CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
OF INTERNATIONALISATION
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
1996 – 2006
Celebrating 10 years of Internationalisation at the University of Cape Town
1996 - 2006
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A Message from the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Njabulo S. Ndebele

The tenth anniversary of the International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO) at the University of Cape Town is something to celebrate! We are proud to count many international partner universities, past and present students, national and international academics, staff and colleagues, as members of our UCT family. I am pleased to invite you to explore this publication, which showcases some of the many significant international initiatives launched over the years at UCT.

Over the years, the University of Cape Town has been enriched by participation in global academic life: we have many prestigious international research linkages, as well as student exchange programmes, which bring a welcome diversity to our classrooms and academic debates. Currently, UCT has enrolled over 4 000 international students from more than 104 countries. They make up 19% of our total enrolment. Many of these students hail from other countries on the African continent: 2 586 students from the Southern African Development Community, and over 538 students from 19 other African countries, were enrolled here in 2006.

We at UCT have a heightened awareness of our place in South Africa, Africa and the world, and we seek to ensure that our academic programmes are not only excellent but are both locally and globally relevant. Our African initiatives are especially important to us: the University Science, Humanities and Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPiA) programme and the Student Leadership Exchange Programme with the University of Dar Es Salaam are both examples of the key role IAPO plays in the African context.

Through IAPO, UCT has reached out to many students, colleagues and universities. These interactions have enriched the UCT experience for our students and staff, who have found the world at UCT enlarged by the enthusiastic participation of our global friends. For most UCT students, the chance to interact with international students and faculty in the classroom, residence halls and on the sports fields, is an integral part of developing a personal global awareness. We hope that, in sharing our facilities, knowledge and experience with other universities and their students, we have in turn succeeded in broadening worldwide horizons.

The commendable work of IAPO over the last 10 years has made it one of the key sites of transformation at UCT. They have kept us in touch with the world; hopefully, they have also made the world more aware of us.

“We at UCT have a heightened awareness of our place in South Africa, Africa and the world, and we seek to ensure that our academic programmes are not only excellent but are both locally and globally relevant.”
Our mission is to be an outstanding teaching and research university, educating for life and addressing the challenges facing our society.

Educating for life means that our educational process must provide:

- A foundation of skills, knowledge and versatility that will last a lifetime, despite a changing environment;
- Research-based teaching and learning;
- Critical inquiry in the form of the search for new knowledge and better understanding; and
- An active developmental role in our cultural, economic, political, scientific and social environment.

Addressing the challenges of our society means that we must come to terms with our past, be cognisant of the present, and plan for the future. In this, it is central to our mission that we:

- Recognise our location in Africa and our historical context;
- Claim our place in the international community of scholars;
- Strive to transcend the legacy of apartheid in South Africa and overcome all forms of gender and other oppressive discrimination;
- Be flexible on access, active in redress, and rigorous on success;
- Promote equal opportunity and the full development of human potential;
- Strive for inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration and synergy; and value and promote the contribution that all our members make to realising our mission.

To equip people with lifelong skills we must and will:

- Promote the love of learning, the skill of solving problems, and the spirit of critical inquiry and research; and
- Take excellence as the benchmark for all we do.

We are committed to academic freedom, critical scholarship, rational and creative thought, and free inquiry. It is part of our mission to ensure that these ideals live; this necessarily requires a dynamic process of finding the balance in a range of choices: choices between freedom and responsibility, rights and obligations, autonomy and accountability, transparency and efficiency, and permanence and transience; and of doing this through consultation and debate.
As the Deputy Vice-Chancellor with portfolio responsibility for external relations, including the International Academic Programmes Office, it gives me pleasure to write this message to you. After ten years of sterling work in internationalisation, IAPO has, from humble beginnings, reached a point in its operations where only the sky is the limit. The excitement in the office is palpable, but perhaps one should pause and reflect on what it is exactly that characterises this moment in IAPO’s history as a significant one.

Ten years is a good time to review any operation, and in the case of IAPO the timing is fortunate. It coincides with a peaking in the consciousness of South African higher education institutions, of interest in, and debates about, internationalisation. This consciousness occurs in the context of various other reflections: on the economy, on the skills shortage and on the role in general of higher education in national development. This seems to provide an excellent opportunity for UCT to place internationalisation on a firmer and more visionary footing. The Internationalisation Policy formally launched in 2006 is a fundamental step in this process.

The policy seeks to align IAPO’s work more properly with the University’s Mission, particularly in those aspects of the Mission relating to the importance of research, an education relevant to contemporary realities, and to local and regional needs. It acknowledges that no single office or unit in the University can monitor all the wonderful collaborations between UCT staff and colleagues around the globe, nor should it try. It is precisely the richness of these individual intellectual contacts, in their spread and their diversity, which underpins successful international linkages. Where IAPO should be seen as a resource is in its ability to facilitate and co-ordinate. For this, IAPO needs to have as clear a picture of what goes on throughout the University as it is possible to get.

Equally exciting is the task of enhancing and supporting the life of an international student at UCT. The Policy is explicit in its endorsement of UCT’s belief that diversity in an institution of higher learning is good for its own sake and that UCT’s Internationalisation practises and strategies should take this into account. The thrust to broaden our participation in African linkages is part of this approach. The well-rounded UCT student that we seek to produce benefits from a campus life enriched with the cultures, the wisdom, the values, the humour, the intellectual and leisure traditions of the rest of the world. IAPO aspires to be the centre-piece of these interactions, so that even where our students cannot take advantage of exchange opportunities to travel outside South Africa, they can experience the full benefits of what we call “internationalisation at home”.

Introduction by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: External Relations, Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo
It is my pleasure to invite you to enjoy this anniversary publication as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the existence of IAPO. In this 10-year period (1996 -2006), IAPO has grown in size and scope. It is therefore an opportune time for us to reflect on the milestone achievements of the office and the University with regard to internationalisation. The anniversary also provides us with an opportunity to review the challenges, examine the complexities and identify the opportunities that now present themselves for taking internationalisation to the next level.

UCT was one of the first South African universities to have the foresight in recognising the fact that internationalisation would become a major force in higher education in South Africa in the years following the democratic dispensation. When the office of the Vice Chancellor began to be inundated with requests for international partnerships, IAPO was set up to be the conduit for the co-ordination and facilitation of all internationally related initiatives and activities at UCT.

The message from UCT’s Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndebele, sets the tone for this book by clearly expressing his pleasure at UCT’s growing global reach and its role and interest in the advancement of the African continent through the partnerships it has forged and continues to forge. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Nhlapo draws attention to the context for UCT’s policy on internationalisation as well as the key principles that will guide the implementation of this policy from here on. He acknowledges the challenges of coordinating the many international activities and initiatives in a large and active university such as UCT and the need to involve stakeholders across the university in this role.

The list of UCT’s current partner institutions illustrates the extent of UCT’s global reach and the challenge of managing these partnerships.

Those interested in the history of IAPO should look at the IAPO Highlights and read Lesley Shackleton’s piece on the early history of IAPO. Lesley Shackleton believes that internationalisation is a key ingredient in the creation of world peace. The descriptive accounts of IAPO’s functions and roles present the reader with an image of a department that is busy throughout the year and one that plays a key role in facilitating the transformation of UCT through its internationalisation activities.

Take the time to read the “staff perspectives” as these will give you an insight into their feelings and passion for the work that they do. With over 4,000 international students registered across all six faculties, IAPO staff members are among some of the most well-informed individuals regarding UCT’s processes and procedures as their work interfaces with a large number of internal and external stakeholders. Read the “life-changing” stories of UCT students who have gone on academic exchanges abroad and be amazed at the transformation that has taken place in their lives as a result of the exposure to the rich cultural diversity at other institutions.

It is clear from their accounts how the travel opportunity added another dimension to their knowledge and experiences. The hospitality given to our students by our partner institutions is evident in their accounts. For this, we are very grateful to our partners.

Let the perspectives of the Semester Study Abroad and international full degree students blow you away with their factual, personal and emotive accounts of their experiences at UCT, in Cape Town and in South Africa and how these have transformed their lives and in some cases changed the direction of their lives and careers.

Most of all, feast on the array of pictures throughout the book that depict the various milestones and the excitement about internationalisation that is synonymous with IAPO and UCT.
The University of Cape Town — History and Background

The birth of an institution

The University of Cape Town dates back to 1829, when the South African College, a high school for boys, was opened as a forerunner to the University. The College had a small tertiary-education facility that grew substantially after 1880, when the discovery of gold and diamonds in the north — and the resulting demand for skills in mining — gave it the financial boost it needed to grow. It opened its doors to women and established a Department of Mineralogy and Geology, soon to be followed by a Medical School, a Department of Education and Engineering courses.

By the time the University of Cape Town was formally established in 1918 on a bequest from Alfred Beit and financial support by Julius Wernher and Otto Beit, it was already widely recognised as a tertiary-education institution. Ten years later, the government of the day granted the University land on Groote Schuur, the late statesman Cecil Rhodes’ estate, on the slopes of Devil’s Peak. It stands there to this day.
‘Moscow on the Hill’

The University of Cape Town earned itself this nickname during the 1960s, 70s and 80s for its sustained opposition to apartheid, particularly in higher education.

The University admitted its first small group of black students in the 1920s. The number of black students remained relatively low until the 1980s and 90s, when the institution – reading and welcoming the signs of change in the country – committed to a deliberate and planned process of internal transformation.

From the 1980s to the early 1990s, the number of black students admitted to the university rose by 35 percent. By 2004, nearly half of UCT’s 20,000 students were black and just under half of the student body was female. Today UCT has one of the most diverse campuses in South Africa.

Over the 177 years of its existence, many pioneering individuals and creative minds have played a critical role in shaping the University of Cape Town into the institution it is today, and helped set a course for future generations. Here we highlight the achievements of just a few of the many who have made outstanding contributions to both the University and the broader society.

Zainunissa “Cissy” Gool
First black woman to graduate from UCT in 1933 with a Masters degree. A tireless campaigner against social injustice.

Harold Cressy
First black student to graduate with a BA degree in 1910. Played a major role in establishing the Teacher’s League of South Africa.

Prof Christiaan Barnard
World-renowned heart surgeon and lecturer who graduated with a MBChB degree from UCT in 1953.

Hamilton Naki
Awarded an honorary Master of Science in Medicine at the age of 72 for his pioneering work with heart transplant surgeon Chris Barnard.

Prof Allan Cormack
Shared the Nobel Prize in 1979 for his research that led to the first commercial CAT scanner in 1968.

Thomas B Davie
Defended the right of universities to admit whom they chose based on merit only. Today UCT holds the TB Davie Memorial Lecture in honour of academic freedom.

Dr Golda Selzer
Awarded an honorary doctorate by UCT. Co-founder of, and inspiration behind, SHAWCO.

Emeritus Prof JM Coetzee
Awarded the degree of Doctor of Literature in 1995. Received the 2003 Nobel Prize for Literature.
Aspiring to academic excellence

UCT’s success can be measured by the scope of study programmes it offers, the calibre of its teachers and graduates, as well as its research output.

The University has six faculties – Commerce, Engineering and the Built Environment, Law, Health Sciences, Humanities and Science – which are supported by UCT’s Centre for Higher Education Development, which addresses students’ teaching and learning needs.

Among its more than 60 000 alumni are the late Professor Christiaan Barnard, the world-renowned surgeon who pioneered heart transplants, and three Nobel Laureates – Sir Aaron Klug, the late Professor Alan MacLeod Cormack and, most recently, author JM Coetzee.

Today UCT is internationally recognised as Africa’s leading research university, a position confirmed by independent peer review. Postgraduate studies receive particular attention and 30 percent of the students are enrolled in postgraduate programmes.

UCT also has more than 60 specialist research units that provide supervision for postgraduate students and is home to more than a quarter of South Africa’s A-rated researchers – academics who are considered world leaders in their fields.

UCT academics have been amongst many South Africans and foreign nationals who have received National Orders from State President Thabo Mbeki over the past few years. National Orders are the highest awards that a country, through its President, bestows on its citizens and eminent foreign nationals. Among the national Orders, the “Order of Mapungubwe” is awarded for excellence and exceptional achievements that have had an international impact. The “Order of Ikhamanga” is awarded to those who have excelled in the fields of arts, culture, literature, music, journalism and sport.

