HELEN THÉRON

Researchers using plants to find novel compounds for antimalarial drugs have received a R3.6 million grant from the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), covering the first year of work on recently unearthed data from a massive World War II antimalarial plant screening programme.

The MMV, a not-for-profit foundation based in Geneva, Switzerland, has developed the largest-ever pipeline of antimalarial drugs in development, with over 50 projects being financed in laboratories on every continent.

“I think it’s a massive and very exciting project, as we are trying to bring back substances that have been lost to science and destigmatising the role of plant medicine in science,” said Prof Kelly Chibale, of UCT’s Department of Chemistry and the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine.

Professor Peter Smith of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology is the other UCT principal researcher on this MMV project.

The R3.6-million research grant will underpin follow-up work on the antimalarial plant screening programme conducted by Merck and Company from 1942 to 1947.

It also supports a research partnership on this project between UCT and Rutgers and North Carolina State Universities in the US.

“What started as a collaboration between these three institutions under the Global Institute for Bioexploration (GIBEX) to bring novel Screens-To-Nature (STN) technologies to bear on drug discovery from general biodiversity, including plants, has had many positive spin-offs so far, including this latest MMV grant,” said Chibale.

Chibale holds the South African National Research Chair in Drug Discovery under the South African Research Chairs Initiative. He is also director of the South African Medical Research Council Drug Discovery and Development Research Unit.

During World War II the Japanese navy blocked Allied trade routes, disrupting the world’s supply of quinine, which was widely used to treat malaria, particularly among American troops in Africa and the South Pacific.

To counteract this, the US government funded screening of plants native to the USA for ingredients with antimalarial activity. The screening resulted in over 600 native, or ‘traditionally used’, antimalaria plants for phytochemicals screening more than 600 native, or ‘traditionally used’, antimalaria plants for phytochemicals.

Among this research was a Merck Pharmaceutical Company collaboration with North Carolina State Universities in the US.

The result was a 1947 publication identifying nearly 100 species with antimalarial significance. After the war, and the advent of synthetic antimalarials, this data was consigned to “scientific limbo” for over 60 years.

One of the remaining Merck antimalaria researchers, Christine Malanga Wilson, saw a Star ledger article on GIBEX’s work on antimalarial plants and forwarded a copy of her 1947 article to Professor Ilya Raskin of Rutgers.

Raskin is also president of GIBEX, and therefore contacted Chibale in his capacity as chief co-ordinator of GIBEX-Africa. A decision was made to develop a proposal, in partnership with Smith and Professor Mary Ann Lila of North Carolina State University, for submission to the MMV for funding consideration.

Working with Chibale and Smith, GIBEX researchers have been able to confirm the results of this 64-year-old Merck study.

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Merck and Company from 1942 to 1947, and working with Chibale and Smith, GIBEX researchers have been able to confirm the results of this 64-year-old Merck study. Among this research was a Merck Pharmaceutical Company collaboration with the New York Botanical Garden. This project screened more than 600 native, or ‘traditionally used’, antimalaria plants for phytochemicals with similar or greater efficacy than quinine.

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Virtual history takes users to prison

Craig Matthew, documentary filmmaker and research associate in the Centre for Curating the Southeast, UCT’s Michaelis School of Fine Art, is one of seven directors around the world to receive an International Trailblazer Award. The Trailblazer was awarded at MiPDOC, the world’s largest international documentary showcase, held in Cannes, France, from 28 to 29 March.

How did you come to win the Trailblazer?
I knew nothing about the award until I was nominated. One nominee is accepted from each continent, and the organisers of Encounters, the annual South African international documentary festival, chose me. The award is given in recognition of my work as a whole but also for the new interactive projects, like the John Varster Square multimedia DVD and my future plans for this new direction.

What does interactivity add to the subject?
We present our subject as an immersive 3D experience using Macromedia Director. In Between Life and Death: Stories from John Varster Square, we enlisted 15 former detainees. We put them back in their cells and photographed them panoramically. The result is a fully immersive experience that allows viewers to go inside the prison and walk in the prisoners’ shoes. Clickable hotspots are embedded into the virtual reality panoramas, which bring up historical material like notebooks, photographs, voice recordings and police documents.

