Four UCT stalwarts were among the 29 recipients (including five posthumous awards) who received National Orders from President Kgalema Motlanthe last week. The Order of Mapungubwe (Silver Category) was bestowed on Professor Doug Butterworth of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, former senior deputy-vice-chancellor Professor Wieland Gevers, Professor Tim Noakes of the MRC/UCT Research Unit for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine, and Professor Pragasen Pillay of the Department of Electrical Engineering.

The Order of Mapungubwe is awarded to South African citizens for excellence and exceptional achievement. National Orders are the highest awards that a country may bestow, through its president, on its citizens and eminent foreign nationals.

The university was well represented when the President conferred National Orders last week, recognising important contributions to the country across a broad spectrum of endeavours.

The university was well represented when the President conferred National Orders last week, recognising important contributions to the country across a broad spectrum of endeavours.

HELEN THERON

Four UCT stalwarts were among the 29 recipients (including five posthumous awards) who received National Orders from President Kgalema Motlanthe on Tuesday, 28 October.

The Order of Mapungubwe (Silver Category) was bestowed on Professor Doug Butterworth of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, former senior deputy-vice-chancellor Professor Wieland Gevers, Professor Tim Noakes of the MRC/UCT Research Unit for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine, and Professor Pragasen Pillay of the Department of Electrical Engineering.

The Order of Mapungubwe is awarded to South African citizens for excellence and exceptional achievement. National Orders are the highest awards that a country may bestow, through its president, on its citizens and eminent foreign nationals.

The university has many alumni and staff who have received National Orders over the years, including luminaries such as Emeritus Professor JM Coetzee (2005), Hamilton Naki (2002), Emeritus Professor Peter Beighton (2002), Professor Allan Cormack (posthumously, 2002) and Professor Daya Reddy (2004).

Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price endorsed the valuable contribution UCT academics and staff, some of them Nobel Laureates, have made to broader society, both at home and internationally.

Their input has been across a wide spectrum, from great literature and pioneering medicine, to cutting-edge mathematics and sustainable technology.

“The group that received this year’s Orders is again testimony to the span of disciplines in which UCT scholars continue to stand out.”

This year Butterworth was honoured for his excellent contribution to the field of sport and the science of physical exercise. The Discovery Health professor of exercise and sports science, Noakes established ESSM in the early 1980s. It is now an acclaimed research unit of the Medical Research Council.

My thanks are extended to the same secretary, Di Loureiro, for two decades of service to the institution,” said Noakes.

He is an acknowledged world leader in the field of scientific fishery assessment, modelling and management. The nature of his research is deliberately applied and largely motivated by the need to provide sound scientific advice in relation to current pressing issues in fisheries management.

“The group that received this year’s Orders is again testimony to the span of disciplines in which UCT scholars continue to stand out.”

These important contributions to the country across a broad spectrum of endeavours

The university was well represented when the President conferred National Orders last week, recognising important contributions to the country across a broad spectrum of endeavours.

“The group that received this year’s Orders is again testimony to the span of disciplines in which UCT scholars continue to stand out.”

Four UCT stalwarts were among the 29 recipients (including five posthumous awards) who received National Orders from President Kgalema Motlanthe last week. Prof Doug Butterworth (bottom left) could not attend.

“Ask around. Put the word out.”

National Orders for UCT four

The university was well represented when the President conferred National Orders last week, recognising important contributions to the country across a broad spectrum of endeavours.

The university was well represented when the President conferred National Orders last week, recognising important contributions to the country across a broad spectrum of endeavours.

The university was well represented when the President conferred National Orders last week, recognising important contributions to the country across a broad spectrum of endeavours.

Each discipline has its own problems and pressing issues in fisheries management and this is where our unique research capacity is needed. It is now an acclaimed research unit of the Medical Research Council.

The university was well represented when the President conferred National Orders last week, recognising important contributions to the country across a broad spectrum of endeavours.

“The group that received this year’s Orders is again testimony to the span of disciplines in which UCT scholars continue to stand out.”

