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UCT reels in the NRF ratings

This past ratings cycle has been a particularly impressive one for UCT.

Despite the challenges presented by the National Research Foundation's (NRF) online application system, the university's researchers – to their great credit, says Professor Danie Visser, deputy vice-chancellor responsible for research – kept their heads down and completed their application forms (“willingly, if not always uncomplainingly!”). And in the end it all paid off handsomely: a total of 95 members of staff received ratings in this round.

Of these, no fewer than 47 were first-time applicants. Three of the first-time applicants received P-ratings, aimed at up-and-coming

researchers with the potential to become international leaders in their fields. (The ratings were something of a coup for UCT, as only four were awarded for the country as a whole this time around.)

The latest of the P-ratings was made to Dr Shadreck Chirikure of the Department of Archaeology. (See below.)

In addition, 48 applications for re-evaluation were approved. Among these were the successful re-evaluations of Professor George Ekama of the Department of Civil Engineering and Professor Hans-Peter Künzi of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Math-

ematics, who kept their A-ratings and standing as world leaders.

UCT also earned a brand-new A-rating in the cycle, that of Professor Ed Rybicki of the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology.

“We’re obviously very pleased with the results of this rating cycle,” observed Visser. “This not only points to the quality of our research, but is also a testimony to the quality of the support provided by Dr Marilet Sienaert’s team in the Research Office. The review and refinement of the rating applications were led with great efficiency and dedication by Christina Pather and Rob Morrell.” ■

2011: New ratings

Y-rating	21
B-rating	6
C-rating	17
P-rating	3

2011: Re-evaluated ratings

A-rating	3
B-rating	21
C-rating	23
Unfinalised	1

Chirikure P-icks up P-rating

Dr Shadreck Chirikure rarely gets calls from UCT’s senior leadership, so when deputy vice-chancellor Professor Danie Visser phoned him recently he was taken by surprise.

It was a good surprise, though. Chirikure, of the Department of Archaeology, had become the third UCT scholar to receive a P-rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF) in the recent round of ratings, along with Dr David Braun and Dr Amanda Weltman. The NRF awards the hard-to-come-by P-ratings to young scholars who demonstrate the potential to become future leaders in their fields.

Chirikure’s work, conducted alongside local and international counterparts, focuses on technology and social issues associated with pre-colonial mining and metal working, as well as heritage management in Africa.

Drawing as he does on diverse disciplines such as engineering, archaeology, sociology and heritage, the research comes with its own challenges, he says.

“The danger of diversity is that your work may lack the depth to be constructive and meaningful, and you need to tread carefully.”

His current projects include a book on heritage issues in Africa.



Living giant now canopy king

Imagine the ruckus when Educare’s kids found out there was a giant on the playground. And the kerfuffle that followed when they were told that this live-in giant is the giant of all giants.

This granddaddy of Educare – a century-old Australian Banyan tree – has been selected as one of South Africa’s champion trees, making it one of only two Banyans on this ‘biggest’ list. It measures in at 17.5m high, and boasts a circumference of 13.59m and a crown

diameter of about 35m.

It was Rethea Deetlefs, head of online communications at UCT and self-confessed tree hugger, who alerted the record-keepers to the Banyan’s stature. Deetlefs initially approached the Dendrological Society of South Africa to find out if they had the tree on their radar.

A few meetings and a visit to the tree later, and it was shortlisted by the Champion Tree evaluation panel.

The Champion Tree initiative, man-

aged by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), identifies potential canopy kings by size, width and historical value. Only a few make the cut, but it comes with special privileges.

“Once declared a Champion Tree, such a tree may not be cut or damaged without a licence,” says Izak van der Merwe of the DAFF.

“I’m tickled pink to know that I made my little contribution,” Deetlefs smiles. ■

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www.scotia.co.za / scotia@new.co.za
tel: 021 686 8245 / fax: 021 685 1887
5 Rustenburg Ave, Rondebosch



New funding platform

The Research Office has subscribed to Research Professional Africa, an online platform that will allow UCT researchers access to the latest global coverage of research funding programmes, innovation policies and the latest science and technology news. By joining the site, members can search for funding opportunities in their fields of interest, see what funders are calling for, refer research opportunities to their colleagues and receive email alerts, among other features. "This is an essential resource and we encourage all UCT researchers to take full advantage of the funding opportunities, which span the full spectrum of research disciplines and sponsors," said Dr Marilet Sienaert, director of the Research Office. To join, visit www.research-africa.net and self-register if on-campus; contact UCT administrator Dr Dianne Bond at Dianne.Bond@uct.ac.za if off-campus or for more information and guidelines.

PERC-up for weaver project

A UCT project, PHOTOS of Weaver Nests (PHOWN), is aiming to collect photos of all 112 African species of weaver birds. A recent grant of R150 000 from the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Capacity (PERC) has given just the right nudge. The project, run by Dr Dieter Oschadlous and Prof Les Underhill of UCT's Animal Demography Unit, collects snaps taken by 'citizen scientists' for its ever-growing virtual museum of weaver birds. The collection already sports some 2 173 records of 48 species.

Remember UCT, alumni urged

The UCT Heritage Society, comprising alumni who've bequeathed money to UCT in their wills, recently hosted dinners in Pretoria and Johannesburg. At the gatherings, Emer Prof Francis Wilson, president of the society, updated members on various developments on campus. The events form part of an ongoing programme of the Development and Alumni Department.

Exhibition of unconventional treasure



Don't expect the regular dusty, crusty archival display when popping into the new exhibition, *Imperfect Librarian*. Running at the Michaelis Gallery until 26 March, the exhibition features the work-in-progress of seven master's and doctoral students of UCT's *Archive and Curatorship: The Visual University and its Columbarium* (ARC) programme. As its name suggests, *Imperfect Librarian* reflects on the orthodoxy of archival arrangement, the worth people attach to the things they keep, and the politics that come with questioning truth and value.