Reading festival reveals hidden talent

L eaders recited envoi poems and made speeches highlighting the importance of reading as UCT’s Schools Development Unit celebrated the Access to English Additional Language Programme’s Reading Festival on 17 March.

Funded by the Zenex Foundation, this programme was introduced last year to support Grade 10 and 11 teachers at 15 Dinaledi schools in Cape Town and Paarl.

Through the programme, the schools received the textbook Keys to English, as well as classroom library support. The programme also trains teachers during holidays and hosts cluster workshops.

Programme manager Aghmat Adams said the initiative is significant because although English is a global language and enjoys high status in the world, research indicates that only 8.8% of South Africans speak or use it at their mother tongue.

Even though English is the first language of only one-fifth of the population in Western Cape schools, it is one of the main languages of instruction at schools.

“Poor maths and science results could also be attributed to poor English language proficiency,” said Adams.

The aim of the Reading Festival is to promote reading and the use of the classroom library. The best learners in each category from each school were awarded certificates and vouchers. These categories included poetry writing (based on a book from the classroom library collection), speech writing, poster design, book reviews, and reading aloud.

“I’m astounded by the high standard of work produced by these learners,” said SDU’s Marlene Eash.

“This programme has made everyone aware of the hidden talent of learners,” added her colleague, Nalini Parsonat.

Chimombe has come full circle.
Chimombe started her career in Cape Town marketing Maskew Miller Longman children’s titles in West Africa, and specifically the Sara series of educational books teaching life orientation, and produced by UNICEF. “I realised I liked children’s books,” said the PNBs staffer. Her book, Dancing Star, has been published under Cambridge University Press’ new Rainbow Readers banner, a large library of 350 titles for young readers.

J UCT’s Faculty of Law ended its six months of celebrating 150 years of law education in South Africa with a series of lectures and a conference from 11 to 14 March. Event highlights included the inaugural Mike Larkin Memorial Lecture, which was given by Professor Simon Deakin of the University of Cambridge, UK, on 11 March. In picture is the dean, Prof PJ Schwikkard, at the lecture.

Other events included a public seminar on 12 March, the annual Ben Beinhart Memorial lecture on 13 March and the Honoré Conference on 14 March.

Law student Michelle Wright received the first Mike Larkin Scholarship at the inaugural Mike Larkin Memorial Lecture on 11 March. The R8 000 scholarship, which was renamed from the Law Students’ Council (LSC) Scholarship, is awarded to a final-year law student who has made some contribution to wider society. Wright had launched a matric enrichment programme for learners on Saturday mornings, taught by law students. As she is now in Johannesburg doing her articles, her mother Sue Wright, a staff member in the Faculty of Law, received the award on her behalf from LSC president Lusanda Gwawis and the dean, Prof PJ Schwikkard.

The UCT Surgical Society drew a healthy crowd when it launched its 2009 lecture series on 13 March as part of a visit to meet with various South African defence industries and educational institutions. The 10-strong delegation from the US Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) are specifically interested in the BISRU’s research on car, train, aircraft and shipping accidents, as well as explosions in industrial and military accidents. The RDECOM visitors were given a tour of the unit, and a presentation on its published research and international links with industry and academia.

February saw the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Electrical Engineering and the Center for Tele-Informatics and TeleMedicine (CTIF) at Dalhousie’s Arbut Health. This will create a framework for collaborative research and staff and student exchanges. CTIF director Professor Ramjee Prasad attended the signing and was hosted by Professor Mgohe Diodio of the Communications Research Group. Prasad is a prolific author and editor-in-chief of international journals on wireless communication systems.

Grade 10 learners visited the Cape Universities Brain Imaging Centre (CUBIC) at Stellenbosch University’s Tufberg Medical Campus on 17 March. Researchers from UCT and the University of Stellenbosch are collaborating on numerous brain and behaviour studies at CUBIC as part of the Cross University Brain and Behaviour Initiative (CUBBI), with some of the most cutting-edge imaging and brain-mapping equipment available. Learners were given a guided tour and presentations as part of Brain Awareness Week, which runs from 16 to 22 March. Seen here are learners from Ravenswood Secondary School, in the Anatomy and Histology Museum.

