

humanities

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2013

update



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Greetings to Faculty alumni from the

Dean of Humanities



This is the last occasion upon which I will send my greetings to HUM Update readers in my capacity as Dean of the Faculty of Humanities.

I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to serve as dean and am grateful to the staff and students of the faculty for their support over the past 10 years. It is deeply gratifying to be dean of a faculty that values, nourishes and applauds excellence in teaching, research, social engagement and leadership. It is the intention of HUM Update is to provide you with a glimpse of some of the activities in the faculty over the past year – news of student initiatives within the faculty, of achievements of staff and of our alumni, who are making their mark and changing the worlds in which they live.

I am delighted that UCT has appointed Professor Sakhela Buhlungu as the next Dean of Humanities. He brings a wealth of experience in research, teaching and leadership, and is already established as a well-known and respected public intellectual. He brings vision and energy, and I look forward to working alongside him as a faculty colleague in my new position as Professor in Education.

I would like to thank Libo Msengana-Bam for the wonderful work she has done for the faculty in the area of Marketing and Alumni Relations, and for overseeing the production of HUM Update.

I extend to you and your families my warmest regards and best wishes for the festive season, and for 2014. Please stay in touch with us and send us news for the next issue of HUM Update.



Alicia Ernstzen is creating a stir in the world of digital start-ups. This Social Anthropology and Gender Studies graduate is involved in a project that is set to revolutionise the way commuters travel in the City of Cape Town.

On completing her honours in Social Anthropology, Alicia decided to register for a postgraduate diploma in Information Systems. It was this experience that led to her involvement with *GoMetro*, a public transport mobile application company. "I was required to complete a work-based project as part of my coursework on the Information Systems programme. After reaching out to local industry players via the Silicon Cape website, I was approached by *GoMetro* founder Justin Coetzee to work on his new application. The rest, as they say, is history."

Alicia is currently collaborating on a new mobile application based on the *GoMetro* system, named *Stations and Stops*. This new system is a public transport travel guide that enables tourists to use public transport to explore South African cities using their mobile devices. The system provides the user with the ability to view nearby sites of interest and also features a 'mission' function that can be

used to piece together different events and destinations. Or, as Alicia describes it: "It's like participating in the *Amazing Race* on your phone!".

The *Stations and Stops* application has been selected as one of the projects for the World Design Capital, which will be taking place in Cape Town in 2014. This is a major achievement for a product still in the developmental stage.

"I find that people from a technical background don't necessarily understand the context in which new media are utilised. I think it's because engineers and programmers don't typically interact with the consumers for whom their products are designed. My background in Anthropology affords me a particular vantage point and allows me to interact with users in a different way," she adds.

Alicia is optimistic about the future of new media. She believes that Cape Town, in particular, offers an ideal environment for digital start-up companies and this combined with the increased migration to mobile devices offers exciting prospects for the industry.

Alicia's new Mobile App is enabling tourists to explore South Africa in a more efficient way

New appointment for **Van Zyl Slabbert CHAIR**

Professor Roger Southall (pictured right) has been appointed as the Visiting Professor in the newly established Van Zyl Slabbert Chair in the Faculty of Humanities.

The chair is made possible through The Open Society Foundation for South Africa, a foundation that works towards developing vibrant and tolerant democracies.

Professor Southall's impressive academic career includes holding the position of Head of Sociology at the University of Witwatersrand and being honoured as a Distinguished Research Fellow at the Human Sciences Research Council. He has also taught in a range of countries, including Uganda, Canada and Lesotho.

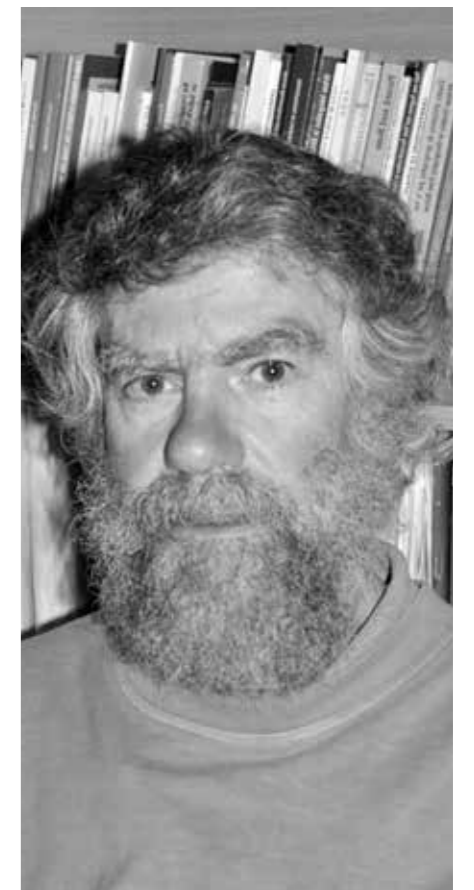
While at UCT, he aims to focus his research on the development of the black middle class in South Africa. He believes that "this project would be one that would have been close to Van Zyl Slabbert's heart, as conventionally

the development of a middle class is associated with the long-haul process of democratisation".

Commenting on the health of political studies in South Africa, he sees the context of South Africa as being advantageous for the development and growth of the field. "There is much more opportunity for political scientists to engage directly and intellectually with their counterparts elsewhere and there is a much greater comparative thrust and awareness of South Africa's location in the global South," says Southall.

He does, however, acknowledge the decline in interest in 'formal politics', yet, he argues that "there is an increasing buzz around alternative means of taking political action, whether that is on the streets or via the new forms of social media."

Professor Southall is the first in a five-year series of Visiting Professors in UCT's Faculty of Humanities.



About the **Van Zyl Slabbert** Visiting Professorship:



Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert was a South African politician, scholar and entrepreneur. He helped to develop a distinctively liberal anti-apartheid tradition in South African politics and a critical analysis of South African society. He played a significant role in initiating dialogue between the apartheid regime and the African

National Congress and in developing the conditions for the establishment of representative democracy.

The visiting professorship at UCT holds the Van Zyl Slabbert Chair in Politics and Sociology, which honours Dr Slabbert's commitment to an open and democratic society.



BRIGHT LITERARY FUTURE awaits historian

Lauren van Vuuren's future is very bright. As a lecturer in the Department of Historical Studies, she has a strong passion for academia and for teaching. But there is more to Lauren than meets the eye. For this young academic has recently been awarded the coveted Thomas Pringle Award for her short story, *Duel over a Dear*. Each year the award is given to recipients who have created works of significant literary value. Lauren is the sole recipient for 2013.

The Thomas Pringle Award, which is administered by the English Academy of South Africa, is unique in that the winning work is selected from an array of published works in South Africa. This encompasses English books, plays, short stories, articles on English education as well as poetry.

Lauren describes *Duel over a Dear* as "an amalgamation of many conversations" that she has had with a variety of people. She says that she is inspired by what she perceives to be "the saddest and bravest actions in peoples lives",

dealing with the most private aspects of social interactions. "Upon learning that I had received this award, my initial response was outright shock and suspicion. However, after seeing the award certificate, I was surprised and very happy because I believe that it's a wonderful affirmation of literary ability", says Lauren.

She says that she has always viewed writing as a private act, but that she believes that winning the award will encourage her to share her work more readily in the future. Although her literary journey does not have a direct link to the historical studies department, Lauren believes that her interactions with students and staff have inspired her writing and considers the job of teaching as a great means of inspiration and personal growth.

Reflecting on the recent achievement, Lauren said "novels, short stories and poetry are some of the most powerful conduits we have to greater, braver and more hopeful worlds."

Professor Kelwyn Sole (Department of English Language and Literature) was one of three recipients of the 2012 award. He received the accolade for his 1 700-word poem titled *Cape Town™*.



Back row (L - R):
Tracy Wamucii, Anye Nyamnjoh,
Mitch Illbury, Rudi van Blerk
Front row (L - R):
Krystal Musyoki, Parusha Naidoo, Ayanda Nxusani, Primrose Bimha

A celebration with a difference for

FACULTY MENTORS

A faculty celebration was held in October to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of the 91 mentors on the Politics and Humanities Faculty Mentorship Programmes who have supported undergraduate students during 2013. The event, which took place in the New Economics Building, was themed 'The Mad Hatter's Tea Party', and mentors were encouraged to add an element of humour to their outfits.

from faculty mentorship support. The Politics Mentorship Programme (PMP) came about in 2012, in response to a need for more than just academic support for first-year students. Undergraduate politics students were involved in conceptualising the programme, making it one of the few support initiatives that have been conceptualised by students for students. Currently in its second year, the programme boasts an average of 35 mentors and approximately 80 mentees each year.

with the rest of their group and in this way, they receive support and wisdom from more experienced students. In addition, the mentorship network facilitates new friendships amongst fellow mentees.

Associate Professor Kathy Lockett (Humanities Education Development Unit Director) shared the history of the programme and reflected on the ways it had grown over the years. "...every time we have run evaluations and asked ED students what form of support they have found the most valuable, they have rated the Mentorship Programme the most highly."

