice. It was my time to give back."

Kemp (together with brother Nick) coached the SACS first team to a King Edward VII School (KES) tournament win in 2007, the first time that a WP side had won. Other personal highlights include being part of the WP team that won the 2007 Water Polo Currie Cup.

"We hadn't won it since the 1980s. And then there's my first SA cap. I'd been involved with the squad since 2007, but was never chosen. Last year saw a change of coach, and I was chosen."

They won the African qualifiers for the 2010 Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) Men's Water Polo World League. Despite the pool of talent in South Africa and the ideal conditions, they're hampered by country-specific challenges.

"We always win in Africa. But we lack high-level experience and water polo in South Africa is self-funded." (Kemp was part of the SA squad that competed at the 14<sup>th</sup> FINA World Championships in July.)

## Come wind, come weather

*by Morgan Moris*

Think of any long-haul, out-there adventure race, anything that pits athletes against the most forbidding of obstacles in the most inhospitable (for humans) of environments, and chances are that alumnus Ryan Sandes has either run it or won it.

Like the Gobi March in China, which in 2008 became Sandes' name-making first triumph. In the inaugural race of the 4 Deserts series set in China's Gobi Desert, competitors have to battle heat, cold, sandstorms, sand dunes, ridges, riverbeds and each other, all while carrying their own victuals on their backs. (There are also races in the Sahara in Egypt and the Atacama in Chile, each Deserts event seven days and 250km long.)

Since then, Sandes (29) has fashioned a racing résumé second to none, which includes wins in all four of the 4 Deserts events – the only person to have done so – capped in 2010 by a victory in the series' cherry on the top, The Last Desert in Antarctica; a record-setting victory in the Jungle Marathon (enough said) in Brazil in 2009, plus half a dozen or so local triumphs.

Little wonder then that Sandes fast became the poster boy for adventure racing. Over the past few years, he's been named everything from GoMulti Magazine's 2008 Trail Runner of the Year to Runner's World South Africa's running hero, three years on the trot.

Runner's World in the US named him as one of its top five running heroes, alongside the likes of Usain Bolt and Haile Gebrselassie. And Mary Gadams, founder and CEO of RacingThePlanet, 4 Deserts organisers, said this about him: "Ryan Sandes is clearly one of the top endurance athletes in the world – to have won all 4 Deserts is a remarkable accomplishment."

Not bad for someone who initially had very little interest in running. Anywhere but on the rugby field, that is – Sandes' first love at school.

He soon realised on entering university, though, that his slender frame was ill suited to the rugged demands of rugby. So, by his own admission, he spent much of his years at UCT, while studying construction management and quantity surveying, partying and hanging out around the beach.



“He was part of this group of kids younger than us who used to punk around Llandudno beach,” wrote an adoring blogger on a party site. “That was, quite literally, all they did. They surfed and chilled.”

Ironically, it was Sandes’ partying that got him running. Desperate to join friends at the Oyster Festival in Knysna in 2006, he signed up to run – with just the barest of preparation – the Knysna Marathon.

“I had an absolute blast and realised I really enjoyed this.”

Enjoyment plays a large part in Sandes’ motivation, as purses for trail races are notoriously underwhelming. Sandes has to rely, instead, on the kindness of a clutch of sponsors – Red Bull, Oakley and Salomon among them – to get him to events.

“Having sponsors allows me to live my dream and do what I love,” he says. “Trail running has become a way of life for me and I get to travel to exotic locations all over the world.”

So on his to-do list for 2011 he had the Zugspitz Ultra Trail 101km in Germany in June, the Leadville 100-miler in the US in August, and the RacingThePlanet: Nepal in November, with a few local races dotted in between. (**Stop press:** Sandes has also won the 2011 Leadville Trail 100 Mile Run in the US. He ran this super-tough ultra marathon in 16:46:56, the third fastest time in race history.)

Ryan Sandes, built to endure.  
(Picture by Gripmaster.)

Flying the flag. (Picture below  
by Gripmaster.)



## Million-dollar boost for rugby stadium



Million dollar man: Neville Isdell (left) hands over the sizeable cheque to VC Dr Max Price – money that is earmarked for a new sports stadium.

Alumnus Neville Isdell lifted rugby-loving spirits at UCT when he announced a donation of US\$1 million – yes, dollars, not rands – to the UCT Rugby Club, which would allow it to begin plans on a long-sought-after rugby stadium for its beloved Ikeys.

Isdell, a former chairperson and CEO of the Coca-Cola Company, and a longstanding and dedicated donor to UCT coffers, made the official announcement of the around R7-million donation in the wake of a disappointing Ikeys-Maties clash in UCT’s successful 2011 Varsity Cup campaign. (The Ikey Tigers were roundly outplayed by the Maties in that match, but had the last laugh, beating the University of Pretoria by 26-16 in the 2011 final to bag their first Varsity Cup title in the competition’s four years.)

The award, Isdell said, was inspired by his rugby-playing days as a student here in the 1960s.

“I look back on my life and my career, and certainly the time that I spent here at varsity was absolutely pivotal in terms of the person that I became, good or bad. The most meaningful part of that was actually playing rugby.”

The Varsity Cup, he added, has upped the stakes for university sport.

That sentiment was echoed by vice-chancellor Dr Max Price. Especially, Price pointed out, in the light of the Ikeys’ surprise performance in the competition.

Suddenly the university is attracting more sponsorship, is benefiting from invaluable marketing mileage through the television broadcast of the competition, and potential students are looking at the university as a top sporting institution as well.

“We do want be a university that educates all-rounders, and we see the value of sport in the development of students and future leaders,” said Price.

But because of heritage concerns, the stadium will not be set up on the university’s main campus. With the Varsity Cup firmly in mind, however, it’s hoped that the stadium will be built no more than a stone’s throw from the institution.

# No piece of cake for Coach Kirsten

In 2011 South African fans suffered yet another unremarkable campaign at the Cricket World Cup. But even though the Proteas bowed out early, there was one South African – a few actually – who kept locals switching on to the tournament. Coaching the Indian side to its first title since 1983 was former Proteas opener Gary Kirsten. So no wonder that when the familiar post-tournament staff shuffles came around in Proteas quarters, many were eager to see Kirsten appointed as SA head coach. (Ironically, Kirsten had announced his retirement from international cricket after the Proteas’ dismal performance at the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.) Fans got what they wanted, and Kirsten was introduced as the new coach in June. As the Proteas were on a break for a couple of months, Gazza had a few months to acclimatise to his new position. Just before he got thrown into the deep end, we caught up with him to talk about his brief UCT studies, coaching, expectations and what lies ahead for him and the Proteas side.



*Bittersweet: As Proteas coach, Gary Kirsten will have to deal with high expectations from fans.*

## UCT Alumni News: You left UCT after about a year or so...

Gary Kirsten: Two years...

## UAN: Was that a cricket related thing?

GK: Hmm, ja... Listen, I wasn't firing at my academics, that's for sure. I was very fortunate to be offered a cricket bursary, and I really went for the sport. What I actually ended up doing was going to UNISA. And I do believe you educate yourself as you go along.

## UAN: After you retired, did you think immediately of taking up coaching?

GK: I retired when I was 37, and what happens for a cricketer or a retired sportsman at that stage is that you either decide on a new career, or you go into coaching or something sports – related. I was very fortunate in that a good friend of mine in the property game offered me some very good opportunities. I could've gone down that road. But I kind of felt that coaching was going to be something that I was going to be passionate about. And I felt that after 17 years of professional cricket, I really could add some value on the coaching side.

## UAN: You coached the UCT side for a while in 2007, didn't you?

GK: For three months. But then I got this offer to coach the Indian team.

## UAN: Do you think South African fans have higher expectations than other fans? You coached in India, after all.

GK: Expectation in India is unbelievable. But that's the environment you work in, and expectations are no different, wherever you go.

## UAN: But one of the things you said just after you were appointed as the South African coach is that fans will have to be patient. What do you think they expect of the Proteas and you?

GK: I think they're thinking I have the silver bullet.





**UAN: But with the win in India, you have kind of shown them you can do it...**

GK: One thing people have to be aware of is that you are the coach; you don't walk on to the field. Your role is a leadership position, and you influence people to get the best out of them.

**UAN: On paper it seems that coaching the Indian side must have been an easy job, with all that talent to work with.**

GK: The one thing I always said about the job with the Indian team was that our goals were realistic. We had a very talented team, so we felt we could become the best team in the world. We knew we had enough skill. Then it was my responsibility as one of the leaders of that team to make sure that we got all these cricketers to fly in formation, and see that they were playing for a bigger cause than their own personal goals.

**UAN: Was there a secret recipe to getting India to the title?**

GK: It was the culmination to a lot of hard work. The guys really embraced what we wanted to offer them from a team perspective. Our preparation became unbelievable, and we worked together over a significant period of time to reach this goal. We were organised. We were strategising. We were planning well.

**UAN: Was coaching the SA team always the end goal for you?**

GK: I never thought I would do any team coaching, to be honest. I was running my cricket academy – which I'm going to be reigniting in the next few months – and it was a nice little business. The [Indian and South African] jobs just landed on my doorstep without me actually even applying for the jobs. As it turned out, it's been a whirlwind three years in many respects.

**UAN: What are your goals for the South African team?**

GK: It's going to be a process. If we can get those processes in place, we can make things happen.

**UAN: What kinds of goals have you set for yourself?**

GK: I don't really have any long-time personal goals for myself. I live more in the short term, and try to make sure that I do a good job at whatever comes my way, that I'm adding value.

## Waterborne Barrett

It would surprise sports analysts just how often, over the past decade, women have been named UCT Sportsperson of the Year. (Seven years out of 10, in case you wanted to know; although the guys rallied strongly from 2007 to 2009.) So no surprise, then, when in 2010 it was a sportswoman who claimed the Jamison Cup once more – alumna Laura Barrett, captain of the UCT water polo team that won the WP winter and summer leagues, and who led the Western Province A team to victory at the Currie Cup Nationals. Barrett also represented South Africa at the World League Championships in France and Greece. Alas, the South Africans didn't win any of their matches. But, she said at the time, the team is still on a very steep learning curve. Barrett was also part of the SA squad that participated in the 14th FINA World Championships in China in July.



# Slow boat to C

Napoleon Bonaparte reportedly said of China, “Let her sleep, for when she wakes, she will shake the world.” Drawn by the lure of adventure as the behemoth stirs, alumnus Rory Alexander (PPE, 2005) found himself teaching English in a small Chinese city – and tackling a half-marathon on the Great Wall of China.

In September 2009, as the recession was starting to affect South Africa, I took the chance to do something completely different. Leaving the advertising industry, I ventured east to become an English teacher in China.

Shanghai it is fairly Westernised, but just 180km south, where I am in Xiaoshan, there is little to no English. Xiaoshan is a district of Hangzhou, the main city, which has an urban population of approximately 7.5 million people – relatively small by Chinese standards!

Little prepared me for the culture shock. But first came the honeymoon phase. This was my first time living away from home and family. Everything was new and exciting; different food, people, buildings, cars, sights and sounds. You’re constantly bombarded with new experiences like KTV bars (karaoke is big here), beer at R2.50 a quart, and eating bamboo, live octopus and chicken feet. The novelty wore off in two to three weeks.

Second came the withdrawal phase. After settling in, I began to get frustrated by the lack of creature comforts – like Weetbix, rusks and fresh salad. Everything here is boiled or fried. Added to this is the language barrier. I came thinking I might learn Chinese, thinking about the future global economy, but it is a very difficult language, with tones and characters rather than words. They say the required psychological adjustment to China for Westerners is so great that 50% of expats leave earlier than planned.

I didn’t, progressing to the next phase of adjustment. I learnt some basic Chinese, enough to order food, haggle for cheap clothes at markets and get a taxi home.

Life became more routine, with classes at school and days off to explore the city – and even cook some of my own meals. Having said that, the cost of living here is very low. I used to eat lunch and dinner at local restaurants/canteens every day of the week and was still able to save two-thirds of my mediocre salary. This phase lasted a couple of months, with my mood improving weekly.



*Chinese whispers: Teaching English to children in China calls for participation and creativity.*

Finally, I entered the assimilation phase. After about four months I began to feel ‘at home’ in China. I learnt to accept or ignore the things that bothered me (traffic, queues, lack of sanitation). I bought an electric scooter to get around town and I even made the 40-kilometre round trip across the river on it.

Coming from Cape Town, I found their public transport system impressive, if overcrowded at times. The rate at which they’re expanding the high-speed rail network is astounding. In the 18 months I’ve been here they’ve started and completed the section between Hangzhou and Shanghai, some 180km. You can now do that in just 45 minutes.

Having studied politics, philosophy and

economics at UCT, followed by marketing and advertising at the Red & Yellow School and three-and-a-half years at an ad agency, teaching was totally new. I did a 40-hour Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) course in Cape Town before I left, but every classroom and student is different. An activity that works one day fails the next. Not being able to speak Chinese doesn’t make a difference as far as theory goes; in other words your instructions have to be clear and simple and the students have to focus on and speak English.

In practice it helps to know a few instructions and the odd word to help struggling students, even if the experts say this slows learning. With the very young kids (yes, I’ve taught students from six to 60 years old), we have local teaching assistants who help out when necessary – but they are more for behaviour control than anything else. I have a newfound respect for the teachers I had at school!

But by far the most exciting thing has been running a half-marathon on the Great Wall of China. It was at my farewell party that a friend said he was planning to run the Great Wall Half-Marathon in 2010, and as I would be in China, I should do it too. I started investigating as soon as I arrived here.

The first challenge was entering. You either have to buy a tour package from a list of selected travel companies or, if you’re a Chinese local, you can buy just the entry, which at 1 368 Yuan (or R1 500) isn’t cheap. The third option is an expat entry (which they don’t advertise) whereby as a foreigner, if you can prove that you are resident in China, you don’t have to purchase an expensive package with ac-



# China

commodation and tours. Instead you pay just for the entry and arrange your own travel.

It's known as one of the most challenging marathons in the world. The website states that there are 5 164 steps, so on the half-marathon I would be climbing 2 582 stairs. Stair training was essential.

I don't particularly like running so it was easy to find excuses: the lingering winter weather, avoiding the two-kilometre circular route I had mapped out around the park. In fact, I did only six training runs in the 10-week period between entering and race day.

The alarm sounded at around 2am on race day. The buses were due to leave from the Beijing International Hotel at 3am sharp. The bus ride out was three hours long. We arrived at Yin Yang Square just before sunrise and I laid eyes on the wall for the first time. The square was in a valley with daunting mountains on both sides, the Great Wall following the ridges and rising out of sight. With almost 1 750 runners, mostly foreigners from over 49 different countries, the atmosphere was great.

The race was tough. After a gentle first kilometre, the road wound its way uphill for five more kilometres, which was a gruelling start, but then we had the wall in sight and it really was impressive. I made a decision not to run with a camera, but rather to soak up the atmosphere and views.

Once down from the wall, there was a lap on the boundary wall of Yin Yang Square for the spectators' benefit. As I came through, the commentator announced over the PA system: "Number 1234, Rory Alexander from South Africa, looking like he's straight out of a lion park." Considering how little training I had done, I thought if I could do it in under three hours I'd be pleased. In fact I crossed the line in 2:53:42.



Step up: Alumnus Rory Alexander tackles a half-marathon on the Great Wall of China, which meant climbing 2 582 stairs.

**Do you know** that UCT hosts a Confucius Institute (CI)? The CI is a non-profit public institution based in Beijing that aims to promote Chinese language and culture throughout the world. UCT has been allocated a Chinese partner university, the prestigious Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU) in Guangdong Province. The UCT CI offers not-for-credit (and, in time, credit-bearing) courses, including basic and intensive language courses in Mandarin. A group of students has just returned from a visit to China.

# Landy to Lon

Alumni Allison Gibbens and Campbell Thompson – South African adventurers who have lived in London for six years – packed in the city life for five months, travelling through East Africa via their homeland. This is Gibbens' potted report.

**T**ravelling East Africa. This had been Campbell's dream for over five years and he did a stellar job selling it to me. It took two years of saving and preparation before we purchased two one-way tickets and took the plunge.

We shipped our Landy to Cape Town, flew to meet it and drove the east coast of Africa; bottom-up rather than the more popular top-down, as Charlie Boorman and Ewan McGregor did in the TV series *Long Way Down*. People were curious about why we weren't driving down for the Soccer World Cup. Not being soccer fans, we preferred to be out of earshot of those vuvuzelas! Besides, we got to join in the action and energy at backpackers, hostels and campsites all the way up.

We saw some wonderful places, but our favourites were Zambia, Malawi and Sudan.

## ZAMBIAN LEG-UP

Most Zambians would put Lance Armstrong to shame. The transport system is unreliable – and terrifying at best. Everywhere you look there are bicycles, precariously laden with all kinds of produce. Everyone cycles extreme distances, and up and down insanely steep mountain passes, to get produce home or to market.

The major towns are all hustle and

*Ancient backdrop: We camped near the Pyramids of Meroe on the banks of the Nile in the Sudan. The site of the city of Meroe is marked by more than 200 pyramids, many in ruins.*

*“Nothing can describe the absolute rush of standing over Victoria Falls. The mists give you big, wet kisses and the roaring of the water leaves you breathless. A word to the wise: take a rain coat, and waterproofing for your camera!”*

bustle, chaos that would shake any Londoner or New Yorker. Bright colours almost leak into the streets as hawkers come at you with their wares: electric-coloured clothing, foreign exchange, carved African art, guavas and tomatoes, and Nyaminyamis (necklaces shaped like Zambia's Valley River God).