Deputy Minister of Health Molefe Sefularo was the guest speaker at the inaugural Ivan Toms Memorial Lecture, hosted by the Faculty of Health Sciences on 11 March. In particular, Sefularo supported a proposed documentary on the life of Toms, an activist, UCT graduate and, at the time of his death in March 2008, director of health at the City of Cape Town. Dean Prof Marian Adams spoke highly of Toms’ commitment to policy-makers, health managers and service providers, academics, members and volunteers of NGO/CBOs, and civil society activists.

ZUMA: A BIOGRAPHY
by Jeremy Cordin
Chair
Professor Anthony Butler
Associate Professor, Department of Political Studies, University of Cape Town
Speaker
Mr Jeremy Cordin
Author and award-winning former Sunday Independent journalist, Johannesburg
Ms Korima Brown
Political Editor, Sowetan, Johannesburg
Date Thursday 2 April 2009
Time UND 1100
Venue The Centre for the Book, 12 Queen Victoria Street, Gardens, Cape Town
31/36 Laveno Bergman • mcorima@worldnet.co.za • Tel (+2721) 689-3165
Fax (021) 689-8014 • Website: www.uct.ac.za
All presentations credit entry is free.
Seventy-five not out

“I was 12 years old at the time and doing piano and ballet,” said Honoré.

Hows was such a good dance teacher that all her students at the studio followed her.

Honoré continued to study and obtained a diploma in ballet. She then went overseas and returned to teach dance at the school, where she noticed enormous growth in terms of student, staff and ability.

Her sentiments were echoed by Mary Suckling, one of the first teachers at the school, who said she was “thrilled” to see big developments in teachers and students, not only in terms of numbers but also in terms of quality of education.

 Gerald Samuel, director of the school, told the guests that, by any account, Howes must have been, a formidable woman to have won so many battles in her quest to advance the art of dance in Cape Town and South Africa.

“Seventy-five years of our founding as an institution is an achievement of which all who have invested in this vision can be extremely proud,” he said.

“I, for one, want us to parade our success not only down Adderley Street or the steps of Jameson Hall, but onto the main stages and the alternative performance spaces as we disinfect the city of segregation and discrimination through our dance”.

Samuel said several events are in the pipeline to celebrate the milestone, including performances, public seminars, master classes, and workshops “that will draw dance lovers of all ages to their alma mater”.

Among these are a programme of signature repertoire works in African dance, contemporary dance and classical ballet on 23 April, a photo exhibition curated by Dr Edward Greystone, a winter school, and a reunion celebration at the end of the year.

MYOLISI GOPHE

A group of young ballet dancers pirouetted during celebrations to mark the 75th birthday of the UCT School of Dance, Jasmine Honoré watched with interest.

Having been at the school since its inception, first as a student and later as a teacher, Honoré was remembering how music and dance had helped to bridge the divides in society — and how they still do.

“I wish for white people to learn the dance of African people, and African people to learn the dance of Indian people, and so on,” she said at the launch of the school’s anniversary celebrations on 20 March.

“Dance is a wonderful way to learn about other people’s culture. Nobody minded when I went to see other cultures dance because they knew that I was honouring their tradition.”

Honoré, who introduced African dance to the school, recalled how she and her classmates from a Rondebosch dance studio had followed Dr Dulcie Howes.

Howes founded the UCT Ballet School after being invited to do so by the South African College of Music in 1934.

Heads up: Prof Gary Maartens of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology in the Department of Medicine is president of the new College of Clinical Pharmacologists.

HELEN THERON

Professor Kurt April of UCT’s Graduate School of Business has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) in the UK. The RSA is a 250-year-old group, supported by a 27,000-strong Fellowship, which encourages public discourse and critical debate to promote civic innovation and social progress. Officially, April can now use the letters FRSA behind his name. April was also recently included in the Marquis Global Who’s Who and the Continental Who’s Who Registry of Business Leaders.

Maartens president of new clinical pharmacology college

Maartens said UCT had been instrumental in getting clinical pharmacology accepted as a specialty by both the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA) and the Health Professions Council of South Africa.

The process took three years, as they sought consensus from the pharmacology departments at South Africa’s medical schools.

“Our goal is to promote the discipline nationally,” said Maartens, “but the immediate goal is to set up the exams in order to register specialists in the field.”

He believes the development is a crucial step in the development of the discipline.

“Clinical pharmacology is recognised as a discipline requiring expansion in the national modernisation of tertiary services processes.