Speaking at the event, dean of the faculty, Professor Paula Ensor, welcomed all the mentors to the event and thanked them for their invaluable contribution to the support of first-year students in the faculty. The dean presented each mentor with a certificate of participation and the formalities were concluded with a vote of thanks from Humanities Student Development Officer, Verusha West. The evening's entertainment was provided by 'Timosh' (Tim Mashitisho) and Ludwe Danxa – both of whom are currently completing their Bachelor of Music degrees at the South African College of Music.

Every time we have run evaluations and asked ED students what form of support they have found the most valuable, they have rated the Mentorship Programme the most highly

The Humanities Faculty Mentorship Programme (HFMP) was established in 2006 as a support service offered in the Department of Psychology. The programme was later offered to all first-year students on the Extended Degree Programme and in 2013, it was further extended to include a number of humanities mainstream students. Numbers have grown significantly from 39 mentors and 39 mentees in 2006, to 56 mentors and 177 mentees in 2013. 2014 plans include continued growth, with even more first-year students benefitting

All faculty mentors are appointed on a voluntary basis. They provide invaluable support to first-year students who struggle with adjusting to the demands of university life. Mentors hold regular meetings with their group of mentees, particularly during the first semester of the academic year – a time when first-year students grapple with the university environment and trying to find their way around campus. During these sessions, mentees are able to share their concerns or struggles

Alumni share secrets to

CAREER SUCCESS

What can I do to secure a good job? How do I use the skills and knowledge I have acquired at UCT to make a difference? These were some of the questions posed to a panel of guest speakers at the faculty careers evening held in September. The event, which was attended by close to 300 students, was hosted in collaboration with the UCT Careers Service and the Humanities Student Council.



Talia Sanhwe (left) shared her experiences of working for CNN and the BBC. Award winning author Lauren Beukes (right) spoke of her journey to success.



University students frequently express anxiety regarding employment prospects and their future career paths. With this in mind, the faculty invited three prominent South Africans to share their experiences with humanities students. Award-winning author Lauren Beukes, whose latest novel *The Shining Girls* has been optioned by Hollywood, shared her journey from student to successful author and former CNN, BBC and CNBC journalist Talia Sanhwe captivated students with her message on 'seizing every opportunity'. The talented Amy Jephtha, who features on the 2013 Mail & Guardian's Top 200 Young South Africans list, spoke of the importance of interrogating society. She challenged students to apply their knowledge to making a difference. "Study in the humanities teaches you to enquire, to engage and to always interrogate, and so I think in order to make a real difference, the world needs more people who ask the question why. That's what you are here for, to ask why," Jephtha said.

The event, which took place in Jameson Hall, provided a platform to showcase student talent. Fourth year Jazz Studies student Mari Luttig played the saxophone and Fine Art

students Caitlin Mkhasebe and Katlego Tlabela displayed several pieces of their artwork. Katlego sold one of his pieces on the night. In his opening remarks, deputy dean Professor Richard Mendelsohn thanked the Humanities Student Council for prioritising career talks and spoke of the value of the humanities degree. "We know that our graduates are highly employable. This is because of the quality of the degrees, degrees that provide you with excellent skills in analysis and communication. The job market is evolving at a quantum rate and I believe that the humanities degrees are particularly suited to adapting to this rapidly changing environment," said Mendelsohn.

This faculty careers initiative forms part of an ongoing strategy to facilitate student-alumni networking. Another key objective for the event was to promote the career development initiatives available to both current and former UCT students. Through expert career information, advice and opportunities, the UCT Careers Service can help individuals explore their career options, connect with personal and professional development opportunities (eg part-time work experience, internships and employer showcases), compile job search materials (eg CVs, cover letters, and so on) and prepare for the job search. The office is located in the Hoerikwaggo Building, Level 1.

History can be as creative and imaginative as literature

Historic detective: Professor Nigel Penn believes the details of the cultural context within which individuals in the Cape Colony operated can be found in the criminal records of the time.

UCT Professor Nigel Penn came to this realisation upon "resurrecting" an historic figure "who had lain dormant in documents". The character was Estienne Barbier, a French soldier in the service of the VOC (the Dutch East India Company), who led a rebellion against his employer in 1738. Barbier would later become the central character in a novel by Andre P. Brink, titled *On the contrary*.

These facts, interwoven with many others about the Cape Colony, formed part of Penn's inaugural lecture, titled *History from Crime: Criminal records, Microhistory and early Cape society*, which he delivered on 11 September 2013.

Pointing out that "crime records are tainted", Penn revealed that it was not so much the crime

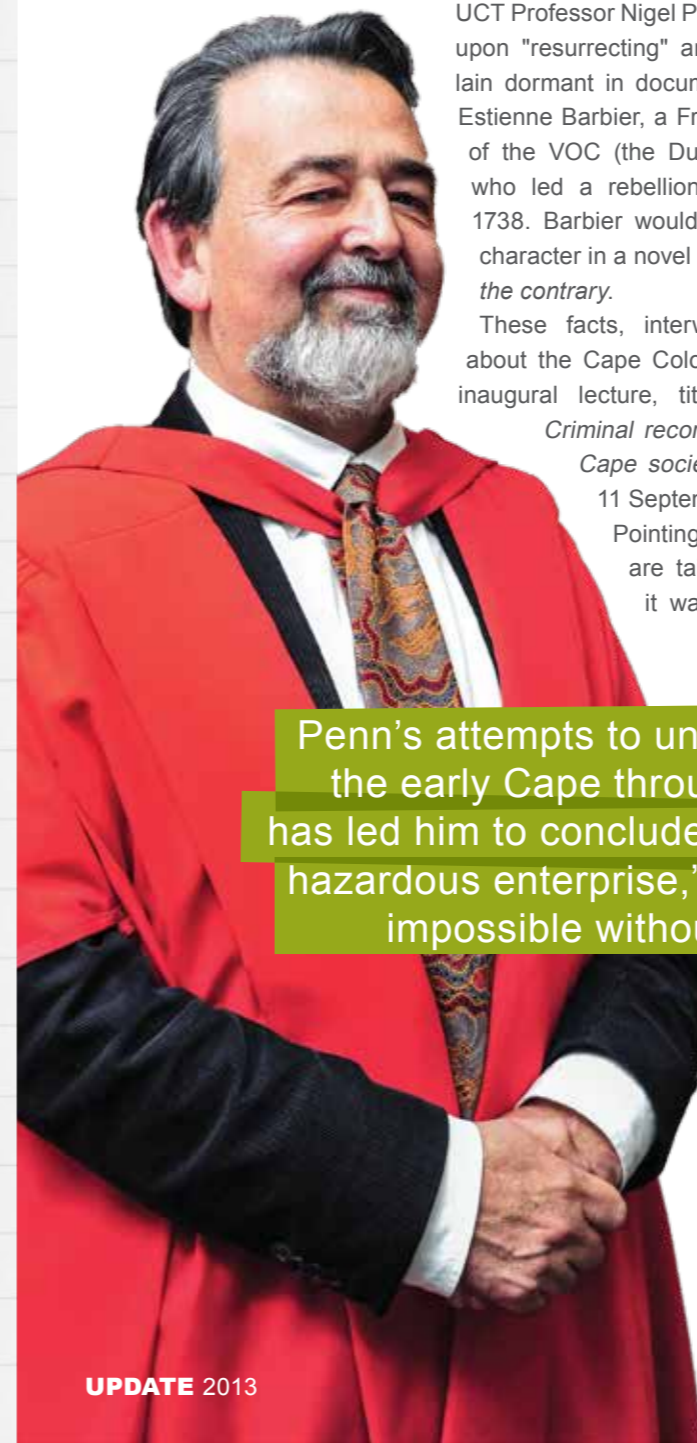
as "the social and cultural world in which or against which the crime was committed" that historians like himself were interested in.

His focus on microhistory, which narrates events in microscopic detail, has allowed him to lift from obscurity interesting characters like Barbier as well as glean invaluable knowledge of cultural details of the time. From his research into the rape case of a Khoi woman in 1727 Penn, for instance, learned that "aggressive drink rituals were part of low European culture (in the Cape Colony); that Crebis was a Khoikhoi woman's name and that there were still Khoikhoi speakers in the Tygerberg area in 1727."

Penn's attempts to understand the culture of the early Cape through its criminal records has led him to conclude that microhistory is "a hazardous enterprise," but one that would be impossible without the criminal records.

Penn obtained his PhD at UCT in 1995. His doctoral study, titled *The Northern Cape Frontier Zone, 1700-1815*, dealt with the impact of colonial expansion on the indigenous people of the Cape (the Khoisan) and discussed the evolution and character of the various frontier societies of the Cape interior. This work was later revised as a book and published in 2005 as *The Forgotten Frontier*. *The Forgotten Frontier* won an American Library Association Choice Award for academic book of the year and won Penn the UCT Book Award for the third time.

(Compiled by Abigail Calata for UCT Daily News)



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Professor Nigel Penn delivered his inaugural lecture at UCT on 11 September 2013

Creating future SA filmmakers

An exciting UCT initiative called Stepping Stones is equipping a new generation of aspirant filmmakers. The programme is the brainchild of academics in the Centre for Film and Media Studies and sees local disadvantaged youth obtaining expert training in a field that most would never have considered possible. Earlier this month, Stepping Stones used its anniversary event to screen four of the documentary movies produced by the class of 2013.