Nothing can describe the absolute rush of standing over Victoria Falls. The mists give you big, wet kisses and the roaring of the water leaves you breathless. A word to the wise: take a rain coat, and waterproofing for your camera!

## MALAWI IN THE MUD

In Malawi we headed straight for Lilongwe. Like most major African cities, the capital

is chaotic but functional in its own way. Sticking with our get-what-you-need-and-get-out strategy for big African cities, we made our way to Chembe Eagle's Nest in Cape Maclear, Monkey's Bay.

Don't make the mistake we made by setting out late in the day. There are no streetlights, the passes are dangerously steep, and donkey carts and villagers make passage difficult. With the low-hanging mists and only our headlights to show the way, the scenes seemed directly out of *Silent Hill* – freaky. After a few wrong turns, a scary situation with some villagers, and double the estimated driving time behind us, we found Chembe Eagle's Nest. Were it not for the torrential downpours we experienced for three straight days, we'd still be relaxing on those idyllic shores.

An overland trip is incomplete without at least one story about getting stuck in the mud or breaking down. Nkhotakota Forest Reserve in the lush, green (but muddy) hills of Malawi provided said experience. Driving into a valley we found a 16-wheeler truck mired in the mud. Queues of 4x4s and other vehicles waited to pass on either side. Anyone who has travelled Africa knows that a situation like this is not resolved quickly. It seemed nothing other than a grader could help – or so we thought. To pass, several 4x4s went off-road into the deep, extremely muddy ditch on the





# don

side. The 4x4s coming downhill towards us made it through the pass, and with our Landy being first in line to attempt this manoeuvre going uphill, the pressure was on.

Naturally, I was driving. But this had nothing to do with what followed! We were merely the first of five 4x4s to get stuck. (The others had male drivers.) We were horribly bogged down on the embankment, the Landy tilting precariously. We thought our trip was over. A few hours later, after four lost flip flops (the mud came to our knees and the suction claimed our shoes!) a miracle happened.

A truck-full of passengers arrived and we witnessed the

spirit of the Malawians. Thirty men tied a tow rope to the 16-wheeler and pulled it out. The forest erupted with cheers. We were next in line. With eight men pushing, one 4x4 towing, and one woman driver revving, we made it out. Several hours later we had towed out three other cars.

One of the highlights of the trip was Nkhata Bay on Lake Malawi – it gave us the relaxation we needed. This is also where we met our travel partners, Danny and Jill from the US.

## SUDANESE SOUKS AND STARS

Almost everyone said we were crazy to go through Sudan – and beyond bonkers to do so with two Americans in the back seat. They were wrong. Sudan was an amazing place. The Americans were warmly welcomed.

If you're prepared, then the hurdles that all the sanctions and tourism complications pose are little more than a small fuss.

The country does not take Visa or Mastercard, and unless you have a local bank account, you enter the country with a stash of US dollars and exchange them when you need local currency. You are also required to register with the police as a tourist in every town you overnight in. This applies to taking photos of the temples and tourism sites.

For campers and overlanders:

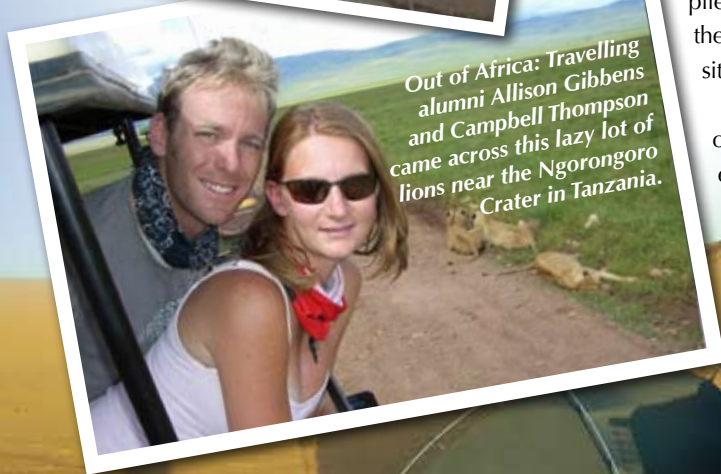
don't miss out on desert camping behind the Pyramids of Meroe, on the banks of the Nile. One of our most amazing nights was spent watching the sun set behind these pyramids, cooking a yummy potjie and sharing a bottle of wine with friends.

Sudan gave us Whirling Dervishes, amazing souks, bush camping, delicious *ful* (a dish made of fava beans), sleeping under the stars on an overnight ferry to Egypt and some of the friendliest people. Khartoum also treated us to Steers, which was practically gourmet after the Ethiopian *injera* (flat bread) and hot *berbere* spice. We wished our visa had permitted us to stay longer.

## EUROPE AGAIN

Some time later, standing on the decks of Visemar Line ferry's maiden voyage from Alexandria to Venice, almost all in the eight groups of overlanders stared longingly at the African coastline, willing the boat to turn around so we could start the trip over – top-down this time. We have since packed up our lives in London, after winning the Green Card lottery a few years prior, and headed for New York City. We had to sell our beloved Landy in the UK, which broke our hearts. But we're excited about the new adventures still to come.

(Visit Gibbens and Thompson's blog at [www.landytolondon.blogspot.com](http://www.landytolondon.blogspot.com))



Out of Africa: Travelling alumni Allison Gibbens and Campbell Thompson came across this lazy lot of lions near the Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania.

*Sandy Landy: Our trusty Landy took us through East Africa, all the way to the top of the continent.*





# It's a blood bond

## *Stuart Saunders at 80*



*Ikey icon – Alumnus, former vice-chancellor and UCT stalwart, Dr Stuart Saunders.*

There are few names more synonymous with UCT's latter history than that of Dr Stuart Saunders, former vice-chancellor. On the eve of his 80th birthday, he spoke to **Morgan Morris** about his long – and sometime tumultuous – years with the university

"It's in my red blood cells."

That's how Dr Stuart Saunders describes his oh-so-long association with the university. And if it sounds like hyperbole, it's not – Saunders, who turned 80 this year, is a UCT graduate, a former residence warden, a former head of Department of Medicine, a former vice-chancellor, a former many things at the university. And images of his facing off with policemen on campus, and, famously, brandishing a loud hailer to address students in the thick of the 1980s protests, have become iconic.

It's a romance that, officially, hails back to 1948, the year that he started his medical studies at UCT. But it's not been a run-of-the-mill love story though, as even a glance at his 2000 memoir, *Vice-Chancellor on a Tightrope*, reveals.

Instead, it's a one that often married the personal, professional and political. A large helping of the political, in fact.

Saunders, after all, is known as the vice-chancellor who had to negotiate UCT's way through the tumultuous



1980s. This was a period when students – many far removed (literally and ideologically) from the political frontline in the townships – often dragged the university, kicking and screaming, up close and personal with the realities of the time.

But, as Saunders illustrates in *Tightrope*, he was no stranger to student revolt. In fact, as he recalls early in that volume, it started right from the get-go; in his first year, he relates, he witnessed a fellow student – an ex-serviceman – pull a chemistry demonstrator over his knee and spank her after she'd needled him repeatedly about his poor performance in the lab. (For those who haven't read the book: the student was never seen or heard from again.)

Tightrope teems with such stories of defiance and protest, although most others are perhaps more politically correct.

Even today, when Saunders is interviewed, he struggles at times to differentiate between the incidents of the 1970s and 1980s. He recalls a march in Wale Street to object to the difference in pay for white and black doctors in state hospitals. And even threatening the then-administrator of the Cape, LAPA Munnik, with action if a medical registrar (who'd been arrested for leading a march against the stationing of police in New Somerset Hospital, where victims turned to for treatment during the 1976 riots) was not released.

This last incident, would you believe, during Saunders' time as head of UCT's department of medicine.

"Some of my colleagues were uncomfortable with this, as I was doing things that a professor of medicine didn't normally do," he recalls.

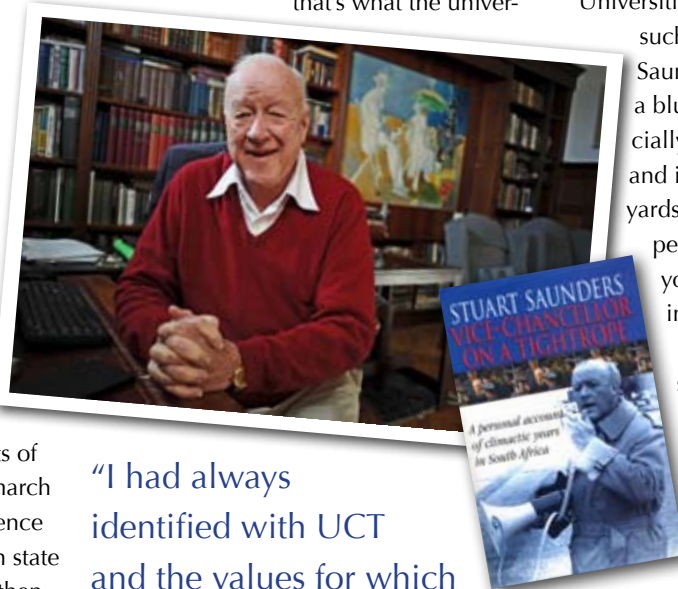
Things would really come to a head in the 1980s, after Saunders – at just 48 – was appointed UCT vice-chancellor.

"I had always identified with UCT and the values for which it stood," is another line Saunders uses to explain his affinity with the university. It's those values – equality foremost among them – that

motivated Saunders to take up the post as head of UCT.

And which convinced him that he (as vice-chancellor, in many ways the face and voice of the university) would be required to speak out against the injustices of the country – and yes, the university. Not something that vice-chancellors were renowned for. Particularly UCT vice-chancellors.

"When I spoke, I spoke for the university," he says. "When I said something, that's what the univer-



"I had always identified with UCT and the values for which it stood."

sity was saying."

He had the support of most people on campus, Saunders says. And when he did face off with the state – as he did in 1985 when he and then-minister of national education FW de Klerk disagreed over a student protest – he also found moral support outside the university; in this case, from the universities of Natal and the Western Cape. (He won his case against the Government in the Supreme Court.)

In the 1990s, new challenges arose. Democracy had arrived, and with it came the aspirations of millions of young black men and women, many of whom dreamed of studying high in the ivory towers of UCT.

Not surprisingly though, given the

decades of neglect of black education, many were ill-prepared for universities. In his last term as vice-chancellor (1992–1996), Saunders would oversee possibly the most dramatic increase ever in numbers of black students at UCT – something he himself had promoted in the 1980s. And the university had to contend with the academic (the need for more support) and financial (the need for more money) demands of such a change in student demographics.

Universities absolutely have to create such support systems, insists Saunders. But he cautions against a blunderbuss approach, especially in academic appointments, and insists that merit must be the yardstick here. ("If you recruit people who don't measure up, you end up with a mediocre institution," he says.)

Slowly Saunders has shed some of his university responsibilities, the last of these in 2010. He stepped down as president of UCT Convocation (he was replaced by Mary Burton) and from UCT's Alumni Advisory

Board, as well from the presidency of the Heritage Society, a group he founded in the mid-1990s to encourage alumni to remember the university in their wills.

He's not done with UCT, however. These days he's occupied with his position as senior advisor to the South African programmes of the Andrew W Mellon Foundation, counselling the organisation on funding at South African universities, which include UCT. (He's had to go out of his way sometimes to ensure that despite his UCT blood cells, he's not biased.)

And education remains close to his heart. He's become outspoken in the media on the state of basic education, for example, and *A Sad State of Teaching Affairs* – a talk he presented to a few UCT Alumni Leadership Forums – ran in the *Mail & Guardian* recently in three parts.

Not bad for an octogenarian.



Heinz R ther's office tells its own story. Bookending the academic tomes and journals are squat African figurines and dark wood artefacts. On the far wall is a looming map of the continent pinpointing African heritage sites.

His beard is whiter since he first began digitally capturing Africa's remote heritage sites; but three years into retirement, the evergreen emeritus professor has lost none of his verve. Much of it is directed at virtually preserving Africa's ancient forts, castles, churches, mosques and rock art sites before these fall prey to neglect and time. But more immediately, preserving these before his Andrew W Mellon Foundation grant money runs dry. The funding has underpinned years of work to create a digital database of Africa's cultural legacy.

In my research notes is a picture of R ther in his khakis and signature brown leather hat, with a trio of camels. I'm reminded of Indiana Jones.

"The camels were part of a 16-camel caravan," R ther explains. The group had been ploughing through the southern Sahara, two weeks on camels and one in a 4x4, into the difficult terrain of the Algerian mountains of Tassili n'Ajjer in the Sahara, looking for prehistoric rock art.

The Sahara project was funded by the Nairobi-based Trust for African Rock Art (TARA). R ther was one of three experts filmed on the month-long trek to find this exceptional collection of ancient paintings and engravings. One panel, ten by ten metres wide, featuring large giraffe engravings, is around 8 000 years old. It tells a powerful story.

R ther's job was to create a 3D model of the panel so that it could be seen as a single image. The team took some 450 photographs from elevated positions – in 35°C heat.

"Part of the aluminium ladder we'd intended using was lost at the airport, so we had to build the missing piece from branches – and there are not many trees in the desert," he says dryly.

This was not always so. The area, R ther notes, must have been densely populated once, with vegetation to support the giraffes, elephants, antelope and hippopotami.

Based at UCT's School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, R ther has been head of the Zamani Project, incorporating the African Cultural Heritage Sites and Landscapes Database, for seven years.

"During this time we've covered 40 sites in Africa," R ther says, fingers stabbing the keyboard to bring up some fantastical images, creating 3D images of sites few people have seen.

***A memorable cast of characters from UCT's School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics is in a race to digitally document and virtually preserve the continent's most valuable heritage sites before they fall to erosion, age, civil war – and neglect.***

# AFRICA'S LAST



*(Main picture) Conserving heritage: Emer Prof Heinz R ther laser scanning the Valley of the Queens, Luxor, Egypt.*

*(Right) Heat and dust: The team, (from left) Christoph Held, Roshan Bhurtha, Ralph Schroeder, Emer Prof Heinz R ther and Stephen Wessels, takes shelter from the heat while laser scanning at Musawwarat es-Sufira, Sudan.*





*(Left) Cast in stone: Detail on the Songo Mnara Palace, Tanzania.*

*(Right) Grand scale: The Grande Mosque in the old town of Djenné, Mali, is the world's biggest mud brick building.*

# CRUSADE

By Helen THÉRON

It's a treasure chest, a vast database that holds spatial, geographic and photographic information about Africa's most valuable heritage sites, some in remote places. These have been documented by Rütther and his four scientific officers, using composite techniques: laser scanning, photogrammetry, GPS, GIS, traditional surveying, as well as digital images and videos. This data is compiled into a geographic – or rather, 'heritage' – information system comprising maps, faithful 3D computer models, building plans, elevations, sections, ground plans, 3D terrain models, panorama tours, and a library of contextual images and information. It's an invaluable tool for archaeologists and heritage conservationists.

Zamani's projects feature a number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The first is the 800-year-old group of subterranean Ethiopian Orthodox Churches in Lalibela, built by King Lalibela in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Also in Ethiopia is Aksum, Ethiopia's most ancient city and, legend has it, home to the Ark of the Covenant.

On the shores of the Indian Ocean there are the Swahili sites of Kilwa and Songo Mnara in Tanzania, the fortress on Mozambique Island, the fortress and buildings in Lamu in Kenya; as well as two Persian baths and other buildings in Stone Town, Zanzibar. In Ghana the Zamani group documented Elmina Castle, one of the oldest European buildings in the Southern Hemisphere, and the traditional Asante shrine of Besease. In southern Africa they recorded the Great Enclosure and the Hill Complex of Great Zimbabwe, and Mapungubwe in South Africa. The world's biggest mud-brick building – the Grande Mosque in the old town of Djenné, Mali – and the Djingereber Mosque in Timbuktu are also included in the database.

In a separate project for the Tanzanian Antiquities Department and the Getty Conservation Institute, Rütther completed a high-precision photogrammetric survey of the 3.6 million-year-old hominid footprints in Laetoli – the oldest evidence of early man's bipedalism.

The work they do calls for patience; and resilience. The Djenné mosque required laser scanning in scorching heat – 45°C – with the team moving the cumbersome equipment out of sight for each of the five daily prayer sessions. Sometimes they worked at night, by torchlight. One night's scanning operation was interrupted when a group of angry Djenné residents gathered around the team and their laser equipment, suspicious of their nightly activities close to the mosque.

"The very prominent, fast-moving green laser dot scanning

*"Africa is changing, losing some of its romance, and sites are becoming mass tourist attractions. Not that long ago there were three hotels in Lalibela. Now there are over 30."*

the mosque's wall had attracted their attention, and our group was accused of evil doings," says Rütther.

A quick retreat and the explanations and assistance of the Imam and the Guardian of the Mosque resolved a somewhat volatile situation, after which the team was welcomed warmly and suspicion was replaced by keen curiosity. There have been other misadventures, which Rütther takes in his stride.

"I love Africa," he says earnestly.

It was a love affair that began in the 1960s. In his final year at school, he hitchhiked from Germany to North Africa, travelling through the Sahara by catching rides on trucks to get to the rock art sites of the Hoggar and Tassili mountains and the oasis city of Tamanrasset in Southern Algeria, and then on to Morocco.

"I told my parents I was going to Spain."

In 1972, his PhD supervisor at the University of Munich fell ill, and told Rütther: "Go away for a year until I recover." He did just that. Piling his possessions into a single suitcase, the young scholar turned south. In South Africa he took a temporary position in the Department of Surveying at UCT, changed his PhD topic and stayed on, a stay interrupted only by sabbatical leave periods in the Juneau Icefield in Alaska and six months in Sri Lanka.