UCT recipients include: Emeritus Professor Peter Beighton who received Bronze Mapungubwe in 2002 for his outstanding work and achievements as a scientist and for his research into inherited skeletal disorders. Late Hamilton Naki was awarded Bronze Mapungubwe in 2002 for his remarkable efforts to educate himself, rising from a humble gardener at the University to a surgical and anaesthetic research assistant at UCT when Professor Chris Barnard began to further his research in open heart and cardio-pulmonary bypass surgery. Late Professor Allan Cormack was honoured with Gold Mapungubwe in 2002 – the nuclear physicist was honoured for his work in developing the powerful computerised axial tomography (CAT) scanning system. He was also a joint-winner of the 1979 Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology. Professor Daya Reddy received Bronze Mapungubwe in 2004 for his outstanding contribution to and achievements in the fields of Mathematics and Science. Reddy is an A-rated scientist. A-rated Emeritus Professor George Ellis was awarded Gold Mapungubwe in 2006 for his excellent contribution in the field of science and putting South Africa on the world stage for his research in Applied Mathematics and Science. Professor Andre Brink was given a Silver Ikhamanga in 2006 for his excellent contribution to literature and fighting for a just and democratic society. Emeritus Professor Lionel Opie received Silver Mapungubwe in 2006 for his excellent contribution to the knowledge of and achievement in the field of Cardiology. He is also one of two A-rated medical doctors in South Africa.
The International Academic Programmes Office

IAPO’s Vision

To be a key player in enhancing internationalisation at UCT and assisting it to maximise its global impact

Role of IAPO within the broader UCT context

The role of the International Academic Programmes Office is to lead the development of internationalisation at UCT by acting as the central coordinator and facilitator of all internationally related initiatives and activities. IAPO is also UCT’s organisational structure mandated to develop and implement its policy on internationalisation by:

- Ensuring that internationalisation activities contribute to as many as possible of the university’s 10 Policy Objectives and by so doing, support the core business of teaching and research at UCT.
- Growing UCT’s global profile as a research-led, international, African university.
- Generating opportunities for improving its position as a world-class African university.
- Benchmarking local needs and global standards for a university.
- Striving for the integration of the global and local in such a way as to add value to both: with international activities enhancing student life and staff development at UCT, and incoming international students and staff being integrated into the local environment.
- Performing a consultative and facilitative role in assisting the university community in negotiating individual, departmental, faculty and institutional linkages using UCT sanctioned guidelines.
- Providing specialist services for international students and applicants.
- Developing and promoting the concept of “internationalisation at home” and ensuring that the entire UCT community benefits from the growing internationalisation of UCT.
- Seeking, supporting and facilitating opportunities for UCT staff and students to experience academic life at international partner universities through mobility exchanges.
In addition, IAPO

• Manages the University Science, Humanities and Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPiA) Programme and other collaborative programmes in Africa.
• Houses resource information on linkages between UCT and other African academics.
• Monitors events in higher education in Africa and provides advice to UCT academics working with other African universities.
• Produces information booklets and pamphlets specifically for international students.
• Runs a dynamic Semester Study Abroad Programme.
• Provides a resource centre on international universities and education opportunities for local students.
• Maintains a database of Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding.
• Runs an annual international student pre-registration service.
• Assists students with immigration issues.
• Liaises with the Department of Home Affairs regarding immigration legislation and compliance.
• Maintains links with embassies and donor organisations that fund international students.
• Actively participates in, and is a member of, local and international professional bodies on international education e.g. The International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA), the North American Association of International Educators (NAFSA), the European Association for International Education (EAIE).
• Ensures participation and representation on appropriate UCT committees dealing with international students.
• Liaises with the international offices of other tertiary institutions in South Africa.
• Manages the invoicing, collection and administration of fees of all non-SADC students at UCT.
IAPO – THE EARLY YEARS

Ms Lesley Shackleton - First Director of IAPO – reminisces about the early history of IAPO

“During this period, the opening up of South Africa’s new democracy was having another impact on UCT and the University found itself hosting a stream of visits from universities world-wide. South Africa was the ‘flavour of the month’ and the University of Cape Town was the most popular destination of all.”

The University of Cape Town has always been proud of its many international linkages. Despite the isolation of the apartheid years, the University leadership and individual academics, recognising the importance of being part of a global community of scholars, made a concerted effort to develop and nurture international collaborations. As South Africa moved towards democracy in the early 1990s, UCT made the first tentative moves towards re-integrating into the academic community on the African continent. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Martin West attended the meeting of the Association of African Universities in Ghana in 1993 at which the AAU formally agreed that African universities might now start talking with their colleagues in South Africa. Seizing this opportunity, with the strong encouragement of the then Vice-Chancellor, Dr Stuart Saunders, Professor West started the consultations that eventually resulted in the establishment of the University Science Humanities and Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPiA) programme.

During 1994 and 1995, I was contracted by UCT to assist with the development of USHEPiA. This involved surveying UCT academic linkages and interest in collaborating with other African academics and participating in consultative visits to USHEPiA partner universities. During this period the opening up of South Africa’s new democracy was having another impact on UCT and the University found itself hosting a stream of visits from universities world-wide. South Africa was the ‘flavour of the month’ and the University of Cape Town was the most popular destination of all. With customary vision, Professor West realised that it was now essential for UCT to have an office specifically to deal with international linkages, and I was invited to broaden my activities at UCT to include the establishment of an international office.

With funding that had been earned when a group of American students had spent some time at UCT in the early 1990s, UCT was able to provide seed money for the new international office. From the beginning, I insisted that the word “Academic” featured alongside “International” and in 1996, together with Ms Caz Thomas, whom I had recruited from an administrative position in the Science Faculty, started the International Academic Programmes Office. Our first task was to find office space, purchase furniture and get computer and telephone connections. We started from nothing, but hit the ground running, learning fast, all the time. The first IAPO was a room which we shared in the Centre for African Studies, and it was here that we received our many visitors, at that stage mainly from American universities. An early visit I recall was from a veteran of internationalisation, Dr Christa Johns, who was then at Duke University. She introduced us to the concept of Study Abroad programmes and the importance of maintaining quality in the programmes and services offered.
Within a year, it was obvious that IAPO needed more staff and so more staff were hired and we acquired an additional office. It also became obvious that there was an enormous opportunity for UCT to bring in income to develop its internationalisation initiative through running an attractive Study Abroad programme. Already students from Princeton University were coming to UCT, cared for by Ida Cooper, and Duke and other prestigious universities were also expressing interest. With the encouragement of the new Vice Chancellor, Dr Mamphela Ramphele, in 1997 I undertook a tour of Australian universities to study how they managed their internationalisation, and in particular how they funded their international offices. Australia has many similarities to South Africa and that trip was seminal in planning the future development of IAPO.

Once IAPO had been established, the first focus was on developing and promoting a quality Study Abroad programme. Fees had to be market related (compared with Australia) but this meant that service excellence would be essential.

One of the wonderful things about IAPO is that it has been able to attract the very best young people to join the office. Former student leaders such as Maxwell Fuzani, Kaluke Mawila, Jerome September and Saphu’lwandisile Vika have had their first formal jobs in IAPO and worked with international students. IAPO has always been characterised by an atmosphere of fun and excitement and it has prided itself on the quality of the services that are provided for international students.

I believe that IAPO’s business is “world peace”. If the leaders of today had participated in international programmes when they were university students, there would be much greater understanding in the world today.
IAPO Highlights 1996 – 2006

1996

- The International Academic Programmes Office is established at UCT with Ms Lesley Shackleton as its founding Director.
- IAPO welcomes its first cohort of USHEPiA Fellows (Science and Engineering). (The USHEPiA Programme participating universities are the universities of Cape Town, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Dar Es Salaam, Nairobi, Zambia, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Nairobi) and Makerere University, Uganda).
- Total staff members: 3
- Total international students: unknown

1997

- IAPO welcomes its second cohort of USHEPiA Fellows (Humanities).
- IAPO publishes its first international student booklet.
- The Council for International Educational Exchange (CIEE) and IAPO sign an agreement to host a study centre for study abroad students at UCT.
- Total staff members: 5
- Total international students: 1,630

1998

- IAPO runs its first international students pre-registration process to check study permits and fee payments.
- IAPO launches its Semester Study Abroad (SSA) Programme with 152 students.
- First IAPO attendance at the International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA) Conference held in Pretoria.
- First IAPO attendance at NAFSA Conference, USA.
- USHEPiA partner universities conduct an internal evaluation of the programme at UCT.
- Total staff members: 7
- Total international students: 1,997
1999

- IAPO runs its first “Home Affairs” week in collaboration with the Department of Home Affairs enabling international students to renew their study permits on campus.
- IAPO conducts its first visit to a European partner institution – University of Leiden.
- IAPO’s first attendance at the European Association for International Education (EAIE) Conference in Maastricht, Netherlands.
- IAPO appoints a SADC Student Officer.
- IAPO organises the Emerging African Leaders Working Forum Seminar at UCT.
- Total staff members: 11
- Total international students: 2,208

2000

- Draft policy on internationalisation at UCT is presented to UCT’s Senior Executive.
- The African Academic Links Programme is created within IAPO to focus on relationships with other African universities.
- IAPO co-ordinates a joint South African Department of Education / UNESCO pilot fellowship scheme of African Academic Exchange. 30 Fellowships are awarded to senior African academics to spend up to 6 months doing research at one of the (then) 5 Western Cape Higher Education Institutions.
- Total staff members: 13
- Total international students: 2,414

2001

- IAPO runs planning workshops at USHEPiA partner universities for a major proposal on “Applying Biotechnology to Poverty in Africa” to explore the possibilities offered by international multidisciplinary research projects within the Programme.
- The USHEPiA Programme in partnership with the Association of African Universities launches a pilot opportunity to build up an African research ethic in the areas of science, engineering and humanities.
- Total staff members: 14
- Total international students: 2,507
2002

- IAPO organises its first “World at UCT” / International Week event.
- IAPO’s first “Come-and-See-for-Yourself” exercise is launched and attended by staff members from partner institutions in the USA and Norway.
- Total staff members: 18
- Total international students: 2,748
- 1,000 students have come on the SSA Programme since its inception.

2003

The USHEPiA Programme has its first external evaluation.
- IAPO hosts staff members from the University of Port Harcourt (Nigeria) on a 3 month academic exchange programme.
- Total staff members: 19
- International full degree students now nearly 3,000 from 92 different countries.
- SSA student numbers now nearly 450 per annum.

2004

- Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo is appointed Deputy Vice Chancellor, International Relations at UCT.
- IAPO hosts the 8th International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA) Conference at UCT.
- IAPO is awarded a IEASA / Golden Key award for excellence in internationalisation in the international student exchange programme category.
- IAPO co-ordinates more than 30 inter-institutional Memoranda of Understanding and helps facilitate a further 42 UCT departmental and faculty agreements.
- Total staff members: 19
- Total international students: 3,485.
2005

- IAPO co-ordinates its first “Africa Day” celebrations.
- IAPO starts billing 1,000 international term fee accounts per annum.
- IAPO is awarded an IEASA Golden Key award for excellence in Internationalisation in the quality of information for international students category.
- IAPO co-ordinates its first Refugee Students Summit attended by refugee students from institutions in the Western Cape.
- The USHEPiA Programme has awarded 21 PhD and 6 Masters degrees since its inception.
- Total staff members: 22
- UCT registers over 4,000 international students from 97 countries.
  (Full degree – 3,219, SSA – 709)

2006

- IAPO celebrates its 10th anniversary.
- UCT’s Internationalisation Policy is launched.
- The first African student leadership exchange programme between the University of Cape Town and University of Dar Es Salaam is launched.
- IAPO is awarded an IEASA/Golden Key award for “Most progress toward internationalisation of an institution”.
- IAPO welcomes 418 SSA students in the first semester and another 300 in the second semester; the highest number ever of SSA students.
- UCT registers 4,374 International students.
- Total staff members: 22
Policy Statement
The University of Cape Town’s mission is “to be an outstanding teaching and research university, educating for life and addressing the challenges facing our society”. It is central to the University’s mission that we recognise our location in Africa while acknowledging that a characteristic of excellent higher education anywhere in the world is its global relevance. Globalisation has profoundly affected the way in which countries and businesses operate. In recognition of this, the University of Cape Town strongly supports internationalisation as an essential element of quality higher education and research.

Definition
UCT adopts, as most closely representing its own understanding of the concept, the following definition of internationalisation by a leading researcher in the field: It is “the process of integrating international and intercultural dimensions into the teaching, research and service functions of an institution of higher learning” (Jane Knight 1994). Thus, internationalisation affects curricula, teaching, research, administration, selection and promotion of staff, student recruitment, marketing, experiential learning through student and staff mobility, quality review, social responsiveness, and communication.

Policy Context
This internationalisation policy should be viewed as giving expression to UCT’s mission statement and strategic objectives, national legislation and regional treaties on education and training (especially the SADC Protocol) as well as being in line with the Code of Ethical Practice of the International Education Association of South Africa.
Key Principles of Internationalisation at UCT

1. Excellence and Mutual Benefit
Excellence is the benchmark of all internationalisation at UCT. International students should be selected on the basis of merit and academic suitability for a particular programme. Bilateral and multilateral agreements with institutions should be demonstrably to the benefit of all partners to the agreement. Recognising that it is the enthusiasm of the participating individuals, departments and institutions that drives successful international linkages, UCT will only enter into partnerships that have the enthusiastic support of all active participants.

2. Equity and Institutional Culture
Internationalisation at UCT will promote the University’s equity and transformation objectives. Exchanges and development opportunities will take into account the under-representation in academic life of women, black people and people with disabilities. Internationalisation should contribute to an institutional culture which values diversity. Every effort must be made to integrate international staff and students fully into the life of UCT.

3. Position in Africa
An important focus of UCT’s internationalisation will be the African continent. UCT supports the proposals in the National Plan for Higher Education to increase linkages within the SADC region and to enrol SADC students on the same terms as local students.

4. Research and Academic Autonomy
UCT strongly supports the rights of academics to develop their own individual academic links and collaborations, both formal and informal.

5. Curriculum
In curriculum matters UCT strives to benchmark itself against international standards without losing sight of the need for course offerings to be relevant to both regional and international conditions.

6. International Student Numbers
The maximum number of international students will be set annually by the Admissions and Progression Committee upon the recommendation of the faculties, taking into account the need for flexibility and differentiation in respect of undergraduate and postgraduate enrolments. Account will also be taken of the prevailing national policy environment.

Within the parameters of this Policy on Internationalisation, detailed priorities and strategies will be set and reviewed on a regular basis.