The Stepping Stones programme was jointly conceived by Professor Ian Glenn and Dr Liani Maasdorp (UCT Centre for Film and Media Studies). According to Maasdorp, staff in the department believe strongly in skills transfer and experiential learning. "At the Centre for Film and Media Studies, we believe that we can play a vital role in developing the skills of young filmmakers, and not just those registered for courses at UCT. Our vision includes offering learning opportunities to previously disadvantaged aspiring filmmakers and creating and distributing powerful and unique video programming that can be used as educational and outreach tools."

The pilot project, which took place from November 2012 to January 2013, trained six students from UCT as well as two external students registered at an NGO film school in Cape Town. Renowned South African filmmaker Hein Ungerer lent his professional expertise to the programme and will serve as trainer and mentor to the students as well as recruit aspirant filmmakers from local communities. The pilot programme consisted of weekly workshops and mentoring sessions designed to empower students with the skills and knowledge necessary to produce four short documentary films. These films featured UCT success stories as well as social responsiveness projects from various academic departments, such as: the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health (Addiction Division); the Department of Forensic Medicine; and Research and Innovation and the Programme for Improving Mental Health Care (PRIME). In early November, UCT Television invited the rest of the UCT community to a screening of the short documentary films. The evening provided an ideal platform to showcase the skills acquired by the more than twenty students who have participated in the programme so far, and it was also a celebration of the six short films that were made for UCT departments.



On page 10. Behind-the-scenes photos of the Higher Education Talk show filmed in UCT TV Studio. Presenter Steven Roy Goodman (L) and his guest, Justice Albie Sachs (R)

"The response to these films, and to the training that we have been able to offer eager young students, has been positive without exception. The young filmmakers have grown, not only in their film skills, but also in their confidence and interpersonal communication skills," says Maasdorp.

An additional benefit of the Stepping Stones pilot programme is that the student documentaries are already having a positive impact on the work of all four of the participating departments. The video material is helping to raise awareness for departmental projects

and to lobby for programme funding that will enable departments to continue their outreach work.

Stepping Stones hosted a second training programme during the June 2013 vacation. This time the training focused on providing multi-camera studio production skills training. Thanks to a partnership with a talk show *Higher Education Today* (a non-profit entity based at the University of the District of Columbia in Washington DC) and UCT Television, students were able to gain practical experience and insight into the world of television production. Talk show

host, Steven Roy Goodman, traveled to Cape Town to cover South African tertiary education and five episodes of his award-winning show were filmed at UCT TV Studios.

"The scope of this latest project was very ambitious and we were able to include 16 aspiring filmmakers, 12 of whom come from Khayelitsha, Mitchell's Plain and Gugulethu. Most of these youngsters had never received any formal filmmaking training. Now they can take their new skill and use it in their future work environments," concluded Maasdorp.

Violence prevention focuses on **parenting skills**



MA Graduate Inge Wessels and Associate Professor Catherine Ward (Department of Psychology) review the new booklet that focuses attention on parenting skills as well as preventing youth violence.

A research partnership between the University of Cape Town, the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF, and the WHO-led Violence Prevention Alliance has resulted in the launch of a new publication titled: *Preventing violence: evaluating outcomes of parenting programmes*.

The booklet, which was released in September 2013 by the Prevention of Violence Team at the World Health Organisation, focuses on evaluating parenting programmes (in low and middle-income countries) aimed at preventing child maltreatment and other forms of youth violence. The publication is intended for government policy-makers and practitioners, as well as the professional and donor communities working in the area of violence prevention.

Inge Wessels, recent MA graduate of the Department of Psychology at UCT, led the writing of this booklet. Associate Professor Catherine Ward,

of UCT's Department of Psychology and Safety and Violence Initiative (SAVI), who also contributed, points out that child maltreatment is a fundamental area for violence prevention, both because it is violence in and of itself and because it can lead to the child victims' engaging in youth violence themselves later on.

The new booklet consists of three main sections. Section one defines outcome evaluations, explains why they are so important and counters some of the often-encountered justifications for not doing them. Section two reviews the evidence for the effectiveness of parenting programmes to prevent violence, discusses adapting parenting programmes to other cultures and identifies some of the main features of effective programmes. Section three describes the activities that need to be completed before an evaluation can be carried out, as well as the six steps of the evaluation process.

According to Wessels, some parenting programmes have been shown to be effective in preventing child maltreatment, but almost all the evidence for this comes from high-income countries such as the USA, the UK and Australia. "Many parenting programmes in low and middle-income countries are working to try to prevent child maltreatment, but we have no evidence of their effectiveness. Evaluations can build that evidence-base and help programmes do a more effective job – and that will also help save the scarce resources of low and middle-income countries from being wasted on possibly ineffective programmes," said Wessels.

The publication is supplemented by a comprehensive web-appendix that features links to useful evaluation websites, examples of evaluation guides, links to key scientific papers on evaluation and a list of evaluators working in the area of parenting programmes to prevent violence.



AXL promotes female condom technology

Female condoms may have been around for 20 years, providing 'one more option' for women to safeguard themselves against pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV, but they are hard to find at pharmacies, let alone public health clinics. And they are not yet a cheap option, or widely accepted by women as a means of protecting and empowering themselves.

These were concerns expressed by reproductive health practitioners at an event held at UCT on 16 September 2013 to mark Global Female Condom Day – part of a worldwide campaign to market the Cinderella of female contraception.

To this end, UCT's School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics and the HIV/AIDS and Inclusivity Co-ordination Unit (HAICU) teamed up with Women in Sexual and Reproductive Health (WISH) and PATH, an NPO that addresses global health issues.

"We're raising awareness of a huge, unmet need for contraception that also deals with HIV/AIDS," said Female Condom Ambassador Kgomotso Matsunyane of OMAHD Films. "We have the technology available right now that gives women the power to save and enhance their own lives. But it's not available."

With this in mind, PATH and its partners started a global conversation about female condoms and giving power back to women. And film is playing a large role.

The UCT event saw the screening of five video clips in the 'Female Condoms are ____' international film competition, which drew 30 entries from 12 countries. These were judged by an international panel that included Beth Barrett of the Seattle International Film Festival and Aaron Bramley of Lights. Camera. Help. The winning entries, adjudicated at the Women Deliver Conference in Malaysia in May, were shown at similar events around the world to mark Global Female Condom Day.

The screenings were followed by a question-and-answer session with South African video director and former UCT videographer, Nawaal Deane. Deane teamed up with Sara Chitambo to make the video *Female Condoms Are About Self Love*, which won an honourable mention in the competition. Their entry profiled three young women who use female condoms and highlighted out their personal messages on sexuality and empowerment.

"A challenge was how to speak to the demographics in South Africa where there's powerlessness among women," said Deane. "We don't talk about self-protection [in the film], we talk about women celebrating themselves. This is key."

Marion Stevens of Women in Sexual and Reproductive Health and a research associate at UCT, demonstrated three female condoms, including a new brand manufactured using nano technology, to provide a product with thinner walls.

(Compiled by UCT Daily News)

South African oral history CELEBRATED **ABROAD**



Earlier this year, Dr Sean Field's collective work, *Oral History, Community and Displacement: Imagining Memories in Post-apartheid South Africa*, was honoured by the American Oral History Association.

He was awarded the association's annual book award, an award that recognises globally influential contributions to the field of oral history.

Field, who is based in the Department of Historical Studies, describes the book as "unusual" in that it is a collection of work moulded into an autobiographical monograph of oral history in South Africa. The book explores the ways in which he has interacted with oral history since the mid 90s and the manner in which the

study and practice of oral history has changed in South Africa over the past 25 years.

Field's work is a response to the mainstream practice of oral history in South Africa. A practice that he argues is "stuck in its own mode, a mode of recovery," which he says is a naïve approach to the study of oral history. He argues that, "the idea that you can just go interview people and amazing stories will recover the essential truths about the apartheid past, lacks the sensitivity and respect needed to understand the deeper personal histories of South Africa."

According to Field, receiving the award was a great honour. He says that it was "nice to be honoured and recognised by his peers" for the work he has contributed to the discipline. He aims to continue from the last pages of the book into new research on the cross-generational affects of apartheid on the born-free generation in South Africa.

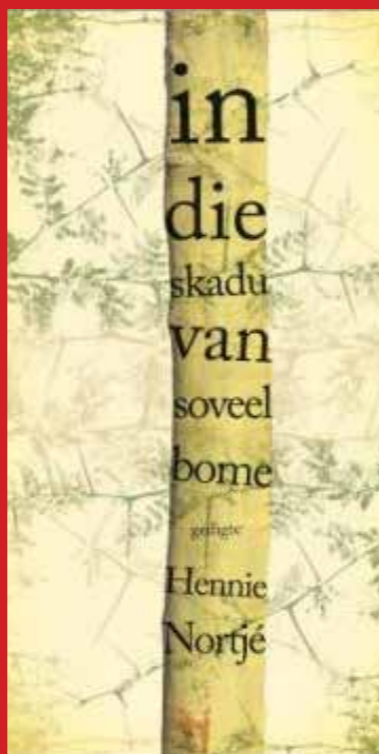
Afrikaans anthology wins literary prizes

Earlier this year, the South African Academy for Science and Arts awarded the Eugène Marais Prize to Hennie Nortjé for his anthology of Afrikaans poetry titled, *In die skadu van soveel bome*. Nortjé holds a Masters in Creative Writing from UCT.