He never returned to Germany.

"And I have never regretted it. Never," he emphasises. Rütther is one of many international academics who have made their home at this university at the toe-end of Africa.

"I'm privileged. No-one else in the world has seen as much detail, so many nooks and crannies of African heritage. No-one but my team has been into as many rooms and places of Africa's magic sites to document them.

"But in many cases I see sites deteriorating, or more often, their traditional atmosphere being affected by increasing tourism," he says sadly. "There are some sites I do not want to revisit. Perhaps they are no longer as I remember them and I don't want to destroy the memory."

At the World Heritage Site Kilwa Kisiwani, in Tanzania, where the team digitised the fortress and the Great Mosque (among other structures), the archway of the ancient fortress has since collapsed. The coral stone chunks that once formed the structure have disappeared.

"Fortunately the Tanzanian Antiquities Department is greatly concerned about the country's heritage, and restoration work has begun in Kilwa and the neighbouring Songo Mnara. Preservation is crucial, and it's good to see that some sites are being preserved. I'm happy to report that our work has been used for conservation interventions at a number of sites," he says.

"Zamani is the Swahili word for 'past'," he explains, ushering me into a passage in the Menzies Building on the university's lush upper campus.

His team shares their cramped offices with a large fish tank. On the back of the door is a picture of Harrison Ford in a brown leather hat, advertising *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. Rütther's team



*Island idyll: Laser scanning at Fort San Sebastian, Ilha de Mozambique.*

has superimposed his face over Ford's. Indiana Jones. I had it right.

Christoph Held has a degree in computer science and media from Furtwangen University, Germany. Stephen Wessels has a BSc in geomatics from UCT, Ralph Schroeder a diploma in geodesy from the University of Bonn, and Roshan Bhurtha holds an MSc in electrical engineering from UCT. They all have stories: fish-head soup for breakfast in Tanzania, the Maasai chief who offered to fix Held's eye infection by poking him with two hot metal rods.

"I politely declined his offer," says Held.

There's an easy camaraderie here in this multi-disciplinary team. They're keen to show what they're doing, and there is so much to show. But the one computer visual that attracts is the model developed for flood control in the Valley of the Queens in Egypt, the X-ray-like image showing a relief of the valley and the ghostly outlines of tombs below the surface.

"You know, Christoph could have been working on big movies – *The Lord of the Rings*, that kind of stuff," Rütther says as we walk back to his office. "But he's here. They're brilliant. All of them."

Rütther's next assignment promises to take him and his team to Jordan to digitally document the rock city of Petra, a UNESCO project. He recently returned from China, where he was appointed by the Chinese Academy of Science in Beijing as a member of the Governing Board of the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage, under the auspices of UNESCO.

The new centre will assist developing member states, mainly focusing on Asia (and later, Africa), to use earth observation from space to strengthen their capacity for the conservation and documentation of UNESCO cultural and natural heritage sites. It will support research and education in the focus areas of cultural and natural heritage within the UNESCO Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

Back in his office Rütther sits at his desk, chair swivelled towards me, fingers loosely interlocked. I'm reminded of mangrove roots. He looks wistful.

"There is much to do. But we only have funds until the beginning of 2012 – the money is running out. And so is time. Africa is changing, losing some of its romance, and sites are becoming mass tourist attractions. Not that long ago there were three hotels in Lalibela. Now there are over 30."

Will he write a book? He looks suddenly perplexed.

"No, no. I don't write like that." Wry smile. "I write research reports.

"And funding proposals. Without funding, this work cannot continue."



# Back to basics

Dismayed by the knock-on effects of poor basic education in South Africa, UCT law graduates (2007) Doron Isaacs and Yoliswa Dwane are tackling the problem head-on, writes *Andrew Alexander*.

Few in South Africa would dispute the fact – isolated pockets of world class excellence aside – that the state of education in this country is one of the most pressing systemic threats to its democratic health, and a significant contributing factor to the biggest systemic threats of all: the mutually reinforcing levels of poverty and unemployment.

Doron Isaacs and Yoliswa Dwane of Equal Education produced a sampling of some of the statistics illustrating educational inequality in South Africa. These statistics are compiled by the Department of Basic Education for the annual national assessment (ANA) tests. The data revealed an asymmetry of access that will not be rectified without a sustained shift in the priorities of government, the private sector and civil society, and an increase in philanthropic funding

Consider the following: in 2003, 63% of Grade 6 pupils in formerly white schools achieved 50% or higher

on a standardised numeracy test, whereas only 0.1% of Grade 6 pupils at formerly black schools did so. This figure had risen to only 2.1% by 2009. Essentially, for such pupils – in Khayelitsha, for example – only two in a thousand are equipped with basic numeracy.

Here are a few more iniquitous realities: 95% of South African schools do not have stocked science laboratories, 90% have no computer centres and 92% have no libraries. There is no government budget for school libraries.

In four years, Isaacs and Dwane have taken Equal Education from just themselves to 45 staff working in five departments, which focus on policy, communications

and research; youth; community; and administration.

“Khayelitsha is our most intensive base,” says Isaacs, “but we have weekly activities in Kraaifontein and Mitchell’s Plain, with active membership in Cape Town suburban schools and Bonteheuwel. We also have camps and activities in the Eastern Cape, Gauteng, Limpopo and KZN. The recent People’s Summit for Quality Education was attended by people from around the country.”

On Human Rights Day this year, Equal Education had the logistical capacity to organise 20 000 people to march under their banner.

**Their campaigns have ranged from the quotidian tasks of fixing broken windows and ensuring that pupils arrive on time for class...**

Their campaigns have ranged from the quotidian tasks of fixing broken windows and ensuring that pupils arrive on time for class (in Khayelitsha, the first period is often lost to teacher and pupil absence) to the complex undertaking of seeing a basic educational stan-

dards initiative ratified by Parliament.

The duo’s wish-list for government action in education is as follows:

Ensure basic infrastructure standards. Over 3 000 schools still do not have electricity.

Attract quality young teachers to township and rural schools through projects such as TeachSA and through financial incentives.

Establish school and community libraries so that young people have access to books.

Ensure that every child has a textbook in each subject.

In their words: “We want to make concrete gains, now, for quality and equal education. At the same time we are investing in a new generation of politicised, informed, activist citizens.”



*Campaigners: Doron Isaacs (right) and Yoliswa Dwane (left), founders of Equal Education, with alumnus Andrew Alexander. (Equal Education is funded by Atlantic Philanthropies, the Open Society Institute (London), Bertha Philanthropies, and the Ford Foundation.)*

# A billion in buildings broadens the campus

Capital expenditure projects worth almost R1 billion and involving over 20 building projects are being rolled out at UCT over the next three years, making for a dynamic, if sometimes dusty, campus. Upgrades, expansions and brand new structures are practically the order of the day at UCT.



*The new Student Administration Building*

The largest item in the three-year plan is the new Obz Square residence. Scheduled for completion in January 2012, the R485 million Observatory complex will be the largest UCT residence to date, boasting 887 en-suite rooms, shared kitchenettes, a ground-floor shopping mall and, of course, a generous parking lot.

According to vice-chancellor Dr Max Price, the Obz Square development was motivated by UCT's residence shortage and notably, the changing demographics of students, many of whom would struggle with their studies if they weren't able to live affordably within reach of the university and its facilities.

Obz Square's construction has been hastened by its off-site, Lego-like building method: the en-suite shower, wash and basin and toilet combinations are built off-site, and then slotted into the framework.



*An artist's drawing of Obz Square residence.*

Alumni are being offered an opportunity to 'name a room' in the new residence, and to be recognised also in their own UCT residence on a donor appreciation wall. More than R7 million has already been raised from a small group of donors, and a general appeal to alumni will be going out during the course of this year.

The visually striking new home to the School of Economics and administration offices on middle campus, next to the Kramer building, is both innovative and natural, featuring floor-to-ceiling glass walls that bond the building's occupants with the surrounding landscape.

At a cost of nearly R160 million, the building unifies the school's widely dispersed research units and frees up valuable space on upper campus.

And Kramer's new neighbour creates a space between them, which plays host to another striking feature: sculptor Charles Diamond's enigmatic installation, *Dialogue at Dogwatch* (see pg16), which joins UCT's growing art collection on display around its campuses.

The indispensable Information and Communication Technology Services (ICTS) have also relocated from upper campus. Their new hub is ICTS-on-Main.



*The new School of Economics.*

The move was motivated by a drive to move non-academic departments off upper campus, and their former spot now belongs to the Department of Computer Science.

Another big investment is the forthcoming New Engineering Building (its working title) on upper campus which, on completion in 2013, will house the Department of Civil Engineering as well as some of the growing number of research groups in the Department of Chemical Engineering.

This is a project that comes with a sacrifice: the loss of parking lot P12. Which brings up a timeless hot topic!

The parking space shortage on upper campus is the stuff of legend. Since it's a problem that's not going to go away, UCT's way of reducing traffic congestion is to reduce the traffic. The free Jammie Shuttle bus service carting students and staff between and around the campuses is still going strong, and the new online

carpooling service, Ridelink, matches compatible users based on their schedules and routes. It's the first university carpooling service in the country, and to add an extra dollop of street cred, it's a cleaner, greener way to travel.



## SAGA OF *SAX APPEAL*, YEAR OF '67

I was completely blown away by the double-page spread, *Cover Stories: Exhibition covers SAX Appeal's history* in the last issue of *UCT Alumni News*, especially because I was the editor of the *SAX Appeal* magazine whose 1967 cover is reproduced on page 38 ("We've come to get *SAX Appeal*").

While I was really pleased with the way this cover turned out, it was in fact only my second choice for the magazine. My first choice for a cover involved a photograph of a good friend of mine who was a UCT 1st rugby team front row forward, Derek van der Berg (a big man who went on to play rugby for the Springboks), wearing a long, false beard and dressed to look like Moses. This photograph was then superimposed on another photograph of the cable car descending the slopes of Table Mountain, so that it looked as if Derek (Moses) was standing on the cable car. Clasped firmly in each of his large hands was a clay tablet bearing the words, "*SAX Appeal*", and the copy on the cover read: "The UCT Rag Committee and Moses bring you *SAX Appeal*."

You mention in your story that controversy and censorship surrounded many issues of *SAX Appeal*, and this proposed cover was no exception.

When word got out that the forthcoming *SAX Appeal* cover involved a Moses and the Ten Commandments there were demands from some powerful church groups and the university authorities that we drop the cover. I gave in and opted for Plan B, which was the cover you published.

But swapping the covers did not get me out of trouble completely. The magazine carried a satirical article which I had written, titled *SAX Appeal* challenges the B\*ble.

Some people didn't appreciate my student sense of humour and, after *SAX Appeal* was distributed, a torrent of letters appeared in the Cape's newspapers. I was busy composing a measured response for publication when, to my horror, a letter from my mother appeared in the *Cape Times* under the prominent headline: "I Am Proud Of My Son". In the letter,

my mother, who was a devout Christian, said that people shouldn't be nasty to me because I had had a difficult childhood!

I kept very quiet after that.

Finally, it is perhaps worth recording that the 1967 issue of *SAX Appeal*, with all its controversies, was almost not produced at all. As usual, I was well behind schedule to get the magazine to the printers when I was called up to do a three-week army camp in Eersterivier. I arrived in camp in pouring rain and, over what was an appalling lunch in the mud, realised that if I stayed there the magazine would never get printed in time. So I decided to go absent without leave (AWOL), deserted the camp and hitch-hiked back into Cape Town, where I resumed work on the magazine from my digs.

Within a week I had almost got the magazine back on track when the military police suddenly arrived at my flat and promptly arrested me for going AWOL.

To cut a long story short, I managed to strike a deal whereby the Detention Barracks sentence was converted to Confined to Barracks. I then got myself put on Light Duty which meant that I didn't have to do anything except lie around on my bed in my army bungalow for the next ten days or so until the camp was over. And that's where I put the rest of the 1967 *SAX Appeal* together. (This letter has been shortened – Ed.)

**Dr Duncan Innes**



### Memories of *Sax Appeal*

How the article on *SAX Appeal* covers brought back memories! I wrote a number of items for the 1954 edition. I note that it was priced at 2/6d, a rise of a shilling over the 1951 cover in the article. Thank you to curator Siona O'Connell.

**Naomi Hethey (nee Lerner)**

10 Sutherland Close  
Guildford  
Western Australia 6055



*Family business: Alumna Betty Whaley (92) with her son, Bernard, a UCT law graduate and former District Judge in Hong Kong.*

## Visitors to campus

Former Fullerite (92)  
visits her alma mater

In March this year former Fullerite 92-year-old Betty Whaley (née Vermaak) visited her alma mater during a brief stay in the Mother City with her son, alumnus Bernard Whaley. Betty, who grew up on a sheep farm near Hofmeyr in the Karoo, came to UCT in 1937, graduated with her BA in 1939, and completed a teacher's diploma in 1940.

"I wanted to study law, but there were no women lawyers in those days," she said.

Back then, Fuller Hall was known as Women's Residence. It was at UCT that Betty met her husband, Tom Whaley, a fourth-year medical student. Betty has fond memories of Fuller Hall. The rules were strict; young men were permitted only in the lounge and there was a curfew. Young women who overstepped the mark and resorted to climbing in through windows were duly expelled!

The main social events on campus were the dances in Jameson Hall. The lecturers wore academic gowns, young women wore hats, gloves and stockings for jaunts to town on Saturday mornings, and the male students wore jackets and ties to the cinema.

Tom was a great sports fan and a vociferous cheerleader.

"Dad was a passionate Ikey," says Bernard. "He loved UCT and he loved sport. He was secretary of the rugby club and manager of the UCT team."

"We used to practise rousing rugby songs in Jameson Hall before intervarsity matches," Betty added. "In those days the cheerleaders wore tailcoats."

# Assignment Timergara, Pakistan

Six months in emergency care with Médecins Sans Frontières

By Dr Yashoda Manickchund (MBChB, 2006)

February 2011, Pakistan.

I felt I was at the top of the world.

We were following a winding mountain pass, high in the clouds, sunshine filtering down into the valley, a spotlight on the new world below – Pakistan’s populous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, bounded by Afghanistan to the west and north.

What a different world it was. I wondered what the Urdu writing on the sign at the top of the mountain meant – and what the women looked like behind their *burkahs*. With only their eyes visible, one had to wonder.

With the Malakand Pass behind us in the mountains, crowded with trucks, we crossed over Chakdara Bridge in the valley, the first bridge to cross the river on the road to Lower Dir and Chitral. But not before every expatriate in the car had signed a document acknowledging entry into Dir and renouncing any claim to military protection from whatever we might encounter on the other side.

An intimidating entry!

To my great relief I discovered Timergara (which would be my home for six months) to be beautiful, the people warm and hospitable. Even when the weather was freezing, towards the end of my stay, the people remained warm-hearted and friendly.

Timergara is the district headquarters of Lower Dir and perches at an altitude of 823 metres. Most of the city lies high on the banks of the Panjkora River, which rises in the Hindu Kush, with panoramic views of the mountains and of the river below. As we drove through the streets in our MSF car, children playing cricket outside stopped and



*Sojourn to Timergara: Dr Yashoda Manickchund (MBChB 2006), spent six months in Timergara, Pakistan, on assignment with Médecins Sans Frontières. She was born and raised in Durban and studied medicine at UCT. (All pictures courtesy of MSF.)*



waved excitedly. These scenes gave way to more bustling streets and bazaars, lined with men dressed in *shalwar kameez* and women in *burkahs*.

I longed to explore, but security restrictions prevented us from roaming freely among the people and we were limited to the grounds of the hospital we were destined for, and to our offices and living

quarters. I soon envied the freedom of the goats and water buffalo wandering the streets.

I had looked forward to this time in the emergency room (ER) and resuscitation room of the Timergara Hospital. It was to be an opportunity to learn more about the Pashto language and to make a difference in the lives of the people of Timergara. In the latter respect I had some experience already, having spent my year’s community service in Khayelitsha in the Western Cape.

I saw a great diversity of patients: a child who’d fallen from a rooftop because no-one was watching him (this type of accident is common in Timergara); a woman crying out for help, having poisoned herself with pesticide after





being forced into marriage; villagers caught in the crossfire of family feuds; the innocent victims of the frequent suicide-bomb blasts; and everything in between.

What I saw and experienced in our two-bed ER and resuscitation room was never less than challenging. After a month I was proud to be accepted and appreciated not only by the smiling and supportive staff, but also by members of the tightly-knit community with whom I came into contact.

In the ER alone, we saw 300 to 500 patients per day. These patients were triaged, and those who were in a critical condition and needed urgent life-saving assistance were referred to the resuscitation room where I worked. In a day, we saw an average of 50 patients. The bulk of the injured were hurt in serious traffic accidents. In South Africa this type of injury is usually due to overloaded mini-buses, but in Timergara they use very small and overloaded trucks, with passengers standing and hanging as they speed along.

I shared living quarters (called Tokyo House!) with nine other expatriate MSF staff and a few Pakistani staff. Coming from South Africa, a country of great diversity, it was no big deal living with Russian, Japanese, Kenyan, Belgian, Chinese, Filipino, Irish, Moldovan and Romanian colleagues, all adding to the local brew of different cultures

It was an enormous palace of a house, boasting 26 rooms and four courtyards! One of the courtyards became our badminton court, and because we were not allowed outside the perimeter of the hospital, our social life consisted of smoking sessions and meaningful (or meaningless!) discussions with our 'Russian Mafia' friends. I talked cricket with the Pakistani staff, who agreed wholeheartedly that the Proteas are one of the best teams in the world.