Plastic fantastic: Curator of Imperfect Librarian Clare Butcher describes the work of Joanne Bloch, which showcases a fragment of Bloch's The People: a thousands-strong personal collection of plastic figurines and objects.

Stormers in a collection box

You can't accuse the Students' Health & Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO) of thinking small. Always on the lookout for garments and footwear for its Rags 2 Riches venture, the organisation has now struck a deal with no less a partner than the DHL Stormers. Per this agreement SHAWCO will set up a number of its collecting bins at the Stormers' home Super 15 matches, into which fans can drop donated clothing. These items are then sold at SHAWCO's growing number of Rags 2 Riches stores or to township entrepreneurs, the income used to fund the organisation's educational outreach projects. SHAWCO expects to have 30 Rags 2 Riches stores up and running in 2012, reports director Varkey George.

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Amount, in millions of rands, that the UCT Foundation, which looks after the university's endowments, will make available to UCT in 2012.

Safe spaces key for transformation



Diversity may be a difficult, complex issue that causes a lot of tension, but it also provides opportunities for growth. So said Sonia Nieto, professor emerita of language, literacy and culture at the University of Massachusetts' School of Education in the US when she addressed a workshop, *Becoming a Multicultural Institution*, hosted in March by UCT's Transformation Services Office and the School of Education. Profound questions on curriculum and language need to be asked, Nieto suggested.

Conweek throws spotlight on Constitution again

At a time when everyone's eyeballing the legislature's every move and every reported threat to the Constitution, the Democratic Governance Rights Unit's (DGRU) third annual Constitution Week, or *conweek*, which ran from 12 to 15 March, was well-timed. The four-day-long *conweek* aimed to get law students fired up about the Constitution and its importance to South Africa. This year, hot topics such as the arms deal, the role of education in realising constitutionalism, and the Traditional Courts Bill were mooted. Rather than shy away from these subjects, the country – and the legal fraternity – should enter into robust conversation about them, advised DGRU director, Professor Richard Calland. "We should not be squeamish about these debates," he said.

A tablet to enjoy

There can be few easier ways to get your hands on an Apple iPad 2. All humanities students Kelsey Slingers and Ilknur Hendricks had to do was access their myUCT (<http://www.myuct.ac.za/>) accounts for the first time, and a few months later Information and Communication Technology Services presented them each with 2011's best-selling tablet. "You have made my year," cooed Slingers.

Students who haven't yet moved to the new system are encouraged to activate their myUCT accounts immediately, as their GroupWise mailboxes will be deleted after 31 March. Master's, doctoral



and postdoctoral students are not affected at this stage, as their mailboxes will be migrated (along with staff mailboxes) later this year.



Having a ball: It was fun and games when staff from the College of Accounting (formerly the Department of Accounting) put aside their ledgers and balance statements in favour of soccer kit. Hosted at the UCT Sports Centre, the inaugural College of Accounting Indoor Soccer Tournament saw some fluid passing, cracking shots, cheeky goals and some hard tackling – all in the name of team-building.

Librarians book their places at UCT

Ten librarians from Johannesburg have chosen to polish their skills at UCT. The 10 – who trek to UCT once a month for the year-long course – are among 30 public librarians from around the country who were identified by the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) to do postgraduate diplomas in

library and information studies at UCT, the University of the Western Cape and the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The Carnegie Corporation of New York funded the LIASA initiative to the tune of R10 million over the next three years, to address the critical shortage of qualified librarians in the country.

Chibale down under

UCT's Professor Kelly Chibale has embarked on a three-legged tour of Australia, the UK and the US to raise funds for his new facility, the Drug Discovery & Development Centre (H3-D). In Australia, a visit that was organised by the UCT Australia Trust, Chibale gave media interviews and delivered a series of public lectures and conference presentations in Sydney, Melbourne and Victoria, addressing the challenges and opportunities of discovering new medicines in Africa. He is currently on tour in the UK and the US.

Fostering an identity with UCT AIR

Insaaf Isaacs, president of the Students' Representative Council (SRC), was the guest speaker at the talk hosted in February by UCT Alumni in Residence (UCT AIR), an initiative of the Development and Alumni Department to forge a unified UCT identity among students and alumni. Isaacs, the first speaker in the new series of AIR Talks, spoke of creating a UCT identity through roles and responsibilities, a central theme of the AIR initiative.

60th reunion for class of 1952

The *primum principium* of reading for a law degree hasn't changed much in the past 60 years, apparently. "Work hard, read the case – especially the judgement – properly, and apply the law to the facts," says Michael Francis of the law class of 1952, one of five graduates and three lecturers who attended a reunion at UCT in March. In picture are (from left) class members Francis, Paul Finnemore, Don Nicol, Ivor Schneider and Cyril Prisman, who took a stroll down memory lane.



Still on the books: (From left, back) Assoc Prof Karin de Jager, students Shelley Wilkin and Siphon Fako, and Assoc Prof Jaya Raju; and (from left, front) students Jeremiah Pietersen, Andiswa Mfengu, Lena Nyahodza and Camille Lewis have reason to celebrate the continued existence of library and information studies at UCT

Second wind for library studies

Having just survived the axe, library and information studies at UCT has taken a new direction.

In a rather unusual move, the Library and Information Studies Centre (LISC), formerly the Centre for Information Literacy, has been moved – physically and structurally – from the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED) to UCT Libraries. Teaching, however, will be conducted through the Faculty of Humanities, which will also award the final qualifications.

The new model has distinct advantages, believes Associate Professor Jaya Raju. It allows LISC to tap into the resources of “a valuable enterprise” in the form of UCT Libraries.

“UCT Libraries has librarians who are at the cutting edge of information service delivery

in an academic and research environment, and working closely with them would serve to enrich the teaching and research agendas of LISC.”

Library and information studies (LIS), first offered at UCT in the 1930s, is an inherently small discipline and hence often economically vulnerable

At UCT, LIS qualifications are offered at postgraduate level, and include postgraduate diploma (PGDip), master’s and PhD qualifications.