“At UCT we’ve been training clinical pharmacologists for over 10 years. Getting the discipline accepted as a specialty makes it easier for academic hospitals and provinces to create specialist posts.”

The CMSA is the national body that sets up and runs exams for trainees specialising in medicine.
Devil’s Peak blaze skirts upper campus

HELEN THÉRON

Though it skirted upper campus - thanks to the efforts of city fire fighters and helicopters - the recent Devil’s Peak blaze has prompted the Properties & Services to look at further measures to reduce the fire load in the area.

City fire experts are conducting a forensic investigation into possible causes of the Devil’s Peak blaze, the third such fire in the area in two months.

“We are assisting where we can,” added executive director of Properties & Service, John Critien.

Critien said UCT has emergency and evacuation plans in place for such occasions.

“Some years ago we created the necessary fire breaks, removed much of the fire load from the area, and we continue to maintain the breaks,” said Critien. “In addition, over the December 2008 vacation we felled over 60 trees that were in decline.”

Following the recent blaze, Critien said two additional areas of work were being scoped and costed.

One area is the forest in the north-west corner above Ring Road, and the other is directly below that, above the dam.

“The forest [above upper campus] is too close to buildings and the gas tank in these two areas, so we need to cut these trees back,” Critien said.

Advice was being taken from Dr Richard Hill of the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science.

There had been no reports of ani- mals seeking sanctuary on the upper campus.

But Critien said he’d walked the mountain following the fire and had seen an unusual number of cows, an indication that smaller reptiles and creatures had perished.

He also noted that UCT pays special attention to communicating with staff and students in the event of threatening or actual emergencies.

AFRICA

Africa is the only world region unlikely to meet the United Nations 2015 Millennium Develop- ment Goals as a result of healthcare deficiencies. Professor Vanessa Burch said in her inaugural lecture, Health Care in South Africa Today, on March 25.

Africa is constrained by several challenges, including a heavy burden of disease, lack of money, and the size and shape of the clinical plat- form.

In the red: In her inaugural lecture, Prof Vanessa Burch.

The burden of disease in South Africa is growing, fuelled by HIV/ AIDS, said Burch, based in UCT’s Department of Medicine.

“HIV prevalence levels are not flattening out. TB cases have more than doubled and there hasn’t been an increase in staff or resources.”

The problems are exacerbated by the growing divide between public and private healthcare.

Whites still have the greatest access to healthcare insurance - but 42.7 million South Africans don’t have healthcare insurance. She also pointed out that the number of beds in the public sector hadn’t risen, despite a growing bur- den of disease.

It is also difficult to recruit doc- tors to work in rural areas, where there is one doctor for every 30 000 people, said Burch. Only 31% of the country’s 34 807 doctors work in the public service; 35% of posts are vacant, and 15% of these are specialists.

“The rural situation is desperate.”

The country - and continent - would have to increase the number of medical graduates, and recruit more than one million additional healthcare workers to cope with the burden of disease.

However, the situation was ag- gravated by migration.

“Twenty-two percent of our medical graduates are no longer practising in South Africa.”

Wits, UCT and the University of Pretoria are among the top ‘emigrat- ing’ medical schools in Sub-Saharan Africa.

“There are no simple solutions. We need multiple strategies and feasible options in healthcare, for the greatest good of all.

“But it’s going to cost money.”

More health care resources and clinical care platforms needed

We remember

Long-time UCT donor Peter Fairhead died in a motor cycle accident on 24 March. In his many years of support of UCT, Fairhead has given more than a R1 million to the university, both in direct donation and in PR contributions.

Through the Fairheads’ Benefit Foundation, he funded the UCT Clarissa Worn Art Development Project, an annual outreach project that supports and develops artists in rural Claraville.

He attended the first lantern parade that ends the 10- day project each year, reported head of the UCT Drama Department, Associate Professor Mark Fleishman, who collaborates on the project with Professor Pippa Skotnes, director of the Michaelis School of Fine Art.

“He was so inspired by the project and the children’s response to it that he made a personal commitment to support the project for as long as he could.” Fleishman and Skotnes won an Alan Pifer Award in 2007 for the project. His support was invaluabale, says Fleishman. “What was so unique about his com- mitment was that it was a long-term one, so the project could depend on his support each year. It would be difficult to replicate is such a continu- ed investment.”