نامہ نامہ ہماروں  
یہ ہے کہ فوجی حکمران کامیاب ہو کر بھی ناکام رہے گا کہ قوم اگر اس  
کو جس قدر طاقتور بنا دیا تھا کہ واحد عسکری حرا  
کا اور افغانستان



ہیں۔ یہ ہم سر سے اور ہر روز اس پر لکھا جاتا ہے  
مران تھے اور فوجی حکمران کتنا ہی کامیاب ہو، کتنے ہی کارنامے انجام  
دے رہتا ہے اور اسے کبھی امتداد میں نہیں لیتا، جس طرح افغانستان  
یا عظیم بھی نہیں، اپنی حلیف سیاسی جماعت بھی نہیں۔ ذوالفقار علی بھ  
ان میں مقابلہ نہ کرنا چاہتے تھے اور اخبار نویسوں کو وہ شہر پسند سمجھتے

Working in the Timergara hospital was quite a learning experience for me. I was exposed to the proud culture of the Pashtuns, which is both beautiful and rigid. We used to say that the Pashtuns make the best of friends and the worst of enemies.

In our ER I learned to be tolerant, respectful and non-judgemental in an environment that challenged my identity as a woman, as a doctor and as an individual.

Although you need to integrate yourself, accepting the cultural norms of Pashtun society in order to live and work in Pakistan, I found that I had to keep a distance. In Pakistan, in general, women inhabit a completely different world, unlike in South Africa. People accepted me because I went to great lengths to fit in, wearing a veil, or *dupatta*, and the *shalwar kameez* when I went to the hospital and mingled with the locals.

The Pashtuns are a warm and loving people with steadfast beliefs. Ever hospitable, they treated me like a long-lost friend, showering me with gifts and attention and never failing to amaze me with their kindness.

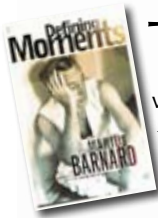
I remember once, after a particularly intense resuscitation session, having the blood washed off my stained *shalwar kameez* at the ER wash basin by a nurse who'd insisted she would not let me finish my work that day without it.

Maybe one day I will return to my beloved Timergara, to see how far they have come in realising our shared dreams for the ER: from the renovation which would provide a bigger space for resuscitation, to the High-Dependency Unit for ventilating patients.

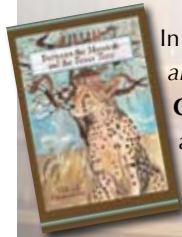
(If you're a UCT alumnus and you'd like to share your interesting experiences abroad, write to The Editor, UCT Alumni News, Communication and Marketing Department, University of Cape Town, Private Bag X3, Rondebosch, 7701, South Africa.

# Page-turners

*Books from the UCT community*



The name Christiaan Barnard is synonymous with the world's first human-to-human heart transplant, a milestone piece of surgery he performed at Cape Town's Groote Schuur Hospital in 1967. But unbeknown to many – and often overlooked by historians – is that his younger brother, **Marius Barnard**, was part of the surgical team that day. In *Defining Moments*, his autobiography, Marius – long silent, until now – gives a warts-and-all account of his life as a surgeon, husband, MP, anti-apartheid activist, pioneer and – famously – brother.



In *Between the Menorah and the Fever Tree*, **Eldred Chimowitz** has crafted a *bildungsroman* set in Southern Africa that depicts the Jewish-African experience of its protagonist, from boyhood in 1950s Rhodesia to youth in apartheid-era 1960s South Africa, and finally to America. The book has been described as both poignant and witty as it tells a story of family, friendship and

identity against a backdrop of political and cultural upheaval.

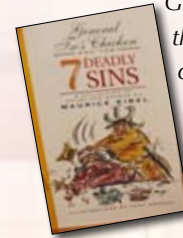


Harnessing words and watercolours, architect **AJ 'Jack' Diamond** gives the reader insights into his life and career on three continents in his book *Sketches: From here and there*. There are recollections from childhood and youth in South Africa, his later education in England and the US, and finally his career and life in Toronto, Canada.



In 2011, **Elizabeth 'Libby' Doyle**, with co-founder and photographer **Craig Fraser**, celebrated the tenth award-winning year of their company, Quivertree Publications. Quivertree has amassed awards aplenty since publishing its first title in 2002. In fact, that book, *Shack Chic: Art and innovation in the South African shack-lands*, on the “decorating spirit that renews and colours South Africa's urban landscape”, got the accolades rolling and was chosen as ‘The Book’ by Novib, the

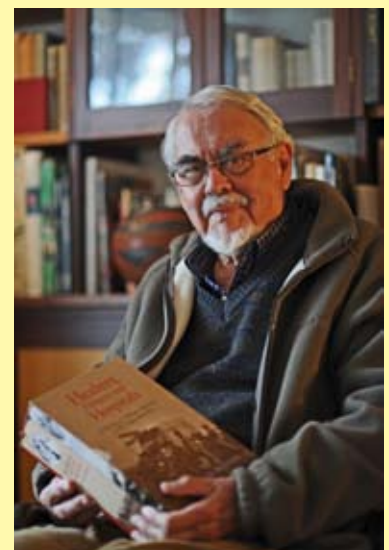
Dutch affiliate of Oxfam. And Quivertree's cookbooks have been heating up not just kitchens; 2006's *Feast*, for example, was chosen as one of the three best chefs' books in the world, to go along with the company's handful of category wins in the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards. As managing director, Doyle is responsible for design, production and conceptual work.



*General Tso's Chicken and the Seven Deadly Sins: A collection of rhyme and reason* might not sound a very medical title for a book, but this collection of comic poems and songs is the latest release from paediatrician **Emeritus Professor Maurice Kibel** of UCT's Child Health Unit. Illustrated by renowned cartoonist Tony Grogan, *General Tso's Chicken* is described as a celebration of a lifetime of words, music and medicine, written with good humour and an empathetic pen. It will also strike a chord with his medical colleagues. “Using onomatopoeia, alliteration and assonance, limerick and

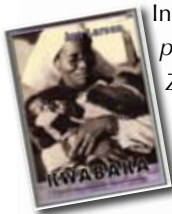
The fields of history and medicine converge in the 2011 UCT Book Award winner, *Healers, Helpers and Hospitals: A history of military medicine in the Anglo-Boer War*, written by Professor JC ‘Kay’ de Villiers, who formerly held the Helen and Morris Mauerberger Chair of Neurosurgery at UCT. The two-volume work focuses on that far-reaching conflict, fought at a time when war killed more people through disease than through wounds inflicted by the enemy. The first volume focuses on the history of health practitioners and organisations on both sides of the conflict, as well as on the development of the war itself. Volume 2 digs into the heart of the conflict's

clinical issues, such as bullet, shell and (the then-novel) high-velocity missile wounds. Innovations and treatments for typhoid, plague and psychiatric disorders (which were often overlooked) are explained, from the conventional to the colourful – including folk remedies and maggots. This work serves not only to document these important facts, says De Villiers, but also to pay tribute to those who “attempted to honour the tenets of the healing professions”, often very far from home and under trying circumstances. De Villiers is a recipient of the Simon van der Stel Foundation's Gold Medal, for setting up the Cape Medical Museum.





metaphor, his poetic commentary invariably sows discord among brethren,” said dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Marian Jacobs.



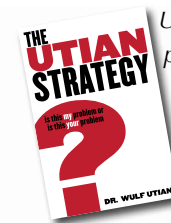
In *Kwabaka: A story of compassionate care in a rural Zulu community*, medico

**Dr Jon Larsen** chronicles how one young couple – Charles and Margaret Johnson – set up a mission station next to a Zululand battlefield in 1879, and how their memory lives on in the Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital, established to commemorate their work. The hospital became famous for the quality of its clinical service, and infamous for its resistance to the apartheid government’s onslaught on missionary community life in the 1960s and 1970s. Larsen joined the hospital in 1965.

**Donvé Lee** has a biography and a number of children’s books under her belt, but released her debut novel, *An Intimate War*, in 2010. Described as a “tumultuous love story”, the book recounts an addictive but doomed love affair and marriage of a man and a woman “who come from different worlds”. It’s also a cautionary tale about how adults treat children.



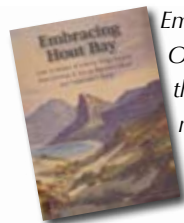
**Dr Wulf Utian** released *The Utian Strategy – Is this my problem or is this your problem?* in 2010. In this book, described as a self-help problem recognition and management guide, Utian, a visiting professor to UCT, outlines how best to recognise problems when they arise, and decide whose problems they really are and how best to deal with them.



The Animal Demography Unit toasted the release of the second edition of *The Adventures of Peter the Penguin*, by former student **Dr Phil Whittington**, in 2011. First published in 2001, the book chronicled the epic swims – between 800 and 950km each over about three weeks – of African Penguin Peter (with friends Percy and Pamela) from Port Elizabeth to Robben and Dassen Islands in Cape Town. The penguins had been among the 20 000 rounded up in Cape Town and relocated to PE in 2000, for fear that they would be caught up in the oil spill that followed after the iron-ore ship *Treasure* sank off Melkbosstrand. The second edition boasts a new and updated appendix of colour photos and text about the plight of the African Penguin early in the 21st century.



**Embracing Hout Bay: Over a century of making things happen from Dorman & Son to Mariner’s Wharf and Fisherman’s World** may deserve an award just for the longest subtitle, but then again it does cover a lot of ground. Edited by **Gwynne Schrire** – who’d previously also penned a tome on Camps Bay – the book covers the development of the farming and fishing industries, among many others, in Hout Bay, as well as the critical role that the Dorman family played (and still plays) in the growth and life of the popular ocean-side town.



Sociologist and poet **Prof Ari Sitas** launched his new title, *The Mandela Decade*, at a UCT conference on new trends in labour studies – for good reason. The book tells the story of the many “non-winners”, “non-mobiles” and “losers” of the country’s democratic transition, working-class poets and cultural activists who “were now lost in the world of hardship, rainbows and freedoms.”



Hailed as the world’s foremost expert on menopause and hormone and alternate therapies, **Dr Wulf Utian** released *The*

**Lauren Beukes** made literary history in April when she became the first South African to win the Arthur C Clarke Award, considered the most coveted honour for science fiction writing published in the UK. Beukes bagged the award (and the £2 011 purse) for her second novel, *Zoo City*, released in 2010. She was something of a dark horse, beating out hot favourite Ian McDonald, whose *The Dervish House* had trumped *Zoo City* for the British Science Fiction Association (BSFA) best novel award only days before, and the likes of Richard Powers (winner of the US National Book Award) and Patrick Ness (winner of the *Guardian* children’s

fiction prize). Published by Angry Robot Books, *Zoo City* is set in a dystopian and alternate Johannesburg where human sensibilities or guilt can take on real animal form – animals who tag along with their human mates, à la (but not quite) Philip Pullman of *His Dark Materials* fame. Borrowing from and weaving together classic SF, urban fantasy, magic realism and cyberpunk, as well as African mythology and popular culture, the book has received rave reviews since its release. “I think science fiction is at its most interesting when it’s used to distort reality in such a way as to get a fresh perspective on reality,” said the writer.



# Development and Alumni Department Report

*Dr Jim McNamara – Executive director, Development and Alumni Department*

Many of you have had the wonderful experience of emerging from Jameson Hall after a graduation and casting your eyes over the sea of resplendently-robed new graduates, all happily celebrating their achievements with their proud parents and families. For those of us in DAD who are privileged to work towards building lasting relationships with our alumni, we feel a mixture of pride, joy and anticipation at welcoming each new group of young graduates into the UCT alumni family. As of April 2011, that family numbered just over 125 000.

For some 15 000 of those, however, their moves over the years have resulted in new contact details that they have not shared with us, and so we are unable to communicate with them to let them know how their university is doing. You can update your contact information, and check what we have on record for you by going to [www.uct.ac.za/dad/alumni/update/](http://www.uct.ac.za/dad/alumni/update/).

For the past few years we have made special efforts to get to know our young future alumni by expanding our programme for current UCT students. This has been named UCT AIR (Alumni-in-Residence). UCT AIR runs a number of different programmes that take as their ultimate objective the instilling of an awareness in UCT students that they will one day join a most remarkable group of fellow alumni.

UCT's alumni body comprises some families who have sent several generations of students to UCT, and others for whom their young graduates represent the first in their families to benefit from tertiary education (often with financial support from previous alumni). Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price has continued his ambitious programme of travel, both overseas and all across Africa, to try to meet as many alumni as he can; you will see reports about some of his travels on page 7 and 8.



*Members of the DAD team are (from left) Niki Siqebengu, alumni relations intern, Lungile Jacobs, senior manager: alumni & individual giving; Anita Wildeman, admin assistant, alumni & individual giving; Dr Jim McNamara, executive director; Lebo Lethunya, alumni relations officer; and Zimkhitha Mqutheni, individual giving relations officer.*

In terms of donations for supporting UCT's work, we are in the very fortunate (and, globally speaking, quite unusual) position of being able to report that 2010 was a record-setting year for the university. In spite of the aftershocks of the 'great recession', UCT's alumni and friends have significantly increased their support for their alma mater in many different ways.

In recognition of the excellence of UCT's academic leadership, the university attracted a record amount in donations during 2010. The total was R177.7 million, a 12.2% increase over 2009 and a 5.2% increase over the 2008 figure. In Rand terms, the 2010 figure is some R19.2 million higher than that of 2009.

In 2010, donations were received from 1 158 organisations and individuals and 27 contributed R1 million or more. The donor list was topped by a number of major foundations that have consistently provided significant support to UCT for many years, a tribute to the work of the UCT academic staff across

campus whose initiatives are deemed worthy of such strong support. These donors include Mellon, Carnegie, Atlantic, Ford, Rockefeller, Hewlett, Harry Crossley, Claude Leon, Hasso Plattner, Goldman Sachs, ELMA, Sigrid Rausing, the Cancer Research Trust, Lord Wolfson, and Donald Gordon, and corporates such as Anglo American, Kangra, and the Minerals Education Trust.

Alumnus Neville Isdell joined the 'top five' donors club with a very generous donation towards the planned multi-sport stadium (see pg 31). Donations from corporations were double those in 2010, and donations from individuals almost tripled in Rand terms, though the number of individual donors fell, reflecting the continuing effects of the poor state of the economy on many individuals – a fact brought home to us repeatedly in responses to our annual appeal and phonathons.

Some R40 million was donated for student financial support; this was in addition to the many employment-linked 'contract bursaries', worth well over



R100 million in total, offered by corporates directly to students.

Efforts to encourage bequests to UCT were strengthened during 2010. A full-time bequests officer was appointed to help to develop the Heritage Society further under its new President, Emeritus Professor Francis Wilson, who was handed that baton by Heritage Society founder and former vice-chancellor Dr Stuart Saunders.

The Alumni Advisory Board, now chaired by Mutle Mogase, monitors the formation and growth of alumni chapters around the world, and advises DAD on alumni events and communications. Together with staff in UCT's faculties, and our affiliated overseas organisations, DAD works with volunteer alumni leaders across the globe to build and grow support networks for the university.

DAD is assisted in its fundraising work by the UCT Foundation Board of Governors, a group of leading alumni who have pledged their time and energies to supporting UCT in its approaches to sources of philan-

thropic support. DAD also services the Ukukhula Trust, which hopes to take advantage of Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment opportunities to raise funds for bursaries for economically disadvantaged students at UCT.

A list of the UCT projects for which fundraising is currently under way may be found at: [http://www.uct.ac.za/dad/giving/fund\\_priorities/](http://www.uct.ac.za/dad/giving/fund_priorities/).

For many years UCT has been fortunate to enjoy the support of alumni chapters throughout South Africa as well as in a number of other countries. In addition to our well-established overseas offices in New York, London and Toronto, an office has now been opened in Sydney to gauge potential support for UCT in Australia. A parallel exercise there seeks local tax-beneficial status for Australian donations to UCT, as

has been established in the three other countries. The three legally-independent entities that currently offer our alumni and friends overseas a range of tax-beneficial ways of supporting UCT are:

**The University of Cape Town Trust (UK)** is a registered UK charity. During 2010, some £564 000 was raised by the Trust in the UK, with another R875 000 being donated directly to UCT as a result of UCT Trust fundraising efforts; such funds have supported bursaries, fellowships, and facility improvements. Since its inception in 1991, the trust has raised over £18.3 million for projects at UCT. The trustees are Sir Franklin Berman KCMG QC (chair), Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Professor Hugh Corder, Professor Jeffrey Jowell QC, Irene Menell, Dr Elaine Potter, Dr Stuart Saunders, and Jennifer Ward Oppen-

the Faculty of Law until 2014 with a sizeable donation.

- The Blue Notes Memorial Trust began a bursary programme at the South African College of Music.
- The David & Elaine Potter Foundation continued with the seventh year of its prestigious programme for master's and doctoral students.
- Other notable bursary support has come from the Julian Baring Scholarship Fund, the Calleva Foundation, the Edward & Dorothy Cadbury Charitable Trust, the Maria Marina Foundation, Pearson plc, Rio Tinto plc, the Misys Foundation, the Stevenson Family Trust and the Schroder Foundation.
- UK alumni donated over £47 000 to support bursaries, the Faculty of Law, the Graduate School of Business, and SHAWCO.

**In recognition of the excellence of UCT's academic leadership, the university attracted a record amount in donations during 2010. The total was R177.7 million, a 12.2% increase over 2009 and a 5.2% increase over the 2008 figure. In Rand terms, the 2010 figure is some R19.2 million higher than that of 2009.**

The UCT Trust also organises events for UK-based alumni. In 2010, these included a theatre evening, a boat trip up the River Thames to a vice-chancellor's reception in Greenwich, a gathering in a London pub

to watch the South Africa/England rugby test, and lectures in Manchester, at South Africa House, and at the Middle Temple in London.