For a while it looked as if the entire suite of programmes would be closed at the end of 2011, sparking an outcry from the public and the government. UCT finally decided against closing the programme, and chose instead to restructure it.

It is now offered on a full- and part-time basis, and in block modes. This has led to the jump in student numbers from between three and six in the past years, to 20 PGDip students this year.

“The minute you offer this flexibility, individuals who are employed are willing to come to the party,” Raju says.

Raju believes that the programme must offer a “21st-century curriculum” that speaks to new trends in the profession, such as digitisation, open access and social networking. Links with overseas and continental partners, too, would be essential.

In the process, says Raju, they hope to build the next generation of LIS academics and researchers to contribute meaningfully to UCT’s strategic goals. ■

Healing mothers in Hanover Park

Of the 160 pregnant women screened in Hanover Park over the past four months, almost 45% were diagnosed with either anxiety or depression. And of those, almost a quarter were found to be suicidal – that is, have thought about suicide.

These chilling stats came to light at the launch of the UCT-based Perinatal Mental Health Project’s (PMHP) research and service site at the Hanover Park Midwife Obstetric Unit. The occasion marked the unveiling of the project’s newest kid on the block – its fourth site after Mowbray Maternity Hospital, False Bay Hospital and Retreat Midwife Obstetric Unit.

Initially set up in 2002, the PMHP is a founding partner of the Alan J Flisher Centre for Public Mental Health, and seeks to address mental illness among pregnant women and girls from disadvantaged communities.

And with the addition of the new Hanover Park site – sitting on the intersection of the ‘turfs’ of three of the Cape’s most notorious gangs – the project takes another leap towards making mental health a routine part of obstetric care.

“Women are coming to obstetric services anyway in this country,” said Dr Simone Honikman, PMHP director. “We have a 92% antenatal attendance rate for the whole country. That’s great going. We’re going to be mercenary and use this opportunity to optimise women’s uptake of mental health services.”

The aim, adds Honikman, is to generate the best possible evidence-based models for effective low-cost maternity care for the country and “possibly beyond”. ■

Governance Intranet pilot

Gone are the days of having to search through folders and UCT’s network drives to find committee meeting minutes. In the not too distant future you will be able to find all committee documentation, UCT policies and legislation in one central spot on the newly created Governance Intranet.

Currently being piloted with a small group of committees, the Governance Intranet provides a single entry point for all UCT’s formal governance documentation. Servicing officers will be able to store their committees’ Terms of Reference, minutes, agendas and attachments in one central location, making it easier for UCT staff to access this information. All of UCT’s policies and Principal’s Circulars will also be available here, as well as handy reference links to relevant legislation. Full-text search complements browsing through a well-organised

folder structure to find exactly what you are looking for.

Enhanced security ensures that documentation for closed committees remains accessible only to those with special access rights, but UCT staff will be able to view all open committee documentation.

The intranet will be accessible either while you are on campus or via the Virtual Private Network (VPN) when you are travelling or working from home. All you need to do is log onto the Governance Intranet with your UCT username@wf and password, and then start searching for the information you require.

Training for Committee Servicing Officers on how to use this tool will be offered throughout the year.

The Governance Intranet is just one of the initiatives that Information and Communication Technology Services is implementing under the Enterprise Content Management Programme. ■

Chibale bags the Alan Pifer Award

UCT’s Alan Pifer Award comes with some exacting demands. According to the adjudicators, the work of 2011 recipient Professor Kelly Chibale on drug discovery in Africa has surpassed those criteria.

In addition to contributing to the advancement and welfare of the disadvantaged, as the award stipulates, Chibale’s research – on potential drugs for diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis – also shows that science is not just an abstract discipline, as some may believe, but is very relevant to solving some very human problems. And contrary to the accepted Afropessimism, he’s proven that, with the right support and infrastructure, researchers in Africa are more than a match for their peers in Europe and North America.

“With our new, unique model of drug discovery, we’ve shown that good science can be produced in Africa,” boasts Chibale, director of UCT’s Drug Discovery & Development Centre, or H3-D. “Through this project, we are creating opportunities and jobs for people from the UK and the US to come and work here.”

In the motivation provided as part of the nomination by the former Head of the Department of Chemistry (Emeritus Professor Allen Rodgers) for



Honoured: Prof Kelly Chibale, winner of the 2011 Alan Pifer Award.

the award, worth R10,000, Professor Susan Bourne, the new head of the Department of Chemistry, noted that the aim of Chibale’s H3-D “is nothing less than to create a mass of African scientists with the skills and capacity to develop pre-clinical drug candidates, with a focus on the diseases afflicting sub-Saharan Africa”.

At the award-presentation ceremony in March, Professor Danie

Visser, deputy vice-chancellor responsible for research, explained that the Alan Pifer Award meets a strategic goal of promoting socially responsive research at UCT. Chibale is the 19th recipient of the award, named after the late philanthropist, erstwhile president of long-term UCT benefactors the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and founding chairperson of the UCT Fund. ■

Afropolitanism – naturally

It's been a couple of years since Dr Max Price introduced the word *Afropolitanism* into the UCT lexicon. Since then, it's fallen to Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, deputy vice-chancellor with portfolio responsibility for internationalisation, to be UCT's Afropolitanism emissary, dropping the word (full title: *Internationalisation with an Afropolitan niche*) – into conversation and lectures wherever he can. We caught up with Nhlapo to get a sitrep on the state of Afropolitanism at UCT.

MP: You once said that people shouldn't overthink Afropolitanism. What did you mean by that?

TN: What I meant was that I would like to see our attitude towards Afropolitanism at UCT being more laidback, less stressed. I want us to get away from looking over our shoulder at our competitors and to accept that visible engagement on the continent is good for us and for its own sake. We should be at a place where our African-ness is a matter of fact, as a university located in Africa and thinking about African issues and problems – and African solutions to those problems.

MP: What then, in its simplest form, is Afropolitanism?