Role of International Academic Programmes Office
It is the function of IAPO to lead and co-ordinate the development of internationalisation at UCT, and to promote the integration of diverse communities across the University.
Semester Study Abroad Programme:

IAPO manages and operates the very successful SSA Programme at UCT. Both fee-paying and exchange students are received under the umbrella of this programme. We liaise extensively with international partner universities and other agencies (e.g. CIEE, InterStudy) to recruit students, in addition to accepting free-moving students.

Our role is a combination of services associated with admissions (preparation of promotional and informative material, both print and web-based; receipt and processing of applications; course-specific approval per student negotiated with UCT academic Departments), faculty offices (assisting with the pre-registration process to screen for health insurance and study visas, as well as with academic registration) and a records office function (we order, check and dispatch academic transcripts together with the Recommended Grade Conversion table).

In addition, we liaise with UCT Student Housing in respect of a set number of places, as well as working with local landlords to organise furnished, accessible, secure accommodation for the students. We handle part of the financial processes attendant on the housing placement service. We organise and run a purpose-designed 6-day orientation programme for the students and act as a contact point for all non-academic issues for the SSA students throughout the semester.

We assist in the production of the Visiting Students Journal, a student publication funded by MOB, on a semi-annual basis. In addition the SSA team is on 24-hour emergency call for the SSA students, and we liaise closely with Campus Protection Services and the Department of Student Affairs with respect to safety and Student Counsellors respectively.

We also maintain relationships with the various Consulates and Missions representing our students, as well as our partner universities worldwide (more than 90 partners). Various annual conferences are attended by staff of the Section in order to maintain the networks which support professional excellence. We also maintain good contacts with colleagues at other South African and worldwide university international offices for benchmarking and marketing purposes (e.g. presentation of joint sessions at conferences with regional colleagues). In addition, orientation and 24-hour support are offered to a selected number of Island Programmes.

Exchange opportunities for staff and students:

IAPO facilitates institutional purpose-specific agreements. We assist with negotiating inter-institutional agreements; liaise as appropriate with UCT Deans and HoDs in addition to international university faculty and staff; prepare written and web-based information about the agreements; advertise the opportunities for the UCT community; service and sit on the selection committee; liaise and assist the recipients to organise their trips; liaise with faculties, Student Records and Fees Offices in administering the outward exchanges; receive the students and staff from the partner universities and assist their smooth integration into the UCT systems.

In addition, we monitor the relationship between numbers of incoming and outgoing staff and students in order to evaluate the viability and success of our various partnerships. We receive international visitors (both academic and PASS) who are interested in establishing relationships with UCT and assist the DVC in similar meetings when required. We also liaise extensively with the Centre for Open Learning and SHAWCO regarding possible international initiatives to be hosted through these organisations.

The Mobility team (SSA and Exchanges combined) host an annual ‘Come and See’ programme which welcomes international partners to our campus during an orientation programme, with the aim of marketing our services and facilities and improving our international relations. This is usually an intensive week of events and activities and has proven highly successful in terms of relationship building and student recruitment to mobility programmes.
Internationalise at Home

The two primary responsibilities of I@H are: firstly, to provide efficient pre-arrival and on-campus support to international students that come to UCT for full degree purposes; and secondly, to develop strategies for dealing with the impact of internationalisation and the presence of international students in the transformation of UCT’s academic and socio-cultural processes.

International Full Degree

The full degree part of I@H deals mainly with non-academic issues and is the first point of call at UCT for international student enquiries. The section assists with visa and study permit issues; organises and runs orientation programmes for under- and postgraduate students; runs a pre-registration process to screen health insurance and study permits and to ensure compliance with existing immigration legislation; contributes to the development of strategy and policy for international postgraduates at UCT; maintains linkages with international donor organisations such as USAID and the Kellogg Foundation to facilitate placement of postgraduate students funded by those organisations at UCT; maintains relationships with various country embassies and maintains relations and networks with colleagues in other higher education institutions in South Africa and internationally on matters of international education.

With over 4 000 international students (19% of the total student population) at UCT from over 100 countries, their impact on UCT’s academic and administrative processes and the richness they bring to the socio-cultural diversity of the UCT community cannot be ignored. In I@H we seek to understand how the majority of the UCT community – which is non-mobile – benefits/can benefit from an internationalised campus.

The section also produces information booklets and pamphlets for both undergraduate and postgraduate international students; liaises with international student clubs and societies to promote the integration of international students at UCT and enhance the student experience on campus by organising events to celebrate the diversity of the UCT student body. In addition, the full degree team is on 24 hour emergency call for full degree students.

African Academic Linkages

**USHEPiA**

IAPO is the administrative and management home for the University Science, Engineering and Humanities Partnerships in Africa Programme (USHEPiA) - a partnership of eight Southern and East African Universities. The programme office writes funding proposals; announces the Fellowship opportunity through the partnership of universities; manages the administration for the selection process; services the high level committees of the partnership; provides administrative support for both the fellows and supervisors at UCT; and maintains ongoing linkages with all players.

IAPO manages donor funds for the USHEPiA and other development programmes from time to time. IAPo actively applies for funding for various projects under the USHEPiA Partnership umbrella (e.g. the Intellectual Property Initiative and the Benchmarking initiative on Research and the Role of the Supervisor). Accountability for the financial management and reporting for USHEPiA lies within IAPO and financial reports for the various grants are drawn up annually by IAPO Finance.

**Africa Linkages**

IAPO houses resource information about many linkages between African academics and information on the African academic environment for the UCT community. The section provides support for Africa-focused units within UCT (e.g. the African Gender Institute) as well as for those who are interested in establishing African academic links. The section assists with the development of academic agreements and policy. Events in higher education in Africa are monitored as well as the policy environment of regional structures such as NEPAD, African Union and the Southern African Development Cooperation Secretariats.
IAPO’s Finance and Administration section’s role is to provide a full suite of financial services and to enable the delivery of services to international and local students, partners and staff. The section is responsible for the billing of all Non-SADC international full degree students in addition to students coming to UCT on the SSA Programme. In 2006 the section billed over 1,300 students and managed international tuition fee revenue totaling over R33-million, distributing R16-million in profits to UCT Faculties.

IAPO’s finance portfolio has almost trebled since 2001, matching the growth in international student numbers coming to UCT and thus IAPO’s operational requirements. The section is also responsible for ensuring policies and procedures are current, well documented and properly published.

In addition to managing student’s fee accounts, the section also manages donor funds for the USHEPiA Programme, certifies loans under the US Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and provides a purchasing function. At the strategic level the section contributes through ensuring budgets are aligned to the departments’ and the University’s strategic objectives / goals.

Two-thirds of the IAPO budget is funded from income it generates through payment of international fees and the remaining one third is in the form of a UCT GOB grant. All international students from outside the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries are liable to pay international fees. Of this, IAPO receives a retainer fee of R 2,500 per international fee payer to cover administration costs and services which it provides to over 4,300 international students. SADC students pay local fees and do not pay the retainer. Graduate international students are eligible for fee-waivers on application to the Dean of the faculty. The award is granted on the basis of academic merit and financial need. IAPO processes these fee waivers as well as the certification of USA Stafford loans.
IAPO’s Participation in National and International Associations for International Education

The International Education Association of South Africa was formed in 1996 and UCT became a member of the Association in 1997. IAPO staff members attended the annual conference for the first time in 1998 in Pretoria. The first IAPO staff member to be elected to the IEASA executive committee was Caz Thomas in 1999 and with the portfolio of Special Projects, she played a major role in coordinating the higher education national response to the overhauling of the South African immigration legislation. She was re-elected in 2002 with the portfolio of Vice-President and together with newly-elected Jerome September, were actively engaged in the continuing development of IEASA. Jerome had the new portfolio of Student Liaison and Development and made a major contribution by successfully engaging student leadership nationally into the annual IEASA conference. Lebethe Malefo (now International Partnerships Manager at WITS University) was the third IAPO staff member to be elected to the IEASA executive in 2005, replacing Jerome (who is now Manager: Student Governance and Leadership in the Department of Student Affairs). Currently, Loveness Kaunda is on IEASA’s Director’s Forum while Caz Thomas is on IEASA’s Management Council with a portfolio for Internationalisation at Home.

IAPO has also played a prominent part in the IEASA programme each year at the annual conferences, giving numerous presentations and workshops over the past 8 years on practical aspects of running a Semester Study Abroad Programme, on the various draft Immigration Bills, on the USHERIA Programme and also on how to run an International Office. IAPO hosted the 8th Annual Conference in 2004 at UCT. In addition IAPO has received IEASA/Golden Key excellence awards over the past three years in the following categories: International Student Exchange; Quality Information to International Students and Most Progress towards Internationalisation of an Institution 1997 – 2006. IAPO has also partnered with IEASA at international conferences since 1998 to promote South African higher education.

IAPO’s involvement with NAFSA, the United States Association of International Educators, began when Quinton Redcliffe (then International Students Manager) first attended the NAFSA annual conference in 1998. Lesley Shackleton, the founding Director of IAPO accompanied him in 2000 to the annual conference held in San Diego. This was also the first year that IEASA had a marketing booth at the NAFSA Information Market and UCT was one of a number of South African Universities represented. IAPO has sent representatives to every NAFSA conference since then, with Lara Hoffenberg and Ouma Mpela giving a session in San Antonio (2002) and Lara together with Varkey George of SHAWCO and Adrian Strydom of UCT’s Centre for Open Learning presenting a poster in Montreal (2006).

The European Association for International Education (EAIE) holds its annual conferences in a different country within Europe each year. IAPO’s involvement with EAIE began at the 11th annual EAIE conference held in Maastricht in 1999, when Caz Thomas attended for the first time. The EAIE structure is built around a number of Professional Sections that reflect fields of interest. The Education Cooperation with Developing Countries (EDC) Section has proved to be a very relevant one and IAPO’s first presentation within the section was in 2002 at the conference in Porto by Caz Thomas. In 2003 IEASA participated in the EAIE Information Market for the first time and Lebethe Malefo and Caz Thomas represented UCT at the IEASA booth in Vienna. UCT through IAPO has been included in the conference programme at EAIE every year since 2004 through presentations (Basel 2006) and chairing sessions (Torino 2004, Krakow 2005) on South African higher education.

The Special Interest Group: Internationalisation at Home has also proved to be of particular interest for IAPO and a founding member of the group, Dr Hanneke Teekens, played a leading role in IAPO’s recent colloquium on Internationalisation at Home which took place in September 2006. Prof Paul Zeleza, a highly renowned international African scholar also presented an insightful paper on the opportunities and challenges of globalisation.
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What Internationalisation means to IAPO staff

The successes of IAPO are primarily attributable to the staff. Their accounts of what it means to work at IAPO speak of their commitment, passion, dedication, innovation and transformation – all the ingredients needed for a thriving International Office. We invite you to get to know them through their perspectives on IAPO and Internationalisation.

USHEPiA and IAPO have meant so much to me during the past nine years, in my identities as a woman, a South African, a white person, and a firm believer in Higher Education. I have been empowered to work incredibly hard and learned to explore the broader environment of my work. For me the highlight is the quality of the people with whom I work at UCT, the broader community, partner institutions on the continent and elsewhere in the world and the USHEPiA donor organisations. What our USHEPiA Fellows tend to value most are a “cheerful service”, a “sympathetic listening ear” and, a “quick response” in times of crises.

Nan Warner – Manager, African Academic Links

IAPO is a department committed to serving the needs of UCT international students. Being the first port of call for international students, the IAPO staff is service-oriented, attending to daily enquiries of international students, assisting with study permit applications and renewals etc. As a new staff member in IAPO, my aim is to do my job to the best of my ability. My job helps me to know more about UCT as I interact with academics and students from different backgrounds. My job also connects me with people outside IAPO and UCT.

Masego Mogodu – Co-ordinator, African Academic Links

My experience has been that all the staff here works really hard and is really service-oriented. Offering the best service to students/partners is one of our top priorities. We try and include everything that we think the student might need in the orientation. I have really enjoyed working at IAPO. I have gained so much knowledge and the people that I work with are irreplaceable.

Zubaida Hattas – Administrator, USHEPiA Programme
I joined IAPO in 2001, its 5th year in existence. It has been an honour and privilege to work here. IAPO has afforded me wonderful opportunities to grow both professionally and personally.

I’m extremely fortunate to be involved in all aspects of what IAPO does – from student mobility to our USHEPIA Programme. Working in this department is great in that you really feel that you’re making a contribution both to UCT’s goals and those of South Africa as a developing nation.

I would have to say that the most rewarding part of my job is working on the USHEPIA Programme. My first business trip into Africa to visit our partners was a real eye-opener. I came back truly invigorated and humbled by the experience. The passion and enthusiasm for the programme is contagious.

The most challenging aspect of being the IAPO Finance Manager is in the area of international fees – the enforcing of such fees, maintaining adequate policies, benchmarking and general administrative systems required to operate. Fortunately I have a great Finance team to work with.

**Rayner Canning – Finance & Administration Manager**

I joined the staff in 2001 and after working elsewhere on campus for 10 years I was delighted to find a department where the staff is enthusiastic and energetic about the aims and goals of an International Office. I was also impressed with the commitment to the professional development of the staff and although I was “older” than most of the staff I was encouraged to obtain the tools which I needed to perform the functions of the position I had been appointed to.

My favourite phrase when people asked me what I felt about my new job was: “I think I have died and gone to heaven!” and this caused much mirth at our staff functions. Six years later I still think this is an exciting, energetic and forward-thinking department and an invaluable asset for the University of Cape Town.