#### **Fundraising highlights for 2010 included:**

- A substantial donation from the Wolfson Foundation towards the new Scanning Electron Microscope.
- A new Professorship in the Obstetrics & Gynaecology Department, which is to be part-funded by the Welton Foundation, CHK Charities Ltd, the C Heber Percy Charitable Trust and the William H Cadbury Trust, with donations over the next five years.
- The Leverhulme Foundation embarked on a new three-year Equity Development Fellowship Programme in the Department of Chemistry.
- The International Bar Association Charitable Trust has ensured the continuation of its bursary programme in

to watch the South Africa/England rugby test, and lectures in Manchester, at South Africa House, and at the Middle Temple in London.

**The University of Cape Town Foundation (Canada)** raised over R400 000 during 2010, including some R92 000 from the annual Alumni Appeal. This alumni support has provided bursaries in health sciences, and for postgraduate study in commerce and drama.

A very successful alumni event was held in Vancouver, with guests enjoying a South African wine-tasting evening. The vice-chancellor paid a visit to Toronto and addressed alumni at a cocktail reception and at a meeting with prominent medical alumni. Two alumni e-newsletters were distributed from the Toronto office, and initial contacts were made in Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg



and Ottawa for potential alumni events in the future. Fundraising initiatives have continued through the year via meetings with prominent alumni, friends, and associations.

Of particular note to alumni is the change in infrastructure for the UCT Foundation's operations in Canada. This year sees UCT operating within Canada under a new status as a 'prescribed university outside Canada', as listed under Section VIII of the Canadian Income Tax Act. As UCT is a qualified donee under this status, Canadian donations to the UCT still qualify for a tax rebate. Donations may be made directly to the University of Cape Town Donations account via the Toronto office.

The UCT Foundation ceased to accept donations under that name from 31 December 2010, and UCT extends its most sincere thanks to the foundation board, which has served since the foundation's inception in 1993. They are Henry Blumberg (chairperson), Les Kottler (president), David Groll (treasurer), Dr Marcia Blumberg, Stephen Jennings, Dr Richard Cohen, Karen Eaton, Dr Stanley Jonathon, Dr Vivian Rakoff, and Susan Savage.

Di Stafford continues as regional director, Canada, and remains the contact point between Canada and South Africa for all UCT matters.

**The University of Cape Town Fund Inc** is an independent, non-profit organisation chartered under the laws of New York State, and recognised by the US Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organisation. The UCT Fund's mission is to promote awareness and financial support for UCT among US-based alumni, individual donors, corporations and foundations. Since its incorporation in 1984, the UCT Fund has provided a steady and growing revenue stream of donations for UCT.

Throughout the year, the UCT Fund hosts events in major cities and communicates through social media to encourage networking between alumni, friends and other members of the South African community in the US.

The UCT Fund's board of directors consists of: Trevor Norwitz, Esq, (chair); directors David Meachin and Kofi Appenteng; and the newly-appointed treasurer, alumnus Craig Mullett. Holly Lawrence manages the fund as regional director, overseeing fundraising, marketing communications, and alumni outreach initiatives for the region.

After many years of valuable service to the UCT Fund, including several as chairperson of the board, alumnus Vincent Mai decided to step down from the UCT Fund board. UCT thanks Mai for his leadership and generosity to UCT.

**Some R40 million was donated for student financial support; this was in addition to the many employment-linked 'contract bursaries', worth well over R100 million in total, offered by corporates directly to students.**

In 2010, almost US\$2 million was raised by the UCT Fund Inc. Some highlights:

- Alumnus Neville Isdell's substantial gift, mentioned on pg 4, and the Isdell Family Foundation's donations for key priorities at UCT.
- Scholarship grants from alumni Dr John Graham for the John M Graham Scholarship and the Richard & Winifred Graham Scholarship at UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences, and Dr Klaus-Jurgen Bathe for the Klaus-Jurgen Bathe Scholarship Fund at UCT's Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment.
- The United Therapeutics Corporation's donation for the Hamilton Naki MESAB / United Therapeutics Grant for students in the Faculty of Health Sciences.
- David Rockefeller's donation to support financial aid for UCT students.
- The Link SA Fund donations toward scholarships for disadvantaged students to attend South African universities, including UCT.

- The Goldman Sachs Foundation's grant to support the Raymond Ackerman Academy for Entrepreneurial Development, and the Goldman Sachs 10 000 Women Programme, administered by the UCT Graduate School of Business under the direction of Professor Mike Herrington.

- The Medtronics Foundation's grant to support Professor Bongani Mayosi's research programme on rheumatic heart disease in Africa.

- The Hope for Depression Research Foundation's grants in support of research projects under the direction of Professor Mark Solms, Dr Gyuri Fodor, and Dr Jack von Honk, all of the Department of Psychology.

- Gifts from William and Yvonne Jacobson for UCT's Digital Africana Program.
- A grant from law firm Davis Polk & Wardwell, LLP to support the Faculty of Law's Diversity Scholarship initiative.

The UCT Fund's 2010 events included FIFA World Cup-viewing parties held simultaneously in Atlanta, Stamford, New York, Philadelphia, Seattle, San Francisco, and San Diego. In February, Boston alumni attended a presentation and dinner with fellow alumnus the honourable Albie Sachs. In April, UCT Young Alumni of NYC held a gathering at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. In October, the vice-chancellor met alumni at receptions in Cambridge, Massachusetts and in New York City. UCT's US alumni and friends celebrated the end of a high-spirited year with holiday gatherings from Houston to Chicago to New York to San Francisco.

The UCT Fund grew its regional network from nine volunteers in 2009 to 30 by the end of 2010. Regional volunteers represent Chicago, Houston, Aspen, Denver, San Diego, Atlanta, Seattle, Boston, Brooklyn New York, Washington DC, Philadelphia and Stamford, in a growing list of cities. The fund also raised awareness of UCT through multiple social media networking sites, which now boast just over 1 000 US-based followers.



# Alumni events and reunions



Spearheading recent UCT alumni gatherings and events around the globe, vice-chancellor Dr Max Price spent a frenetic but fruitful week in the UK in June. This was followed by visits to Australia (see photo, left) and New Zealand, where UCT hosted functions in Auckland, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane – a whirlwind tour in 11

days! Good news is that the university is establishing a trust in Australia to see to fundraising, development and alumni events in that country (see Development and Alumni Department report on pgs 4 to 6). UCT is also investigating the possibility of a similar entity in New Zealand. In this feature we highlight a number of gatherings and events.

## Destination UK : A week in the life of the vice-chancellor

*By Angela Edwards, consultant director of the UCT Trust*

Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price's five-day visit to the UK in June this year was something of a marathon. Crisscrossing London, he met with major donors to thank them for supporting important initiatives at the university and to explore fresh avenues of funding for UCT projects. Most importantly, Price met with UK-based UCT graduates at lunches and evening events.

Among the many current donors who were delighted to meet Price and receive a personal update were Sir Hugh Stevenson and Dr Michael Harding, trustees of the Welton Foundation, a long-established charitable Trust which has supported projects (such as medical bursaries) at UCT since 1997. The foundation is presently helping to fund a new professorship in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Another donor, Sir Chips Keswick, non-executive director of De Beers, former director of Hambros Bank and a staunch supporter of UCT over the past 15 years, was so pleased to meet the VC that he renewed his support then and there, handing over a cheque to cover the continuation of both a postgraduate bursary programme and the prestigious Keswick Lucidity Prize. The latter is an

award which is presented to a third- or fourth-year student in any technical field for writing the most jargon-free essay.

The trustees of the Wolfson and Garfield Weston Foundations were also thanked for their generous donations towards UCT's new residence building, Obz Square. These large UK foundations have been significant donors over the years and Price was delighted when both invited UCT to submit proposals for further support.

New relationships were also forged, for example with Cherie Blair QC, leading human rights lawyer and wife of former Prime Minister Tony Blair. Ms Blair co-founded the Africa Justice Foundation, which works with African governments and the international business community to support the development of robust justice systems in Africa. She was eager to hear more about UCT and to discuss collaboration.



*(From left) Dr Ian Goldin, alumnus and director of the Oxford Martin School, Alderman Michael Bear, the 683rd Lord Mayor of the City of London, and VC Dr Max Price.*

One of the VC's formal duties was to attend the annual University of Cape Town Trust trustees meeting. Chaired by eminent UCT alumnus Sir Frank Berman KCMG QC, the UCT Trust, a UK registered charity, was set up in 1991 to raise funds for UCT in the UK and Europe by former vice-chancellor Dr Stuart Saunders, who remains on the board. The trust has raised over £19 million for projects at UCT since its establishment.

The vice-chancellor also took the opportunity to meet Professor Judith Rees,

## ROTARY ALUMNI REUNITE



*Henry 'Bud' Kreh, who was an Ambassadorial Scholar at UCT in 1950, on the steps of Jameson Hall during the Rotary International Reunion programme.*

UCT played host to two days of Rotary International's four-day reunion in Cape Town in February this year, allowing a number of Rotary alumni from UCT to share their experiences with fellow graduates.

Specifically, UCT hosted the reunion of a number of alumni who have benefited from Rotary International's suite of education grants over the past 60 years, notably its Ambassadorial Scholarships, Group Study Exchange and Rotary Peace Fellowship programmes. These cover travel both ways, so, thanks to the Ambassadorial Scholarships, UCT has hosted over 200 scholars from nine countries since 1947, while around 30 UCT graduates have travelled overseas on such scholarships. They include Professor Jennifer Thomson, who spent 12 months over 1974 and 1975 at Harvard University in the US, and Francis Moloi, now the country's High Commissioner to India, who did likewise over 2000 and 2001.

In turn, American Ray Klinginsmith, now president of Rotary International, and compatriot Henry 'Bud' Kreh, among more recent visitors, spoke of their years at UCT from 1960 to 1961 and 1950 to 1951 respectively.

And the programme has served everyone well, said vice-chancellor Dr Max Price, with many of the visiting scholars maintaining their links with South Africa and its communities.

the new director of the London School of Economics (LSE). Extensive discussions took place on how the LSE and UCT can develop their relationship, following the establishment of a formal strategic global partnership agreement between the two institutions in 2010.

### ALUMNI IN THE UK

As always on his overseas trips, the vice-chancellor was keen to meet UCT graduates who've made their home in the UK. Price was particularly grateful to Richard Gnodde, distinguished alumnus and co-CEO of Goldman Sachs International as well as co-head of GS Investment Banking, who hosted a lunch mid-week for a small gathering of enthusiastic alumni. Guests were given an opportunity to fire questions at the vice-chancellor, and moot their ideas on how UCT can foster greater alumni engagement. A lively and useful debate ensued, and some exciting ideas are now in the pipeline.

There was no let-up of activity in the evenings, with the vice-chancellor hosting two alumni receptions in London. The first of these saw some 75 alumni gathering at the Barbican prior to a Ladysmith Black Mambazo concert, to meet Price and enjoy pre-show drinks.

### HISTORICAL GRANDEUR AND AN EYE ON THE FUTURE

Later in the week, the main annual UCT London event was a superb function in the sumptuous surroundings of Mansion House, a rare surviving Georgian town palace in London that is the home of the Lord Mayor of the City of London.

Over 120 alumni were treated to a fascinating talk by Dr Ian Goldin, alumnus and director of the Oxford Martin School, as he presented his eye-opening thoughts on the future of the



*Dr Max Price with Claire Spottiswoode (middle) and Marijke Fagan at the Cambridge lunch.*

planet. There was also a chance to meet Alderman Michael Bear, the 683rd Lord Mayor of the City of London, who was thrilled to welcome so many fellow South Africans to his home. Born in Nairobi and schooled in Bristol, Alderman Bear studied civil engineering at Wits University and then embarked on a career in the construction industry in the UK, before becoming a councillor and rapidly rising up the ranks of the City of London.

After the speeches, guests adjourned to the spectacular Egyptian Hall where some excellent South African wine was served, and the Lord Mayor's chef produced South African-inspired canapés, such as chakalaka with boiled quail's egg, and minute portions of bobotie.

At the end of the week, Price ventured out of London to Cambridge. After a meeting with Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Cambridge's newly appointed vice-chancellor, he met with alumna Polly Courtice, director of the Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership. He completed his week of engagements by hosting a convivial lunch for 25 Cambridge-based alumni of all ages, who were delighted to meet him (and their fellow alumni) and hear about UCT's achievements and challenges.

All in all a demanding but enormously successful week, during which longstanding relationships were cemented, new friendships forged, and UCT's good news spread far and wide.



# Meeting alumni in Dar es Salaam

In 2010 vice-chancellor Dr Max Price and deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo undertook visits to the Universities of Dar es Salaam, Nairobi, Makerere University, and the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

They also met with many alumni in these cities, strengthening alumni relations in East Africa. This was followed in July 2011 by a visit to Dar es Salaam by the Faculty of Law's deputy deans Professors E Vance Kalula (internationalisation) and Erena van der Spuy (postgraduate studies). Law alumni gathered to hear more about developments at their alma mater. The function was attended by some 30 alumni, split between law and non-law graduates.

Several alumni shared updates of their lives and careers. **Lotus Menezes** (LLB, 2007) qualified as an Advocate of the High Court of Tanzania in December 2010 and is currently pursuing a legal career in energy, oil and gas. As a member of the Bahari Rotary Club in Tanzania, Menezes works on a number of projects dealing with the education of the girl child and sanitation in Tanzania.

**Wambura Mkono** (LLM Labour Law, 2006) works with the Higher Education Students' Loans Board as a senior legal

officer. The board's main function is to provide loans for needy Tanzanian students pursuing first degrees and advanced diplomas.

**Abdul Said** (BCom (Hons) cum laude, 2007) heads up the unit that provides risk and investment management solutions to corporate and financial institution clients for the Standard Chartered Bank of Tanzania. Said has embarked on an MBA through the University of Liverpool.

**Rahim Suleiman** (BCom, 2006) is a treasury and money market dealer with BancABC, a bank operating in five African countries, with its executives headquartered in Johannesburg. As a community leader, Suleiman is active in an organisation that oversees the libraries and publications of all community centres in the country, as well as the libraries of eastern Tanzania.

**Imran Khakoo** (BSc (Eng) in mechatronics (Hons), 2010) is working for Procter and Gamble as the assistant brand manager for laundry in Southern and East Africa. "Switching from engineering to marketing and business management was a tough shift, because none of my knowledge was required and I had to start from scratch. However it was my engineer's mind that P&G wanted, and I've used that to excel in my role today."

**Cleo Mseka** (BCom (Hons), 2005) spent almost six years as a management consultant on large-scale organisational change projects in the public and private sector in South Africa. He recently moved to Dar es Salaam to join PricewaterhouseCoopers as a senior consultant, advising and supporting the East Africa market through strategic transformation initiatives.



Deputy dean Erena van der Spuy with Ayisha Sykes (left), a BSocSci graduate, and Anna Mrema (civil engineer).



Law graduates with deputy dean Prof E Vance Kalula (second from left), Dr Kibuta Ongwamuhana, Alan Meneghetti and Lotus Menezes.



Alumni (from left) Zainab Bakari, Hamidu Millulu, Ally Possi and Lucy Minde.

## Kopano anniversary rekindles old memories

A four-day programme of events and tours marked the 50th reunion of Old Belsen Boys (Belsen was the original name of Kopano Residence) and brought together some 40 alumni – about half of the 1961 Belsen intake – from around the world.

‘Kopano’ is a Sesotho word that means ‘a place of unity’, and Kopano Residence aims to live up to its name, said warden Professor Evance Kalula at the reunion. The residence boasts a diversity of students from all walks of life and in all academic disciplines and levels of study.

“Despite many changes over the years, the values are still the same; we are still united and the strongest residence at UCT,” Kalula told the gathering.

The reunion was organised by Old Belsen Boys Ken Price and John Osterberg.



*Renewed friendships: (From left) Derek Wilson, Patricia Wilson, Marie-Elisabeth Wood, Philip Wood and John Osterberg attended the 50th anniversary reunion of Old Belsen Boys.*

The residence was originally named Belsen, after the Bergen-Belsen Nazi concentration camp in north-west Germany, as the residence initially housed students who had served in World War II. The name was changed to Driekoppen

to mark the beheading of three slaves around the Mowbray area in 1724, but was changed to Kopano after 1994 as a celebration of unity.

Dr Stuart Saunders, one of Kopano’s former wardens and former UCT vice-chancellor, turned 80 this year, and the residence used that occasion to bring back as many old boys as possible to support the residence.

Appealing to the old boys, vice-chancellor Dr Max Price said the number of students at UCT had increased five-fold over the past 60 years, and the university is under pressure from the government to take on even more students. A key constraint to growth is the lack of residences, and former residents were urged to assist where they could.

“Investing in residences is investing in transformation,” said Price.

## Rwandan law graduands celebrate

Eighteen Rwandans were awarded their Master’s in Law degrees at the 2010 December graduation ceremony. As not all of them could attend, a celebration event was held in Kigali in November. Deputy dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Evance Kalula, was greeted by much applause from the more than 50 alumni and guests when he noted that Rwanda – with the biggest group of foreign nationals in the faculty in 2010 – had contributed to the research excellence that is one of the markers in the Times Higher Education ranking, which placed UCT at 107 among the top 200 universities worldwide.

The guest of honour at the event was the director of the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), Professor Geoff Rugege.