Four UCT stalwarts were among the 29 recipients (including five posthumous awards) who received National Orders from President Kgalema Motlanthe last week. Prof Doug Butterworth (bottom left) could not attend.

The university was well represented when the President conferred National Orders last week, recognising important contributions to the country across a broad spectrum of endeavours.

The university was well represented when the President conferred National Orders last week, recognising important contributions to the country across a broad spectrum of endeavours.
SRC must be visible, says new president

MYOLISI GOPHIE

When Chris Ryall accepted the nomination to be a member of the 2008/09 Student Representative Council (SRC), he decided to put his studies on hold.

Next year Ryall, who was elected as the new president of the SRC, will do just one subject towards his degree in business science, and dedicate most of his attention to the council.

“I don’t want to do things half-heart,” he says. “I don’t want to do okay for my degree and okay for SRC. I want to be as good as possible for both.

He believes that his “fantastic” 14-member team would “bring the SRC closer to students” and improve their lives.

Ryall is one of seven students from the Democratic Alliance Student Organisation (DASO) on the SRC, which also includes five from the South African Students Congress and three independent candidates.

Ryall wants SRC members should be visible, and plans to avant himself for one-on-one meetings every week.

“This is the SRC students will see, hear and feel.”

While the new members must still meet to draft priorities, Ryall believes that access, retention and throughput of students are some of the issues that need SRC attention.

“Access has been achieved, but UCT needs to be a place that takes responsibility for supporting students, and ensuring they acquire skills so their degrees benefit them and their communities.”

He was concerned, however, that 14 years into democracy, the country had not arrived at a definition of transformation.

“When we talk about transformation, students are not sure what we are talking about.”

However, people were starting to look beyond the colour lines, he added. The SRC, Ryall noted, should also be transparent and accountable for its actions. To ensure this, independent assessment and review bodies would be set up to keep them in check.

The rest of the SRC team is made up of Amanda Nyweryna (vice-president, external), Shannon Bernhardt (vice-president, internal), Portia Guma (secretary-general), Sabelo Masenzi (deputy secretaries-general), Dylan van Vuuren (chair of academics), and Ahmad Buna (treasurer). Co-ordinators are Mewa Kweyama (transformation), Sara Reith (residences), Trevor McArthur (societies), Michelle Davy (sports), Anton Taylor (entertainment), Nevana Kostic (media and communications), Ayanda Dhladhla (duty houses), and Babongile Mandela (health, safety and security).

news • news • news • news • news • www.news@uct.ac.za

The Department of Information Systems at UCT presented their annual showcase of third- and honours-year systems-development project groups on 14 October. The honours’ year first prize was taken by the group Cabal7. Their product, CipherStore, allows clients to digitise paper-based documents, upload them to a central server, manage and download them through a web browser.

The third-year first prize was shared by teams Noesis and UnLeasIT. The Noesis product, Groothos CRM, is a web-based Customer Relationship Management system aimed at increasing sponsor donations to the Grootbos Foundation through an interactive online donation system. UnLeasIT’s project, KUSA CRM, aids the Nelson Mandela University of Southern Africa in performing its many administrative tasks and load them through a web browser.

The award recognises a boost when the Cape Town chapter of the Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE), an international enterprise and social responsiveness network, was launched at UCT on 16 October.

SIFE is an organisation of academics, business leaders and students operating in over 500 countries worldwide, offering students opportunities to begin their outreach projects with the support of an international faculty. This gives the existing on-campus community responsive projects operating within societies, sports clubs and in residences opportunity to partner with UCT SIFE, and will provide students with the skills and knowledge required to find solutions to community problems.

UCCT graduate Dr June Bam-Hutchison, an author, activist and international communities-development strategist, recently received the prestigious Achievement Through Diversity Award at the 10th annual GG2 Leadership and Diversity Awards in the UK.

The award recognises Bam-Hutchison’s work in human rights, peace and development education in South Africa and abroad, and her roles in the South African History Project and with the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation.

“This award is as much a tribute to my primary school teacher Edith Sechaba, role models and mentors like educators Jean Pease and UCT’s Prof Peter Kallaway,” she said.