In die skadu van soveel bome is a collection of poetry that tells stories about indigenous trees, one of Nortjé's deep loves. Work on the anthology commenced shortly after he had obtained his master's in 2011 and the completed work was published in 2012 by NB publishers (Queillerie). Commenting on the inspiration behind the poems he says, "In writing, you have to go where your passion lies and I found inspiration in indigenous trees and a deep longing to be immersed in nature."

Nortjé (56) is a medical doctor by profession and works as a Diabetologist by day. He studied under Professor Joan Hambidge of the School of Languages and Literatures (Afrikaans and Netherlandic Studies). Of his experiences of being a mature student, he says, "I think I provided a challenge for Professor Hambidge because I was one of the first middle-aged people in the class."

In April he received word that he had been awarded the prize in the category of 'debut or early work'. In October, he was awarded the 2013 Ingrid Jonker Prize for the same anthology. "Eugène Marais is an iconic figure of the highest order when it comes to Afrikaans poetry. To receive this prize is such an honour for me." Another UCT recipient of the prize in 2012 was Sonja Loots for her successful novel *Sirkusboere*.



Thank You Wannabe mentors

Three years following inception, the Wannabe@Humanities network is reaping rewards. This recruitment initiative identifies talented grade 11 and 12 learners, from good local schools, who demonstrate an interest in the humanities. Today, 33 former Wannabe@Humanities students are registered at UCT, all thanks to the programme.

Through the network, high school learners are partnered with humanities (senior) students who provide mentorship for an academic year. Wannabe@Humanities mentors motivate and assist learners with basic computer training, NBT applications and help orientate them to life at university. "It was important for me to become a mentor because I come from the same schooling and community background so I know what it feels like to be in that

situation. These kids are able to relate to us because of this shared experience. We encourage them and show them how they too can become UCT students, if they push themselves," says Siwaphiwe Sibeko, mentor and current 2nd year BSocSci student.

Speaking at an event held to thank mentors, Student Recruitment Officer and Wannabe@Humanities creator, Khwezi Bonani said that the careful selection of student mentors was integral to the programme's success. "The faculty embarked on this journey a few short years ago and we are delighted at the progress already achieved. In particular, I want to thank our mentors for all that they have done and continue to do for aspiring students. The success of the initiative depends on their ongoing commitment," said Khwezi.



Khwezi Bonani with second year BSocSci student Chwayita Njobe. Njobe is a recipient of the Dean's Student Excellence Award (2013), a Humanities Orientation leader and she is also a Wannabe@Humanities project mentor

Busetto claims prestigious EU award



Penny Busetto received the 2013 European Union Literary Award for her work of fiction titled *The Story of Anna P, as Told by Herself*. The eighth annual award ceremony took place at the Goethe-Institut in Johannesburg in November 2013. Busetto received a cash prize of R25,000, as well as inclusion in an upcoming Exclusive Books promotion. *The Story of Anna P, as Told by Herself* was Busetto's master's dissertation which she completed in 2011. The book will be published by Jacana Media in 2014. Busetto is currently pursuing a PhD through the Department of English Language and Literature.

Drama department triumphs in

CZECH REPUBLIC



UCT Drama students received standing ovations for their performance at this year's Setkani/ Encounters Festival. Pictured above (L-R): Matthew Trustham; Tarryn Wyngaard and Daniel Richards

Students from UCT's drama department returned triumphant from the 2013 Setkani/Encounter Festival that took place from 16 to 20 April in the Czech Republic. The group's entry in the international competition was in the form of an adaptation of prominent South African playwright Mike Van Graan's *Brothers in Blood*. Van Graan is also a UCT Drama alumnus.

The Setkani/Encounter Festival is hosted by Theatre Faculty JAMU (Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts) in Brno. The idea behind the event is to bring professionals and theatre schools from around the world into contact with each other. UCT master's student Mdu Kweyama was awarded the *Marta Best Director Award* for his adaptation of *Brothers in Blood* at this year's festival. Supported by excellent Theatre and Performance undergraduate students Daniel Richards, Matthew Trustham and Tarryn Wyngaard, the production received standing ovations and high praise from audiences and fellow participants. A total of twelve schools participated in the event with student performers from countries such as Slovakia; Czech Republic; China; Mexico; and many more. The 2013 festival also featured workshops and discussions over the five-day period.

This year, the UCT group was accompanied by Associate Professor Christopher Weare, who met the festival director, Professor Petr Oslzly, through the Czech Ambassador to South Africa in 1999. "The Czech Cape Town Embassy at the time arranged for Oslzly's professional theatre company, Goose on a String, to bring a production to the Grahamstown National Arts Festival and I then arranged for the production to transfer to the Little Theatre before returning to Brno," says Weare. Formal contact between UCT's drama department and the festival was established in 2001 and Oslzly and Weare have remained in contact for the past 13 years.

After many years of professional acting, dancing and choreographing, the talented Kweyama returned to UCT to pursue a master's in Theatre Making. "I wanted to try and combine my experiences of dance and drama and this adaptation of *Brothers in Blood* is part of my research into that field. It was also my first experience as a director," says Kweyama. He credits the group's success in Brno to staff and fellow students at the UCT Drama department and to Professor Weare in particular. "Winning this award has been amazing. It has encouraged me to continue with the path that I have embarked on," Kweyama concluded.

Historically Informed Performance



Earlier this year, the South African College of Music launched a new Winter School course titled, 'Historically Informed Performance'. The course provides a link between theoretical approaches to history and practical performances in music and is open to both current Bachelor of Music students, as well as occasional students from outside UCT.

Head of Musicology at the South African College of Music (SACM), Rebekka Sandmeier is the course convenor and believes that the course is important to the development of well-rounded music students. Her aim in creating the course was to help students utilise historical evidence to inform their performance of early music. Another aim was to facilitate student access to period instruments. According to

Sandmeier, these original instruments help students understand the original 'articulation' and musical 'phrasing' that the modern instruments are based on.

Sandmeier believes that through their involvement in the course, students are more aware of the importance of attention to detail. "The attention to detail and shaping of every note has given many students a new insight into performing music in general. The feedback so far has been that they thoroughly enjoy the course experience," says Sandmeier.

The course has not been without a few trials and tribulations for staff and students involved. According to Sandmeier, most students encounter period instruments for the first time while on the course and are unfamiliar with certain techniques. This presented a minor challenge when participants performed at a concert at the end of

the course. However, initial nerves were soon forgotten as the performance, which took place on 4 July 2013 got under way in the beautiful foyer of Strubenholm, which added to the overall historical setting.

Given the success of 'Historically Informed Performance', the course will continue in 2014 and the department aims to offer additional instrument-specific tuition. Future plans include specialist training in strings, woodwind, keyboard and possibly voice. In 2014, a collaboration with the South African National Youth Orchestra and Umculo will make it possible for selected students to take part in the production 'Comfort Ye' as well as attending the winter term course in HIP. There are also plans to create a postgraduate course focusing on the practical aspects of 'historically informed performance'.



Dr Sylvia Bruinders received the Nicholas Temperley Award for Excellence in a Dissertation in Musicology at the University of Illinois. Dr Bruinders is a senior lecture at South African College of Music (UCT)



Third-year UCT drama student Schalk Bezuidenhout received the 2013 Comic's Choice Award in the category of Savanna Newcomer Award. This award honours the best new comedic act in South Africa

JM Coetzee reads from

new work



Acclaimed author JM Coetzee captivated the UCT audience with a reading from his new work of fiction, *The Childhood of Jesus*, scheduled for publishing in 2014.

On Friday 21 December 2012, the acclaimed novelist JM Coetzee visited UCT to read from a work of fiction due to be published in 2014, *The Childhood of Jesus*.

The event was opened by Professor Raj Mesthrie of the UCT Department of Linguistics, who handed over to Associate Professor Carrol Clarkson, HoD of the English department, author of a recent critical study of Coetzee (*Countervoices*), and founder of the Coetzee Collective. Clarkson warmly welcomed Coetzee back to his alma mater and reminded everyone that beyond the critical industry that has grown around his work, his stories speak to the child in ourselves who before sleep wants to be transported to a world other than the one she knows.

The extract Coetzee read that evening concerned the education in the ways of the world of a five-year-old boy, David, by a man named Simon. Much of the narrative Coetzee read consisted of question-and-answer dialogue between the man and boy that was humorous in the innocence of the boy's questions and the trials of patience the man undergoes in answering them.

What is fresh in this story in relation to Coetzee's other novels is the young child's co-operative relationship with a man who is not his father. From as early as his second novel, *In the Heart of the Country* (1977), Coetzee has favoured anguished introverted characters ageing or old before their time, caught in power struggles with absent or surrogate parents or children; his later work is dominated by the figure of the acclaimed writer resisting the claims made upon his or her personal life by others. In *The Childhood of Jesus*, the narrative formula of a child's ignorance of the world recalls the protagonist of Coetzee's 1983 Booker Prize-winning novel, the simple-minded Michael K; but in the recent text education rather than survival seems to be the uppermost theme. In the full text of *The Childhood of Jesus*, one hopes for an exploration of Coetzee's recent public thoughts, on receiving an honorary doctorate at Wits University, on the importance of male educators. Coetzee is a fine public reader, and the audience that gathered in the Leslie Social Sciences lecture theatre 2D clearly enjoyed the humour in the extract he read.