“The NCHE’s core business is developing benchmarks and standards for rating and accrediting universities in Rwanda,” he said. “UCT is the best-run university in Africa and is at the cutting edge of research. For example, they have done a great deal in discovering drugs to treat HIV/AIDS, but you don’t hear a lot about that in the US and the UK. We have to sing our own song. People think we [Africa] aren’t there, but UCT certainly is.”

The Rwandan Student Representative for 2009/10, Godfrey Kamukunde, proposed a vote of thanks to the government of Rwanda for investing in the students.

“Many African governments have not made higher education a priority, so we really thank you. Thank you too to UCT for a warm

welcome, a fantastic orientation, and for English classes for those for whom English is not their first language. Our humble prayer is that the existing relationship between our governments and UCT will continue to the benefit of Rwanda.”

*African links: UCT’s Prof Evance Kalula (middle) with Dr Emmanuel Ugirashebuya (left) and LLM graduate Gedeon Rukondo.*



*Law alumni in Rwanda.*



# Medical class reunions

Several class reunions took place in the Faculty of Health Sciences this year, including the Classes of 1960, 1970, 1985, and 1995.



Class of 1960: (From left) Harold Brenner, Vivienne Zinober, Harold Spilg, Hynam Joffe, Ismail Abdurahman, and Santilal Parbhoo.



Class of 1970 (From left) Wilbert Hurlow, Brian Roberts, Dudley Duncan, Neil Robinson, Julien Nel.



Class of 1985: (From left) Nick Bray, Dave Roberts, Caro Sims, Shirley Jonathan, and Ashley Isaacs.



UCT Trust chair Sir Frank Berman KCMG QC, Dean of Law Prof 'PJ' Schwikkard, and Prof Jeffrey Jowell QC.



Among the guests at the Alumni Leadership Forum in London were Trish Babtrie and Lerang Selolwane.

## Alumni Leadership Forums

Successful Alumni Leadership Forums were held in South Africa and abroad over the past year, including a forum in London in September 2010, hosted by the Dean of Law, Professor 'PJ' Schwikkard.

The speaker, Professor Jeffrey Jowell QC, is a leading public lawyer. His topic was *Is the Rule of Law a Universal Value?* The venue was the spectacular Middle Temple, one of the four ancient Inns of Court situated in the heart of London's legal quarter.

At home, alumni Andrew Bramley, Lynne du Toit, Dr Stuart Saunders and Graeme Bloch were among many who addressed fellow graduates and guests of the Development and Alumni Department.

## Houston, we have a lift-off



UCT's US alumni and friends celebrated the end of 2010 with holiday gatherings in Houston, Chicago, New York and San Francisco. In Houston a group met in the Yard House pub, an event kindly organised by UCT's Houston Alumni Volunteer Leader, Diana Kokernot (MSc, 1984). In picture are (from left, back) Peter Pickup, Brendan McKenna, and Anton de Beer. (Front) Diana Kokernot, Lynda Pickup and Denise McKenna. Said Diana: "The Pickups drove all the way from San Antonio to attend (200 miles!) and the McKenna's came from the Clear Lake area, about an hour away."

In the past year, UCT alumni, staff, guests and institutions have made headlines, both at home and beyond.

## VC's Medal for Blumbergs

Alumni and long-time benefactors Henry and Marcia Blumberg are this year's recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Medal, presented in Toronto. The couple has been the driving force behind the University of Cape Town Foundation, constituted in Toronto in 1993 to raise funds for student bursaries, health sciences and educational outreach projects, and to create a link between UCT and Canada.

Much work went into the foundation's establishment as a registered charity in Canada, making it tax effective for UCT alumni to donate to their alma mater.

At the award function in May, vice-chancellor Dr Max Price said: "We are honouring Henry and Marcia Blumberg today for their continued, unstinting support of UCT."



*Benefactors: Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price (left) with alumni Henry and Marcia Blumberg, the driving force behind the University of Cape Town Foundation in Canada.*

Over the years, the couple has hosted functions and numerous events at their home and in Toronto for visiting academics and many of UCT's vice-chancellors. Theatre evenings were used to raise additional funds for bursaries. Of note was a busary in support of a Master's in Drama Scholarship related to theatre, performance or applied drama/theatre in HIV/AIDS, awarded to South African playwright Mike van Graan in 2008/09.

Henry and Marcia have also been catalysts of community service through the Blumberg Law Prize for Service to the Student Community. Established in 2007, the Henry & Marcia Blumberg

Prize is awarded annually to a student who has worked hard academically and in the service of the wider student community. The prize is awarded at the dean's discretion, and in the past has gone to two students who created the law faculty's Student Crisis Fund.

The Blumbergs also played a leading role in the formation of the UCT/York University Student and Staff Exchange Agreement.

Henry hails from Port Elizabeth, where he attended Grey High School. He met Capetonian Marcia at UCT in 1963. Henry was studying towards his LLB and Marcia towards a BSc. In 1980 the family set up home in Canada.



## Jowell knighthood

The British Institute of International and Comparative Law has announced that UCT law alumnus and trustee of the UCT Trust in the UK, Jeffrey Jowell, has been awarded a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in recognition of his services to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Jowell is director of the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law in the UK, a centre devoted to the study and promotion of the rule of law through comparative research, discussion and training. Jowell also practises at the Bar at Blackstone Chambers and is professor emeritus at University College London (where he was Professor of Public Law, dean and vice-provost). After graduating from UCT in 1960, Jowell studied further at Oxford and Harvard and for the past 35 years has been professor of law at University College London (UCL), and a practising member of the English Bar.

## Pianist on the ball

At just 25, UCT alumnus and jazz pianist Bokani Dyer, who graduated in 2008, perfectly fitted the bill in the young artist category at this year's National Arts Festival. And his connection to jazz is a family affair; his father, composer Steve Dyer, is a jazz saxophonist. But he is emphatic that getting into music was not by osmosis: Dyer, the 2011 Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year for Jazz, began playing flute at 13, and broadened his skills at UCT, where he teamed up with vocalist Sakhile Moleshe and bassist Shane Cooper.



*Award winner: Jazz pianist Bokani Dyer.*

## Duo for American Academy of Microbiology

The American Academy of Microbiology has elected UCT alumni Gordon Douglas Brown and Hugh Rosen as fellows of the American Academy of Microbiology, elected annually through a highly selective, peer-reviewed process, based on their records of scientific achievement and original contributions that have advanced microbiology. There are now over 2 500 Fellows representing all subspecialities of microbiology, including basic and applied research, teaching, public health, industry, and government service.



## Alumnus among Canada's brightest

2011 has been a good year for Michael Hayden: recognition for his work and a string of prestigious Canadian medical awards.

Hayden is the director and senior scientist at the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics (CMMT) at the Child & Family Research Institute (CFRI) in Vancouver, Canada. He is also Professor in the Department of Medical Genetics at the University of British Columbia.

In 2011 Hayden was awarded the Order of Canada for his outstanding contributions as a physician-scientist to the understanding of Huntington's disease and other genetic disorders. The Order of Canada is the highest honour that Canada can give its citizens for exceptional achievement, merit or service.

In April he was one of five prominent scholars who received the Killam Prize, awarded to outstanding Canadians for their career achievements and creativity in the fields of health sciences, engineering, humanities, natural sciences and social sciences.

Hayden will also be honoured in the autumn, when he receives the UBC Margolese National Brain and Heart Disorders Prize for his outstanding contributions to the treatment, amelioration and cure of brain disorders.

In October Hayden will collect the coveted Canada Gairdner Wightman Award for outstanding global leadership in medicine and medical science.

A defining moment in his life came in 1966 when, aged 15, he skipped school, jumped on his mother's Vespa scooter and headed to UCT campus to hear Senator Robert Kennedy speak. Kennedy's words later inspired Hayden to establish the Ripples of Hope Foundation.



*Annus mirabilis:*  
Prof Michael Hayden  
(MBChB, 1975;  
PhD in genetics, 1979)  
will receive a number  
of awards this year.

## Art spotlights Africa's plight

Alumnus David Ross's (LLB, 1980) striking African-themed art went on exhibition at the Doyle Devere Gallery in London in August 2010. It was inspired by the plight of his home country, Zimbabwe, over the past 50 years. Ross is a figurative painter who works in oils. He was born in Zimbabwe in 1958. He practised law in that country and in the US and the UK for over 25 years, painting all the while. Self-taught, he now paints full-time. An excerpt from a biography reads: "Much of Ross's work alludes to the decline in the fortunes of Zimbabwe in recent years, as well as corresponding situations in other parts of Africa. A preoccupation of Ross's work is the plight of the individual relative to the power of the state... Related to these concerns is an interest in the theme of African immigration."



*African imagery:*  
A work by law alumnus and  
oil painter David Ross, part of his 2010 exhibition  
in London.

## TOP FELLOWSHIPS for young woman scientists



*Olutayo Boyinbode*

*Rachel Muigai*

PhD students Olutayo Boyinbode and Rachel Muigai (MSc, 2007) are among 10 young women who've won prestigious L'Oréal-UNESCO Regional Fellowships for Women in Science in Sub-Saharan Africa. Boyinbode, based in the Department of Computer Science, designs and implements adaptive and personalised middleware – computer software that connects software systems to one another – to support handicapped learners. Muigai is with the Concrete Materials and Structural Integrity Research Unit (CoMSIRU), where she works on design and construction solutions for sustainable concrete infrastructure in South Africa, particularly those that will have the lowest possible carbon footprint, emissions, energy use and impact on the environment and society.

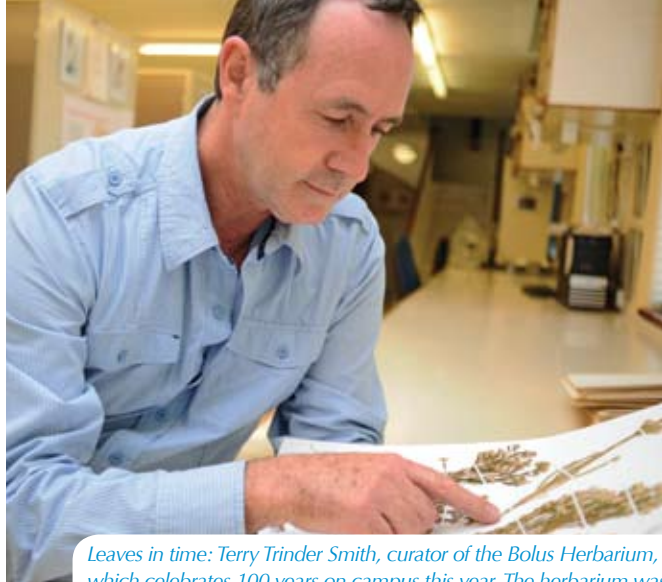


## *Opera stars brighten the North*

UCT's opera stars Pretty Yende and Dimande Nkosazana, both sopranos, have won international accolades for their standout careers. Yende won first prize in the prestigious annual Operalia, held in Moscow. The organisation's founder, Plácido Domingo, led the award ceremony, during which he received the Russian Order of Friendship for his work in cultural exchange. Yende is scheduled to appear at La Scala in Milan, Italy (where she is now based), in productions of Verdi's *Aida* and Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. Nkosazana was the stand-out performer at the traditional final concert of the Riccardo Zandonai International Competition for Young Opera Singers, held at the Auditorium San Giuseppe in Trento, Italy, in June. Competing with over 150 singers, Nkosazana not only took the top spot, she also won the Special Prize sponsored by Cia Opera of São Paulo, Brazil, as well as the MusicaRivaFestival Special Prize. Now based in Oslo, Sweden, Nkosazana is scheduled to appear at the next MusicaRivaFestival at Riva del Garda in Italy, and in an opera in São Paulo, Brazil.



*Sitting pretty:*  
Alumna and soprano  
Pretty Yende.



*Leaves in time: Terry Trinder Smith, curator of the Bolus Herbarium, which celebrates 100 years on campus this year. The herbarium was founded in 1864 and moved from Kirstenbosch to UCT in 1911.*

## Grande dame of herbaria

This year UCT celebrates 100 years of custodianship of that famous repository of plant specimens and material, the Bolus Herbarium. Founded in 1865 in Graaff-Reinet by stockbroker and amateur botanist Harry Bolus, the herbarium is the “quintessential collection” of the Cape Floral Kingdom, and the country’s oldest functioning herbarium.

Although it does not approach the size of the university herbaria in Rome, Los Angeles, Zurich or Michigan, it houses a collection of over 350 000 specimens, making it the third-largest in Southern Africa. The earliest plant specimens in the collection were gathered by William Burchell in 1824 during his famous travels into the interior.

The herbarium is a floral data banking system; each unit is a dried and pressed specimen of plant material mounted on card and, together with its name, is accompanied by information on locality, associated vegetation, habitat, flower colour, name of collector and date of collection. New plant specimens are added to the collection all the time, but this material is first frozen for 48 hours to eradicate bugs.

“There’s a whole suite of insects that loves to munch up dry specimens,” said curator Terry Trinder-Smith.

The value of the collection is its historical record.

“Records like these help botanists determine shifts in species distribution patterns over time and can act as a basic tool by which we can assess how climate change may affect species distribution in the future,” Trinder-Smith said.

Bolus donated money to the South African College (from which UCT emerged) for a chair of botany. This became the first fulltime botanical teaching post in South Africa. In 1917 this post was designated the Harry Bolus Chair of Botany and its first incumbent was Harold HW Pearson, later founder and director of the National Botanical Gardens at Kirstenbosch. On his death in 1911, Bolus bequeathed the herbarium and his botanical library to UCT. Much of the collection is available to the world’s scholars thanks to a Mellon-funded digitisation project that wrapped up in 2007.

Decades ago the first UCT taxonomists collected plants from ox wagons or mule carts. Now 4x4s take them to remote places in search of new specimens. As part of the centenary celebrations Trinder-Smith plans to take a party of top botanists into the mountains beyond Touws River, hoping to collect new specimens that might add value to the collection, or possibly even find a new species.

## Maki films Winnie Mandela opera

After finishing his honours in drama at UCT in 2010, Mlamleli Maki has videographed the production of *Winnie, the Opera*. A snapshot of the life of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, the show opened at the State Theatre in Pretoria in April. “I recorded the process of creation of the opera, from the first workshops at the South African College of Music until the final rehearsals at the Pretoria State Theatre,” Maki explains. For his honours thesis, he produced a visual thesis instead of a written dissertation, and went on to produce, direct and shoot *Winnie’s Song*, a documentary on the intertwining histories of Madikizela-Mandela, and how they were woven into the narrative and the musical score of *Winnie, the Opera*.



*Mlamleli Maki.*

### Sustainability scholarship

A bursary fund for master’s studies in green architecture, sustainable design for urban areas, engineering or science focusing on sustainable technologies was launched at UCT. Named the Simon Nicks Sustainability Scholarship and aimed mainly at black students, the award will contribute R20 000 to the recipient’s postgraduate studies. The scholarship will be in place for the next 10 years. It was formed by alumnus Simon Nicks, a planner and urban designer from Cape Town who donated his 2010 Johnnie Walker Celebrating Strides Award (environmental category) winnings to the fund.

### Order of Canada for Bradford

Dr John Bradford, Professor and Head of the Division of Forensic Psychiatry at the University of Ottawa, Professor of Psychiatry at Queen’s University, Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Saskatchewan and Professor in the Department of Criminology, University of Ottawa, has been appointed a Member of the Order of Canada by the Governor-General of Canada, David Johnston.

### Top prizes for women writers

Women flew UCT’s literary flag high this year, with creative writing master’s graduates Melissa Madore winning the Europe and Canada category of the Commonwealth Short Story Competition for *Swallow Dive*, and Tania van Schalkwyk taking the Ingrid Jonker Prize for her debut poetry volume, *Hyphen*. Madore’s harrowing vignette of a woman in the last stages of terminal breast cancer is an evocative account of the sufferer’s realisation that her body is so ravaged by disease that even unclothed, she no longer feels naked. Van Schalkwyk’s *Hyphen* was praised by the Ingrid Jonker judges as “lushly evocative and yet also understated”.



## 20 not out for ADU

The Animal Demography Unit (ADU) hosted a 20th anniversary celebration at the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens in June 2011, one of many events lined up for the year. During Digital Biodiversity Week in July the unit toasted the countless 'citizen scientists' who helped build the unit's digital biodiversity databases, which now hold some 15 million records.

The ADU was founded as the Avian Demography Unit in 1991. It changed its name in 2008 to better reflect the range of its work, which is focused on animal diversity. Alumnus and ADU director Professor Les Underhill explains how the unit came into being: "I graduated with a PhD in mathematical statistics in 1973. I first rebelled against the totally non-applicable statistics I did for my PhD (38 years on, all I can say is that I solved an abstract problem no one has ever had), and did research in a branch of statistics called 'ordination', which was actually used by researchers in many disciplines. The focus steadily moved towards applications of statistics in biology, especially for data related to birds.

"In 1991, the University Research Committee established the Avian Demography Unit, which was responsible for a series of bird mapping and bird monitoring projects. The name rapidly became a misnomer, because we extended our domain beyond birds to the frog atlas, then reptiles and butterflies. The anomaly was finally resolved only four years ago when the name was changed to Animal Demography Unit. In the first years, the ADU's focus was on data collection and curation. It took a few years for enough data to accumulate for postgraduate-worthy projects to develop. The first postgrads to emerge who could really say: 'I used ADU data' were MSc Vincent Parker (1995) and PhD Anabela Brandao (1998), and the number of ADU-supervised or co-supervised PhDs is 22, and MScs 18."