On 3 October, Barones Chalker of Wallasey, a trustee of the UK UCT Trust, hosted an event for UK-based UCT alumni at the Houses of Parliament.

Dinner with Mugabe

The Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR), Cape Town, South Africa, invites you and members of your organisation to the seminar

The book will be on sale at the event. All are welcome and entry is free.

The team, made up of civil-engineering students Tafadzwa Ncube and Mandisa Mazibuko, commerce student Mfani Senejane and computer science student Mangani Ng’wane, took top honours at the UCT round staged on 20 October. The R1-million Sanlam competition gives students an opportunity to come up with innovative concepts on how to improve the lives of people living in informal settlements. The winning team will bag R100,000, while R150,000 will also be awarded to the faculty they represent.
Two women among trio of new Fellows

Vanessa Everson, Dr Justin O’Riain and Leonard Smith are the recipients of this year’s Distinguished Teacher Awards.

A neuroscientist, Vivienne Russell joined UCT in 1997 and was promoted to associate professor in 2001 and full professor in 2004. During the past three decades she has supervised several MSc and PhD students and published extensively on topics in the neurosciences. Russell’s reputation rests on her pioneering work in developing an animal model of the world of French literature - disorder (ADHD). The first of a series of publications on ADHD in 1995 garnered 93 citations. In a ground-breaking paper published in Behavioural and Brain Function in 2006, she introduced a novel hypoth- esis - based on neutral and glial energetics - for understanding ADHD. This paper drew a lot of attention, becoming the most accessed paper from this journal. Russell has played a major role in promoting neuroscience training in Africa, by organising international neuroscience schools for postgraduate students. She serves on the School’s board of the International Brain Research Organisa- tion (IBRO), IBRO’s Neuroscience Programme Network and the IBRO African Regional Committee, which organises neuroscience training in Africa.

UCT-trained, Judith Sealy obtained her PhD in archaeology in 1989. She is also fully trained in the Oxford laboratory to date many of the world’s most famous paintings in Europe, including those at Lascaux. Last, but not least, the most popular method for the extraction of collagen from bone is widely known as “the Sealy method”.

Igor Barashenko obtained his MSc (1983) at Moscow State University and his PhD from the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna, Russia. He came to UCT in 1992 as a senior lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics. He was appointed professor in 2002. His research centres on solitons, particle-like nonlinear waves arising on the surface of some fluids, in magnetic crystals, superconductors, fibre optic lines, dense atomic clouds, boson condensates, and other nonlinear media. Among his main achievements are the discovery of a new type of soliton with unusual properties (the so-called solitonic bubbles); the demonstration of the stability of gap solitons in optical gratings; the discovery of the remarkable complexity of solitons in resonantly-forced dissipative systems; the explicit construction of topologi- cal solitons in two dimensions; and the prediction of a stable two-dimen- sional soliton on the surface of a fer- romagnetic thin film. For his research on solitons, he was awarded a B rating by the National Research Foundation and a visiting fellowship by the Ernst Oppenheimer Memorial Trust in 2004.

Gates funds TB research

D r Anwar Jardine’s project to de- velop treatment for multi-drug- resistant strains of tuberculosis has won a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation worth US $100 000 (or R1million). Jardine, who has only been with the Department of Chemistry in UCT’s Faculty of Sciences since June this year, was chosen out of thousands of applicants to receive the founda- tion’s Grand Challenges Explora- tion Grant. Out of the 105 grants awarded by a blinded review process, Jardine is one of only three African recip- ients.

Only in its first stages, Jardine’s research has targeted a relatively newly discovered pathway critical to the survival of TB-causing bacteria, and protocols have been set up to test the hypothesis that blocking this pathway will kill the latent form of the bacteria.

As well as understanding how this molecule is used by the bacteria to protect itself, Jardine’s research is aimed at contributing toward finding new potential drugs that will mini- mize the chance of resistance, which is a common problem with current therapeutic regimens.

Distinguished teachers named

In one citation for this year’s Dis- tinguished Teacher Award, the nominator writes: “The award of distinguished teacher is a once-in-a-lifetime award which the university bestows upon brilliant teachers who create conditions in which students become learners for life.”