Skotnes also sang Fairhead’s praises. “His faith in the potential of this project, his willingness to back it and to bring Fairheads Trust along with him, the pleasures he took in its realisation, has created something truly magical, something that has engaged the imaginations of hundreds of children and fashioned, from one of the poorest communities of the Western Cape, dancers and makers, storytellers and perform- ers,” she said at a memorial service. Other sponsors include the Fairheads International Trust/Michaelis School of Fine Art competition for school goers, the funding of Michaels-run workshop and art events in the Kaplan Centre.

Hendrik van Huyssen, UCT Registrar from 1994 to 1995 and Academic Secretary and Deputy Registrar from 1970 to 1993, died on 20 March. Prior to coming to UCT, Van Huyssen, a UCT graduate, had been Registrar at both the University of Port Elizabeth (now the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University) and at Fort Hare, and had worked in the administration at Wits. He was 86.

Web-based utility to verify campus identity

To assist you in confirming a person’s status and relationship to UCT before granting them access to resources, ICTS has written a tool that will check the staff, student or third party number and verify that person’s campus identity.

ICTS developed the utility for two reasons. Firstly in certain rare cases, people, who are no longer associated with UCT, may attempt to gain access to buildings or resources using an unrelated access card. Secondly, as stickers showing the year are no longer issued, it is not possible to verify - by looking at the card - whether or not a person using an older card is still registered as a staff member, student or third party at UCT.

The tool can be accessed from anywhere where Internet access is available, even from your cellphone’s web browser, by using this URL: http://icts.uct.ac.za/valida...
When yields are going to be poor, and we could save millions by recognising really should be used more, because for early prediction of crop yields. It "That makes it an ideal tool for military applications," he says. "It was an exciting time," says Inggs. "It was 1989, and the development of computer technology was making the analysis of the radar data much more comprehensive."

The group built some of the first processing hardware, and until the project was moved to the Council for Scientifi c and Industrial Research, it analysed synthetic aperture radar (SAR), mounted by a specially-equipped aircraft as it flew over the area to be mapped.

"Radar is also one of the most important weather prediction tools. Using scatterometers, we can measure the strength and direction of surface winds and the height of ocean waves." Sadly, lack of funding has put paid to much of the unit’s SAR work. "I was excited by the possibilities of low-frequency, long-wavelength radar," says Inggs, "but in the late 90s the defence budget was reduced, so we only managed to have the equipment fitted onto one Dakota. The data it produced was really useful, but by 2005, following brief use of the technology for a De Beers geological survey, the SAR work was effectively over."

Inggs has hopes of a revival now that South Africa is establishing its own space agency, but in the interim the team has explored many other applications. "In the mid-90s we began to use sub-surface radar. The penetration depth varies according to the soil composition, from a few metres in some types of rock to kilometres in others. It’s very useful for landmine detection, but the First World seems to have lost interest in that, so it’s not used as much as it could be."

"Radar penetrates through clouds, through vegetation and even the upper level of the soil," explains Inggs. "That makes it an ideal tool for disaster management. It’s also ideal for early prediction of crop yields. It really should be used more, because we could save millions by recognising when yields are going to be poor, and buying ahead early."

"Most of our funding comes from overseas. We can offer a lot more research and analysis for the dollar," says Inggs. What of the future? A new radar laboratory was opened at UCT on March 24, providing welcome relief for a department that has doubled in size in the past 13 years. Inggs is also excited about many new applications. Since 2005, he has worked on Passive Coherent Location (PCL) technology. "The Earth is full of signals, from things like TV and radio. We’re building systems that will allow us to synchronise the units."

"Our original funders were looking at military applications," he says. "Metallic objects reflect differently and are easy to see; for example, if military units are moving around."

But it was the peacetime applications that really interested the team. "Radar penetrates through clouds, through vegetation and even the upper level of the soil," explains Inggs. "That makes it an ideal tool for disaster management. It’s also ideal for early prediction of crop yields. It really should be used more, because we could save millions by recognising when yields are going to be poor, and buying ahead early."

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"We only managed to have the equipment fitted onto one Dakota. The data it produced was really useful, but by 2005, following brief use of the technology for a De Beers geological survey, the SAR work was effectively over."