(Compiled by Donald Powers. Photo courtesy UCT Monday Monthly)

67min... (and a bit)

this Mandela Day

On 18 July, the Leslie Social Science atrium and HUMA seminar room were temporarily transformed into mini sandwich factories in aid of Mandela Day 2013.

Organised by the Humanities Student Council, the sandwich-making marathon brought together crowds of staff and students who helped prepare food parcels for the homeless along Woodstock Main Road.

In the days leading up to Mandela Day, a mass appeal was launched for donations of bread, as well as tasty sandwich fillings for the marathon. The response to the initiative was overwhelming, resulting in an abundance of food supplies. Humanities Student Council (HSC) event organiser Thatho Mpakanyane says that the HSC wanted to join the rest of the country in honouring Madiba in a special way this year. "We wanted to use our 67 minutes to give back in the simplest way, and this meant giving back to a homeless South African citizen who may not belong to any organisation or community that regularly provides for them. We decided to challenge UCT students and staff to see just how many sandwiches they could make for the forgotten, homeless and hungry in our corner of South Africa. That is how we came up with the idea for a 67 Minute Sandwich Drive" says Thatho.

The second part of the Mandela Day initiative, the 'Long Walk to Woodstock', saw volunteers taking to the streets to distribute the sandwiches to the homeless, to car park attendants and construction workers. Due to the large surplus, sandwiches were also distributed to soup kitchens in Kenilworth. Unopened jars of jam and peanut butter were given to the cleaners on campus, who were very happy to receive these.

Those who joined in the 'Long Walk to Woodstock' were given the opportunity to learn from the people they



We wanted to use our 67 minutes to give back in the simplest way, and this meant giving back to a homeless South African citizen who may not belong to any organisation or community that regularly provides for them.

encountered on the streets. According to HSC Chair, Rehana Odendaal, the response was greater than anticipated. "Overall, we made more sandwiches than we had time to count, but we managed to supply to the Haven Night Shelter in Wynberg, a soup kitchen on the Grand Parade, as well as distributing to hungry people along the roads in Rondebosch, Mowbray, Observatory and Woodstock through our 'Long Walk to Woodstock' initiative. We are very grateful to all the staff and students who helped make this initiative a success," says Rehana.



Q&A

with Professor Paula Ensor

When you took office in 2003, you are quoted as having said:

"Occupying the dean's seat in the biggest, most complex and probably the best Faculty of Humanities in South Africa is a daunting task, but one which I greatly look forward to. In my view the most complex set of challenges we face relates to our positioning as a humanities faculty in contemporary South Africa, and the particular tensions

and opportunities that arise from this. These challenges confront the whole university, of course, but the university naturally looks to the humanities to appropriately illuminate them. We cannot step aside from this responsibility." (UCT Monday Paper, 9 Dec 2003).

Q: What were some of the major challenges you experienced going into the deanship during these early days?

A: By early 2004, when I took up the

deanship, the Faculty of Humanities at UCT had been in existence for five years. The faculty was created by merging Fine Art (which was previously part of a Faculty of Fine Art and Architecture), music, education, arts and social sciences, which had all been separate faculties. By the time I became dean a significant amount of consolidation had taken place but there was not yet, in my view, a widely held understanding of what it meant to be

part of a common Faculty of Humanities, nor indeed, a widely held desire to be part of such a faculty. A faculty such as ours is unlikely to achieve a common identity – it is intellectually too robust and diverse for that, and that is a good thing. But academics in the faculty had no collective sense of the various scholarly activities being pursued within this common space, and one of the challenges was to build this. The CSSR, HUMA, GIPCA, the research

chairs, the seminar programmes now active in every academic department, have all played a role in promoting interdisciplinary conversations within and beyond the faculty. So there was an issue of integration that needed to be achieved at many levels. We had also, in 2004, recently emerged from the 'academic programme' period, during which time the faculty replaced the various majors offered in the BA and B Social Science degrees with rather inflexible programmes. This was unpopular with students, who enjoyed the diversity offered by majors and the scope provided to combine them in different ways. So the return to majors after this programme experiment, the strengthening of undergraduate offerings and improving the service to undergraduate students was a key concern to me as an incoming dean. My predecessor had placed a great deal of emphasis on research and postgraduate education, and I continued to prioritise that. So these were some of the internal challenges I faced. External challenges presented themselves within the national context at the time, which was not particularly sympathetic to the humanities. National policy priorities focused almost entirely in science, engineering and commerce.

Q: You have been part of the UCT community since 1993. How have both the faculty and institution changed during this time? Has the change been for the better?

A: This would require a very long response, as so much has changed over the past 20 years. As I have indicated above, in 1993 there was no Faculty of Humanities. I came to UCT to a post in the then Faculty of Education. At that time typewriters were still around, and UCT was a predominantly paper-based institution. The past 20 years have seen the transformation of the institution in all sorts of ways: we are technologically more sophisticated, there is much greater focus on research across the university, teaching is taken much more seriously and performance management is a feature which was not

evident before. This has had all kinds of ramifications. The student body is more diverse, as is the staff, although the profile of the latter is changing more slowly. I came to UCT from UWC in 1993, having last been at UCT in my early 20s as an honours student. It is a far less stuffy place now than it was then. I think UCT now has a far clearer sense of its place in Africa than it did in 1993.

A faculty such as ours is unlikely to achieve a common identity – it is intellectually too robust and diverse for that, and that is a good thing

Q: One of the initiatives that you have championed is transformation. What are some examples of this change within and across the faculty?

A: We have made good progress in changing the profile of our student body, but have been less successful in relation to changing the staff profile. We have devoted a great deal of attention and resources to undergraduate education in order to enable an easier transition from school to university, especially for students from disadvantaged school backgrounds. There have been improvements in tutorial provision, in mentorship arrangements, in assessment practices, in registration and orientation procedures, and ongoing oversight of the undergraduate curriculum. We now have a fully professional Education Development Unit that is doing amazing work. Nigel Worden and Richard Mendelsohn (both professors of history and both deputy deans for undergraduate affairs at different points in time) must take credit for the initiatives that have been taken in this regard. There is a lot still to be done, but I think it is true to say that transformation issues are taken very seriously at departmental level,

which is where it matters most of all. The formation of the School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics (AXL), headed by Professor Jane Bennett from Gender Studies, within which are located the Centre for African Studies, the African Gender Institute, CALDi, five of the faculty's six research chairs and a number of winners of the Distinguished Teachers Award, is very well placed to drive transformation in all areas, and the formation of AXL is in my view a significant achievement. I am pleased we have filled the AC Jordan Chair, with Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza as the incumbent.

Q: What is the single most difficult part of your job as Dean?

A: Giving feedback to academic members of staff who have applied for promotion and been unsuccessful.

Q: What are some of the key initiatives that have helped shape the faculty as it stands today?

A: I have already mentioned the innovations in teaching. On the research front, we have secured four NRF research chairs, two Mellon research chairs, as well as creating two new hubs in the faculty, for research and for creative output – the Institute for Humanities in Africa (HUMA) and the Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts (GIPCA), to join the existing Centre for Social Science Research (CSSR), which is now located in humanities. We have raised funding for postdoctoral fellows, and for honours bursaries, and strengthened our provision of teaching and supervision at the postgraduate level. Joe Muller and Don Foster (professors of education and psychology respectively) have worked hard to strengthen the postgraduate and research infrastructure. We have raised funds to enable young scholars to travel abroad, and to bring prestigious international scholars to UCT. Exciting new interdisciplinary initiatives are emerging in the medical humanities and in the environmental humanities and last year we launched the Centre



Humanities staff were asked to describe the dean – these words formed the decoration on the 120 cupcakes

for African Language Diversity (CALDi) to focus on endangered indigenous languages. A cursory glance at the annual research report will show the vibrancy of research across the faculty. We have been energetic in marketing and recruitment (for which I thank you, Libo, and Khwezi Bonani). None of these achievements would have been possible without a strong and committed administrative staff, ably led by the faculty managers - Laureen Rautenbach (Academic Administration); Veronica Seaton-Smith (Finance), Arddy Mossop (HR) and Puleng Mokhoalibe (IT). Through our monthly Imbizos and other ways we have worked to create a strong faculty organisational infrastructure. And we have worked hard to provide an enabling, supportive and collegial climate within the faculty for academic staff. The deputy deans who have held responsibility for staffing matters at different times over the decade of my deanship (David Schalkwyk, Professor of English, and Sally Swartz, Professor of Psychology) must take credit for very considerable energy in this area.

Q: There have been significant changes in the physical landscape and built environment of the faculty. Can you

elaborate on why this was such an important priority for the faculty?