In a nutshell, this underpins the DTA award, presented this year to Vanessa Everson, Dr Justin O’Riain and Leonard Smith.

Everson, a senior lecturer in French in the School of Languages & Literatures, has transformed the teaching of French at UCT, creating “a model for French as a foreign language at tertiary level”, her citation.

After modernising the syllabus and retraining and mentoring the teachers, she designed courses on French and the media, on the practice of translation, and signed the course teaching business French. She also pioneered a new honours-level qualification, Teach- ing French as a Foreign Language, the first of its kind in South Africa, her students praise her innova- tive teaching methods and app- roaches. A former student writes: “Ms Everson guided me through many moments of despair, opened the world of French literature - and grammar to me and has also inspired me to become interested in translation.”

A senior lecturer in the Depart- ment of Zoology, O’Riain’s primary aim as an educator is to build intel-lectual confidence in his students and to provide them with the tools to forge their own scientific theories. Students have the status of partners in education, ensuring that they become the main drivers of their own education.

O’Riain reminds students that behind the complexity of ac- cepted scientific ideas, (the finished product he calls it), lie years of research and development; perseverance is key. His citations reads: “This is important because as the world enjoys the fruits of the scientific enterprise, few are aware of the blood, sweat and tears behind every
I t was on 18 March 1859 that the first law lecture was delivered in South Africa, following Act 12 of 1857.

The need for legal education was so pressing that a start was made in 1857 by the South African College (now the University of Cape Town). F R E D  D octor Brandon Reed and Ilse Lubbe.

Two UCT academics, Dr Brandon Reed and Ilse Lubbe, will host a dinner for retiring staff on Monday, 17 November 2008, in the Table Mountain lecture theatres and classrooms without a thorough grounding in teaching, the Centre for Higher Education and Development (CHED) offers a Higher Education Studies Programme that aims to give lecturers a professional and theoretical foundation for their teaching in the higher education context. Courses can be taken as stand-alone or can accrue towards a postgraduate diploma or master’s degree. Two UCT academics, Dr Brandon Reed of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Dr Lubbe of the Department of Accounting, spoke to Monday Paper about their experiences of the programme.

Although Reed has been teaching in his department for more than a decade, he wanted a more theoretical understanding of the teaching and learning in his classes.

The Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (LTHE) course is structured to do exactly that.

“One of the most important things I took from LTHE was just how important it is to recognise that students (and their backgrounds) play a central role in the development of an effective teaching and learning environment. As a consequence, I have taken a fresh look at the courses I teach to ensure that I account for these issues in my approach,” Reed said.

For Reed, a particularly useful exercise was recording one of his lectures. One of the fellow LTHE students sat in on the lecture and afterwards reviewed the video footage to see whether Reed had managed to achieve his outcomes. A senior lecturer in accounting, Lubbe always wanted to further her studies, but what next? The Higher Education Studies programme answered that question.

“Having worked in the business world for several years, and now lecturing commerce students to prepare them for the demands of the professional qualification, CASA(S), I realised that we can learn a lot about the way students learn, and our roles as academics to support student learning.”

Excellent results by their students in the final exams of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants pointed to the already sound pedagogic principles used in the department’s teaching (their extended tutorial system, for example).

The course also gave her insights into the way lecturers assess students, she says.

“By setting exam questions that test understanding rather than repetition of the facts, students tend to adopt a deep approach to their learning as they are required to learn not only facts (which leads to a surface approach, based on short-term memory) but are required to apply the facts to practical, integrated scenarios.”

The most valuable part of the programme? “The opportunity to grapple with educational theory and its application in practice.”

For further information on CHED’s higher education programmes, contact Zelda Carlse at Zelda.Carlse@uct.ac.za, or telephone 012 650 3478.
Race science dogs real value of forensic anthropology - Morris

CRISH MCEVOY

How do the South African media report on crime, particularly when it involves racial differences? This question was raised by Ian Glenn, the first professor of Media Studies at UCT’s Centre for Film and Media Studies in the Faculty of Humanities, in his inaugural lecture on 15 October.