Inggs has hopes of a revival now that South Africa is establishing its own space agency, but in the interim the team has explored many other applications. "In the mid-90s we began to use sub-surface radar. The penetration depth varies according to the soil composition, from a few metres in some types of rock to kilometres in others. It’s very useful for landmine detection, but the First World seems to have lost interest in that, so it’s not used as much as it could be."
probably one of UCT’s best-kept secrets, the television studio below the Baxter Theatre Centre is built to exacting British Broadcasting Corporation specifications, and is part of the Centre for Film and Media Studies. The studio was established in the late 1970s, probably the first television studio in Cape Town, and until 1980 the SABC often used it to conduct interviews. Thereafter it was used by the Teaching Methods Unit for 10 years before being hired out to a private company. The staff, trimmed down to two members, Alan Johannes and Sidney Francis, established a new studio in the Education building on Middle Campus as part of the former Buildings and Services Department. Ten years later, the unit was adopted by the Humanities Faculty and then taken over by the Centre for Film and Media Studies, in the process returning to the Baxter TV studio. The present staff are chief technical officer Alan Johannes and administrator Molly Maunganidze.

What does the studio do?

The ‘friendly’, high-end studio works as both a commercial and a teaching facility, a convenient venue for quality sound/video recording for all types of productions. These include commercial adverts, TV production workshops, and corporate video shoots. Johannes does anything from film to video transfers, video standard conversions, duplications, digital video post-production, as well as single- and multi-camera recordings. Shoots are not only done in the studio; Johannes often goes out to different departments to work. In August, the studio carries a massive production for drama and film students, who write scripts, direct and produce ‘soaps’ as part of their examination.

What are the challenges facing the studio?

The main challenge is a shortage of staff. Johannes battles to cope with the many requests for his services. At times he calls on help from his former colleague, Sidney Francis, now based at the Centre for Film and Media Studies’ Mendi Lab, especially when multi-camera ex-studio shoots are called for.

A DAY IN THE LIFE
of the UCT television studio

Alan Johannes at work in the UCT television studio.

What are the highs and lows of the job?

The control room of the studio is decorated with a number of awards honoring the studio during the by-days between 1983 and 1995, when it had four staff. Back then they filmed dramatic material and weren’t confined to the instructional productions they often do now. Johannes says these accolades make him feel good, and enjoys people’s appreciation of his work. The ‘devastating low point’, as he puts it, is that the studio is built below the Main Road level and was often flooded, before extensive repairs corrected the problem.

What is the strangest thing the studio’s been asked to do?

In earlier days Johannes and his colleagues were asked to shoot a heart- and lung-transfer from one baboon to another. “We filmed the entire operation, and it was quite an experience,” he says.

Fugard’s Coming Home

Master playwright Athol Fugard’s latest play, Coming Home, comes home to the Baxter Studio from April 2 to 25.

The production marks the Cape Town directorial stage debut for the award-winning Ross Devenish. The stellar cast features Bromwyn van Graan, David Isaacs, Terry Hector, as well as newcomers Devan Walbrough and Cinga Vanda, both 11 years old, who alternate in the role of the young boy, Mannetjie.

Coming Home is Fugard’s first sequel, and follows on from his acclaimed 1995 Valley Song, which was also his first post-apartheid play.

It continues the journey of Veronica Jonkers, played by Van Graan, who has left the farm where her beloved grandfather (Hector) lived, to pursue a singing career in Cape Town.

Now, 10 years later, she returns with Mannetjie, her young son by a Mozambican migrant worker who was killed in a xenophobic attack. After his death, carrying a painful secret and a heart filled with disappointment, and with her own failing health (she is HIV-positive), it is time for her to return to her home village as she strives to plant the seeds of a new life for the boy.

‘Athol often writes about the forgotten characters and people who live outside of society,’ says Van Graan.

Coming Home has low-price previews from April 2 to 6, opens on April 7th and runs until April 25, Monday to Saturday at 20h15. Ticket prices range from R85 to R120, and the Baxter Monday special of R55 (light meal and show) applies.

Booking is at Computicket on 083 915 6000, online at www.computicket.co.za or at any Shoprite Checkers outlet. For discounted block, corporate or school bookings, charities or fundraisers, contact Sharon on 021 680 3962, Tarryn on 021 680 3993 or Sakhiwo on 021 680 3991 during office hours.

