Message from the Director of IAPO

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome all our readers to IAPO’s first bi-annual electronic newsletter. The purpose of this is in keeping with our vision which is “to be a key player in enhancing internationalisation at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and assisting it to maximise its global impact”. Through this newsletter, we aim to keep you up to date with a wide range of news, features, activities, stories, functions and events in which IAPO is involved.

We believe that there are still many people both within and outside of UCT who are unaware of IAPO’s functions, and this newsletter will be a platform to inform our readers about what keeps us busy throughout the year, from pre-registration and orientation of over 4,000 international students, ongoing advising on immigration issues, finding accommodation for some of the students, welcoming and hosting visitors to UCT, managing the largest Study Abroad Programme in Africa, brokering institutional agreements and partnerships on behalf of the university, to celebrating the “The World at UCT” in all its diversity.

We also welcome comments and contributions from our readers. We would particularly like to hear how internationalisation is impacting you right here on the campus and through the different functions of the university.

We hope you enjoy this first issue and look forward to hearing your feedback.

Dr Loveness Kaunda

IAPO is the organisational structure mandated to lead the development of internationalisation at UCT by acting as the central coordinator and facilitator of internationally-related activities and initiatives. IAPO is assisted by an Internationalisation Management Advisory Group, on which all deans of faculty and other key stakeholders are represented. This “think tank” assists the Deputy Vice-Chancellor responsible for External Relations and IAPO with a wide range of policy issues that relate to internationalisation.

For information showcasing IAPO’s successes since the Office was first established access: http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/about/iapo/10years_internat.pdf
WE’VE MOVED!

IAPO relocated to new premises on 13 May. We are now housed in 3-4 Lovers Walk on the Lower Campus, between the School of Dance and the SA College of Music. We are just off Wooolsack Drive, but for vehicular access use the road that runs up behind the Baxter Theatre. Our telephone numbers and email addresses will remain the same. See you there....

Immigration Update

In November 2007, IAPO hosted a Western Cape immigration legislation seminar at the request of the Department of Home Affairs. Colleagues from various sectors within UCT and other Western Cape institutions attended the seminar which primarily addressed the issue of compliance with immigration legislation.

International students are advised to ensure that their study permits are valid at all times. We strongly recommend that you make a copy of your passport including the page with your study permit and keep it handy at all times. Study permits can be renewed in South Africa as long as the relevant application documentation is submitted. A student could be asked to return home and apply for a study permit in the home country where:

1. A permit is submitted for renewal within 30 days of the expiry date. Here, the Department of Home Affairs will require that you motivate in writing why an extension should be granted. It is not always guaranteed that an extension will be granted in such cases.

2. A study permit has lapsed and a request for the extension of the permit is submitted to the Department of Home Affairs after its expiry date.

The International Office can provide you with a list of visa application requirements, the visa extension form and the necessary UCT letter/s to attach to your application.

Current immigration legislation does not permit concurrent work and study for work permit holders therefore UCT is not able to register anyone for studies on a work permit. UCT is in the process of lobbying the Department of Home Affairs for an amendment of this regulation and IAPO will provide updates to the University community regarding ongoing progress.

Upcoming Events

IAPO is committed to ensuring that international students integrate with local students for an optimal South African experience. For this reason a number of events are organised aimed at bringing together students from all nationalities represented at UCT to celebrate our diversity. Some of the upcoming events you should diarise are:

The ‘World at UCT’ Festival – August/ September (date to be confirmed)

Throughout the year IAPO collaborates with the Student Representative Council and international student societies in organising a variety of activities that promote cultural integration. There are several nationality societies represented on campus e.g. ZIMSOC, BOTSOC, EASOC. Contact the student society’s office, Steve Biko Building, Upper Campus if you would like to know more about UCT’s international student societies.
Orientation 2008

IAPO welcomed over 300 new international full-degree students in February 2008. The new students participated in a 5 day non-academic orientation programme comprising information sessions on support services at UCT, cultural integration, and safety and security.

The Semester Study Abroad programme saw the largest enrolment since the programme started with as many as 560 students applying and about 506 students actually registering for the first semester 2008. A 6 day Orientation programme marked the start of an exciting semester at the University providing critical information about academic procedures, talks on socio-political issues, cultural and diversity matters, a talk and a visit to the SHAWCO community service centres.

Both groups of students were officially welcomed by Dr. Loveness Kaunda, the Director of IAPO and attended welcome receptions hosted by UCT’s Deputy Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and International Relations, Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo. The evenings would not have been complete without the exciting and exhilarating drum workshop, the Marimba Band, and good food. IAPO also extended its invitation to its welcome reception to South African students, staying true to the saying ….. “No Integration in Isolation”!

A highlight of the both orientation programmes was definitely the peninsula tour which included a tour of the townships in Hout Bay and Ocean View communities, providing students with a first-hand opportunity to engage with residents of those communities.