After a welcome by Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price and an introduction “with glee and some trepidation” by colleague Professor Henning Snyman, Glenn argued that in comparison with developed countries, the South African media under-reported violent crime, rather than over-reporting, because of dominant racist attitudes in the media, as has been claimed by former President Thabo Mbeki, among others. Glenn also spoke on how violent crime has created a state of “cultural trauma” for South Africans, particularly whites.

Local television shows quite the opposite trend to the Americans in that the SABC plays down all crime, and particularly violent crime,” notes Glenn. “This neglect is not benign, but has strong, sometimes fatal consequences, particularly for black victims. Media failure to deal adequately with a range of violence against poor black South Africans has been evident in a range of cases.”

Noting that the SABC employs about 1 000 staff in the news divisions, Glenn argues that the publicly funded corporation offers very little “bang for the buck.”

Glenn argued that the general assumption that not covering crime is a sign of non-racial virtue has resulted in the media being unable to protect poor black victims of violent crimes such as serial killings, ethnic cleansing, and xenophobic violence.

“Under-reporting crime is not left wing,” he says.

The effects of violent crime also came under the spotlight. According to Glenn, white South Africans are experiencing what American sociologist Jeffrey Alexander calls a state of “cultural trauma”.

“Cultural trauma is suggested by the deleting or story-telling about crime by major figures in South Africa, like author Andre Brink,” notes Glenn. “Recent Hollywood films on Africa suggest that international Afro-pessimism now sees white Africans and South Africans as traumatised victims of political and social violence, rather than simply as oppressors.”

Finally, Glenn argued that South Africans have moved into what Zygmunt Bauman calls “liquid modernity.” This means that educated, mobile South Africans are far less likely to see themselves as loyal to place or nationality.

“Liquid moderns are less likely to be tied to land and obligations,” says Glenn. “Liquid moderns are typically highly educated, socially mobile, likely to emigrate.”

Glenn concludes that the cultural-studies approach to crime and media has lost credibility, and generalising claims need to be replaced by further collaborative research. He also notes that the country would benefit from smarter, more aggressive crime coverage in the media.

Lesley Marx thanked Glenn for a lecture she described as “impressively well-informed, both theoretically and evidentially,” and also “provocative and witty”.

She said that in the 34 years she had known him, she had always admired Glenn’s ability to range widely across disciplines, also one of the strengths of his teaching.
Tribute to Amy Read

HELEN THÉRON

A my Read, wife of the late former registrar, Leonard (Len) Read, died in October at the age of 90.

Read was born in Johannesburg in 1918 and after matriculating from Collegiate in Port Elizabeth, and a stint working at the Post Office, she took a job at UCT. She met Len in 1952. After coming to know her really well, Vaughan said he had the utmost respect for her abilities and responsiveness to her work - so I asked her to transfer to my office at UCT administration. She was somewhat aloof for a while but thawed in the end!

When we decided to create a seat in the theatre building site.) A seat in the theatre bears a plaque with their names.

Read was also exceptionally proud of younger brother Allan Cormack’s work to develop the technology that underpinned the development of the CAT scanner. It was in 2002 that she made the trip to Pretoria to receive the Order of Mapungubwe, awarded posthumously to Cormack, from President Thabo Mbeki.

Cormack’s life and work is the subject of a recent book by deputy dean of research in the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Kit Vaughan. When the book was launched, the guest of honour was Read herself. Speaking at her memorial service, Vaughan said he had met Read 25 years ago when Len was the registrar at UCT.

However, it had only been in the past 10 years that he had come to know her really well. “When we decided to create a research unit in medical imaging at UCT that would honour the contributions of her younger brother Allan, Amy was our most enthusiastic supporter.”

Yellowman comes to Baxter

F ollowing its success at three South African arts festivals and a tour of Holland, acclaimed US playwright Dael Orlandersmith’s love story, Yellowman, comes to the Baxter Sanlam Studio from November 4 to 29. The play explores a different shade of racism and offers an examination of the complexities of internalised prejudice. It is about how ghosts of the past impact the future, set against the backdrop of the distinctive South Carolina culture known as Gullah. The title of the play refers to one of several derogatory childhood labels that have been hurled at lighter-skinned African-Americans by those with darker skins.