**Phyllis Webb – Co-ordinator, Finance**

As a new staff member at IAPO, my first real experience of teamwork was during Pre-registration where everyone contributed to the process. Through Pre-registration one can see the link between IAPO staff members, International students and the university community as a whole. It helps us to understand the needs of our students, to know what is expected from us by the UCT community and to get to know each other better.

What I also like most about my job is to work with numbers. This sometimes involves explaining and correcting finance related problems for international students. With help from my seniors and colleagues I learn how to develop myself and how to make important decisions. I also get the opportunity to learn and experience different cultures through my interactions.

**Masibulele Bungane – Finance and International Fees Officer**

I feel that IAPO plays an essential role in the lives of international students, particularly through orientation activities and ongoing services.

Some of the most warm-hearted individuals I know work in this department and our international students appear to appreciate this the most.

**Lindy Duncan – Finance Assistant**

IAPO is made up of the most outstanding staff members, each one unique in his or her own way. I feel valued as staff member and colleague.

**Michelle Diedericks – Finance Assistant**
Working in international education has taken me to places I never dreamed of visiting and introduced me to people who are committed to increasing opportunities for global understanding and cooperation. It’s been a pleasure to attend the weddings of students I met when they were undergraduates heading out on their first international exchanges, to learn of the PhDs earned by graduates of our mobility programmes, and to welcome repeat-visitors to Cape Town, who have become firm friends.

Lara Hoffenberg – Manager, Mobility and Links

I joined the office on 1 June 2006 and from that very first day knew that this was an extremely fast paced, busy, high pressured, challenging but exciting department to work in.

Despite daily work related pressures, staff members maintain an open door policy and are always professional yet friendly in their dealings with students. Often offering the shoulder to cry on, listening to “disturbing” news from back home and just being there for them.

What I particularly like about my job is that I have the opportunity to engage in conversation with both students as well as partners from across the globe and in turn make their students’ stay at UCT a more memorable one.

I am delighted and feel extremely proud to be part of this team and will continually strive to offer our students the best service possible.

Naomi Claassen – Coordinator: Mobility Programmes

I started working at IAPO in April 2002 and was immediately struck by what a vibrant and happy office this was. I had come from a corporate world where people were not the focus of business and it was great to finally be in such a people-oriented environment. Over the last few years I have had the privilege to meet many wonderfully diverse people and have learnt so much about different countries and cultures. The friends and contacts I have made all over the world grow in number every year and I hope I will be lucky enough to be a part of IAPO for a long time to come.

Penny van Zyl – Housing and Exchanges Officer

IAPO provides many of the support services that are essential to the process of internationalisation. Not only does this contribute to the management of cultural diversity at UCT but it helps to break down levels of xenophobia. In addition, IAPO’s work provides opportunities for UCT students who may not have the opportunity to travel abroad, to interact with international students. I thoroughly enjoy being part of the team engaging in this critical and valuable process.

Naasiha Abrahams – SSA Programme Administrator

Being part of the International Office has positively challenged me in so many ways. It is here that I fully grasped the meaning of one of my favourite quotes. It goes as follows: “If opportunity doesn’t knock, build a door”. Not only are we part of an internationalisation process, but we are taught in practical ways to constantly strive towards excellence. This process includes discovering oneself and one’s abilities in a very unique and exciting way. I am grateful for the constant support and motivation that I receive from IAPO staff.

Joy Erasmus – SSA Programme Administrator
I joined the IAPO family in April 1999 and value working with such dedicated colleagues and friends. The high standard of service delivery and camaraderie experienced within this department have encouraged me to always try to improve myself, both personally and professionally.

I have enjoyed interacting with international students because they have opened my eyes to appreciating South Africa and Cape Town, especially when seen through their eyes. This has renewed my appreciation of Cape Town and UCT and motivated me to be more aware of the relevance and value of the work that I do. I have been afforded opportunities by IAPO to attend national conferences and an international conference which have been invaluable developmental experiences that have enriched my life in many ways. These conferences have been enormously informative and relevant in helping me to benchmark UCT's services against those of our partner institutions and contribute to the services that IAPO offers to international students.

Sharon Turner – Exchanges Officer

I was impressed by the warmth and sensitivity of the IAPO staff when I started in this office, and the excellent services that the office offers to international students. IAPO has really made its mark in the world and I am very happy to be part of its 10th year celebration. Integrating international students with our own local students is beneficial to both local and international students.

Before I started at IAPO I worked at the Student Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO) for three years. I have witnessed the positive influence that international students have made in our marginalised communities by volunteering and putting so much effort and time to make a difference in our societies through SHAWCO's programmes. The experience of working with international students was valuable to me personally and professionally, meeting people from so many different cultures really opened my eyes to what internationalisation is all about.

IAPO's service to students is really complimenting UCT's vision. Almost three years later I am now working in the Mobility and Links section as a Semester Study Abroad administrator and have the opportunity of liaising with international university partners from all over the world, assisting in making their students experience a memorable one, through our 6 day orientation programme and advising and informing them about UCT and Cape Town.

Allison Jansen – Semester Study Abroad Administrator

Strong commitment and team work is always evident in IAPO. The staff is fully involved when it is time for the "World at UCT" festival, the old "Home Affairs week" and "Pre-registration". It has been a great 10 years filled with lots fun, laughter as well as the hard work. I wouldn’t have missed it for anything.

From the very first staff meeting I attended I saw that this was a fast paced, vibrant and energy-driven department of which I was now proudly a part! Our staff list has grown considerably over the years. We are a busy, bustling bunch of people. In IAPO, you gain insight into the customs of the world. It is an environment of multi cultures and multi languages. I have enjoyed working as part of a team to assist with the integration of international learners. I believe hospitality is a key factor in our approach to services. It is after all partly by word of mouth that the reputation of UCT will be upheld or fall. Within the university community, IAPO is known as an “efficient and quick-response department”

Caz Thomas – Manager, Internationalisation at Home
During my 5 years in IAPO I have seen the office grow from strength to strength. What has inspired me in particular is the desire of the staff to deliver the best service possible at all times no matter what the constraints or challenges may be. I began my own journey with internationalisation several years ago having been an international student in India for more than 4 years. Whilst it was fascinating and unique to live in India all that time, I now realise that that was really the beginning of my international journey that would get me to where I am now. I relate to the life and often somewhat daunting circumstances that international students go through on a day to day basis. The expectations of these students are enormous and as international office professionals we are faced with the task of creating mechanisms for dealing with those expectations while maintaining a positive outlook throughout the process.

I can say with confidence that IAPO is an office that has lived up to the expectations of international students in various ways. With internationalisation as our key priority, it is crucial that we continue to be the institutional agent that drives this process. We have engaged in this process in different ways over the years and together with the support of key stakeholders, we are gradually achieving our objective of internationalising the campus.

With over 4,000 international students, the range of experiences and worldviews that I have encountered is amazing. I have come to learn, through one-on-one contacts with students, social events organised by IAPO and over cups of coffee with IAPO colleagues, that we are in a thriving industry with enormous potential to change global perceptions.

If I were to sum things up I would say that it is and has been an honour for me to work with a very diverse group of people. IAPO has been an exciting experience for me. A mixture of hard work, fun and exposure to people from diverse cultural backgrounds has beautifully enriched my development both professionally and on a personal level in so many ways.

**Carol Ojwang – Manager, International Full Degree Students**

I started working at the Front Office of IAPO in 1997, a year after its inception. It has been a great learning experience that I will always treasure. At the front office, I have had the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life. As IAPO receives international visitors regularly, it is expected of the staff in the front office to have good interpersonal skills.

Dealing with approximately 80 international students daily whether by email, telephone or face to face can be quite challenging and exhausting but rewarding. From time to time we get an email or telephone call expressing sincere appreciation for assistance provided and this makes it all worthwhile.

Students have many other issues to attend to when arriving at UCT. A friendly and helpful service at the front office goes a long way towards making them feel welcome.

**Sophia Carr – Front Office Liaison Officer**
One of the things I said when interviewed for my position as the International Students Officer was that this post presents one with the opportunity of becoming an ambassador, not only for UCT but South Africa and Africa at large! What we do, say and how we treat International students portrays an image not only of ourselves but that of the institution, country and our beloved continent.

For me, working in this office creates a sense of being a global citizen. This is not so much from the actual travelling but from the interactions we have with students from various parts of the world while sitting in our offices. There is absolutely no way that an International Office practitioner would be oblivious to cultural diversity issues.

I look forward to the next ten years of IAPO; welcoming international students to our land, learning from them, integrating them into our society and providing the necessary support to enrich their stay with the hope that they in the future will make the world a better place, bridging the unwarranted divides between our nations and continents!

Khwezi Bonani – International Student Officer

The IAPO Front Office is very busy, particularly during the pre-registration period but, I like to go the extra mile when discharging my duties.

Alice Tsetsana – Front Office

My work as an International Student Advisor is compatible with my personality which values relating and being supportive to people. A big part of my work is in the preparation of pre-arrival information and keeping the communication lines open with international students. Next comes the hectic period of orientation and pre-registration in February of an academic year. Amidst the massive administrative tasks and student crises characteristic of the beginning of the year, one has to maintain a warm and welcoming demeanour to the first-year student who is expecting nothing less. IAPO staff attempt to achieve this almost super-human professionalism with the help of well-trained UCT student orientation leaders made up of both South African and international students that would have been carefully selected and trained the year before.

A great deal of zeal and hard work goes into activities and events around celebrating internationalisation and promoting integration of the international student at UCT and South African society. I have had the pleasure of being involved in the conceptualising and organising of events and have been humbled by the treasure of human resourcefulness and team work.

Nosizwe Mgudiwa – International Student Advisor
This section of the book presents a selection of independent perspectives from colleagues here at UCT and at partner institutions, as well as from student recruitment and hospitality partners. The perspectives highlight their personal experiences of IAPO, its programmes, its services and the mutually beneficial relationships that exist.

Perspectives from incoming and outgoing exchange students, from students on the Semester Study Abroad programme, the USHEPiA programme and students who come for full degree studies portray an amazing range of socio-cultural and educational experiences here and abroad. They also speak of the high regard with which UCT and its partner institutions are viewed. This is a key and desirable outcome of international education.

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The Princeton Connection

Nancy Kanach, Dean at Princeton University, reflects on the beginnings of the Princeton/UCT relationship

The agreement between Princeton University and UCT at the end of 1994 to allow Princeton students to study abroad for a semester or year in Cape Town was a bold venture for both Princeton and UCT. It coincided with Princeton’s plan to provide undergraduates with exceptional international opportunities and with UCT’s initiative to open its doors to the many students eager to engage post-apartheid South Africa. Beginning with an intrepid group of four young women who headed to Cape Town in July 1995 (before there was an infrastructure for study abroad at UCT), the program grew quickly as word spread about the benefits of studying at a great institution, in one of the most beautiful cities in the world, at the tip of a continent that holds so much promise and poses so many challenges. Since then, more than 160 Princeton students in 20 different fields – from mechanical engineering and molecular biology to politics, history, and religion – have studied at UCT, and the experience has had a major impact on their lives. There are few students who return as transformed and enthusiastic as those who come back from Cape Town.

The relationship between Princeton and UCT developed in interesting ways. First, in 1998, the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs began sending groups of students every spring to take classes and work on a current public policy issue. The topics have included water resources, education policy, public health, immigration and emigration issues. Some of the UCT faculty who have taught these policy seminars have come to teach at Princeton as visiting professors. In 1997, Dr Stuart Saunders, the outgoing Vice-Chancellor of UCT, and Dr Mamphela Ramphele, the incoming Vice-Chancellor, were awarded honorary degrees from Princeton in recognition of their many accomplishments.

Thanks to the study abroad program at UCT, many Princeton students have returned to Africa through a recently established internship program, Princeton-in-Africa; others have returned as medical students to work on HIV-AIDS projects; some have returned as Fulbright scholars. But whether they returned or not, they all have valued the opportunity to study at UCT and will continue to hold their experience to be one of the most memorable in their lives. They bring back to campus a fresh perspective, which they share with their fellow students and teachers. Princeton looks forward to continuing and expanding our relationship with UCT and IAPO and applauds its many successes.
At the end of 1994 I found myself ‘retired’ – after 17 exciting years at UCT of which 15 were spent in Public Affairs during the time of disinvestment and sanctions. In the 1980s there were many delegations visiting South Africa from abroad. Various people from Foundations, Universities and Corporations visited South Africa on fact-finding missions. It was my task to arrange their programmes at UCT and to make sure that they met with all the experts who could advise them of the socio-political and economic situation in the country at the time.

In 1995, one of these universities, Princeton, entered into a relationship with UCT to send undergraduate students to UCT on a Study Abroad programme for a semester at a time. As there was no International Office at UCT, one of the requirements from Princeton was to find a person with some knowledge of the university to provide support for the visiting students. Such was the task that it could not be accommodated by a person already in full or even part-time employment. So it was suggested that I, a recent retiree in 1995, be asked to fulfil that role. In 1996, thanks to the several Directors of the International Academics Programme office and colleagues starting with Lesley Shackleton, Caz Thomas, Quinton Redcliffe, Lara Hoffenberg, and more recently, Dr Loveness Kaunda, my untiring team of associates and I give support to nine universities and continue to be affiliated to IAPO. It has been and remains a great privilege to work with these dedicated and creative people in my years of ‘retirement’.

The success of a programme should speak for itself, or at least through the words of those who have benefited. What they have to say about the great value of IAPO and their experience at UCT and South Africa bears testimony to the importance of International Education Exchange.