A: Over the past 10 years we have commissioned an additional general purpose undergraduate computer lab, the radical refurbishment of the main postgraduate lab in the Humanities Building, and the creation of other postgrad labs in key humanities buildings on all three campuses. We have upgraded labs in the College of Music and on the Hiddingh campus. So there has been significant improvement in our IT provision. We have also opened up social learning spaces for postgrad students in the Arts Block and Leslie Social Science, and invested in departmental infrastructure, brightening offices and where needed, providing social spaces for staff. There have been relocations of departments or sections of departments on all three campuses, which has led to significant renovation. The CAS gallery has been refurbished, and the atrium of the Humanities Building will be transformed over the upcoming December vacation. This all has been a challenging undertaking and I am particularly grateful to David Wardle (a Professor of Classics at UCT and Deputy Dean for Finance and Space) who has driven most of this refurbishment.

Q: Access to tertiary education is an issue that is very important to you. In what ways has the profile of the students in the faculty changed over the last couple of years? What do you attribute this to?

A: The profile of the student body has changed, but not as dramatically as we would like. The establishment of the Extended Degree Programme and the formation of the Education Development Unit enable us to admit relatively large numbers of students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed. Kathy Lockett (Professor of Education), who heads up the EDU, has done an outstanding job in setting up the EDU and radically reconceptualising the extended degree programme so as to provide better support for students who have not had the benefit of a good school education. Without question the student body now is more diverse than 10 years ago, both in terms of ethnic and social class background.

Q: What is your opinion of the proposed changes to the university's admission criteria? How will these impact the Faculty of Humanities?

A: The proposed changes to the admissions policy are not being applied in the same way across all faculties.

So, for example, our proposed model for admission is not the same as that proposed by commerce or science. There is yet to be a discussion at senate about the new proposals. The view of our Faculty Board is that we should continue to admit students in such a way as to meet our equity targets, but also allow a relatively small number to be admitted on the basis of disadvantage, using the indicators that have recently been developed by UCT. I think it is important for the university to signal a move away from race-based admissions policies, but we will continue to rely primarily on our equity targets to constitute the first-year class for years to come.

Q: Your background is in economics and education. How has your appreciation of the range of disciplines in the humanities changed during your tenure?

A: It has been a privilege to be able to interact with academics from departments across the spectrum of humanities disciplines. I have learned more from them than I could ever adequately express. They have both fascinated and profoundly challenged me. The field of education is not a bad place from which to approach other disciplines, as it draws equally on the social sciences and the humanities,

and my own interest in the sociology of education has provided me with a grammar for understanding how different disciplines are configured, and how different academic identities are shaped. My economics training is, of course, useful in engaging with social scientists both within and outside the faculty. An initiative of which I am particularly proud is the re-introduction of the economics major to our suite of faculty majors in 2005.

Q: You have lent incredible support to the performing and creative arts during your tenure. Did this come about as a result of your position or have you always had a passion for the arts?

A: I have always enjoyed the arts, but I think taking on the deanship has made me much more aware of the particularly critical role that the creative and performing arts departments play in the faculty. The engagement of academics in these departments in the academic project is total – it is simultaneously imaginative, intellectual, physical, aesthetic and emotional. In the most fundamental way, they problematise the human condition, in relation to its past, its present and its future, and invest all of themselves in doing so. I have been stimulated, surprised, intrigued and gratified through my engagement with colleagues in these departments, and this has led to the formation of a number of very close personal friendships.

Q: What do you enjoy doing in your down-time?

A: Frankly, there hasn't been much down-time in this job. But when there is, I like socialising with friends, reading, gardening, cooking, listening to music, especially opera, and generally chilling.

Q: Can you tell us about your plans for the immediate and long-term future?

A: I am taking a year's sabbatical, during which time I will return to research and prepare myself for a full teaching load in the School of Education in 2015. I am very much looking forward to becoming a full-time academic again.

MINING & METALS

changing perspectives on the past *Compiled by Abigail Moffett*

The production and exchange of metals have always been a significant part of the history of Southern Africa. This is particularly so over the past 2 000 years, the period archaeologically referred to as the Iron Age. Humanities Update asked Archaeology student Abigail Moffett to discuss the work she is conducting in this field.

Since the inception of the Iron Age, agriculturalists produced copper and iron goods, and early in the second millennium there were a number of metallurgical innovations and an intensification of copper, gold, tin and bronze production. These changes correlate with the growth of international trade networks around the Indian Ocean rim and the rise of the Mapungubwe and Great Zimbabwe states. My current research addresses the nature of production and the role of metals in the political economy through a focus on metal production centres.

One such centre is Phalaborwa, in the Limpopo province, an area historically well known for the large-scale specialised production of copper and iron. BaPhalaborwa and Shangaan oral histories, together with written accounts describe how these metal workers were politically strategic and took advantage of their position on key trading routes



Abigail at an excavation site at Shankare in 2012



Glass beads of Asian origin and cowrie shells found during excavations



Copper ingots known as marale, as well as diamond shaped iron hoes produced in Phalaborwa

that linked the coast and the inland of Southern Africa. Distinctly shaped copper ingots known as marale, as well as diamond shaped iron hoes produced in Phalaborwa, were widely traded. Metals were also exchanged for, among other things, cattle and grain, and were used in payments of bride wealth, as tribute and fines.

Research into the production of metals in the Late Iron Age is sharpening our understanding of the dynamic role of metals in the pre-colonial political economy and provides a platform from which to interrogate the deeper archaeological past. The earliest evidence of metal working at Phalaborwa dates to A.D. 770 +/- 80 (some 1200 years ago) from the copper mine at Lolwe Hill. Ongoing research at the site of Shankare, on the premises of the Palabora Mining Company (PMC), is changing our understanding of the scale and nature of production in this period. Excavations conducted as part of my doctoral research at

Shankare in 2012 revealed evidence of an intensification of production between the 10th-13th centuries. They also showed evidence of intensified trade, apparent in the numerous trade items, including glass beads of Asian origin and cowrie shells, and provide strong evidence to suggest that metal workers in this period were specialized producers responding to regional and global markets.

As emphasized by Dr. Chirikure, "Through archaeological work at extant industrial places such as Phalaborwa we will be able to learn how Africans in the pre-colonial period mastered metallurgical engineering and through the consumption and distribution of final products ended up being connected to the Indian Ocean rim region. The connections that we emphasize today, particularly with regions such as India and China, have always been there. It is only that we were not paying as much attention to the archaeology as we should!"

Our very DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS

Three of the four UCT academics to receive this year's Distinguished Teachers Award are based in the Faculty of Humanities. Drs Helen Macdonald (Social Anthropology), Ian Rijdsdijk (Centre for Film and Media Studies) and Hedley Twidle (English Language and Literature) were selected from a university-wide pool of potential nominees.

UCT's Distinguished Teacher Award (DTA) is given in recognition of excellence in teaching and is intended to promote the importance of teaching and learning within the institution. Each year, a maximum of four nominees are recommended by a selection committee, based on nominations received from both students and staff. Recipients of the award are announced formally at faculty graduation ceremonies that take place in December.

2013 has been a particularly good year for Helen MacDonald, a senior lecturer in the Department of Social Anthropology. Both MacDonald and Hedley received Ad Hominem promotions in November, in recognition



Drs Helen MacDonald, Hedly Twidle and Ian Rijdsdijk are congratulated by the dean, Professor Paula Ensor at the 2013 Faculty celebration event

of their success in teaching, their social responsiveness and research output. Commenting on her DTA, MacDonald says that she is passionate about teaching. "In short, I see teaching as my responsibility to give back through helping to prepare young people for careers both in and outside academia, but more importantly for life. It is an opportunity for change, as Gandhi directed: 'If we could change ourselves,

the tendencies in the world would also change...We need not wait to see what others do".

Rijdsdijk is a senior lecturer in the Centre for Film and Media Studies.

A cash prize of R20 000 is attached to the DTA. Exceptional teachers may receive an additional honour in the form of the Vice-Chancellor's Medal. The 2013 DTA dinner will take place in December.

Humanities Student Council:

a winning COMBINATION



The 2013 Humanities Student Council has received the award for best faculty council and Rehana Odendaal (chairperson) was awarded the Executive Director DSA Student Leader Award. The purpose of these awards is to recognise the outstanding contributions made by student leaders and organisations at the university and beyond. Humanities Update caught up with out-going chairperson Rehana to talk about the award.

HU: What were some of the challenges going into the 2013 HSC leadership position?

Rehana: As with many student governance structures, there has historically been quite a poor handover of institutional knowledge which meant that getting into the 'meat' of HSC as an academic council was very difficult. Also, being thrown together as a group where most of whom were complete strangers at first and working out the best portfolios for each person and the most effective goals for the team as a collective was a challenge.

HU: Why is student governance so important at UCT?

Rehana: it is often quite easy for students to forget why student governance is important, particularly when things are going well. However, student governance is often the best channel through which students can access assistance to address

a range of different problems. The council also provides a mechanism for co-ordinating feedback to the faculty and staff at large about the priorities of students, which many university committees value.

HU: So, what does winning the 2013 award mean to you and the 2013 HSC team?

Rehana: it's fantastic recognition for a very challenging year of hard work. It was also very special to receive this award on what would have been *Sindiswa Mbengo's birthday, as she was such an enthusiastic council member that she would have been very proud. Of course, it is also a great endorsement of HSC's main goal this year which was to develop a sense of pride within and about the humanities.

HU: you also received the ED Leadership Award. What's the most important leadership lesson you've

learnt through this experience?