Yellowman was first performed in South Africa as part of the Baxter’s 2006 Performed Play Reading season and went on to receive the 2008 Klein Karoo National Arts Festival Best Production award.

Yellowman previews on 4 and 5 November, opens on 6 November and runs until 29 November, at 20h15 nightly. Booking is through Computicket on 083 915 8100, online at www.computicket.co.za or any Shoprite Checkers outlet. Discounted block, corporate or school bookngs, charities or fundraisers can be made through Sharon on 021 680 3962.

The Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR), Cape Town, South Africa invites you and members of your organisation to the seminar:

THE FUTURE OF OPPOSITION POLITICS IN SOUTH AFRICA

CHAIR
Professor Anthony Butler
Associate Professor, Department of Political Studies
University of Cape Town

SPEAKERS
Mr Bantu Holomisa
Member of Parliament, President, Independent Democrats
Cape Town

Ms Patricia De Lille
Member of Parliament, Leader, Independent Democrats
Cape Town

Ms Sandra Botha
Parliamentary Leader of the Democratic Alliance
Cape Town

Date: Wednesday 12 November 2008 • Time: 17h30 to 19h00
Venue: Centre for the Book, 62 Queen Victoria Street, Cape Town
RSVP: Lavenna Benjamin • Email: lavenna@ccr.uct.ac.za
Tel: (021) 689-1005 • Fax: (021) 689-1003
Website: http://ccr.ucr.uct.ac.za

All are welcome and entry is free.

A DAY IN THE LIFE of the Safety, Health and Environment Department

B ased in Shell Court in Mowbray, the department is staffed by Michael Langley, (manager), Angie Ngakoluku (administration), Barry Platen (office assessing physical areas, fire and public safety and contractor safety), Brett Roden (environmental risk officer), Sue Key (senior occupational health nurse), and Charlene Esau (occupational health nurse).

Skills needed for the job?
An occupational health and safety qualification, a caring spirit, good communication skills, good time-management skills and the ability to multi-task.

What does the department do?
It ensures legal compliance for processing and following up on injury-on-duty claims, and runs the Occupational Health Unit for staff and students working in hazardous environments. Team members do hazardous chemical, fire, ergonomic, first-aid and general risk-assessments in all areas. They also visit departments to check on health and safety compliance, facilitate occupational safety and fire-safety talks, and investigate incidents. Other functions include: training in first aid and of safety representatives and fire marshals; safety inductions with staff, students and contractors; safety audits on all teaching and research as well as construction sites; and planning disaster exercises.

What are the challenges facing health and safety?
The seriousness of health and safety is often underestimated and its central point in the person, home and work triad is often overlooked. People’s perceptions are that they live and work in isolation, and getting them to accept that in the workplace each person is responsible for their own and others’ health and safety is a big challenge. A health and safety mindset requires behaviour modification, as it is risky behaviour that results in unsafe conditions.

Healthy ways: The staff of the Safety, Health and Environment Department, (back, from left) Barry Platen, Michael Langley and Brett Roden, with (front) Angie Ngakoluku, Charlene Esau and Sue Key.

What are the highs and lows of the job?
The high point is working as part of a team that is comfortable sharing their experiences and skills. Then, there is the positive feedback the department gets from safety, health and environment representatives and fire marshals after receiving training. Low are having ‘near-miss’ incidents that are caused mostly by staff and students who do not consider health and safety a priority. The department seems to be ‘preaching to the converted’.

What is the strangest thing to have happened?
Everything about UCT is strange! Puff adder bites, cranes falling over, batteries exploding in their cabinets, or waste chemicals exploding. But the officials believe these incidents make it an exciting working environment.

UCT community can reach the department via: www.ohs.uct.ac.za or email at bas_healthandsafety@uct.ac.za.
MEGAN MORRIS

William Robinson, enjoying a standout sporting year, was named as the UCT Sportsperson of the Year for 2008, receiv...