“THE MOTHER OF HOSPITALITY”

Ida Cooper reflects on her partnership of many years with IAPO

Ida Cooper from Ida Cooper & Associates with some of the many students she has helped to feel at home in the Semester Study Abroad programme.
Partnerships are essential in providing a memorable experience to a student who chooses to study abroad. Interstudy believes in partnerships. Without the combined energy and passion of IAPO and Interstudy, our students’ experience would be different. The support and guidance available before, during and after their stay at UCT is enhanced by the close personal relationship Interstudy maintains with IAPO.

Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE)

Quinton Redcliffe, Resident Director, CIEE, based in IAPO at UCT

My association with IAPO spans a period of eight years. My relationship with IAPO has been on two levels. The first is as an employee of IAPO and the second as a Semester Study Abroad (SSA) partner.

In August 1997, as the fifth member of staff, I was employed as their first ever International Students Programme Coordinator. This for me was the break I felt I needed and was suited to. I had the desire and passion to work within the International Education Arena and this job set me up in a career in International Education. I was being challenged and I was receiving personal development within a very good department at UCT.

The thing that struck me most about IAPO was its vision and determination. IAPO was committed to providing a world-class service to all international students. The department ran the study Abroad Programme at a time when the concept of study abroad was alien. This soon caught on and the benefits understood.

IAPO gave me the chance to visit a number of universities and colleges in the USA. At every institution I visited they would talk about the great service that their students were receiving at UCT. They would continually talk about how pleasantly surprised they were that there was such a high standard of service delivery from ‘Africa.’ This was and continues to be a sentiment expressed by the SSA students. I felt proud to be associated with IAPO.

After working for IAPO for three years, I joined the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) as their Resident Director at the UCT Study Centre. This meant that I would no longer be employed by IAPO but would be one of their main SSA partners. The move was an easy one for me because I was aware of the good service and integrity of IAPO. As the CIEE representative in South Africa, I would be working with one of the best in the country and possibly on the continent.

The CIEE/IAPO relationship works very well. CIEE has relationships with many partner universities around the world. I can confidently report that this is one of the best relationships CIEE has. The reason that it works so well is because we see it as a “win-win” relationship. The partners take the relationship very seriously. It is important to IAPO that they provide a good service to our students and to us. We do not see each other as competitors but as partners. CIEE makes sure that they are adding value to what IAPO offers. As partners we try to provide a world-class service to our clients (SSA students). This may be the result of the enormous growth in student numbers experienced over the years at UCT.

CIEE would like to congratulate IAPO on their tenth anniversary. We wish them well for the future. We believe that they will continue to be the best international student service provider in the country for many years to come.
The relationship between the Centre for African Studies (CAS) and international students at UCT goes back many years, almost to the founding of the International Academic Programmes Office. In part, this is because of the personal links that I have had with the programme through my work with the University of California, and in part this is because of the nature of CAS as an interdisciplinary unit which teaches an Africa-focused programme. More and more we have come to think of the department as a natural point of insertion for study abroad students at UCT, and more generally as a point of contact between the university and other institutions globally.

All of our courses are multidisciplinary and Africa-focused, and we have noticed a trend for increasing numbers of international students to sign up for them. This is so much the case that this year we have designed and are currently offering two courses especially with international students in mind. These are CAS4005 Race, Culture and Identity in Africa, offered in the first semester, and CAS2001 Culture, Identity and Globalization in Africa, offered in the second semester. When I sat down to write the outlines for these courses I thought: What should a visiting student here for one semester or a year know about post-apartheid culture and society? What conceptual tools and case studies would help such a student to get a handle on the often confusing histories and contexts which characterise life in the post-colony? The result was interesting in that it forced me as an academic with a long history of teaching at this university to re-examine the basis of my own practice, and to think carefully about approaches and case studies which speak to the present while being interesting and approachable to students from a range of intellectual backgrounds. One of the answers for me has been to make a lot of use of visual material, some of the classic anti-apartheid films to have been made in the period of the 1950s through the 1980s, as well as photographs from the archives and from published collections. The detail and specificity of these images helps classes to engage with the social and historical contexts of their making, and has proved useful in generating discussion across a range of topics.

In addition to teaching initiatives, CAS also has a number of structured research exchanges with universities globally. One of the most exciting programmes in which we are engaged is a research and teaching exchange on African and African Diasporic Intellectual Histories, with the University of the West Indies, Brown University, and UC Berkeley. A formal MoU was recently signed between these universities that will see the development of a joint PhD programme in African Diaspora Studies. In itself, this will be an interesting model of how to rethink institutional exchanges by foregrounding intellectual and teaching exchanges. In these and other ways, my colleagues and I in the Centre for African Studies are busy thinking through our own place and position, as we negotiate our being in the world.

For further information on the programmes and courses mentioned in this article write to Dr Shepherd at Nick.Shepherd@uct.ac.za
SHAWCO (Students’ Health and Welfare Centres Organisation) goes International with IAPO

Varkey George, Director

SHAWCO is often referred to as the heart of UCT. With the core focus being on producing the best graduates, UCT has not neglected its social responsibility to the neighbouring communities. SHAWCO provides the opportunity for students to learn about, learn with and learn of the communities that they would engage with in later life – and we have been doing it for sixty-three years. The goodwill that has been thus created is shown in the testimony of the people in the community and our alumni who come back and talk in glowing terms about this wonderful organisation – the only one of its kind – managed, implemented and run by students.

Our vision is to improve the quality of life of individuals in developing communities in Cape Town. SHAWCO is currently involved in:

- Tutoring and life skills projects
- Performing and Visual Arts programmes
- Vocational training for unemployed mothers
- Computer training
- Maintaining a library
- Environmental awareness and food gardening
- Support for children in institutions
- Sports projects

SHAWCO also runs five mobile clinics.

In 2004, SHAWCO decided that this great organisation should not be kept under wraps but should be brought to the attention of the world. The ideal way to do it was to partner with IAPO. From the word go, the relationship was set to grow as IAPO marketed UCT to students from the US and Europe, they could emphasise that semester study abroad students coming to UCT did not only receive the best education available on the continent but also could get to the heart of Africa in a safe and controlled environment, through SHAWCO. At the same time, SHAWCO gets a mix of international and local students to experience development and assist the communities to realise their dreams.

SHAWCO and IAPO have been showcasing this unique combination to international audiences. The response has been tremendous with universities clamouring to take part in our short-term volunteering experiences, sending out academics to visit and learn about SHAWCO and the students themselves raising funds and selling beaded jewellery.

SHAWCO has since won the “Social Entrepreneur of the Year” award, been invited to many conferences to present papers and called upon by South African universities to assist them in setting up similar organisations. SHAWCO and IAPO have thus become the proponents of internationalisation and community engagement in Higher Education Institutions.

We wish to congratulate IAPO for their ten years of service to UCT and also thank them for allowing SHAWCO to be an inspiration to so many universities in South Africa and abroad.

For more information visit www.shawco.org
Semester study abroad students, particularly those from colder climes, participate extensively in such recreational activities as the Mountain & Ski Club hikes, Yachting, the Learn to Surf programme, the regular Waterski outings and the Scuba Diving clinics.

Their most significant contribution to sport is, however, in activities such as Volleyball, Basketball and Women’s Football.

The Volleyball and Basketball teams have developed a particularly cosmopolitan character and have benefited greatly from the regular arrival of talented players and new ideas.

In 2006, 460 study abroad students participated in a wide range of activities. These were concentrated on Mountain & Ski (135), Surfing (64), Scuba Diving (54) and Yachting (53).
As part of UCT’s goal of strengthening its partnerships with other African universities, the UCT/UDSM African Student Leadership programme was set up as a pilot programme designed to bring together student leaders from the Universities of Cape Town and Dar Es Salaam. The majority of these students had never been outside their own countries and had never experienced each other’s cultures. The students were selected on the basis of their active participation in student leadership and governance at the two institutions.

Eighteen students participated in the programme and each group was accompanied by a member of staff from the departments of Students Affairs. There was great enthusiasm for the programme from these young future leaders. The impact of the programme is illustrated by the positive evaluations and testimonies shared here.

Tanzanian hospitality is second to none I have ever experienced. They went out of their way to accompany us on our tours and spend time outside the schedule with us (e.g. the Zanzibar trip). I really enjoyed the Ki-Swahili classes as well. Experiencing the culture was very enriching. The send-off was attended by Prof Nhlapo, the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Dr Kaunda the Director of IAPO, among other dignitaries. This made it easier for us to network and implement ideas gained from the exchange once back at UCT. We also heard the expectations IAPO had in initiating such an exchange and were honoured by their faith in us.

Candice Govender, a Bachelor of Science student

Perspectives:
THE UCT/UDSM STUDENT LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Staff from UCT and UDSM pose with student participants of the exchange programme.
Meeting student leaders from Tanzania and learning more about their lives was an incredible eye-opener for me. The opportunity to experience student life in another African country was possibly one of the most humbling experiences of my life. It was the first time that I realised that even though we, as South Africans, have many challenges, we are far more fortunate than most of our African counterparts.

Something that took me by surprise was the fact that the Tanzanian people that we met knew so much about South Africa and our history, yet we knew almost nothing about their country and the struggle that they had faced to reach where they are now. I realised how little I know about other African countries, and how easy it is to get sucked into thinking that your country is the only country with problems, and to forget that there is a far bigger picture that needs to be seen. In this regard, I feel that the Leadership exchange Programme to the University of Dar Es Salaam was an incredible opportunity to build relationships with other people in Africa.

Heetal Harry, a Bachelor of Business Science student

Undoubtedly, my personal highlight was a lecture by Dr Osaki on Tanzanian Gender, Culture and Social issues. Her dislike of the concept of ‘feminism’ because it is an embodiment of a radical, anti-men, and bra-burning force was enlightening. In her opinion, feminism has no place on the African continent. ‘We love our men, and have no wish to emasculate them’. Dr. Osaki considers herself more of a “womanist”. This was evident when she expressed her disapproval of female students at UDSM who sacrificed their academics so as to cook and clean for their male partners all in an attempt to secure wedding rings. Her interpretation of African identity was fascinating. I asked her how she would categorise all Africans. Given the religious, cultural and linguistic diversity of the continent, what was the cement that bound all Africans? Her reply was that Africans have history in common. “Thus, before we can unite, it is imperative that we all have a good understanding of where we come from”.

The African Leadership lecture was controversial - This was the most controversial lecture. Mr. Ahmed Rasul’s definition of African Leadership was deeply entrenched in dominance and it definitely leant towards dictatorship. It was interesting to hear him discuss the flaws of African Leadership. These flaws included the issue of African presidents serving for long terms, looting the wealth of their countries, as well as the short life-cycle of ‘democracy’ on our continent. But then he would proceed to describe leaders as those who lead from the front, and are listened to and followed blindly. I suppose my experience of leadership at UCT has been that of flat leadership structures without deliberate or explicit power imbalances. Thus, the notion of autocracy as the only effective means of leadership was incredibly unappealing to me. It seems to me that student leaders at UDSM are reared with this crippling mentality. I now understand the challenges our continent faces regarding leadership.

Mabohlale Mampuru, a Bachelor of Commerce student

I enjoyed the talk on Africa and leadership. This talk was given by Mr. Ahmed Rasul. Various subjects were covered, such as the definition of leadership; the current state of African leadership; a critical view of African leadership; and future challenges for Africa. This talk gave us the opportunity to engage with the UDSM students on an issue that affects all of us – the future of Africa as a continent. I found this to be relevant for the visit and for young people who are going to take this continent forward to a better place.

I found it fascinating how proud Tanzanians are of their African heritage – their culture and language. I was encouraged to reflect on my own sense of culture – where it is lacking and where it differs.

This programme has incredible value. I believe that establishing opportunities for Africans to interact and exchange ideas can only build our continent and better the lives of its people.

Gugulethu Mayisela, a Bachelor of Commerce student

The sharing of knowledge and experience, if facilitated properly between the educational institutions, could be potentially beneficial to the stakeholders in the long term. The question that still needs answering is why there is no such program of sharing of knowledge within South African institutions. As the cliché goes, charity starts at home, and I personally think that we should facilitate a similar leadership exchange among South African universities first before going abroad.

Nonetheless, the cloud of ignorance of other African countries has definitely been removed. I have a clearer picture of the African continent, and now fully understand how different South Africa is from the rest of the continent.

Vincent Mativandelela, a Mechanical Engineering student
Anita Ballantyne spent the Fall Quarter of 2002 at the University of California, Santa Barbara campus and has since graduated from UCT.

My room mates were all Californian but from different cultural heritages – Asian, Irish, Chicano and Hispanic. I did not realize that California had such diverse people. Throughout the quarter I learned all about the different origins of the American people and celebrated Chinese, Jewish, Irish, American, Hispanic and Chicano festivals. My cultural capital expanded enormously. I feel that the few months I spent at UCSB will forever influence my future plans, experiences and perspectives.

I grew so much, in so many ways. I now have a much wider perspective of the world and all it has to offer. Meeting people from all over the globe served to emphasize just how much more I need to explore and learn about other people and cultures. I was captivated by sunny Californian hospitality, the friendships I made for life, the new academic material I encountered and the sheer enjoyment this opportunity offered me.

I wish I could express the full extent of my gratitude to the people behind the program who made this experience possible. My sincere appreciation will forever be present in my new zest and enthusiasm to travel and study further. The spirit of UCSB and all I experienced there will glow in me forever!
Kingdom Mugadza spent a year at Waseda University in Japan in 2002/3 and has since graduated from UCT

Apart from being terrible at emailing, it was a mission typing using Microsoft in Japanese! I finally found an English keyboard! Dinners were interesting since much of the conversation happens over the most important book – the English/Japanese dictionary.