TN: I would say it's a mindset rather than a project. A mindset of being 'comfortably African' in the way described above, driving a myriad of projects, collaborations and engagements. A strong pillar of Afropolitanism is our desire to specialise in knowledge on and about Africa. This is achieved through a variety of initiatives and engagements, from research collaborations to co-supervision of postgrads; from joint curriculum design to staff and student exchanges; from external examining to joint participation with continental partners in global networks.

MP: Did we have to start from ground zero at UCT once the word was formally introduced here?

TN: Not at all. In fact, a data map compiled by the International Academic Programmes Office as far back as 2005 was an eye-opener in that it showed up over 400 relations of various kinds between UCT academics and institutions across Africa. The activity had always been there. I think what the Afropolitan vision added was twofold: the assurance to colleagues already involved in African partnerships that their work was valuable; and a signal to other colleagues that initiatives in this direction would be supported.

MP: Does UCT have a handle on the extent of that activity?

TN: Not yet, unfortunately. The database is a work in progress, and will soon link up with other university-wide initiatives to enable easy access to UCT information in general. We are slowly getting to a point where we will fully understand the spread of activities. But the numbers are very encouraging: there are currently 34 projects classified as Afropolitan that are supported by the Vice-Chancellor's

Strategic Fund. In 2011 alone we signed nine MoUs with African partners, with a strong commitment to make them active in 2012.

MP: Do you have a sense that this mindset is becoming the norm at UCT?

TN: I think it is. Making Afropolitanism a strategic goal of UCT has given it prominence and enabled initiatives under that umbrella to be monitored and evaluated. For instance, the reporting requirement under the VC's Strategic Fund means that one gets an annual handle on what is going on across the University. The goal features prominently these days in academic conversations at UCT, as shown by the recent discussion at the UCT Strategy Forum.

MP: If the international ratings are correct and UCT is streets ahead of any other institution in Africa, was it hard to convince UCT academics of the value of working with other African institutions?

TN: There was a lot of debate initially, and some academics were not convinced of the value. What turned the tide was the acknowledgement of the vast amounts of good work already being done, and the intriguing proposition that UCT is perfectly placed geographically to act as an international meeting point between Africa and the rest of the world. This is the niche – to position ourselves as the go-to place for knowledge about Africa. So if someone wants to prospect for minerals in Zambia, or construct a dam or a highway in Burkina Faso, they shouldn't have to go to England or Massachusetts for information on the economic climate or the constitutional and legal framework in these countries. They should be coming to UCT. For this to happen, our academics need to see continental engagements as an exciting path to new knowledge which simultaneously contributes directly to the wellbeing of African populations from South to North. It is a win-win situation.

MP: Where are we now along the Afropolitan strategy, in 2012?

TN: We are quite some way along. We have discovered where the interest lies and have uncovered the obstacles we need to overcome, one being the funding problem. Another is the lack of implementation guidelines to steer and coordinate all the various initiatives. Yet another challenge is to finalise solutions to issues such as course accreditation, joint degrees and



Reaching out: At one count, UCT has set up relations – from memoranda of understanding and exchange agreements to publishing collaborations and research contracts – with 36 countries across the continent. That's not counting activities with other South African universities. (Based on information provided by the International Academic Programmes Office, the Research Office and the Research Contracts and Intellectual Property Services. Illustration by Marcel Gaines.)



Shield bearer: Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo has become UCT's Afropolitan champion.

co-badged qualifications. And there are external pressures as well, like Ivy League universities setting up camp in our own backyard. Unless we are clear about our own goals, we will forever be reacting to such developments. The guidelines to be promulgated in 2012 will bring some much-needed clarity to these issues. ■

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UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
CENTENARY
1912 - 2012 | building the future

Then

In 1943, a government inquiry found that conditions for clinical training at UCT were unsound, blaming the overlarge classes and the reliance on honorary visiting staff for most of the teaching. A committee examining problems at Groote Schuur Hospital in 1948 suggested a new system to staff the teaching hospitals with salaried doctors who would apportion their time equally between diagnosing, treating and teaching. In 1950, JFP Erasmus – who would later become the head of the division of surgery – became the first clinical professor to be appointed under the new Joint Staff Agreement.

Now

The Joint Staff Agreement between the university and the Provincial Administration that was officially introduced in 1951 and would see both UCT and the Provincial Government contribute to salaries opened the way for a significant increase in teaching staff. Today, 51 years since its conception, the agreement has almost 800 people on the books – with approximately 734 staff on joint service from Provincial Government, and about 59 staff on joint agreements with the National Health Laboratory Service.



Aiming for the heart: (Clockwise from main picture) Occupational therapy student Dene Benjamin (centre) with (from left) Brandon Dreyer, Sello Tau, Samantha Jantjies, Aminah Nelson, Sadia Bredekamp and Melody Swarts, some of the kids that took part in her project, *Where is the Love?*; Through images and words, the learners captured their connection with their community; Brandon Dreyer and Donveno Samuels inspect their handiwork; The learners celebrated the project with teachers, family and friends. (All pictures by Katherine Traut.)

Finding love in Lavender Hill

A UCT student sets out to help children in Lavender Hill manage their aggression – and find a little love along the way

Samantha lives in a world where gangs rule, and dreams go up in [tik] smoke.

But she knows love, she'll say. For her, it's her best friend.

"I feel it when she hugs me," the grade-seven learner says. "There's love in Lavender Hill, but the gangsters and fighting put it down."

Samantha is one of 18 learners from Zerilda Park Primary school in Seawinds, Lavender Hill, who took part in a project by fourth-year occupational therapy student Dene Benjamin. The five-week project, titled *Where is*

the Love?, addressed aggression among these learners by identifying alternative anger management techniques; in this case, photography.

The project is part of Benjamin's practice placement, a mandatory exercise for all UCT health sciences students. She leapt at the opportunity to work in Lavender Hill "because there is a huge need in the community".

An assessment of the learners at the school, Benjamin explains, found that their interactions were mostly violent. "Even their play was often based on fighting, and this impacted on

their occupational experiences in the classroom."