Rehana: To take time to understand how the people you are working with work, and what they need to be successful within the team. Also, networking and collaboration with other people and organisations is very helpful, if it's organised well enough in advance!

In order for student councils to be nominated, they must have promoted teamwork, played a role in promoting the mission, vision and values of UCT and have created opportunities for members and the faculty to grow. The Leadership Award is given to an individual who has demonstrated a clear track record of leadership. Faculty Manager, Laureen Rautenbach was full of praise for the council and had this to say: "Through very trying times and intense academic pressures, this group has persevered and delivered on what they had set out to achieve. The HSC of 2013 has established key projects and priorities that will provide a valuable foundation for future councils. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and the clear indication this provides of their future leadership potential, and hope that the UCT community will join us in congratulating the HSC on a job well done!"

**Sindiswa Mbengo, who occupied a seat on council, was tragically killed in a car accident earlier in the year.*

Mandarin Programme

GAINS POPULARITY

The Confucius Institute has continued to grow since its establishment at UCT in 2011. The main objective of the institute is to promote the teaching and learning of the Chinese language, and interest in its culture and traditions. A number of cultural events are held throughout the year. One of the most popular is an annual language summer camp to China.

Over the past three years, the headquarters of the Confucius Institute has sponsored students for an intensive language summer camp in China. Students have only to pay for their return air tickets, while their study and travel in China for two weeks is paid for by the Confucius Institute. Mr. Wu from the Confucius Institute (CI), is also the course convenor of both the first year and second year Chinese courses offered through the School of Languages and Literatures. Wu escorted the first group of 37 UCT students to China for the summer camp in June 2011, and in 2012 and 2013, two more groups of 20 and 21 students participated in the summer camp.

The Confucius Institute also assists UCT students apply for CI scholarships to study Chinese in China for either a full academic year or a semester. In 2012, three UCT students were successfully awarded scholarships, two for one year, and one for a semester. A second-year Mandarin student, Shelley Obery, was awarded a scholarship to study at the Zhejiang University of Science and Technology, located in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province of China. She attended intensive Chinese language courses for two semesters (about nine months), and she believes that the best way to learn Mandarin is through incorporating Chinese culture into the curriculum. "During my stay, I had to communicate in Mandarin and



The 2013 Language Summer Camp saw 21 UCT students visiting the cities of Xi'an and Beijing in China

very soon found it easy to talk to people about things like World War 2, the Chinese economy, as well as today's youth culture in China. Prior to my visit, I was comfortable only with short phrases such as asking: "Where is the train station?" says Obery.

In 2013, four UCT students were awarded semester scholarships to attend one of three different universities in China. Rachel Anderson and Sebastian Lump were accepted at Shenyang Polytechnic University in Shenyang; Christianna Polydorou attended Shandong University in Jinan; and Dina Dabo attended Zhejiang University in Zhejiang. Several students

are already planning to apply in 2014, as the new semester begins.

The Confucius Institute has enjoyed great success at UCT and has plans for sustained growth in the future. In 2014, the institute will work closely with the faculty and the School of Languages and Literatures in securing a full-time senior lecturer and in offering third-year and honours level courses. "Ultimately, Chinese language is here to stay as a subject offered by SLL, and it is included in UCT's academic programmes. Meanwhile, the Confucius Institute will try its best to continue the sponsorship of students to summer camps in China," said Wu.

GIPCA showcases graduate talent at Live Art Festival



Conflicting notions about how we perceive and not just what we perceive, the collapse of established systems based on prejudice, and the emergence of postcolonial subjectivities have all contributed to a healthy and robust bewilderment around contemporary art, particularly that emerging from South Africa. As interdisciplinary and genre-crossing work appears increasingly at the forefront of local and international art practice, the understanding and appreciation of these practices and their various manifestations are continually evolving.

The Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts' (GIPCA) Live Art Festival, subtitled 'Make-up your Mind', provided a space for the interrogation and exploration of contemporary art forms. Conceived by GIPCA Director Jay Pather, the inaugural festival embodied themes of presence, identity and gender and comprised close to 50 artists from a wide range of fields, often collapsing disciplinary boundaries. This diverse series of events took place in various venues across the city from 30 November to 4 December 2012.

The Live Art Festival is the only festival on the continent dedicated to Live Art and was commended by critic Mary Corrigan in SA Arts 2012: A year in review as "mark[ing] a new era in our cultural landscape, as it brought the work of performance artists, visual artists, dancers and theatre practitioners under one banner, thus erasing the sometimes superficial boundaries between these disciplines. This is a first in SA and should in the future encourage artists to expand the way they conceive of their practice."

The festival featured a range of established South African artists, most of whom premiered new work, including John Nankin (co-founder of the ground-breaking Glass Theatre in 1979) who performed at ZINK on Erf 81 in Tamboerskloof; Hlengiwe Lushaba Madlala, Nelisiwe Xaba and Mocke J van Veuren, Athi-Patra Ruga decked out in a shop front studio, bathed in purple neon; James Webb and Christian Nerf at the City Hall; Julia Raynham on the Grand Parade; and the formidable Tossie van Tonder, who took on the towering City Hall Auditorium.

International contributions included those of Swiss director Boris Nikitin, who presented two works and a



series of workshops; Mozambican dance company Cia Independente's provocative *A Nudez*; and British artist Jamie Lewis Hadley's *This rose made of leather*, which Lois Keidan, co-founder of the trail-blazing Live Art Development Agency UK), called "beautifully conceived and exquisitely performed".

An important focus of the Festival was the inclusion of work by young artists, many of whom were current and recent UCT graduates - energetic duo Gabriella Pinto and Iman Isaacs; Richard September; Spirit Mba; Leila Anderson; interdisciplinary trio Shariffa Ali, Samukelisiwe Mabaso and Nobukho Nqaba; as well as Trudy van Rooy and Chase Downes who staged the anarchic *Yaar Party*.

Other artists included past Donald Gordon Creative Arts Fellows Sanjin Mufit, Richard Antrobus and Michael



McGarry, Themba Mbuli, Tebogo Munyai, Vaughn Sadie and Dean Henning, Thabiso Pule and Hector Thami Manekehla, Warona Seane and a collaboration by writer and performer Siya Ngcobo, with dancer Llewellyn Mnguni and filmmaker Art.

The GIPCA Director Jay Pather commented: "The Live Art Festival is a platform for work that is experimental, that raises radical questions about the art forms, our society and technology. It asks for artists who consider aesthetic and political questions in

their purity with courage, excellence and risk and without being distracted by commercial or simple audience pleasing concerns."

The next Live Art Festival will take place mid-2014 and looks to create a more definitive platform of international interest, with a strong basis in innovative Live Art work from the African continent. For more information on GIPCA's programmes, visit www.gipca.uct.ac.za.

(Compiled by the Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts)

A fresh take on

STUDENT *Support*



When Verusha West assumed the position of Faculty Student Development Officer this year, she had no idea that students would be queuing outside her door. Although the focus of this new position is on providing psychosocial support to students facing academic crisis, the service is becoming increasingly popular amongst a broad range of humanities students. Humanities Update caught up with the busy clinical social worker to discuss her plans.

HU: Providing student support in the largest, most academically diverse faculty at UCT must be a complex task and one that covers a range of activities. What does your job entail and how does this interface with the faculty's academic support initiatives?

VW: I provide psychosocial support to both undergraduate and postgraduate students. This takes the form of individual consultations with students in crisis, as well as group interventions, which can be supportive or educational in nature. In addition, I am responsible for the running of the mentorship programme(s) in the faculty and I work very closely with Dr Jessica Tiffin, who deals with the academic and curriculum aspects of faculty student support. She refers students who are in crisis or those whom she feels would benefit from psychosocial support to me.

HU: What are some of the challenges that students typically encounter at university?

VW: The transition from high school into the university environment can be a big challenge for students. Many overestimate their ability to cope on campus and do not make use of all the support services available to

them. The resulting drop in grades (from high school grades) can be extremely demotivating for them. On the other hand, some students are very aware of their need for further support, but feel too intimidated and overwhelmed to access what is available. They often feel like they are the only ones struggling and this also keeps them from seeking help. The reality is that there are many others going through the same challenges. Secondly, a significant number of students come from other provinces and UCT is home to an international student population. University and residence life can be extremely challenging and isolating experiences for these students. Thirdly, some of our students come from very difficult circumstances. When they arrive at university it can be very difficult for them to balance studies with their worries and involvement with what is happening at home.

HU: Your professional background is in clinical social work. How has this prepared you for the role you now occupy?

VW: I am a proud graduate of the UCT social development department. As a social worker, I have worked predominantly in the areas of therapy, support and the development of children and young people. It is a field I have always felt very passionate about and it seems to have evolved into the role I now occupy. I feel privileged to be able to support young people at a critical stage in their lives and help them to achieve their dreams and goals.

HU: How does peer mentorship factor into the support services on offer from the faculty?

VW: Peer mentorship plays a vital role in supporting our first-year students. It gives them access to a network of more experienced students who understand what they are going through. Mentorship also enables newcomers to meet and engage with others, helping to combat any initial feelings of isolation. Our mentors act as big brothers and sisters who can provide guidance and support and they play a crucial role in keeping an eye on their first-year students, alerting us to individuals who are struggling or in need of additional support. It is at this point where I become directly involved with the mentee.