Japanese houses are like all things in Japan – small. I could touch the roof in the house and was the same height as the door frame. During the Autumn Festival I participated in an ancient ritual which was a thanks-giving to the Shinto God of the harvest and protection in winter. The Shinto temple is absolutely amazing. It has a sense of peace and serenity enshrined into the architecture. It is built in the middle of a massive garden in the middle of Tokyo where it provides a hint of space and sanity in a crowded world.

No, I am not the only black person in Japan. Kurojin is what we are formally called, or Boo-ra-the-roo (brother) is the colloquial term. There is a Tanzanian doing his PhD and would you believe it, a Zimbabwean also doing his PhD. There is a place called Shibuya and Rapongi where you can find other kurojins.

David Fuamba is a graduate student at UCT. He spent a semester at Universität Tübingen on exchange in 2005/6

When I met Wolfgang Mekle, the Director of the International Office, he told me that he was very happy and was to ensure that his first UCT student had a wonderful stay in Tübingen. He was right! This Universität Tübingen’s official made me feel at home during the whole time I spent here. Simone, Nicki, Brigitt and others always had their doors open for me. I made it a tradition of going to the International office to laugh and to learn from his staff a new German word each time. Amazing, how in such a short space they just made me feel connected to them!!! I miss going to the office and seeing Wolfgang smiling, saying ‘there you are David - Wie Geht’s?’

I was honoured to visit his beautiful house where I could go whenever I wanted (the house was so culturally rich and exceptionally beautiful that I ended up calling it the African Museum of Tübingen). Through the staff of that Office, I attended so many functions where I met the University President and deputy presidents, professors, city and provincial leaders!

Ryan Hawthorne spent a semester at the Institut d’Études Politiques de Paris in 2001 and has since graduated from UCT

Academically, Sciences-Po is excellent. They have a system of lectures and tutorials which relies mainly on self-study and tends to be very demanding. The standard is very high, although my tutors tended to be understanding about my language difficulties. There is a stream of high-level lectures and conferences that take place at Sciences-Po throughout the year. Immanuel Wallerstein, Romano Prodi, various diplomats and members of the European parliament and the chief of the French armed forces came to lecture at Sciences-Po during my stay there. In general, my experience was very enriching. The teaching methodology, subject material and work ethic employed there have influenced the way I work and think.

Mngxuma Khayakazi spent a month in Stuttgart as part of her Engineering studies at the University of Cape Town

The 2nd of September 2002 was one of the most exciting days of my life! It was the first time I had ever travelled by plane! Being a first-time flyer was not only exciting but also very scary. One of the best experiences I had was when we were asked to introduce ourselves and say where we were from. You have no idea how good it feels when you tell people in a foreign country that you are a South African!

Annabelle Wienand, a Masters Exchange student, attended the University of British Columbia on a scholarship from Foreign Affairs Canada pilot project in HIV/AIDS

As my time at the University of British Columbia approaches its end, I look back and reflect on the experience. A four-month exchange may seem short, but when I assess all I have learnt and come into contact with, it feels much longer.

As a newly registered Masters student from the AIDS and Society Research Unit, I arrived with the intention of doing courses to pick up skills in research methodology and write some chapters. Being placed in the Education Department was hugely beneficial to my research as I attended seminars, research days and also met with other students and faculty. I was exposed to literature I had never read before and feel I have covered substantial academic ground. The courses I enrolled in were extremely useful and engaging. Not only was I exposed to academic material that directly fed into my research project, but I also met other students studying diverse topics.

I have also explored Vancouver city and other parts of British Columbia with friends from the college and the outdoor club. While my research has benefited enormously from the exposure to a different university, I also know my time in Canada has undoubtedly influenced me and how I view my relationship to the world around me.
It may sound dramatic but, I can safely say that my experience at Wellesley College was life changing. Those are the only words I can use to describe the transformation that took place in my life during my year at Wellesley College. Studying abroad, even if it’s for one semester, is something I think every student should strive to do. Though different in history and culture, the US is not particularly different to South Africa in terms of pop culture and media. As a Film and Media student, when I was told I would be going there as an exchange student, I figured my vast knowledge of MTV was all I needed to equip me for my time there. I was disappointed but thrilled to discover that people are the same wherever you go and that like us, they don’t all necessarily hold the same worldviews as their country’s leaders do and they all don’t look like they do in the movies, thank goodness!

Being on the east coast, the learning capital of the world was awesome. I encountered people from all walks of life and different parts of the world that I would never have met had I not got the chance to leave home, my comfort zone. I think almost every continent of the world was represented in my friendship circle alone. From Asia to South America I came out of this experience richer and more aware of the world that I would never have met had I not got the chance to leave home, my comfort zone. On my return I have helped with three groups of international students, for travel and change. One realises how insignificant South Africa is when people do not know your country, or mistake it for a continent (‘South Africa is not a continent like South America?’ was a comment I heard often). However, through ambassadorial and leadership studies. It was the first time that I had seen commitment to nurturing exceptional individuals through local projects and international internships.

The second thing that struck me was the plight of minority groups to obtain status in their society. I joined the ‘La Palabra’ newspaper which is committed to enlightening the community about the struggle of the Latino people in the USA. It reminded me of work on the “Varsity” Newspaper at UCT and I became aware that we shared similar frustrations to those experienced by my predecessors on the paper during Apartheid. Through sharing my experience of journalism and the South African racial divide, we embarked on a period of change, improving everything from the layout to the publicity of the paper. It was here that I began to learn Spanish and improve my skills in the area of leadership. On my return I have become involved in international internships. I have been able to help with three groups of international students, explaining South African culture, language and lifestyle to facilitate their transition into our world. It is not an easy transition. Crime scares the inexperienced. Multilingual cultures scare the monolingual. Change is hard.

Thanks to the opportunity provided by IAPO, I have been able to understand the needs of my community better and facilitate the transition of others to South Africa. The experience of going on exchange was one I recommend to any student with a passion for travel and change. One realises how insignificant South Africa is when people do not know your country, or mistake it for a continent (‘South Africa is not a continent like South America?’ was a comment I heard often). However, through ambassadorial scholarships such as these we have the opportunity to teach others about ourselves and learn from new experiences, different people and diverse knowledge bases.
Joan Legalamitwa spent a semester at Smith in 2001 and has since graduated from the University of Cape Town.

In my language (Tswana), we have a saying: “Go tsamaya ke go bona”; which directly translates into: “To travel is to see things”. My time at Smith College certainly taught me new things and opened my mind to a whole new world. Those five months in 2001 at Smith will forever remain in my heart. I made the most of it and not even once have I ever regretted being there.

While there I joined the Smith African and Caribbean Students Association (SASA) – which was great fun. I was the only South African member – in fact the only South African at Smith College. Together with a student from Lesotho, we put on a “kwaito and gumboots” dance group called “SASA Jam”, which turned out to be a huge success. What I liked most about being part of this and other international student organisations is that they were open to people from inside the USA and in that way they learned a lot from us through embracing our cultures as much as we did each other’s.

While at Smith, I felt the need to sell South Africa. I therefore decided to DJ at the college’s radio station. I had a specialty show on Sunday afternoons called ‘The Heartbeat of Africa’ which was dedicated to promoting mostly South African as well as other African music. The show got off to a good start and was quite a success, especially with SASA members. It was enriching for me as it helped me get rid my homesickness. Now I can say I am glad to have done my bit in being an ambassador for our local musicians and others on the African continent!

Before I went to Smith, I had never heard of an all women’s college before. I had been to co-ed schools all my life. I was very excited to find out how I would survive in such an environment. I liked it; I liked it a lot! I think that my experience there has made me appreciate women even more and also boosted my self-confidence as a woman.

Shelva Paulse graduated from the University of Cape Town in 2004 and is pursuing graduate studies in the United States.

My experience as an exchange student with IAPO has played an important role in my academic and personal development. IAPO facilitated my exchange with Smith College in 2003. Being in the USA, I had the opportunity to add an international perspective to my views on our young democracy. I also got to actively think about my role, however small, in the New South Africa. On an academic level, I explored the many challenges we face due to historical and structural factors that perpetuate inequality in our society. My exploration led me to an interest in our educational system, and I have decided to pursue a graduate degree in social justice education. Their supportive nature paired with a sincere interest in developing well-rounded academics and leaders, have encouraged me to think about important issues in modern South Africa. I thank the office for affording me the exchange opportunity and literally changing the course of my academic career!

Tshegofatso Blessing Monama, a UCT engineering student, spent four months at the University of Stuttgart from November 2003 – February 2004.

From the hot summer of Cape Town to the ice-cold winter of Europe!! When I arrived at Stuttgart airport, I got a very warm welcome from Yvonne Traa, one of the research facilitators. Now I know that Europe wouldn’t have been fun without her … The people in my department were very friendly and were all happy to have two young South Africans joining them. My mentor was very helpful and he trained me very well to work hard and use my mental capabilities. I enjoyed work so much and was glad to have frequent report-backs on what I had done. I was very proud of myself when they told me to submit a paper to a scientific journal. The experience was extremely fascinating and different. It was a good opportunity for me to learn about different cultures and different ways of living. I deem this a great privilege and can’t thank enough the people who made the opportunity possible.
Aswini Anburajan came to UCT in 2002 as a semester study abroad student

I am walking slowly with my three roommates, at times stepping off the curb to peer into the dimming twilight for a minibus to take us to Claremont. A minibus is coming by. We all wave enthusiastically. The driver waves back and keeps on going! We look at each other in shock. How could they not have stopped for such a group of fresh-faced youths? Five minutes go by and I see a minibus heading towards us. I jump up and shout, “Wynberrrrrg! Clarerrrrmonnnn Wynberrrrrrrg!” I was rejoicing in the call I will remember Cape Town by. You have to shout out the name of the place where you are going for the minibus to stop, just like the minibus assistants do. On Spring break in Durban I felt lost without the familiar call of ‘Mowbrie Caaaaaaap! Cape Tiii eeeen!”

John Smelcer from Princeton University was one of the early study abroad students at UCT in 1996

My time at UCT in 1996 under the careful, loving and inspiring care of Ida Cooper, was literally life changing in the full sense of that often-abused phrase. I was 20 years old, South Africa was springing into its own new future, history was literally happening all around me, and life really started for me on my own terms. I returned within a year of my time at UCT to do research. Then I returned again a year after that to help start the Public Policy Partnership (PPP) program – which is still going strong at UCT and other campuses around South Africa. In each of these steps, Ida was an indispensable advisor, life-saver, and close friend. I can say that Ida was both the catalyst and the guide that helped me fully realize the great potential of study abroad at UCT in South Africa in the mid 1990s.

Aswini Anburajan came to UCT in 2002 as a semester study abroad student

David Kyle from Trinity College spent a semester at UCT in 1999

I studied abroad at UCT in 1999. It was a life-changing experience for me. It opened my eyes to the way other people lived in the world. I’m a teacher, and I regularly talk about my experiences in South Africa. It’s invaluable stuff to talk about to students, and the lessons I learned and the wonderful experiences I had I’ll bring into the classroom for the rest of my career as a teacher. Studying at UCT and working in Khayelitsha as a SHAWCO STEP volunteer also inspired me to start a non-profit organisation called Books for South Africa, which ships educational materials to townships and poor areas in South Africa. We have shipped 78,000 books so far, and we have many more to go.
Danielle Imhoff came to UCT as a semester study abroad student in 2005 from Washington, DC

I loved the staff and service that I received from the IAPO office. Staff members always went above and beyond what they were called to do to help me out. Everyone was very approachable, helpful and quick in their responses. Before coming to UCT, IAPO helped me with housing. I am really glad that system was pretty much set up for us, because we really had no idea how to locate housing for ourselves. Also, they provided me with information about what to bring, which was helpful especially in terms of what not to bring and just to buy in Cape Town.

Abby Markoe came to UCT in 2001 as a semester study abroad student with the Council for International Education Exchange (CIEE), from George Washington University

I did not think I was going to appreciate being in South Africa until after I had left. Sometimes I wondered exactly what I was doing in South Africa. What was there to accomplish, to learn? Sometimes I had no answers. Other times, I had so many it seemed impossible to even start explaining my experience to someone else. How do you explain how it feels to witness abject poverty contrasted with the vast wealthy estates on the beach? Or to fight against the toppling wind on the Cape of Good Hope as you gaze out at the intersection of two massive oceans? In Africa, I have come to terms with feeling guilty, feeling frustrated, feeling uncomfortable. I have been ecstatic, stressed, overwhelmed, shocked and homesick all at once. But never once have I regretted coming here, nor will I. This experience will grow more meaningful as it turns into a memory, when I share it with other people, when I compare it to my life at home, when I visit Cape Town again.

Carmalita Doss came to UCT in 2003 as a semester study abroad student

On Friday March 14th 2003, I had the honour and privilege of attending the wedding ceremony of Sibongiseni and Ayanda Dakela. On Tuesday, Sibo came by to pick up his book and volunteered to take me to the wedding. I didn’t know if I was invited. He said that if I was not officially invited, I could be his guest. Like I said before, everyone that I have met is so kind to me. I feel like I am at home. I am reminded in South Africa that we have a mission to return to our communities and help uplift those who are left behind. There is hope … The elders sang songs to us and I cried the whole time because I felt a spirit within me rise. A spirit that allowed me to see that people do care and people can overcome and there are opportunities to grow. My eyes are open to a new world – a world inside Africa.