## Gold for Kinahan



Alumnus and Alderman Owen Kinahan bagged the 2011 Molteno Gold Medal for 'lifetime achievements in conservation'. Bestowed by the Council of the Cape Tercentenary Foundation, the medal is for significant contributions to literature, the visual and performing arts, and conservation of the natural and built environment. Kinahan, a member of the UCT council, received the Cape Times Centenary Medal for conservation some years ago. He has been involved in a range of projects over the last 30 years, including the restoration and recommissioning of Cape Town's last watermill, the Josephine Mill in Newlands.



Civic spirit: Owen Kinahan

## Top young South Africans

From current to former students and staff members, UCT is well represented in the 2011 *Mail & Guardian's* 200 Top Young South Africans You Must Take Out to Lunch, with no fewer than 19 UCT-affiliated names listed, at last count. These standout young South Africans were chosen, according to the paper, for their impact, their creativity, and the resonance of their values with the project of building the South Africa everyone wants to live in – vibrant, prosperous, equitable, diverse and hungry for the challenges of growth and change. Among those listed with UCT connections are: Thomas Brennan, Dave Duarte, Emile Engel, Lara Fairall, Paul Galitis, Umeshree Govender, Zama Katamzi, Tarisai Machuchu-Ratshidi, Goathier Mahed, Mark Horner, Khalid Manjoo, Pumeza Matshikiza, Elizabeth Mills, Ntobeko Ntusi, Joy Olivier, Traci Reddy, Frans Skosana, Sindison Mnisi-Weeks, Hema Vallabh and Buhle Zuma.

## Soweto churches exhibition

Alumnus Emeritus Professor Martin West's evocative collection of photographs, taken of the Africa Independent Churches in Soweto between 1969 and 1971 and showing a segment of society hidden to most South Africans, went on exhibition at the Centre for African Studies in June. West, who received an honorary doctorate from UCT in the same month, took the black and white pictures while conducting fieldwork for his PhD in social anthropology. This research culminated in his book, *Bishops and Prophets in a Black City*, published in the 1970s. The young social scientist took hundreds of images, capturing baptisms, sacrificial slaughters, prayer meetings, healing services, and vignettes of everyday life in Soweto. The collection, now part of the UCT Libraries' Special Collections, documents what curator Paul Weinberg describes as a "window on the world that dances between indigenous values and Christianity brought by the colonial and settler communities".



Shuttered past: Emer Prof Martin West at the opening in the Centre for African Studies of his exhibition, *Amabandla Ama-Afrika: The independent churches of Soweto, 1969-71*.



*Signing off: Dialogue at the Dogwatch has been installed on the new Alma Mater plaza on middle campus. Photographed at the installation were (from left) Registrar Hugh Amoore, alumnus and donor Charles Diamond, sculptor David Brown, and VC Dr Max Price.*

## Charles Diamond gift

Acclaimed sculptor David Brown's work, *Dialogue at the Dogwatch*, is the new permanent resident on the Alma Mater plaza between the Kramer Law Building and the new Student Administration Building on middle campus. It was a gift from alumnus Charles Diamond. With a footprint of about 100m<sup>2</sup>, the bronze, copper, brass, Cor-ten (weathering steel) and stainless steel piece was originally commissioned by Diamond, a collector of sculpture, for his country estate in the UK.

Diamond was president of the SRC in 1966/67 and graduated from UCT with an MA in economics. He became a successful global economist. Speaking at an event following the installation, Registrar Hugh Amoore said that although UCT does not have an art museum, its growing art collection has allowed for the creation of "living museums" in the works on display across the faculties. "This growth is largely a result of the tradition of alumni giving to their alma mater."

### UCT is rated

UCT remained the top-ranked African university in the *Times Higher Education* (THE) rankings in 2010, which place the university at number 107 in the world, UCT's highest finish in any ranking. The *Times Higher Education* Life Sciences Universities 2010 listing also placed UCT 45th out of the top 50 life sciences universities. Institutions in the top half of the list hail from the US, Canada and the UK.

## Bhemgee's got talent

The country had no idea who James Bhemgee was, until he won the South African version of America's Got Talent. His win was a surprise to all; he used to be a street sweeper, and singing was part of his routine. In 1989, Angelique Fuhr heard him sing and was so impressed that she paid for Bhemgee's vocal training. Bhemgee studied for a performance diploma at UCT. He has appeared on *BBC Breakfast* in the UK and spent four years studying in Germany.



## Makeka strides ahead

Alumnus Mokena Makeka, graduated with a distinction in architecture and founded his own business mere months after completing his studies, won the top prize in the Design category of the Johnnie Walker Celebrating Strides Awards 2010. Makeka graduated in 2001 and won a scholarship to do his Master's in City Planning and Urban Design.

## Alice Walker inspirational

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Professor Alice Walker delivered the 11th Annual Steve Biko Memorial Lecture at UCT in September 2010, drawing on her poetry, personal history and the inspirational role of the South African liberation. The title of Walker's lecture, *Coming to See You Since I was Five Years Old: An American poet's connection to the South African soul*, referred to her memory of learning the future South African national anthem from her eldest sister, a college student at the time. "We were the only children who were taught this song in our highly segregated, deep Southern town in Georgia," said Walker, "and *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika* has stayed with me for the past 60 years." But Walker's tone was cheerless when she spoke about present-day South Africa, its corruption, crime and lack of leadership.



*VC Dr Max price with Pulitzer-prize winning Prof Alice Walker.*

Mizrahi at the helm

Professor Valerie Mizrahi, who completed her PhD in chemistry at UCT in 1983, has taken the helm as director of UCT's Institute of Molecular Medicine and Infectious Diseases (IIDMM). Mizrahi did not arrive empty-handed, bringing with her a newly-formed partnership with the University of the Witwatersrand and Stellenbosch University in the form of a national centre of excellence for TB research. Mizrahi's journey began with mathematics and chemistry, but after earning her chemistry PhD at UCT in 1983, she abruptly took a detour into the fresh complexities of biology.



Mbeki addresses inaugural student summit

Former president Thabo Mbeki received a standing ovation in Jameson Hall when he addressed the inaugural African Student Leaders' Summit in September 2010. Mbeki bookended his address with a cautionary tale – that of the destruction of powerful Carthage, a series of cities in Tunisia, by the Roman Empire in 146 BC. Quoting a speech by his predecessor, Nelson Mandela, when he addressed the first Assembly of the Organisation of African Unity in Tunisia in 1994, Mbeki spoke of how the sacking of Carthage marked the end of independence. Now, more than two millennia later, the challenge is to restore Africa to its former glory, said Mbeki.



Alumnus takes the world by storm

UCT graduate and acclaimed actor Vaneshran Arumugam made his mark on the global stage when he performed *Not an Angry Ape* at the Fourth International Conference on Consciousness, Theatre, Literature and the Arts at the University of Lincoln in the UK in May. Since then Arumugam has been invited to teach and perform in four countries. A 2009 master's graduate in performance and theatre making, Arumugam has performed in a number of local and international films and TV shows. He was recently appointed as the West Cape chair of the Ford Foundation International Fellowship Programme Alumni Association for 2011/2012.





## Royal commentator's wedding coup

The year's most talked-about wedding, the marriage between Prince William and Kate Middleton, was seen through the eyes of alumnus, film critic and royal commentator Richard Fitzwilliams in London. "It was a triumph," he wrote in an email to *UCT Alumni News*. "Since the engagement was announced in November [last year] I have done nearly 90 TV and radio interviews (several for CNN, BBC, al-Jazeera, also Hearst TV, Fox News, etc) and some in print.

"When the news of the engagement actually broke on Twitter, it had been long expected, but there was an element of surprise. I did 30 interviews in two days."

On the day of the royal wedding, Fitzwilliams was up at 03h00, the events culminating in the climactic wrap of the day interview for CNN, with top presenters

Becky Anderson and Matt Foster.

"The wedding was an example of what Britain does best. It resembled at times a magical, medieval tableau... The fashions were lovely, the only idiosyncrasy was that David Beckham wore his OBE on the wrong lapel but later altered it."

The royals, Fitzwilliams said, used technology brilliantly, "and in every possible way. They went on to YouTube, then Twitter, then Flickr, and finally, Facebook".

"Millions watch a wedding for romance, colour and for escapism. In 1947 when Princess Elizabeth (now Queen Elizabeth II) married the Duke of Edinburgh, it was during a period of post-war austerity. Churchill called it a 'flash of colour on the hard road we have to travel'. In 1981 when Charles married Diana there were economic



*Magical tableau:  
Richard Fitzwilliams was photographed on Horse Guards Parade, near St James Park.*

problems and urban riots but the country loved a magnificent spectacle. This [2011] is a difficult time for many and this aspect was sensitively handled... It does lift our spirits, and 25 million watched it on TV."

Fitzwilliams has also acted for various artists and has promoted a variety of exhibitions. One of his top public relations jobs this year has been the promotion of the annual show of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, hosted by the Mall Galleries in London in May.

## New science dean

In 2011 alumnus Professor Anton Le Roex took the mantle of Dean of Science at UCT. He has an honours degree in geochemistry (first class, 1976), and a PhD (1980) from UCT. He joined UCT on 1982, and has held the university's Chamber of Mines Chair of Geochemistry since 1997.

His research interests lie in the field of igneous geochemistry. He has been a Fellow of UCT since 2004.

The job is made easier, he says, by virtue of the faculty's high standing – it's easily the most decorated and celebrated science faculty in the country and on the continent (as the NRF ratings and international rankings will attest) – and the international credibility of its degrees. The trick is to keep up that momentum; and as an academic himself, Le Roex realises that the faculty's reputation is built on that of its researchers.

## DA national spokesperson

Lindiwe Mazibuko, like other rising stars among the DA's new guard, is central to it succeeding in casting off its old 'just for whites' jacket for a coat of many colours – as a political home for all. The second Iraq war had politicised her, said the DA's new national spokesperson. At UCT she did a BA in media and writing, French and Latin, finishing with an honours degree in political communication.



## Attenborough at UCT

Sir David Attenborough, renowned broadcaster, writer and naturalist, described his Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture at UCT in April 2011 as the fulfilment of a promise made long ago. In 1945, he explained, he went to Clare College at the University of Cambridge for his undergraduate studies, and there met Patrick Niven, grandson of Sir Percy FitzPatrick, author of *Jock of the Bushveld*, and son of Cecily Niven, who would later bestow the £15 000 endowment that underpinned the establishment of UCT's Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology. For years Patrick Niven beguiled him with stories of South Africa and its sights, inviting Attenborough to visit him here. Despite his best intentions, Attenborough was never able to take up the invitation. That was until 13 April, when he spoke at UCT as a guest of the Fitztute. Attenborough's lecture, titled *Alfred Russel Wallace and the Birds of Paradise*, was on the long-running collaboration between another two men, naturalists and scientists Alfred Russel Wallace and Charles Darwin.

## Pianist joins top academy

*UCT alumnus and popular pianist James Baillieu has joined the Royal Academy of Music (RAM) in London – another alma mater – as professor of accompaniment. Baillieu, who received a Bachelor of Music (performance) degree with distinction at UCT in 2004, will commence his duties at the RAM in September. Described by *The Daily Telegraph* as being "in a class of his own", Baillieu has won a bagful of prizes and awards.*

## Lake is dealmaker of the year

The most coveted awards at the 11th annual DealMakers of the Year 2010 Awards went to alumnus David Lake of Rothschild who won the DealMaker of the Year Award and Deutsche Bank Deal of the Year prize. Lake is the managing director of Rothschild's South African arm and is a veteran banker, with more than 26 years in the financial services under his belt. The *DealMakers Awards* acknowledge the best wheelers and dealers of the year. *DealMakers* is a quarterly corporate finance journal that concentrates exclusively on tracking mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and other activities in the general corporate finance segments. Lake holds a business finance degree with honours from UCT.

# Where are they now?

## 2000s

**Amelye Nyembe** (BSocSci, 2004; PG Dip, HR Management, 2005) started out with Ernst & Young in Tanzania, and was appointed human resources manager within two years. She left the company in 2010 to join oil-marketing company Total Tanzania as head of HR and administration.

**Kayum Ahmed** (BSocSci, 1996; BA [Hons], 1999; LLB, 2001; PGD Management, 2009) was appointed as CEO of the South African Human Rights Commission in August 2010. Ahmed is a recipient of the prestigious Nelson Mandela Scholarship from Leiden University, Netherlands, a former Hubert H Humphrey Fellow at American University's Washington College of Law, and a former congressional fellow at the United States Congress. Before joining the Commission, Ahmed served as the acting head of international relations at the Parliament of South Africa. He was part of the Aspen Institute's Africa Leadership Initiative, and received a Mail & Guardian Top 200 Young South Africans Award for 2011.

## 1990s

**Briget Borwick** (MBChB, 1994) works at the Victoria Road Medical Centre in Pietermaritzburg. She is married to Peter Hobden and they have three children. Borwick enjoys reading and camping.

**Ajit Daya** (MBChB, 1996) works in the fields of diving, aviation, occupational health, travel and maritime medicine. He did his internship at Livingstone Hospital in Port Elizabeth and worked and travelled in the UK before settling into private practice in Cape Town. Married for nine years to Anita Parbhoo, they have a three-year-old daughter.

**Stephen Hartwig** (MBChB, 1996) is a staff specialist in emergency medicine at Bunbury Regional Hospital in Western Australia. He is a fellow of the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine and is married to Karin, a Pretoria-trained doctor. They have two children, Abigail and Matthew, and hobbies include diving and photography.

**Michael Howard-Tripp** (MBChB, 1993) is currently a senior medical advisor for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta. Married to Jeannine, with two children, Lauren and Timothy, Howard-Tripp and family moved to Canada in early 2001. He counts surviving the Canadian winters, in temperatures as low as minus 40° C, and staying upright on a snowboard among his memorable achievements.

**Grant Isaacs** (LLB, 1995) never quite applied his law studies. Instead, he crisscrossed the world as a professional squash player for five years, and afterwards (the past 10 years) got involved in various businesses, including advertising, cellphones and flooring. He now runs Salushi, a salad, noodle and sushi restaurant in Claremont.

**Vanessa Lynch** (LLB, 1992) is the founding member and executive director of the DNA Project. She founded the South African NGO in 2004 after her father was murdered in a robbery. Realising the potential of DNA evidence in investigating crime, she gave up her career as a commercial attorney to lobby for the expansion of the existing DNA database in the country. Lynch has addressed meetings in the UK and the Netherlands, and was also invited to the 2010

International DNA Congress at Interpol's HQ in France.

**Alan Meneghetti** (BA, 1993; LLB, 1995) is a partner in Clyde & Co's Corporate Group, and is based in London. In addition to his UCT law degree, he also holds an LLB from the University of Aberdeen (1998). Meneghetti's practice includes IT, IP, data protection and general commercial work, with a specific focus on commercial aviation work.

**Zakiyya Omarjee** (MBChB, 1995) is in private paediatric practice at the Windhoek Mediclinic in Namibia. She is married to Nithaam Bawa and they have two children, Ziyaad and Azra. Omarjee lists graduating as a paediatrician, with her son, then aged five and standing on a chair in Jameson Hall shouting "that's my mommy", among her memorable moments. She enjoys creative hobbies like oil painting and scrap booking.

**Jo Schlesinger** (née Mayne) (MBChB, 1993) specialised as a family physician and consults part-time in Cape Town, overseeing a multi-disciplinary team providing factory care and rehabilitation for injured workers. She is married to Steve (BSc in actuarial science, 1989), who works full-time as an administrator and pastor at Jubilee Community Church. They have four sons – Tim, Sam, Dan and Jon. They enjoy camping, hiking, cycling and running.

**Fred Tyler** (MBChB, 1993) is a urologist in Gonubie, East London. He has triplet sons – Luke, Brett and Jason – and his hobbies include mountain biking, paddling, triathlons, ironman and riding his Harley Davidson.

**Mike Woodman** (MBChB, 1995) works for Médecins Sans Frontières and is based in both Zimbabwe and Geneva, Switzerland. He has worked in Australian Aboriginal communities and done humanitarian missions in Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, the DRC, Darfur, Zimbabwe and Haiti. He has also spent some years in Indonesia with International SOS and had done short stints in Vietnam and Russia. His partner, Tanya, is from France and works in human rights and the prevention of torture. Woodman's hobbies include rowing, skiing and writing.

## 1980s

**Jack Bergman** (MBChB, 1986) is a consultant emergency physician and director of medical services of an outer metropolitan hospital in Melbourne, Australia. He is married to Monica Tonkin, a general practitioner, and they have two children, Oliver and Taya. Bergman's hobbies include running, walking, skiing, cycling and squash.

**Alawooddin Firfiray** (MBChB, 1985) is based in Cape Town, where he's in general practice, having done his internship at Groote Schuur and Red Cross Children's Hospitals. He is married to Nisa and they have three children. Firfiray is an avid follower of most sports and enjoys playing golf as well as travelling, having visited India, the US, the UK, Malaysia and Singapore.

**Craig Hearn** (MBChB, 1986) is a GP in Mudgee, a smallish town 282km west of Sydney, Australia. He is married to Vyonne, and they have four children. Hearn reminisces about his days at medical school while watching rugby and cricket at Newlands. He is an avid sports enthusiast, and has completed nine Comrades Ultras, five Two Oceans Ultras and many other road races.

**Larry Kahn** (MBChB, 1984) works in anaes-

thesthesiology and pain management at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, Canada. Married to Deborah Sheinbaum, a psychiatrist, he has three sons. Kahn enjoys snowboarding, kiteboarding and biking, and has competed in two Ironman triathlons.