IAPO’s orientation programmes continue to grow and we are grateful for the assistance provided by a dedicated and trained team of Orientation Leaders which complements the support and hard work of mobility and international full-degree teams and IAPO staff in general during this very busy period.

UCT hosts IaH Colloquium

A Colloquium on Internationalisation at Home (IaH) was held at UCT on 3-4 April 2008. Co-hosted by IAPO and the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED), it was officially opened by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof RT Nhlapo.

Presenters included Jos Beelen and Inez Meurs from the Netherlands, Knut Bergknut from Sweden, Sheila Trahar from the UK, and Melissa Steyn, Nan Yeld, Loveness Kaunda and Caz Thomas from UCT.

The purpose of the colloquium was to bring together key institutional stakeholders and take them through a process that raises and increases awareness of internationalisation at Home at UCT, for example, through a reflection on and discussion of current practice and future directions. The European presenters have long experience in researching and presenting workshops on IaH across Europe under the auspices of the European Association of International Education (EAIE). It was a particular pleasure to have them come and share their experience and knowledge of IaH as it is understood in Europe and how aspects of IaH can be adapted and implemented in different educational and cultural settings.

TOP 5 REASONS why international students are attracted to UCT

- High quality academic programmes
- Quality of teaching and research
- Location of Cape Town
- Location of South Africa and its history
- Good information technology services
What role does UCT play on the African continent?

USHEPiA – ‘circulating brains’ in Africa

The Universities Science Humanities and Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPiA) Programme has emerged as one of the successful flagship Africa programmes, with the University of Cape Town chosen as the host university. The USHEPiA participating universities are the universities of Cape Town, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Nairobi, Dar es Salaam, Makerere University and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya.

Since its inception in 1996, the programme has provided 64 full degree fellowships; 35 in Science and Engineering, 26 in Humanities and 3 in Food & Security. To date, 28 students have graduated with PhDs and six with an MA or MSc. Currently, 23 Fellows are continuing with their studies.

So far not one USHEPiA graduate has left the continent of Africa and almost all have returned to their home universities. USHEPiA envisions turning the ‘brain drain’ so detrimental to Africa into ‘brain circulation’. For more information on the USHEPiA Programme access: http://web.uct.ac.za/misc/iapo/ushepia/bg.htm

UCT and the SADC region

The majority of international students at UCT come from countries within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. In 2007, UCT hosted the following number of international students from SADC countries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seychelles</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swaziland</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>890</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In line with the SADC Protocol on Education that allows South African institutions to reserve 5% of their enrolment for students from the SADC countries, SADC students pay local South Africa fees. Since SADC students make up almost 71% of all international students, UCT’s contribution to the education of students from the SADC region is significant.

Students from other parts of Africa come from as far afield as Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Nigeria, Mali, Rwanda and Somalia.

Did you know?

Some quick UCT facts

- 890 Zimbabwean students were registered at UCT in 2007
- 1,420 international students were registered in the Humanities Faculty, 838 in Commerce, 325 in Health Sciences, 252 in Law, 643 in Science and 805 in Engineering & the Built Environment
- 9 nationalities are represented on the UCT soccer team
- 71% of all international students are from the SADC countries
- UCT is host to students from over 100 countries
- UCT has the highest number of international students resident in South Africa – 4,000+!
- In 2007, the majority of international postgraduate students (full degree) were registered in the Faculty of Science – 295, while most undergraduate international students registered for courses in the Faculty of Commerce – 444.
- IAPO processes over 2,000 study visa renewal applications annually
The Students’ Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO) was founded by a group of medical students in 1943 and has been a vehicle for student social responsibility activities since then. Based at UCT and registered as a Non Profit, SHAWCO now consists of over 1200 student volunteers who manage and run over 20 projects in 9 different communities in the Cape Metropole area.

Students at UCT take great pride in volunteering in the various projects in the townships. SHAWCO’s Education Sector runs various academic and extra-mural tutoring programmes that benefit over 800 learners in disadvantaged areas, while students in SHAWCO’s Health Sector run 6 weekly mobile health clinics (pictured above) which serve over 6000 patients per year, as well as some specialised weekend paediatric clinics.

SHAWCO has faced three major challenges in its operations through the years.

Firstly, as SHAWCO is run by student volunteers, university vacations usually mean a huge gap in service provision to our communities as our students leave campus. Secondly, the five SHAWCO community centres, SHAWCO’s fleet of vehicles (used to transport the students to their projects and clinics) and the majority of SHAWCO’s 22 staff members are not used effectively during this time. Thirdly, SHAWCO has always struggled to meet the core administrative costs from fund-raising as donors prefer to fund the ‘action’ in projects and not the salaries, centres and administrative costs.

The first two challenges are unique to student-run organisations, while the latter is a constant worry to most non profit organisations (or social profit organisations as we prefer to call ourselves).