Laurel Lundstrom came to UCT in 2001 as a semester study abroad student with the Council for International Education Exchange (CIEE), from Cornell University

I am sitting here on a bed in Langa Township, South Africa. I feel ashamed of my blond hair, my soft smile. I feel my eyes are like coins, reflecting an American capitalism. I see the stereo and the TV in the little house in Langa. I wonder what it is that people want. I am asked about name brands, Levi jeans, Jennifer Lopez; all things I care little about. Will they believe me – that there is little goodness in materialism! I feel like an outsider. I hear clicking tongues, clicking against me. Why am I invading their home? Do they really care to know me? They must know I am not walking through this unaffected. There is want, desire, need, in all this impoverishment. But, there is community, life, family here in Langa.
Kate O’Neill from Harvard University was a study abroad student at UCT in 2004

I chose to spend the spring semester of my junior year studying abroad at the University of Cape Town. What a fantastic decision that turned out to be! The palpable climate of social change, political engagement and resilience that I encountered again and again in South Africa inspires me to this day.

My experience at UCT, during which I was fortunate enough to make friends of all races, was informed by my mother’s experience in Johannesburg, where she spent 1976-1977 as a reporter for the Rand Daily Mail and often spoke to me of the difficulties and dangers she encountered when trying to forge friendships across racial lines. It was nothing less than a triumphant experience for all of us when she came and visited me in the new South Africa, 27 years after she had last set foot in the country, and I was able to take her out to dinner accompanied by friends of all races. Upon returning to Harvard I kept up my engagement with South Africa by writing a thesis on contemporary land reform in Namaqualand. Having just accepted a job at a non-profit management consultancy based in San Francisco California, I am off to new adventures. However, wherever I go I will always hold my time in South Africa as one of the most influential of my life.

I’ll never forget Ida Cooper and her associates who provide a valuable student support service to semester abroad and exchange students at the University of Cape Town.
Christine Krafft came to UCT as a semester study abroad student

IAPO was very helpful in getting me started at UCT and well as South Africa, especially Cape Town. With all their tours and events, lectures about culture, health and safety, we were not just able to integrate ourselves within South African society but also make friends with other Semester Study Abroad students. Whenever I needed help I was supported and helped sufficiently and I always felt that I could come around the IAPO office whenever I had a question about almost anything and the staff there could help and assist me.

After my semester studies came to an end, I decided that I liked South Africa so much that I wanted to stay on. I’m currently doing my Masters year in the Linguistics Department here at UCT.

Stephanie Wörmann came to UCT as a semester study abroad student in 2005 from the University of Passau, Germany

The IAPO staff has always been helpful and nice even if there are hundreds of students asking the same questions over and over again or all at the same time! The orientation week was very helpful, especially because the different procedures in choosing courses etc. were explained.
What sparked your interest in the study abroad program?

My interest in studying abroad started while visiting my sister who studied at Middlesex University during her junior year of college. Although I was only ten, I recognized that her experiences broadened her knowledge of the world and made her a more engaging person. I have come to believe studying abroad is an integral part of the liberal arts education that Birmingham-Southern stresses. College is much more than learning what’s in the textbook; it is mainly about experiences, and studying abroad is one of the most exciting experiences college can offer.

How did you choose South Africa?

I always knew I would like to study abroad, but I never pinpointed a destination. Essentially, I saw one of the flyers outside the International Programs Office. See how much trouble a flyer can get you into? For a period, I was planning to study in Ireland through a pre-medical program established by the science faculty; however, I began to wonder whether I would ever go to Africa if I did not take advantage of the present opportunity. Choosing South Africa was a hard decision for me. I walked into studying abroad knowing that I may fall behind a year in my preparation for medical school. However, in hindsight, the risks are well worth the experience.

What are you studying? How are the courses different from courses that you would find at 'Southern?

I am taking four classes, which is considered a normal load at UCT. I’m enrolled in two science classes, Human Evolution and Physics, and two humanities courses, African Literature and Language Studies and Psychology of Religion. The science classes are similar to those at BSC, yet they are much larger and less personal. Taking a human evolution class in South Africa where I’m less than a three-hour drive from many of the most famous *Austroalopithecus* sites is very exciting. The class is a great extension of Dr. Hendley’s Evolution and the New Creationist interim class. Both of my humanities classes have a much more international perspective than what I have experienced at home. My psychology of religion class is not composed of 99.9 percent Christians – there is an eclectic mix that allows for many interesting comments as we...
dive into the ideas of consciousness and transcendence found in different religions. In my African literature course, all of the novels deal heavily with ideas of colonialism and post-colonialism, choice of language and Western versus Eastern discourse. I would consider classes here challenging because I am often forced to consider things from a non-European perspective, which is something that obviously doesn’t happen much back home.

What long-term benefits do you think this experience abroad will offer?

Coming here has changed my whole perspective on how I see myself as a functioning unit in society. While I have been here, I have volunteered within the medical sector several times to gain a perspective of medical care in a semi-third world setting. The medical problems here are overwhelming, but they also provide an excellent opportunity for learning about how diseases, such as HIV, affect whole subgroups in a population. Hopefully, my experiences in medicine here will enable me to bring back a better understanding of some of the main healthcare issues facing the world, the U.S. and possibly my future patients (if I have any).

Have you been able to travel much?

Thus far, I have visited Cape Point as well as Robben Island and Simonstown. Cape Point is the most southwesterly point of Africa and is home to a variety of wildlife including little hamster-like creatures called dassies. They come right up to you, and it’s hard not to step on them. Interestingly, their closest relative is the elephant. Robben Island, which sits outside of Table Bay, was one of the main political prisons during the apartheid era and is now a memorial to those, including Nelson Mandela, who were imprisoned there for decades. Our guide on the island tour was actually a former prisoner, which added a very surreal component to the experience. During the tour, the guide asked whether anyone on the bus was not a tourist, that is, a South African. Of all people, he looked at me, and said in a very serious voice, “You must be from South Africa.” Apparently, when needed, I can pass for an Afrikaner. Several weekends ago I went to Simonstown for two days with some people in my house. The whole trip was less than 20 dollars, and we spent a whole afternoon playing on the shores of False Bay, which is essentially a bowl of water surrounded by mountain ranges. Simonstown is also home to Africa’s only penguins, the jackass penguin. They are the only warm climate penguins in the world.

What have you missed the most since you’ve been away?

Most of all, I have missed all the familiarities – family, friends, Moe’s, the perpetual green grass on campus and grading scales out of 100. Fast internet access is a high commodity here. I have spent entire afternoons downloading research from the internet.

What have you found to be the biggest surprise so far?

Probably what I noticed right off was how inexpensive everything is here. For a weekend visit to Simonstown I spent less than 20 dollars. Groceries that would usually cost 150 dollars in the states cost less than 70 here. My biggest challenge has been learning how to cook on my own using South African food. Cooking is hard enough in America, but when you combine unfamiliar food products and oven temperatures in Celsius, you are in for a rough experience in the kitchen. Wandering through the grocery store is always fun. So far, I have discovered that some types of milk down here does not have to be refrigerated. I now buy several weeks worth and refrigerate for taste, not freshness.

Have you had any cultural clashes/revelations?

I have been deeply struck by the severe poverty I have seen in the townships. Each week I have been participating in an HIV/AIDS education class for the youth in the township of Nyanga. The majority of the homes in the townships are what we would consider small tool sheds. These shacks are constructed from whatever scrap people find lying around. The townships are a direct result of apartheid and the segregating relocation of population groups that occurred in the 50s and 60s. Describing the working conditions and the townships here is very difficult because there is nothing to compare them to in the States. I have also become increasingly aware of the effects colonialism has had on numerous African countries, especially South Africa and Kenya. I have had to seriously question the validity of Christian mission work and its ties to the colonial aspects which have oppressed Africans for hundreds of years. Before coming here, I considered England a great stronghold for human rights as it came out of World War II; however, after studying English occupation in Kenya during the 1950s, known as the Emergency, it is hard to distinguish some of England’s actions from those of Nazi Germany.

What will you miss the most when you leave in December?

The great diversity found in South Africa is unlike any other place in the world, and UCT is a very cosmopolitan campus. I will definitely miss access to this diversity and the ways it challenges me to rethink who I am and how I fit into society. I will also miss all of the great friends I have made thus far. Ostrich burgers will always be dear to my heart, as well.
The attraction by International Full Degree students to study at UCT is attributable to UCT’s reputation as a high-ranking academic institution across the continent and abroad. They speak of quality, services and an identity with the institution’s vision and mission. This is clearly seen in the perspectives from full degree students.

Ademola Rabiu (Nigeria), PhD student in the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment

This is quite ironic that it was by pure accident or should I say an act of destiny that I came across UCT on the web. I immediately fell in love with the research of UCT’s Professor Eric van Steen in the Fischer Tropsch catalytic processes. I also got admission for a doctoral programme from the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia at the same time. But, the urge to behold the land about which much has been sung, written and talked was just too much, this despite the vehement insistence of my Professor that I should go to UNSW.

The most striking feature of Cape Town is the diverse culture and the multi-ethnic settings of the mother city, such that a student from any part of the world will always find “a home” in Cape Town. The prevailing religious liberalism and tolerance, the ethnic harmony and racial tolerance as found in such a pluralistic society is a test case for other African countries grappling with the problem of promoting a national identity as opposed to ethnic loyalty. The funding opportunities available to international students are great by African standards.

I actively participated in many community development activities – visits to orphanages, prisons, tutoring and mentoring activities in the townships. I find the experience very enriching and challenging at the same time. The magnitude of the developmental and socio-economic challenges in the townships call for the sustained efforts of all. I would really advise other students to get out of the cocoon of campus residences, and engage with the larger community to experience the level of deprivation and hardship the larger part of the society is experiencing.

UCT has become the “university of choice” for students from all over Africa and, in my view, realized its mission of “recognizing its location in Africa and its historical context”. What remains is to inculcate a leadership, political as well as entrepreneurial spirit in students so that they can reclaim Africa’s glorious past.

Lin Zhao (China) is currently a Bachelor of Commerce student

I have always wanted to come to Africa, so it was the most exciting moment when I was accepted into UCT. Everything was so different and amazing. People were so friendly and welcoming.

I have met lots of classmates and resident mates who have become my friends. They are so generous in offering help; they don’t want anyone left behind. Whenever I have problems, there is always someone there for me, which makes me always thank God for my good fortune.

I have received so much love and help from people, who have encouraged me to really become part of the UCT community. I joined the Art of Living society to get to know myself better. I have become a member of a House Committee and I am an Orientation leader for IAPO, which is a great chance for me to share my experiences with freshers, as I used to be one of them.

These 3 years of UCT life have made me stronger, more confident and grown up. I love this place more every day!
Colins Imoh (Nigeria),
PhD student in the Faculty
of Engineering & the Built
Environment

The University of Cape Town will always hold a special place in my heart. I had never heard of UCT till a few weeks before coming to South Africa for a holiday in 2001. I was discussing with a friend about my trip and he informed me that a mutual friend of ours, Divine, was studying at UCT. I then sent him an email to find out more about Cape Town. I was not thinking of having my postgraduate studies in Africa at all. However, during the course of my holidays I visited him and we went to the UCT campus together.

The campus was stunning and the facilities awesome. I have travelled widely and university settings have this aura. I have visited many universities, but on seeing UCT, I fell in love. I told Divine that I would like to study at UCT and the rest is history for I came back in 2004 to start my postgraduate programme.

UCT is a university filled with opportunities; my most memorable moment was being able to launch the Awake the African Spirit Campaign with the support of IAPO. Today the Awake the African Spirit is a registered society on campus contributing its quota to the transformation of the campus. I am greatly enriched academically by my stay in UCT, the diversity and various activities to choose from makes life on campus never boring. Being a tourist city, life in Cape Town is always on the move. Finally, the cost of studying in South Africa as a foreign student is cheap compared to that at most universities in Europe and America. The faculty and departments have a listening ear and are willing to assist students. In some cases they go out of their way to assist.

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Pascal Acquaah (Ghana), studying for an MSc in Electrical Engineering

I chose UCT because of its prestigious reputation in Africa and because of its beautiful location. My most memorable time at UCT was of course my graduation. It was my triumph over all the obstacles that I needed to overcome to finally graduate as an Electrical and Computer Engineer.

UCT is a great institution with highly rated professors who have taught me well and guided me towards my engineering degree. They taught me to think and research like an engineer and I feel that I am ready to face any challenge out there. I decided to continue my studies here and complete a Masters degree in engineering and I know I made the right choice.

My engagement with the South African community has been somewhat limited because of my engagement with studies, but I did manage to mingle with my South African friends in Leo Marquard residence. People in Cape Town love to enjoy themselves and party. So it is always nice to go out there and have fun. My top three experiences in Cape Town were to visit all the historic places during orientation week with new students, playing basketball at the sports centre and going clubbing at night in the numerous Cape Town Clubs.

South Africa is a country with many riches. Its resources are incredible. I have had the chance of exploring several parts of the country and I am planning to do much more when I am done with my studies at UCT.

Yves Nzuzi-Khuabi (Democratic Republic of Congo), MSc in Project Management, 2005

I always wanted to study in a world-class university because the qualification that you get can offer you a lot of opportunities. Despite the fact that UCT and Wits were seen as the two top universities in Africa, UCT was my first choice because of its reputation and what the city of Cape Town has to offer as a tourist destination.