**Pradeep Makan** (MBChB, 1986) practices as a spinal surgeon at both the Vincent Pallotti Hospital and Gatesville Medical Centre in Cape Town. He is married to Juanita (MBChB, 1986) and they have twins, both studying at UCT presently - Dansheela (MBChB) and Sheena (BA law). Makan enjoys going to the gym and diving, and counts his time in Oxford on a Spine Fellowship as one of his memorable moments.

**Stephen Palte** (MBChB, 1983) is a staff physician specialising in internal medicine at the Military's Martin Army Community Hospital in Fort Benning, Georgia, US. He is married to Gail Pikholtz (MBChB, 1984) and they have three children. Stephen is a fellow of the American College of Physicians, and has joined the United States Army Reserve.

**Alister Prout** (MBChB, 1983) works in the field of general neurology and neuromuscular diseases at St Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, Canada. He and his wife, Liz, have two daughters. He rates his internship at Cecilia Makiwane Hospital and passing his board exams in neurology as among his most memorable moments. Hobbies include boating, home renovation, skiing and fishing.

**Martin Puzey** (MBChB, 1984) is in private obstetrics & gynaecology practice in Cape Town. He is married to Lynne Wolhuter (MBChB, 1984) who is in private general practice, and they have two children, Nicole and Mark. They both enjoy cycling, and Lynne finished among the top 100 women in the Argus cycle tour in 2006, while Martin completed the Argus with a then 10-year-old Mark in 2000.

**Paul Spiller** (MBChB, 1985) has recently taken over as the head of the TB Metro Complex, comprising Brooklyn Chest Hospital and DP Marais Hospital. From Rondebosch in the Western Cape, Spiller and his wife Judy, who married on his graduation day, have three children. Spiller is a founding member of the Bram Care Centre, a centre for HIV/AIDS youth in Ashton. His hobbies include golf, bridge, woodworking and DIY.

**Alan Stewart** (BCom, 1981; BCom [Hons], 1982; MCom, 1985) joined luxury UK retailer Marks & Spencer as chief finance officer in 2010. Dubbed a "cost-cutting supremo" on his M&S appointment, Stewart started his career as an accountant with Deloitte in Cape Town, but moved to London to join HSBC Investment Bank. He has also served with travel company Thomas Cook, WH Smith plc (another UK retailer), and aircraft-leasing company AWAS. Stewart is particularly renowned for streamlining WH Smith.

**Donald Nicolson** (BA, 1981; LLB, 1983) did his PhD at Cambridge in 1989, and in 1990 was granted political asylum in the UK as a conscientious objector. He taught law at the Universities of Warwick, Reading and Bristol, setting up a law clinic at Bristol. In 2000 he took up a chair at the University of Strathclyde Law School, also establishing a law clinic there, which he directs. He received an OBE in 2011 for his services to the legal profession. Nicolson lives in Helensburgh with his partner, son and daughter.



## 1970s

**Henry Bendheim** (MBChB, 1970) of London, Ontario, is a fellow of the College of Family Practice in Canada. He is married to Candy, and they have three children and one granddaughter. Bendheim is an avid squash and poker player and is looking forward to retirement in Ajijic, Mexico, where he has a retirement home, in 2013.

**Joan Bub** (MBChB, 1971) is a radiologist in private practice from Englewood in Colorado, US. She is married to Bennie Bub (MBChB, 1959), a retired neurosurgeon and anaesthesiologist, and they have three married children and seven grandchildren, all of whom live nearby. Bub is a fellow of the American College of Radiology and a volunteer docent at the Denver Art Museum. She enjoys classical music, art, cooking, reading and walking.

**Anthony Coetzee** (MBChB, 1970) is in general practice at the Gardentown Medical Centre in Toowoomba, Queensland, in Australia, having emigrated from South Africa in 1986. He is married to Susan and has two adult children. Coetzee enjoys the occasional round of golf, gardening and outdoor activities on his 40-acre property.

**Bernard Lerer** (MBChB, 1971) is a professor of psychiatry and director of the Biological Psychiatry Laboratory at Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Centre in Jerusalem, Israel. He has been married to his wife, Ziona, for 40 years, and they have three children and three grandchildren. Lerer is founding editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology*. He enjoys spending every spare moment with his grandchildren.

**Michael Martin** (MBChB, 1971) is an anatomical pathologist from Mackay, a city situated on the eastern coast of Queensland, Australia. Martin is an active member of the Mud Army, helping victims of the Brisbane floods. He is married to Shirley and they have four sons. Hobbies include snow skiing, travel and theatre.

**Hester Muller** (MBChB, 1971) is a diagnostic radiologist in private practice from La Porte, Indiana, US, and has received a life member award from the La Porte Hospital Foundation. Muller and her twin sons live on a 150-acre farm at the edge of La Porte, which is situated about one hour's drive from Chicago.

**Yusuf Omaidien** (MBChB, 1970) has recently retired from full-time practice as a diagnostic radiologist in Cape Town. He and his wife, Zainab, have two sons. Omaidien is a sports enthusiast and enjoys watching football, rugby, cricket and golf. He also enjoys walking, swimming and gym and spending quality time with his family.

**Rob Sladen** (MBChB, 1970) works in the field of intensive care and anaesthesiology at Columbia University Medical Center in New York. He and his wife of 35 years, Maureen, have two children and two grandchildren. Sladen enjoys watching Super 15 rugby games online, as well as hiking, cycling, snowshoeing and skiing. Among his memorable moments he lists playing rugby for Kakamas against Pofadder (in the rain), working as a 'flying doctor' in Northern Alberta, helping deliver his youngest daughter, Sarah, taking care of a certain US president after his cardiac surgery, and living in New York City for the past 14 years.

**Quintin Son-Hing** (MBChB, 1971) is a retired plastic surgeon and a clinical associated professor in the department of surgery at the University of British Columbia. He is married to Lana, and his son, Jochen, is a paediatric orthopaedic surgeon. Son-Hing is a media commentator on plastic surgery issues. He also plays the bass

guitar, is a fitness addict and enjoys oriental art. In 2004 he received the President's Award from the Pacific Northwest Society of Plastic Surgery in Hawaii, USA.

**Professor Bryan Burmeister** (MBChB, 1976) is currently the director of radiation oncology at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane, Australia. Burmeister has been on the staff of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Queensland since 1997, and has served as principal or co-investigator on over 20 clinical trials and projects over the past six years. Burmeister is also president of the Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group, among other professional positions.

## 1960s

**Ismail Abdurahman** (MBChB, 1960) is a general practitioner in Sylvania in New South Wales, Australia. He is married to Patty, and they have three children and seven grandchildren. Abdurahman is still enjoying his career in medicine with all its challenges, including travelling across Australia to visit GP practices and doing accreditation visits. He also enjoys reading.

**Keith Brice** (MBChB, 1969) is in private general surgery/surgical gastroenterology practice in Cape Town. He and his wife, Judy, have two children, both of whom have studied at UCT – Nicola (MBChB, 2002) and Sean (BA Film and Media, 2005). Judy is a social worker at the Parent Centre in Cape Town, and the two enjoy the outdoors, especially bush trips into Africa.

**Margaret Coleman** (MBChB, 1961) works in a general family practice in Johannesburg treating patients young and old, some the children of the children she had cared for over the years. She is married to Professor George Decker (MBChB, 1954). They have two adult children and five grandchildren. Coleman still works full-time, successfully combining medicine with family life.

**Rae Goldberg** (née Peisach) (MBChB, 1961) has retired from general practice in Port Elizabeth, having worked in state primary health clinics, places of safety and frail care. She is widowed and has a daughter, two sons and seven grandchildren. Goldberg writes that she discovered the best game created, bridge, late in life, and is an avid reader and gardener.

**Peter Haddad** (MBChB, 1969) is a former consultant ophthalmologist in private practice and is director and part owner of the Park Street Eye Clinic in Tauranga, New Zealand. He has two children and enjoys golf, woodworking and laser engraving. Haddad is also an orchardist, and grows avocados and kiwifruit.

**Kevin Martin** (MBChB, 1969) is in general and specialist medical practice in Marondera, Zimbabwe, where he lives with his wife, Gill (née Spare), who resided in Fuller Hall in 1964. They have four children and nine grandchildren. Kevin received a Rotary Community Service Award in 2000, and enjoys playing squash. Gill is head of Lendy Park School, while Kevin is on its board of trustees.

**Beulah van Coller** (MBChB, 1960) is a retired paediatrician from Edenvale in Gauteng, and enjoys spending as much time as possible in the game reserve with her husband of 48 years, Lieb, an ex-fighter pilot. They have two children. Beulah enjoys bridge and has won the occasional trophy.

**Wynand van den Berg** (MBChB, 1961) has worked in private practice in Bloemfontein for 30 years, as well as in the department of surgery in the University of the Free State medical school. Married to 'PC', they have five married children and 10 grandchildren. Van den Berg is

a passionate Brahman Stud cattle breeder and a Sudoku addict. He scored a second hole-in-one in golf at the age of 72 years.

## 1950s

**George Adams** (MBChB, 1959), now retired and living in Darling in the Western Cape, was formerly a consultant surgeon in orthopaedics and trauma at Luanshya Mines in Zambia. He and his wife, Norma, have three children and seven grandchildren. Their son Kevin is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon at Grootte Schuur Hospital, Red Cross Children's Hospital and UCT. Adams was a founding member of Mission Medic-Air, a voluntary and charitable 'flying doctor' service working with rural mission hospitals in Zambia, which is still flying today.

**David Clain** (MBChB, 1959; MD, 1968) recently retired from his post as acting chief of the division of digestive diseases at the Beth Israel Medical Center in New York. He and his wife, Herzlia, have two daughters and four grandchildren. Clain was president of the New York Gastroenterological Association in 1991, and is a fellow of the American Gastroenterological Association and the American College of Physicians. Hobbies include photography and reading – mainly history and biographies, Nelson Mandela's Long Walk to Freedom among the best of these.

**Brian Kennelly** (MBChB, 1958) was formerly in private cardiology practice at Hoag Memorial Presbyterian Hospital in Newport Beach, California. Married to Fiona with four children and six grandchildren, Kennelly writes that he enjoyed his years at UCT studying medicine – especially the fourth and sixth years. He enjoys gardening and art.

**Ivan Kirk** (MBChB, 1958) is a retired diagnostic radiologist from Hout Bay in the Western Cape. Married to Carol, he has four daughters and 12 grandchildren. Kirk received his provincial colours for water polo and is a keen golfer. He was engaged in medical rescue work in Mozambique after the floods, and has done mission work in Uganda.

**Eric Lawton** (MBChB, 1958) is a retired ophthalmologist in Auckland in New Zealand and formerly worked at Waikato Hospital in Hamilton. His wife, Gwyneth (née Jones), graduated with a BSc (Honours) degree from UCT in 1954. They have five children and 15 grandchildren. In 1973 they moved to New Zealand, where Lawton practised until 1997, after which he ran an eye project in the highlands of Papua New Guinea from 1998 to 2001.

**Basil Munro** (MBChB, 1959) is President of the Pietermaritzburg and District Care of the Aged. He is married to Ann and has three daughters, one son and six grandchildren. Munro was a member of the Pietermaritzburg Rotary Club for a number of years, has a keen interest in singing and musical shows and was a co-founder of the Maritzburg Singers. He counts performing at the Grahamstown Festival in a musical show co-written by him, as well as having a song he wrote performed on TV, as among his most memorable moments.

**Myra Sutin** (née Joffe) (MBChB, 1959) is based in Great Neck, New York. Her late husband, Gerald, was head of paediatric cardiology at Red Cross Children's Hospital before they left the country in 1989. Sutin has worked part-time as a pathologist assistant at Long Island Jewish Hospital and has two daughters, a son and four grandchildren. She enjoys playing bridge as well as spending time with her grandchildren, and counts as her most memorable moment sitting in a hotel room in London glued to the television the day that Nelson Mandela was freed.

# We remember

**Associate Professor Frederick 'Wolf' Brandt** (PhD, 1973) died of a heart attack on 15 June 2011, two days after his 66th birthday. He joined the former Department of Biochemistry in 1974 as a lecturer and progressed through the ranks to Associate Professor in 1981. Brandt made important contributions in the field of histone modification, and in recent years, the biochemistry of polyphenols. He published 73 papers in peer-reviewed journals during his career. Brandt is survived by his wife, Joyce, and daughters, Julie and Claudia.

**Nathan Kagan** (BArch summa cum laude, 1955), 78, died of complications from Parkinson's disease on 10 May 2011, at Saunders House in Pennsylvania in the US. Kagan was the chief architect for Amtrak, representing the railroad's interests in the design of the Cira Centre, a 29-storey skyscraper in West Philadelphia. He was also involved with design projects for the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, the Temple University Hospital, and Penn Station in New York, US, among many others. He is survived by his wife, Sandra Minde Kagan, and his children, Janice and Laurence.

**Georg Strobele** (MBChB, 1982), 53, died from a brain haemorrhage on 14 March 2010 in Toronto, Canada, where he had established a large family practice combining both traditional and alternative medicine. His diverse interests included art, nature, science, design and travel, and he was well-known in his community for his dedication and compassion for his patients. He is survived by his partner, Jackie.

**Emeritus Professor John Hansen** (MBChB, 1943), 90, died on 10 April 2011, after a short illness. At the beginning of the 1970s he was appointed to the Chair of Paediatrics at the University of the Witwatersrand. His contributions were universally acknowledged and he was the best-known South African paediatrician in international academic circles. Hansen was awarded an honorary DSc (Med) by UCT and a doctorate by Wits. He is survived by his wife, and three sons, Sven, Rob and Anthony.

**Dr Malcolm Forsyth** (DMus, 1972), 74, died from pancreatic cancer in Edmonton in Canada on 5 July 2011. A celebrated trombonist and composer, Forsyth's orchestral, choral and chamber music is performed around the world. His composition, *Electra Rising: Concerto for Violincello and Chamber Orchestra*, recorded by the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, received a Juno Award in 1998. He was named Canadian Composer of the Year in 1989, and in 2003 he was made a Member of the Order of Canada.

**Professor Johann Lutjeharms** (MSc cum laude, 1971), 67, died on 8 June 2011 after a 10-year battle with cancer. One of Southern Africa's leading marine scientists and the foremost authority on the Agulhas Current, Lutjeharms was appointed to the Chair of Ocean Climatology at UCT in 1990, and in 1993 he became the founding director of UCT's Centre for Marine Studies. Lutjeharms received the Order of Mapungubwe (Silver), the country's highest national honour, which was presented to him by President Jacob Zuma in 2010. He is survived by his wife, Ronel, and their children, Maria and Wilhelm.

**John Charles Ince** (BA, 1957; Sec T Cert, 1959), died peacefully on 5 October 2010 after being in ICU at Claremont Hospital for a month. Known as 'Mr SACS', the charismatic Ince's association with the school began with Sub A and lasted 60 years. After matriculation, Ince studied at UCT before beginning his teaching career at his alma mater. He served SACS as a teacher and counsellor at the junior school, and worked to establish funding for disadvantaged families. He was also a former principal of Camps Bay High School. Ince served as President of the South African Teachers' Association and as executive director of the SACS Old Boys Union. He is survived by his wife, Corriene, and their sons, Jackie and Richard.

**Professor Geoff Hansford**, (MSc (Eng), 1962) 71, died on 16 May 2010. After completing his master's degree at UCT (one of the last theses to be hand-written) Hansford read for his PhD

at the University of Pennsylvania in the US. He returned to UCT's chemical engineering department in 1969, filling the roles of senior lecturer, professor, head of department, deputy dean and emeritus professor for close to 40 years. A strong proponent of scholarship in research and teaching, Hansford's contributions to biohydro-metallurgy are internationally recognised.

**Professor John (Jack) F Viljoen** (MBChB, 1958) died after surgery on 27 November 2010. Viljoen held the Second Chair in Anaesthesia and served as deputy head of the Department of Anaesthesia from 1993 until his retirement in 2003. His research interests included cardiac anaesthesia and the management of chronic pain, and he authored many journal articles and chapters in books on these subjects. After retirement, Viljoen remained an active member of the department in a part-time capacity.

**Dr Tom Hugo-Hamman** (MMed, 1962), 91, died peacefully on 16 March 2011. He studied engineering at UCT from 1937 to 1940, then left to join the South African Air Force in 1941. After the war he returned to UCT and completed his BSc, the first of his three degrees at the university, in 1945. Hugo-Hamman turned his interest to medicine and graduated with an MBChB at UCT in 1954. He worked at Groote Schuur Hospital until 1967, then went into private practice. Hugo-Hamman retired at age 67, but continued to work part-time until 80. He is survived by his children, Elizabeth, Richard, Christopher and Sally, all UCT graduates.

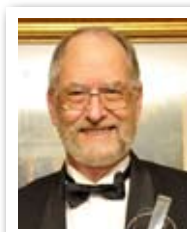
**Professor Stephen Watson** (PhD, 1993), 56, died on 10 April 2011, from cancer. A renowned poet, Watson was best known as a lyrical chronicler of the Cape's natural beauty. He was also a distinguished essayist, writing on subjects such as South African 'black' poetry and the works of Leonard Cohen. Watson was also a founding director of UCT's Centre for Creative Writing, a prestigious launching pad for local writing talent. He is survived by his wife, Tanya, and their children, Hannah and Julia.



Dr Tom Hugo-Hamman



Prof Stephen Watson



Prof Johann Lutjeharms



Assoc Prof Frederick 'Wolf' Brandt



John Charles Ince



Prof John (Jack) F Viljoen

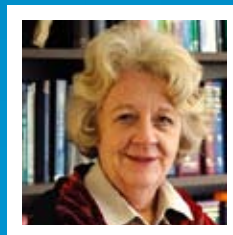


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