And so harnessing a technique known as Photovoice, a community development tool that combines photography and narrative, Benjamin armed the learners with disposable cameras and asked them to take snapshots of everyday interactions between learners themselves and between learners and teachers, on the one hand, and pictures of love on the other. The pictures then formed the basis for classroom discussions on the feelings they evoke, and on how to adopt better life skills.

In this process, a space was created for the learners to explore and identify alternate ways of expressing and dealing with emotions so as to allow for more positive interactions and occupational experiences.

The children have the capacity to love, says Ronald Zamanjah, a teacher at the school. They just live in a community "where there is very little of it to go around".

"The kids here learn early on that survival always comes first – they see that if someone fights you, you fight back, harder," says Zamanjah.

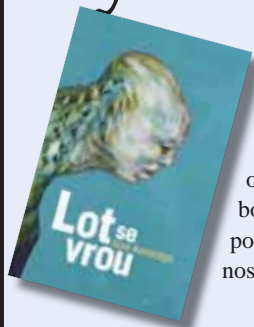
"They need role models, they need an alternative, and one way of doing it is to factor conflict resolution into the curriculum."

Hopefully the road won't end there, says Benjamin.

She is in the process of establishing a parents group that can help bridge the gap between home and school, as this has been identified as critical to achieving the goals of the campaign. She's also started working with the teachers.

Benjamin may still get more of that love to go around. ■

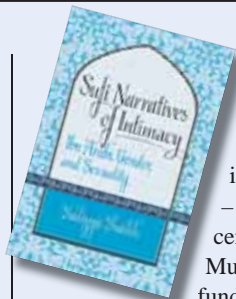
By the Book



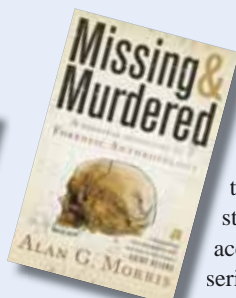
Prof Joan Hambidge of UCT's School of Languages and Literatures has released a new volume of Afrikaans poetry, *Lot se vrou*. The book offers a collection of evocative poetry that focuses on memory and nostalgia.

Tombouctou: Pour une histoire de l'erudition en Afrique de l'ouest is the French translation of *The Meanings of Timbuktu*, co-authored by Assoc Prof Shamil Jeppie of the Institute for the Humanities in Africa and originally published in 2008. The book contextualises and clarifies the importance of efforts to preserve Timbuktu's precious manuscripts.

Dr Sa'diyya Shaikh of the Department of Religious Studies

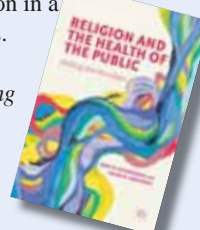


is releasing a new book, *Sufi Narratives of Intimacy: Ibn 'Arabi, Gender, and Sexuality*. Grounding her work in Islamic epistemology, Shaikh explores the ways in which Sufi metaphysics and theology – influenced by the work of thirteenth-century Sufi poet, mystic and legal scholar Muhyi al-Din ibn al-'Arabi – might allow for fundamental shifts in Islamic gender ethics and legal formulations.

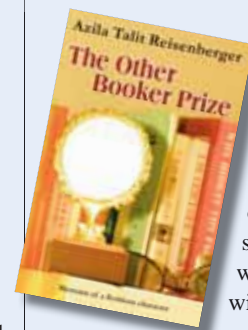


Missing & Murdered by Professor Alan Morris of the Department of Human Biology lays bare the fascinating world of forensic anthropology. Morris makes the practice of forensic anthropology, the skills base of skeletal biology and the study of archaeological skeletons hugely accessible to the layperson in a series of fascinating cases.

Religion and the Health of the Public: Shifting the Paradigm, by Emer Prof James Cochrane of the Department of Religious Studies, provides a comprehensive theoretical framework for



understanding and working on the interface between religion and public health.



The Other Booker Prize by Dr Azila Talit Reisenberger, of Hebrew studies in UCT's School of Languages and Literatures, tells the story of Abigail Pearlmuter from Tel Aviv, who insists on doing "what is right" – although sometimes, as she says, "a little bit of wrong is also right". The story is peppered with puns, wordplay and wit.

South African Cinema 1896-2010 by Assoc Prof Martin Botha of the Centre for Film & Media Studies is described as an "ambitious attempt to analyse and place in appropriate sociopolitical context the aesthetic highlights of South African cinema from 1896 to the present". In addition to covering some rarely-covered aspects of local cinema, the book also comes with over 200 illustrations.



WE REMEMBER...

Professor John van der Westhuizen and Associate Professor Paddy Harrison

Professor John van der Westhuizen, one-time De Beers Professor of English Language, died in Cape Town on 3 March 2012 after a long illness.

Born in 1933, he was educated first at UCT and later at London University. His fields of specialism were Old Icelandic, Anglo-Saxon and Middle English. His spirited engagement with the Norse sagas and with the poetry of Geoffrey Chaucer inspired many generations of students.

Van der Westhuizen had the rare distinction of being a black appointment to a prestigious chair during the apartheid era. This was at a time when almost all personnel of the then-Faculty of Arts and most of the student body were white.

His commitment to what many considered to be an arcane field of study was a refreshing object lesson in academic freedom. He pursued knowledge for its own sake without regard to narrow socio-political considerations. And yet he did not share in the desire to mystify which sometimes bedevils specialist academics.

He was a born populariser, at pains to show the common human heritage to be found in the early northern poets, whose work formed his subject matter, and in the South African students who were reading them. During his tenure of the chair he travelled to the US where he conducted successful seminars at university level.

His special talent as a teacher was to make his subject come alive.

With thanks to Geoffrey Haresnape, emeritus professor of English, UCT.

Award-winning nursing stalwart Associate Professor Paddy Harrison died in March, aged 91.

Harrison, who in 1982 became UCT's first Helen and Morris Mauerberger Professor of Nursing, dedicated her life to the development of the nursing profession in South Africa, more particularly to nurturing young nurses.