The transition from high school into the university environment can be a big challenge for students

HU: How has your new role been received by students so far? Have you received any feedback from students, staff and parents?

VW: I think that the service has been received very positively so far. I have been well-utilised during the past eight months. Most of the referrals I have received have been from faculty staff members (lecturers and admin staff) who know about my services and refer students they are concerned about. In addition, there is a growing number of peer referrals – students who have seen me and advised their friends to come to me as well. To my mind, this is a very positive indication. It has been extremely rewarding for me to have students pop in over the past few weeks (following the exams and results release) to thank me and to let me know that they are doing okay.



International ACCOLADES for PhD student

Booker Alston recently received the Graduate Award from The Canadian Society for the Study of Religion, for his paper titled, *The Politics of Colonial Comparative Religion: The Ghost Dance of 1890 and Mormonism*. Alston is a PhD candidate in the Department of Religious Studies.

This research is a continuation of his master's study into Mormonism and focuses on the findings that two completely different religious groups were classified together by scholars, military leaders and the mainstream religious community in the American colony. The paper discusses similar comparisons and classifications, and the manner in which practitioners of colonial comparative religion used this classification of religion as a tool of dominance.

According to Alston, this award highlights the importance of Religious Studies in the broader

study of a global colonial past. "Religious Studies is not simply there to examine the basic beliefs and practices of the various religions in the world, but to also analyse the affects that religion and the religious have on the individual and on society. In a global sense, religion has the fascinating ability to transcend political, racial and economic boundaries and the study of this phenomenon is both interesting and important," he said.

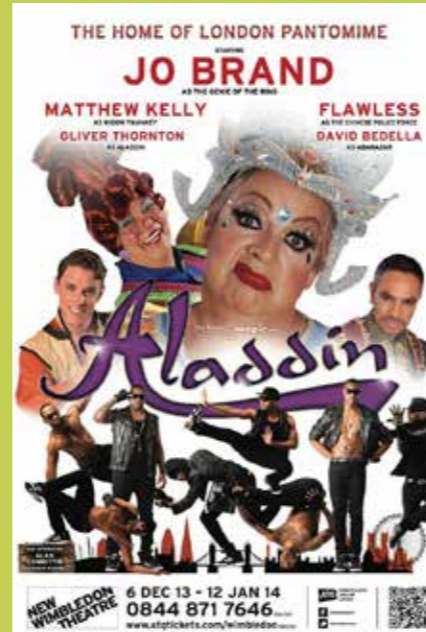
Alston is currently working on a contextual biography of Gobo Fango, an Eastern Cape man who was claimed, as a toddler, by a settler family and became their servant. He subsequently moved with the family to Utah and converted to Mormonism. The story, which brings together colonialism, the Xhosa cattle-killing of 1856-57, Mormonism, the slave trade and the American Civil War, illustrates the importance and centrality of the study of religion.

Trailblazers



ROBYN SCOTT

Robyn Scott won Best Actress at the Fringe, 2013 Edinburgh Festival Fringe. She received the award for her role in *London Road, Sea Point* – the story of an unlikely friendship between two neighbours in a Sea Point block of apartments.



ALAN COMMITTIE

During December, award winning SA Comic performer Alan Committie will be appearing at The New Wimbledon theatre in the London Pantomime - Aladdin, alongside Jo Brand. Alan is known locally for his comic one-man shows.



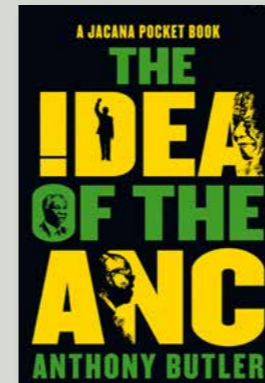
TREVOR JONES

Celebrity alumnus, Trevor Jones hosted a Master Class at the South African College of Music in November 2013. After graduating from UCT, he was awarded a scholarship to attend the Royal Academy of Music in London (1967). He has achieved incredible success in Hollywood, composing the soundtracks to many international blockbusters including: *Mississippi Burning, Notting Hill, The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen and The Last of the Mohicans*.



Actress **ZAKEEYA PATEL** captivated SA audiences during the sixth season of *Strictly Come Dancing*. Following a gruelling 10 weeks of competitive dancing, Zakeeya and dance partner, Ryan Hammond, claimed the lucrative first prize in the show. Zakeeya holds a BA (Theatre and Performance) from UCT.

Look & Listen faculty publications

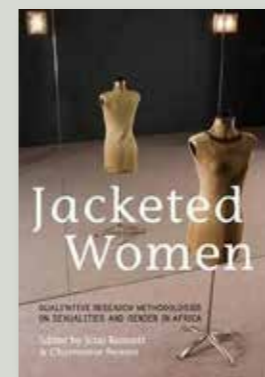


THE IDEA OF THE ANC

by Anthony Butler

The Idea of the ANC explores how ANC intellectuals and leaders interpret the historical project of their movement. It investigates three interlocked ideas: a conception of power, a responsibility for promoting unity and a commitment to

human liberation. It explores how these notions have shaped South African politics in the past and how they will inform ANC leaders' responses to the challenges of the future. Professor Anthony Butler is based in UCT's Department of Political Studies.



MAPPING SEXUALITIES WITH JACKETED WOMEN

by Jane Bennett and Charmaine Pereira

The book is the result of a continental research project conducted by the African Gender Institute in 2004 titled: *Mapping Sexualities*.

The chapters cover broad-ranging issues and include questions about what it means to research topics that are unpopular or fraught with the sense of the taboo that underpins much work in sexualities and gender studies. Associate Professor Bennett is director of the faculty's School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics.



MEDITASIES

by Joan Hambidge

Meditasies is a volume of poetry reflecting on the importance of poetry. The volume was written during a trip around the world in 2010, in which Hambidge visited Hong Kong, Beijing, Tokyo, San Francisco, LA, Chicago,

Washington, New York and Istanbul. The volume of poetry features an image of the iconic Brooklyn Bridge on the cover.

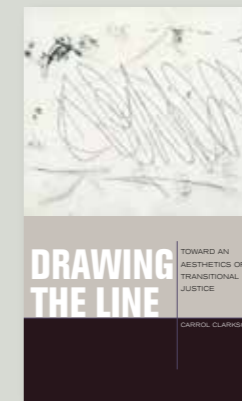


ACADEMIC FREEDOM

by John Higgins

This book argues that the core content of academic freedom – the principle of supporting and extending open intellectual enquiry – is essential to realising the full public value of higher education, and emphasises the central role that the humanities, and the particular forms of

argument and analysis they embody, bring to this task. John Higgins is a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa and a Professor of English at UCT.



DRAWING THE LINE

by John Higgins

Drawing the Line examines the ways in which cultural, political, and legal lines are imagined, drawn, crossed, erased, and redrawn in post-apartheid South Africa through literary texts, artworks, and other forms of cultural production.

This book asks what it takes to recalibrate a sociopolitical scene, shifting perceptions of what counts and what matters, of what can be seen and heard, of what can be valued or regarded as meaningful. Professor Carrol Clarkson is Head of the Department of English Language and Literature.



FRANKLIN LAREY is an Associate Professor at the South African College of Music. His latest CD was recorded in New York in March 2013 at the Octaven Audio. "The recording is of works by composers I love, and love to play. In particular, I feel a closeness to the Beethoven Sonata (Opus 109), which is among the works I studied with my mentor (Frank Weinstock) in the USA."

Humanities welcomes

new dean



Professor Sakhela Buhlungu joined UCT on 1 November 2013 as dean-elect and will take over as Dean of the Faculty of Humanities on 1 January 2014.

He comes from the University of Pretoria, where he held the position of Deputy Dean for Postgraduate Studies and Ethics in the Faculty of Humanities. He was also Professor of Sociology and acting head of the Sociology Department. Professor Buhlungu received his bachelor's degree from the University of Transkei, obtained an honours degree in African Studies from UCT and a master's and a PhD (Sociology) from the University of the Witwatersrand.

His academic life has focused on the development of trade unions in post-apartheid South Africa and he is a renowned scholar and author on labour studies, industrial democracy, social movements, politics, leadership and change in developing democracies. He is the

recipient of numerous accolades, including the International Labour History Association Book of the Year Award in 2010 for *Trade Unions and Party Politics: Labour Movements in Africa*. He has teaching experience at the universities of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and Pretoria, and at the University of Kassel, Germany, where he held the Ela Bhatt Visiting Professorship in the International Center for Development and Decent Work from 2011 until 2012.

Of his new appointment, Buhlungu says that he is looking forward to leading, what he considers to be one of the top humanities faculties in the country and on the African continent. "I have been extremely fortunate to have joined the faculty before the official starting date and to have shadowed Professor Paula Ensor, the out-going Dean. I have already spent time in September, as well as at the beginning of November meeting colleagues and attending meetings to familiarise myself with the UCT institutional environment," he said.

Welcome Professor Buhlungu, to the faculty and to the broader UCT community.

Stay in touch

Humanities Update is an alumni newsletter aimed at keeping you abreast of faculty news and events. We would love to know what you think of this publication, so please send us an email.

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