As a means to address these challenges, in 2005 SHAWCO International was launched with the assistance, advice and guidance of UCT’s International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO). Now with advice from IAPO, SHAWCO offers opportunities for American and European universities to engage with the young democracy, to learn about South Africa and undertake service-learning projects in the SHAWCO communities. The majority of these programmes are run during UCT’s vacation time, with the service-learning component being an extension of SHAWCO’s term-time projects. Currently around 120 students from eleven universities have signed up for SHAWCO’s programmes during 2008 and more agreements are being negotiated. Through this initiative SHAWCO’s communities are served more consistently, SHAWCO resources are utilised to an optimal degree, and much-needed capital is raised to keep SHAWCO sustainable as an NPO.

This is clearly a success story. While the International Academic Programmes Office at the University of Cape Town is addressing its mandate to develop semester study abroad and exchange programmes between UCT and various International Universities, it has also contributed towards finding lasting solutions for one of the largest student-run NPOs, contributing towards the community at large and building a sense of social entrepreneurship in students from all across the globe.
UCT hosts ‘Scholars at Risk’ programme

The University of Cape Town, in partnership with the Sigrid Rausing Trust, is currently running a programme called the Eric Abraham Academic Visitorships Programme that is aimed at benefiting academic scholars at risk, particularly those that are at political risk in African countries, and/or those academics within African countries at risk through lack of resources and governmental support, many of whom are women. It includes some academics defined as ‘at risk’ through the New York-based Scholars at Risk organization.

The programme’s objectives are:

- To promote African research in areas where either the research topic or the researcher is at risk
- To enable talented but disenfranchised academics bring their research into the global arena
- To promote the opportunity for on-going collaborative African research projects and interactions at UCT.

An expected 27 Visitorships in three categories over six years will be awarded. These will be of 3-4 months, six months or twelve months duration.

Candidates are selected based on their ability to add to academic endeavour, whether they can be suitably housed within the various host faculties and their departments, and on their need.

Each candidate receives a comprehensive package of support – return airfare, board and lodging at UCT’s All Africa House (a purpose-built academic / senior postgraduate residence on UCT’s beautiful Middle Campus and adjacent to all the key faculties), a stipend, a laptop computer which in most cases will become the property of the visiting fellow, ‘Hospital Plan’ level of medical insurance, visa costs, a levy to IAPo, and a contribution towards the costs of the host academic department.

Applications are invited from all African countries and through Scholars at Risk for non-African countries.

For more information please contact: nan.warner@uct.ac.za

My UCT medical training will benefit Ghana

I completed medical school in 1995 in Kazakhstan and then went with my husband to live in Ghana. I started working there as a house officer and progressed to Senior Medical Officer, when I had to decide on a specialization. I chose to do an Otolaryngology (Ear, Nose and Throat – ENT) Fellowship. During my training programme in Ghana I saw a lot of advanced ENT disease, especially head and neck cancers and, even with all the treatment, the outcome was often poor for these patients.

After completing the programme I decided to upgrade my knowledge and experience in head and neck cancer. And by chance I was told of a teaching hospital in Cape Town where care and management of patients with head and neck cancer was considered one of best in the world. I applied for the programme, thinking that there was little chance for me to be chosen because it was very competitive. But here I am, I was offered a one-year programme at the University of Cape Town. I was overjoyed that it happened to me.

Within a week I had already seen a number of interesting cases that I had never seen before. UCT’s team is so dynamic and organized which makes the work go smoothly. I think I will take a lot back to Ghana and my experience here will greatly improve management of cancer patients in Ghana. Although a huge amount of work and research are awaiting for me there!

Dr Anna Konney
Multinational soccer team takes top honours

Getting to play on a varsity sports team was definitely not one of my goals – or even an imagined desire – before arriving in Cape Town. However, it was something that quickly became a reality. I was initially just looking for somewhere to exercise and my disdain for the gym and enjoyment of running naturally led me to team sports. As I am from Canada the sports I have been playing at home for the past few years are not available on campus, namely ice hockey, lacrosse, and ringette (the latter two you have probably never heard of – check them out on Google). So I turned to soccer, a sport I played long ago, but not on a team for about 10 years. I joined the Women’s Soccer Club despite hesitating due to a busy schedule, and was rewarded with a great season getting to know and having fun with a wonderful group of people.

As you may know, soccer in South Africa is mainly a black male sport, although it is growing among all other demographics, which made our team quite the anomaly. With only the minority of the team (4 out of 14 at the end of the season) being South African and the remainder representing 9 different countries (Germany, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Namibia, Canada, Norway, Mozambique, USA, and Angola), our team was truly international. Last year was full of successes, from winning Western Province SASSU to being named Team of the Tournament at the SASSU Nationals in December. This year promises good results again with lots of new local and international talent and the goal to win Nationals in Durban at the end of the year!

Contributed by Cassie Clark
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Graduate School in Humanities