Harrison was among the first students to complete the diploma in nursing programme in UCT's former Department of Nursing, now the Division of Nursing & Midwifery, in 1937. She started teaching at UCT in 1959, running the Sister Tutor's Diploma, and was appointed as full-time lecturer in 1961.

In 1972 she launched UCT's BSc programme in nursing, and the master's in nursing programme in 1982.

Among her many honours was a South African Nursing Association Gold Medal in 1982.

Dr Una Kyriacos, acting head of the Division of Nursing & Midwifery, says they remember Harrison for her sense of humour and her deep knowledge of the history of nursing. ■

A DAY IN THE LIFE

of the departmental staff at the South African College of Music (SACM).



Making music happen: Charles Potgieter Jnr, Neville Hartzenberg, Samuel (Sammy) Kruger and Charles Potgieter Snr are the 'nerve centre' of the College of Music.

The team comprises Building Supervisor Neville Hartzenberg, sound technician Samuel Kruger, receptionist Charles Potgieter Snr, and departmental assistant Charles Potgieter Jnr.

What do they do?

Known as the 'nerve centre' of the SACM, the four describe themselves as "all-rounders" who, between them, do anything from welcoming visitors, staff and students to preparing classes and venues for workshops and concerts. They also help the college with preparing copies, dealing with enquiries from UCT staff and the public, airport trips and driving staff and students around.

What are the challenges of their jobs?

The number of personnel in the unit has gone down from eleven in 1979 to five today, although the SACM has grown over the same time. This means the four are often on standby, making it difficult to plan their private lives. And last-minute requests amplify the problem. "In most cases we can't say no, and just try our best to help," says Potgieter Snr.

What are the highs?

That Hartzenberg has worked for the SACM for 37 years, while Kruger and Potgieter Snr have both served the college for 33 years, is proof enough that the SACM is a fun and rewarding place to work. "The

environment is good, and the staff and students are always fantastic to work with," Kruger explains. And nothing is more satisfying than seeing some of the students they have worked with going on to conquer the world, as the likes of Jimmy Dlodlu and Pretty Yende have done.

And the lows?

Bottlenecks can be very stressful. Multi-tasking sometimes requires the four men to triage requests; and in the process, some eleventh-hour requests must either be put on the back burner, or just never get done. "The way students and our colleagues treat and respect us is amazing. It is so bad when we can't help them, because we

are just too busy with more immediately urgent requests," Potgieter Snr says.

The strange and the unusual?

When international producers turn up at the very last minute with technical riders that are completely different from the ones sent by their tour managers, and the team has to race to fulfil these new requests, which often include strange demands – such as a grand piano with the lid off and 30 different-coloured ping-pong balls inside. And warding off enquiries from fans of the supernatural about the Strubenhalm ghost, which is said to roam the corridors of the old building every Saturday evening at 10pm. ■

Meet the mentors

There can be few better ways to tend to the talents of the next generation of scholars than to get a handful of the older guard to do the tending. That about sums up UCT's Visiting and Retired Scholars Mentorship Programme. Funded by the Mellon Foundation and managed by the Research Office, the project allows young academics to pick the brains of some very seasoned veterans, who hail both from UCT stock and from universities elsewhere on the globe. We focus on a couple who have recently served as mentors.

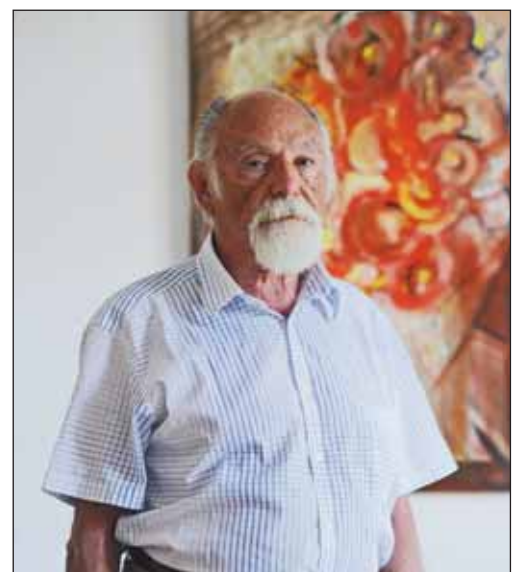
Emeritus Professor Carole Rakodi was formerly based (and currently holds an honorary posi-



tion) in the International Development Department at the University of Birmingham, UK. Through her research on urban development in Africa, she'd had contact with doctoral graduates and young academic staff from across the continent. Her previous work – and work with international students in the UK – had also shown that young academics get very little support from overtaxed senior scholars, said Rakodi,

so the UCT mentorship programme is a step in the right direction. Such initiatives are needed, even at UCT, a university that can recruit well-qualified and able young researchers. "All young academics have to learn the craft of writing for publication, start to design their own research projects, prioritise the things they need to do to forge academic careers and learn to manage competing priorities." Essentials for long and fruitful careers.

Emeritus Professor Kurt Danziger, whose work on the history of psychology has earned him international recognition, would say that he's lived a little on the edge. Born in Germany, he moved with his family to South Africa, completed degrees in chemistry and psychology at UCT, studied at Oxford, and then moved to Australia. He returned to South Africa in 1954, and after a stint in Indonesia would return to UCT to head the Department of Psychology. But his opposition to apartheid policies forced him to leave for Canada in 1965, and he was only allowed to return to South Africa after 1990. Along the way, he learnt a thing or two about psychology and its growing popularity as a field of study. "The size



of the senior classes is so much bigger now," he says. "Larger classes require more structure and the mentoring programme does something to restore the one-to-one learning balance." ■

EVENTS

Seminars and Lectures and Meeting



When: Wednesday, 11 April 2012 at 17h30. Speaker: Dr Laurence Bloom
 Title: 'Squaring the Circle? Climate Change, Development, Sustainability'.
 Venue: Lecture Theatre 1, Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus, University of Cape Town

Royal Society SA Dr Laura Roden of UCT will give a free public talk on Chronobiology focussing on how circadian rhythms effect athletic performance and disease vulnerability in plants, 28th March at 5pm at SAAO Auditorium, Observatory. No bookings. Go to <http://www.royalsocietysa.org.za/> for more info or call 0216502543.