UCT man to showcase Africa

Johann van der Schijff of UCT’s Michaelis School of Fine Art will take part in a prestigious Dak’Art showcase of African art, to take place in Germany this week. Van der Schijff will be among the 18 African artists who will exhibit works from the Dak’Art 8th Bien­nial of Contemporary African Art that took place in Dakar, Senegal, in 2008. The works tackled contemporary issues such as migration, migration, and challenges the government, which kicks off on 3 April and runs until 21 June, will be hosted in Stuttgart and Berlin by the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa). In collaboration with the artists and curators (Almudena Cid), the ifa chose pieces from the Biennials’ main exhibition that illustrate the high standard of contemporary African art.

Cape Town changes on show

UCT graduate and staff member Michael Wyeth is hosting an exhibition of works – Surfaces, Spaces and Shrines – at the Irma Stern Museum from the end of March.

The photographic work was started in 2006, and observes the ongoing transformation of the city of Cape Town, showing the many physical changes taking place to structures in the city’s residential, business and recreational areas.

“As a photographer, my visual concern is with the visible surface of the city; with the physical, textual exterior and the way that it weathers with time and change, and how it endures the actions of man and the elements,” Wyeth explained.

“I engage with the physicality that makes up the material of the cityscape: walls, structures, shapes, concrete, paint, brick, rust, peeling, and scratches.”

Wyeth, who studied at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, has had exhibitions (mostly in Cape Town) before, notably SA Photo Statements and City Skin during the Month of Photography, October 2008.

The exhibition runs until 18 April.
EVENTS

Department of Medicine
Thursday 4PM Meetings: 2 April 2009
Chempath – Dr Ryan Benjamin – Adult Presentations of Inherited Metabolic Diseases
9 April 2009 EASTER WEEKEND
Dr Lisa MCMICRO-Kelly & Melissa Janse van Rensburg – Getting to know your MRSA from Hospitals in Cape Town
23 April 2009 Dr S Cochran – Biociones – Raising the Count in the South African Biotechnology Industry
28th annual General Meeting of the Royal Society of Chemistry Public Lecture by Prof Michaela Hadlee University of Leeds, UK on Self-assembly of metallo-supramolecular cages, star-burst prisms, thread assembled and coordination polymers with host-type ligands.” At Lecture Theatre Geology (2 posts), Faculty of 2 bathrooms, cloak room, double lockers, alarm, Mags, Excellent

Western Cape. Closing date: 30 April 2009. Tel: 021 650 2220, e-mail: Roslyn.daniels@uct.ac.za

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)
Senior Secretary: Academic Administration, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 31 March 2009. Tel: 021 650 5866, email: zusisdis.sale@uct.ac.za

International Undergraduate Student Officer, International Academic Programmes Office. Closing date: 30 April 2009. Tel: 021 650 2220, e-mail: Roslyn.daniels@uct.ac.za

Marketing Officer, Communication & Marketing. Closing date: 30 April 2009. Tel: 021 650 2220, e-mail: Roslyn.daniels@uct.ac.za

Research Nursing. Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology. Closing date: 3 April 2009. Professor ZM van der Spuy (Ref-1-1793), Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, PO Box 34584, Groote Schuur, 7937

Clinical Training Fellow: Paediatric Infectious Diseases, Red Cross Children’s Hospital, Closing date: 7 April 2009. Tel: 021 658 5242, email: adele.pearce@uct.ac.za

Administrative Assistant. UCT Lung Institute, Closing date: 15 April 2009, email: ktu-application@uct.ac.za

Director: Baxter Theatre Centre, Closing date: 11 May 2009. Tel: 021 650 5405; e-mail: Rodney.martin@uct.ac.za

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:
Part-time Project Administrator: PPS project, HR Department. 4 month project, Closing date: 3 April 2009. Immediate start. Applications will be considered on second basis from current UCT staff. Email: Joanne.Uphill@new.co.za. Tel 082 870 2927

The vacancies can be viewed at: http://www.uct.ac.za, Click on “Vacancies.”

PROPERTY

Muizenberg: Free-standing three-bedroom townhouse, secure complex, Mezzanine loft, 2 bathrooms, beautiful open-plan kitchen. Garden and double lock-up garage, R4800 pm. Available 1 Apr. Phone Dave 0722884181.