Studying at UCT has definitely contributed to my academic well-being because we use up-to-date materials, and have very adequate facilities and infrastructures compared to other African universities. The interactions and human relations that you build with people from different cultures and origins are priceless. For instance, one of my best friends that I met at UCT is Jewish. He once took me to his synagogue and we often spoke about my Catholic faith and his Jewish faith. Now I realize that Catholics and Jews, Blacks and Whites have a lot in common.

The mixture of cultural, glamorous, and intellectual diversity makes Cape Town one of the best places to be but I would have to say that my most memorable moments at UCT are my two graduation ceremonies and the Congolese Evening organized with IAPO.

I am currently working in an organization that is 80% composed of Afrikaners. I had some pre-conceptions about Afrikaners because they are blamed for all wrongdoings of the Apartheid era. But interacting with them everyday has changed my perception of Afrikaners completely that I am even learning Afrikaans.

You can really see that all South Africans do what they can to get over past divisions, even if sometimes it is difficult. That is really inspiring.

If you want to experience world class education, diverse cultures and beautiful scenes, UCT is the place to be.
The Universities Sciences, Humanities and Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPiA) programme is generally referred to as a “flagship” programme in terms of UCT’s efforts to reach out in partnership with other African universities. UCT is proud to have been selected as the host institution for this programme which has contributed to the intellectual and institutional capacities of participating universities in Southern and East African countries. The programme has also been in existence for 10 years. In this section we include perspectives from some past and present USHEPiA Fellows who speak about the success of the programme. The recurring sentiments are factual and describe the quality of education that they have received, the support and facilities that exist at UCT. The Fellows speak highly of the supervision and intellectual stimulation that has transformed them at a personal and professional level. For many USHEPiA Fellows, coming to UCT is a destiny fulfilled.

We also include perspectives from supervisors, some of whom had never been outside South Africa before their involvement with USHEPiA. Their visits to other African universities helped them to gain a better understanding of the challenges faced by higher education institutions in Africa, and to develop a respect for their fellow academics in these countries.

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**Dr Simon Onywere (PhD in Geology, 1997, Senior Lecturer at Kenyatta University)**

In 1996, I was among the first students to be awarded a fellowship under the Universities Sciences, Humanities and Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPiA). This was a partial support that gave me travel support and scholarship to further develop the Rift Valley GIS database design for Kenya and to build 3-Dimensional modelling of the East Africa Rift Valley at the Centre for Interactive Graphical Computing Earth Science (CIGCES).

The programme also provided me with the necessary resources to analyse my data, to write the thesis and conclude my PhD. The exposure to the UCT academic environment has had tremendous influence on the way I do things at my university.

The equipment support formed the basis of a nucleus laboratory at Egerton University where I returned to in 1997. I had an opportunity to serve as Head of department of geography for three years (Egerton University) before moving to Kenyatta University in May 2001 as a senior lecturer. The USHEPiA programme initiated the Research publication network and the Small Grants scheme which was of great benefit to me and led to the setting up of another nucleus GIS laboratory at Kenyatta University.

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**Dr John Ochora, (PhD in Medicinal Phytochemistry, 2000, Senior Lecturer at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology)**

The training I have received at UCT will go a long way in building my capacity as a responsible university lecturer. I have benefited greatly from the research and data analysis skills using the wonderful facilities and modern technology at UCT. Besides being a historically research university my own assessment shows that UCT is a success story in terms of fulfilling the task commissioned to universities world wide, namely, generation and transmission of knowledge. I am indebted to both Prof. Peter H. Linder and William D. Stock who were of much help to me. They were always present in the department and ready to assist me whenever I needed their guidance. I benefited greatly from their intellectual experiences, advice and discussions. I will try to maintain the good supervisor-student relationship that we have established and utilise it for future collaboration in terms of joint publications and research activities.

The role USHEPiA has played in cementing the good academic relationship between UCT and Jomo Kenyatta University cannot be over-emphasized. It is my hope that this collaboration will extend to other aspects of collaboration such as student and lecturer exchange programmes, joint research ventures, publications, external examining, supervision, and revision of syllabi and teaching skills.
Faith Apolot Okalebo, Current Fellow, Pharmacology

I am a lecturer at the University of Nairobi where I obtained my undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Pharmacy. I received a USHEPiA fellowship in 2003 which I had applied for through my home university. The award was quite a surprise and it came at a time when I had given up on receiving funding for my PhD studies.

The USHEPiA fellowship had been of great benefit to me as an individual. When I did my Masters in my home university I experienced many problems such as lack of basic consumables, severe under funding and lack of ready access to a computer, printer and appropriate software. My studies at UCT have given me free access to all these amenities and this has made my research enjoyable. Learning at UCT has shown me the critical importance of a solid support system and an excellent professional management system. In some countries, many of the problems experienced by both staff and students are not necessarily due to lack of finance but are rather due to lack of proper professional management of existing resources. In this regard my experience at UCT has been an eye-opener.

In addition to pursuing my PhD degree in Pharmacology I took a series of courses as a non-degree student. I have also been exposed to brilliant academics who are international experts in their fields. I have gained a lot by interacting with them. During my vacation, my home supervisor and I used the knowledge I acquired to develop a new curriculum for the Masters Program in Pharmacology for my home university. Through personal contacts made within UCT, one member of staff from my home university and one student have come to pursue their postgraduate studies at UCT. I hope that my department will establish strong collaborative linkages with relevant departments here at UCT. When I complete my studies, I intend to use the skills, knowledge and contacts that I have made for the full benefit of my home department.
Dr Karanja Kibicho, (PhD in Mechanical Engineering, 2006, Lecturer, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology)

I was attracted to the University of Cape Town by availability of a supervisor, research funding, facilities and sufficient resources in the department of mechanical engineering. Through the efforts of my supervisor, I was given an opportunity to lecturer two courses during my second year of study. I found the interaction and experience of teaching at UCT very exciting and really gave me a chance to see the other side of doing things. Furthermore, my Supervisor was willing to refer me to consult with many other academics who, in his opinion, would provide me with expert information on issues related to my research. The relationship with my Supervisor was a very warm, relaxed and friendly one. His timely response with corrections during the thesis preparation and in all issues made my study at UCT unbelievably satisfying and enjoyable, as can be witnessed by the time within which I have been able to complete my PhD.

The research grant was adequate to buy all the research materials that I required. With it, I was able to acquire basic equipment to develop the infrastructure in the department of mechanical engineering at my home university. I received all the support that I requested from my sponsors who were willing to accommodate the individual needs of every student. I cannot forget the undivided attention I received whenever I visited the USHEPiA office.

My accommodation at All Africa House was very comfortable and conveniently located. The facilities, especially Internet access, and the opportunity to interact with many researchers and professionals were excellent.

Dr Goretti Nakabugo, (PhD in Education, 2004), Head of Department, Makerere University)

I first came to the University of Cape Town as a USHEPiA fellow in 1997 on a Masters programme in the School of Education. Those who saw me then and are here to see me today can actually automatically tell how USHEPiA has benefited me. I have grown personally and professionally. I can confidently call myself a living example of how a single programme can transform an individual into a useful person. The nature of USHEPiA where students from various African universities are given a fellowship to study for higher degrees provides a great experience. We get the opportunity to develop life-long friendships and research links that are geared at exploring problems facing our continent. Certainly, I would recommend the USHEPiA experience to any person who thirsts for intellectual advancement and academic experience.

Leah Sikoyo, Makerere University, Current Fellow, Education

USHEPiA – a poem

What can I say about you USHEPiA?
You have expanded my academic horizon in indescribable ways
Made it possible for me to attend a world-class university in Africa
Provided me with academic exposure which is a source of envy to many scholars
Enabled me to attend academic conferences far and near
Funded my travels to personally consult seasoned professors overseas
Accommodated me in the best and most conveniently located residence at UCT
Placed me in a vibrant community of international scholars, All Africa House
Is it a book or computer, software or piece of research equipment?
None I lack
You keep me connected locally and globally
What can I say about you my USHEPiA
I appreciate your unfailing commitment to my scholarship
Supervisor’s Perspectives

“What they do in the department is comparable to what is done at UCT in terms of quality teaching and research. I was very impressed by the quality of the staff. I felt that they were enthusiastic about what they were doing and have the interest of their students at heart. I encountered knowledge, skills and information that was new to me, mostly out of research reports”.

“I became a lot more tolerant of African problems and issues. I am more insightful about my own supervision and teaching. I became more politically aware and developed a sense of worth as an African”.

“If USHEPiA did anything to me, it was to open up my eyes to actually know what goes on in higher education in Africa. I had no experience outside of South Africa. I know about Europe and America. This has been my only real exposure to problems that African Universities face”.

“I found myself more rooted in Africa than I would have been if I didn’t travel out there”.

“There can be no doubt that the USHEPiA model has been successful. What is difficult to measure and quantify is the quality of the programme management, which has been highly efficient and responsive and which has prompted unsolicited expressions of appreciation, often from Fellows who completed their programmes some time ago. Undoubtedly, such support from individual students for the quality of the programme and its other activities have motivated students and staff, thereby contributing to the high completion rate”.

“The staff I met enjoyed their jobs and loved being academics. They were very involved in what they do”.

“Through the USHEPiA programme the UCT Chemical Engineering Department has established a strong relationship with the University of Zambia where Dr Stephen Simukanga, Mr Tepa’s home supervisor, is based. As a result of this relationship, Dr Simukanga is now a visiting lecturer at the University of Cape Town”.

“USHEPiA offers one of the best scholarship programmes I have come across. I want to congratulate those who initiated it and are responsible for its continued efficiency”

“An important part of USHEPiA Fellowship has been laying the foundations for the University of Cape Town research collaboration with colleagues in universities in Malawi, Tanzania, Lesotho, South Africa and Zimbabwe”.

“The intellectual exchange between the people involved in the fellowship programme has been rewarding for all. The network of contacts between supervisors and the Fellows is immeasurably valuable. Our collective experience of the USHEPiA Programme has been very good and we wish to thank all the persons at the USHEPiA office for their good management and supportive behaviour”.

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The atrium in the Kramer Building at UCT was transformed by festoons of colourful national flags and the aromas of cuisine from all around the world as IAPO celebrated its 10th anniversary on 28 March 2006. Staff, students and invited guests enjoyed a truly memorable occasion.
Application procedures for International Students
Go to the UCT website: www.uct.ac.za and follow links ‘Applying to UCT’ to ‘International applicants’.

International Student Fees
Details can be found at http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/intlapplicants/degree/fees/international/

Funding opportunities for International Students
All awards offered by the University are limited to South African citizens and permanent residents. However, a small number of scholarships are available to international students such as the International Students’ Scholarships and the UCT Senior Entrance Merit Scholarships.

International Students’ Scholarships
These are awarded on a competitive basis with emphasis given to the seniority of candidates and are supplementary only. Applying students must ensure that they have sufficient support for their studies. The scholarships are renewable for the duration of the course of study subject to satisfactory progress being maintained, up to a limit of 1 year at Honours level, 2 years at Masters level and 3 years at Doctoral level.

Post-Doctoral Research Fellowships
There are a number of opportunities for post-doctoral research fellowships at UCT. However, the majority of opportunities are offered by independent donors and interested parties are advised to check with the Postgraduate Funding Office regularly.

For more information on scholarships please contact the UCT Postgraduate Funding Office:
Tel: +27(0)21 650-2206/2141; Fax: +27(0)21 650-4352;
Email: gradcentre@uct.ac.za;
Website: http://www.pgfo.uct.ac.za

Accommodation for International Students
UCT only has a limited number of rooms in student residences, most of which are allocated to South African students who come from all over the country. IAPO understands that the best way to integrate international students with local students would be through sharing of accommodation space. However, due to the shortage of residence accommodation, not every international student can be accommodated in residence.

For Semester Study Abroad students, IAPO has made an undertaking to seek out excellent, secure, suitably furnished private accommodation within walking distance of the campus. Penny van Zyl (email penny.vanzyl@uct.ac.za) communicates with all students who need accommodation and she places them in specific houses before they arrive in Cape Town. Students who attend UCT through the CIEE, Interstudy or IDACA programmes are housed by the respective programmes. Further information regarding housing options is found on our website http://web.uct.ac.za/misc/iaapo/

Full Degree Students
Most full degree international students share rented houses or apartments with local students near the University. For more information, email the Student Housing Office at res@protem.uct.ac.za or visit the website of the Off-Campus Accommodation and Letting (CAL) for assistance: http://cal.uct.ac.za/africa

IAPO also provides some referrals to international full degree students in finding off-campus accommodation.

USHEPIA Fellows
USHEPIA Fellows are accommodated at All Africa House (AAH) located on UCT’s Middle Campus for the duration of their studies. Although All Africa House is primarily a residence for short-term visiting scholars from Africa, two clusters of eight single rooms each are reserved for USHEPIA Fellows. The All Africa House website is: www.aah.uct.ac.za

Immigration Requirements for International Students
In addition to providing advice and support to international students on various issues, IAPO advises students on their responsibilities and obligations regarding their residence status in South Africa. All international students intending to take up studies in South Africa must apply for a study permit from the South African High Commission, Embassy or Consulate in their home country. Over the years, IAPO has worked closely with the Department of Home Affairs to keep abreast with immigration legislation and to enhance its working knowledge of immigration requirements and procedures pertaining to international students.

However, the onus to maintain legal immigration status while studying in South Africa primarily rests with each student. There are several immigration requirements that international students need to be aware of. Failure to maintain appropriate status may lead to termination of ones student immigration status. For further information on immigration requirements for international students visit: http://home-affairs.pwv.gov.za

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