The Department of O&G Has great pleasure in inviting you to join us in celebrating the retirement of Professor Dennis Davey and Dr Martin Shelton who have continued to serve the Department with distinction over many years. The farewell function will consist of a brief address from Prof Davey and Dr Shelton which will be preceded by a cocktail function. Date: Thursday, 29 March 2012. Time: 17:00 - 18:30. Venue: Seminar Room, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, H Floor, Old Main Building, GSH. Please confirm your attendance with Marilyn Koks (marilyn.koks@uct.ac.za) or Tel: 0214046020

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

Lecturers (X2), Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 30 March 2012

Professor/Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer: Urban Design, School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 10 April 2012

Charles FM Saint Chair of Paediatric Surgery & Head of Division, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 16 April 2012

Associate Professor & Senior Lecturer/Lecturer, Department of Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 20 April 2012

Dean & Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 30 April 2012

Helen & Morris Mauerberger Chair of Cardiology and Head of Clinical Department, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 1 May 2012

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

Cluster Manager: Funding And Committees, Research Office, Department of Research And Innovation, Closing date: 26 March 2012

Planning Officer, Institutional Planning Department, Closing date: 26 March 2012

Prospect Officer, Development & Alumni Department, Closing date: 28 March 2012

Senior Library Assistant, Music Library, Closing date: 30 March 2012

Guideline Developer, UCT Lung Institute, Closing date: 30 March 2012

Administrative Services Assistant, Department of Student Affairs, 30 March 2012

Librarian – Cataloguer, GSB Library, Graduate School of Business, Closing date: 30 March 2012

Senior Library Assistant (Journals), GSB Library, Graduate School of Business, Closing date: 30 March 2012

Custodian, Michaelis School of Fine Art, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 30 March 2012

Scientific Officer, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 31 March 2012

Antimalarial Pharmacologist/Pharmacoepidemiologist, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 2 April 2012

Systems Engineers (Database Administrators), ICTS, Closing date: 5 April 2012

Head: Careers Advisory Service, Careers Service Department, Centre For Higher Education Development, Closing date: 10 April 2012

Section Manager, Law Library, Closing date: 10 April 2012

Director: Safety and Violence Initiative, Office Of The Vice Chancellor, Closing date: 13 April 2012

Recruitment Advisor, Department of Human Resources, Closing date: 13 April 2012

Director: Children's Institute, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 16 April 2012

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY:

To view the full advertisements and application requirements for each post, please visit www.uct.ac.za and click on "Vacancies"

PROPERTY/ACCOMMODATION

Newlands/CBD: Home stay accommodation in Newlands for postgraduate students, visiting academics - sharing flatlet or bedroom en-suite. Full board ZAR1000 per week. Self-catering studio apartment in CBD, fully furnished and equipped with underground parking bay. ZAR5000 per month. Both available mid-April 2012. Contact: Mrs Maurer maurer@sybaweb.co.za

House Swap: Academic seeks family house swap in CT area, Dec - early Jan. Charming historic village next to

Cambridge (UK). Cat lovers preferred! sch30@cam.ac.uk

Ivydene Apartments: offers long-term rentals in an old cape farmhouse. On Jamie Shuttle route, off-street parking, peaceful setting, close to shops & restaurants. Visit www.ivydeneapartments.com for pictures & information

Observatory: House Share in Obz, R 3000-00 per month. 3 Bedroom House, 2 Bathrooms. Move in immediately. Only looking for one other person, pref female and post grad. Please contact Nicola duplessisnicola@gmail.com

Wanted: Visiting professor is looking for housing for the months of June and July - I'll be in town from Johns Hopkins University with husband and daughter. Prefer 2+ bedrooms and proximity to campus or City Bowl. I have a budget to pay for accommodation, and am also willing to housesit. Please email lfolda@jhu.edu

Observatory: For rent - newly renovated, charming 2-bed semi (unfurnished), quiet street, private garden, R6500pm. Avail 1 April. Sorry no kids / dogs. Contact Reuben 0724814312 / reupost@gmail.com

B&B: Tranquil B&B set in 2 acres of garden, situated 300m from Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens upper gate. 11 Km from UCT Campus - ideal for visiting academics. Self-catering available. Call 0027 (0)217622323, visit www.kleinbosheuvel.co.za

Strand: Beachfront Flat to let. Stunning views. Fully equipped. Garage. Sleeps 3/4 People. R450 p/n for 2 people - low season. Phone Brenda 0828820607

Woodstock: Room to let for female student, Self catering, own toilet & shower. Near all amenities, in Woodstock. R1200.00 per month. Contact: 0769976919

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Ray-Bans: Brand New Raybans in case and box. Never been worn. Valued at over R1600 selling for 1200 neg. Contact 0823453865

Car: 2009 Renault Sandero United 1.6 L, white, R85,500. Excellent condition and bodywork. Full inspection by DEKRA. Available July 1, 2012. Estimated odometer: 50,000-60,000 km. Contact: cb@ideo.columbia.edu

Mags: VW Golf Mags and Tyres for sale. Contact 0723035203

Axe: 1.8kg Poly Handle Lasher axe R200 new tel: ext: 4739 or 0727802784

GENERAL

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PROOFREADING AND EDITING: Your thesis, publication or dissertation edited professionally by Full Member of Professional Editors Group. Contact Philip, University Education Services at 0723406238 or pmurton@mweb.co.za

Domestic: My young char Avela is available Mondays to Thursdays. An excellent worker, honest and reliable. Her family has worked for mine for over 40 years. She has successfully completed Child Care & Development, Infant and Child CPR and Basic First Aid courses. References available. Contact merle.futter@uct.ac.za 0217943858 or 0832060962

Car audio: alarm, servicing and home theatre installations. With over 20 years' experience, contact Robert on cell: 072 594 6749 for a free quote.