“Rondebosch: Fully furnished 2-roomed garden cottage avail June-August 2009. R6500pm including electricity, Satellite TV. Secure parking. Contact: marilyn@jacksoncapa.co.za; 0383551680.”

Newlands: Townhouse in sleepy Grove comprising lounge/dining area, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cloak room, domestic quarters, automated double garage. R12 500 pm. Available 1 June. Contact 083 21674470 or 0721293850.


“University Estate: House for sale 3 beds, kitchen, laundry, lounge & dining rm plus 1/2 bathrooms. Needs a bit of t.l.c. Contact Mitch: 0216593556 or a/h 0216358018 or 0734650426.”

“Accommodation Needed: 2nd year student looking for Digs or Flat near uct. Will be able to move in within a month. Contact Kate 0725655372 or elleah0101@uct.ac.za.”


“Rondebosch: Old Cape Farmhouse with 4 delightful self-contained, furnished apartments available (CSTV & broadband, fireplace, beachside, service lady. Wkly & monthly rates negotiable. Tel. 071 665 1747 or www.xydeene.homestead.com”

Marina Da Gama Short-term lease April to June/July 2009 Waterfront apartment patio double storey openplan lounge 2 beds. contact Anne Collins 0287151075

FOR SALE

For Sale: Ladies size 6 Hitech Yosemite hiking boots worn once only. Bargain at R200 Contact Jane at 0485470280.


“Editor/proofreader available for postgraduate theses, journal articles etc. Experience in academic publishing. CV/ references on request. Contact Dave: 0289990454 or david.buchanan@telkomsa.net”

“Want to be a model but don’t know how: Grace Model Agency School can help you and give you the needed advantage to be able to compete in the modeling world. Contact us: www.gracemodels.co.za or 0870696951,”

Western Cape. Closing date: 30 April 2009. Tel: 021 650 2220, e-mail: Roslyn.daniels@uct.ac.za
Seven-day Sahara cooker for ultra-distance cardiologist

HELEN THÉRON

The best training ultra-distance runner Professor Andrzej ‘AO’ Okreglicki gets it not on the tarmac, but under the glare of lights in the operating theatre. As a cardiologist (he’s a heart rhythm specialist), Okreglicki sometimes operates for eight hours straight, his powers of concentration stretched.

‘It’s like running the Comrades, except you stand in one spot,’ he jokes.

Much like surgery, running is a mind game, says the UCT alumnus and acting head of the Division of Cardiology.

In a 16km ultra-marathon, it’s the agonising final kilometre that can undo you. The mind is where the race is finished.

Having signed up for the seven-day, 243km Marathon des Sables in the Moroccan Sahara from 29 March to 4 April, he’s aware he’ll need mental toughness.

Competitors will run the equivalent of almost six marathons in a week - and they’re expected to complete 82km on the fourth day.

‘This will be like running a full Comrades in the middle of nowhere,’ he quips. ‘You need to be reasonably fit.’

Okreglicki ran his first marathon in January 2002, following that with the Comrades in UCT Athletics Club colours. He now has seven Comrades under his belt. In 2006 he clocked up 2,000km in marathons, earning the club’s Tamara Award.

He has competed in the Kalahari, the Rocky Mountains, and the Swiss Alps.

Preparing to operate at Groote Schuur Hospital, he confesses he’s more worried about the rest day when he’ll lie in the communal tent, thinking of food.

In the Sahara, participants will run with everything but their daily water allowance on their backs: a mandatory space blanket, flares, mirror, compass, and a suction cup for snake bites, as well as food and clothing.

With a maximum allowance of 15kg, he’s anxious about food. After a thorough study of food labels, his staples include peanut butter, two-minute noodles (boiled up in a Coke tin using fuel pellets), nuts and raisins, full cream milk, cereals, soy manuka, and instant puddings.

‘I love dessert.’

He’s also more concerned about the cold nights – there’s little room in the communal tent, he’ll lie in the communal tent, thinking of food.

As a cardiologist (he’s a heart rhythm specialist), Okreglicki puts a lot of stress on the importance of hydration along the course. He maintains that dehydration can cause arrhythmia Cardiac Events, aiming to boost their patient support fund and make people aware of the ‘silent condition’.

There’s also the lure of the Sahara.

‘No computers. No calls. No-one can bleep me.’

Full text available in PDF edition.