Domestic worker: Domestic worker and child carer recommended. Contact Dr Mark Sonderup on mark.sonderup@uct.ac.za for details and information.

Housesitter: Responsible Lady is available to housesit for a long term very good with animals and plants good refs please ph 0732814908 or 0848187147 S/Suburbs

Yoga: EGS Dept - Upper Campus Fridays 12h45 - 13h45 R60 per class. All Welcome Ph Sharon x2873

Editing and Proofreading needs: Highly experienced editor will take care of all your proofreading requirements. Theses, dissertations,

etc, prepared to the highest professional standards. Reasonable rates and quick turnaround times. Contact David Capel on davidgcapel@gmail.com or 0726606211.

Science tutor: (Physics and Chemistry) required for matric learner, Please contact Nafia at 021-6892196.

Domestic worker: Cynthia, our reliable domestic worker is looking for work on Mondays. Please contact eliza.hui@uct.ac.za

Volunteers with: Obsessive-compulsive disorder, hair-pulling disorder, social phobia and skin picking wanted! Contact:Christine 0219389179/ CL2@sun.ac.za OR Bronwynne 0219389762/ bronwynne@ sun.ac.za

House Sitting: Professional couple, with nine year old son, available immediately to care for your home, garden and pets while you are away. Please contact Matthew Reid on (021) 448 5514 or 082 86 44550. Alternatively, send an email to fireplayers@yahoo.com.

Taking sabbatical? Careful UK couple (husband lectures at UCT) could house, cat and dog sit for a year. Phone 0765635500 or 0215317839

Position: Student Services Co-ordinator for an American University. Part time position. "Minimum requirements" graduate student licence & own car reside in Rondebosch surrounds Email cv tmhenry20@gmail.com

DATABASE: I design and write databases, to your specification; on a "No cure - No pay" basis. Call Roger on 021 715 4027 or email reh@telkomsa.net for free quote

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Working to manage depression

Students are subject to a host of pressures that can take a toll on their mental state. To curb and prevent damaging psychological trauma that may affect students, the university has launched the pioneering Mental Health Education Programme (MHEP). The brainchild of UCT's Student Wellness Services and the Students' Representative Council (SRC), MHEP aims to equip students with the knowledge of mental and psychological wellbeing necessary to prevent mental breakdowns.

The programme comprises a series of weekly workshops covering topics such as depression, anxiety, trauma management, sexuality and

substance abuse. The workshops are held every Wednesday during meridian.

Benita Southgate, principal psychologist at Student Wellness Services, says the workshops aim to educate students and staff about mental health concerns. "It's to increase mental health literacy, knowledge and awareness of stigmatisation, and get students to engage with that," explains Southgate, "and to really increase their help-seeking behaviour."

A sophisticated network of mental health-care infrastructure is available from Student Wellness, including counselling and assessment, therapy sessions and possibly other inter-

ventions, says Southgate. In more severe cases, a multi-disciplinary team of clinical nursing practitioners, medical doctors and a psychiatrist are consulted, she explains.

There's no need for students to suffer alone, then?

"Not at all, not at all," says Southgate. "And that's part of the reason we have this programme: to create awareness, and to get them to access the resources timeously." ■



Students can access information pamphlets pertaining to commonly experienced mental and psychological problems, provided by Student Wellness Service's Counselling Services at http://www.uct.ac.za/students/health/wellness/counselling/support_info.

SHAWCO's weekend special on the up

The Saturday School was a 'modest little' project when the Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO) first started it in 2007, running classes for 200 grade-12 learners from disadvantaged schools on Saturday mornings.

Five years on and the project has tripled in size, with 32 educators now teaching classes in maths, English, physical science, life science and accounting to 600 learners. It now incorporates not just the Saturday School, but also the 100 learners from UCT's 100-Up programme and a further 300

from the spinoff SHINE Programme.

While the Saturday School catered exclusively for learners from schools operating in impoverished areas around the Cape Peninsula, SHINE, established in 2010, recruited fee-paying students from more affluent backgrounds and schools.

The SHINE programme has been so successful that it has generated a slight surplus that SHAWCO will be using to subsidise the Saturday Schools when the five-year funding from Bombardier Transport Company runs out at the end of 2012.

SHAWCO's director, Varkey George, explains that by 2013 the entire project will have become financially self-sustainable, a recurring motif in SHAWCO's vision.

"One of our vice-chancellor's concerns, the preparation of learners from our townships to be admitted to UCT, is also being addressed through this initiative," says George. "SHINE allows the organisation to make a positive difference in the lives of the project's learners."

Not so little anymore, then. ■



Classy work: SHAWCO Saturday School has generated a couple of new spinoffs, and grown in size and ambition.

Ultimate recognition for UCT trio

Ultimate's status as one of the fastest growing sports at UCT – it became an official club in 2010 – was cemented recently when three of the club's players were named to represent South Africa at the, well, ultimate international Ultimate tournament.

Matthew Lewis, John McCoy and Nicholas Zaloumis will be UCT Ultimate's (UCTU) representatives at the World Ultimate & Guts Championships that takes place in Sakai, Japan, in July this year. It is the first time that the trio have been selected for the national side.

Three other UCT players, Sean Massyn, Thomas Morris and Timothy Taylor, have been called up to the training squad for the duration of the preparation for the championships. The UCT contingent in the national squad is rounded off by two

more students, John Heydinger and Robert Skelton, who play for other Cape Town clubs.

The students agree that the competition in Japan will be stiff, and are cautiously ambitious about their targets for the tournament. "We're hoping that South Africa will finish top of the bottom half," says McCoy.

As is typical for a small sport in South Africa, the students will be digging into their own pockets to make the trip to Japan.

"Most people in the team are paying their own way," says UCTU captain Zaloumis. "Obviously the team is doing some fundraising, but I don't think we have any huge hopes of a big company coming in."

Hopefully the rewards will be worth it. ■



A disc-throw away: John McCoy, Nicholas Zaloumis and Matthew Lewis will join the SA team that travels to Japan for the world Ultimate (the sport) championships in July.