

# humanities update

november  
2012



# In This Issue

## Faculty news:

- Psychology at ICP 2012
- Theatre director secures Fleur de Cap Lifetime Achievement Award
- Faculty visits Marsh Memorial Home
- Opera School fundraising drive
- Religious Studies visits Khartoum
- AXL re-imagines the focus on Africa
- Honorary degrees 2012
- New AC Jordan Chair

## Features:

- Centres to preserve language for future generations
- Centre for Popular Memory
- HUMA
- Lights, camera, action for African Cinema Unit

## Student updates:

- Top students lauded at Excellence Awards
- Michaelis graduation exhibition 2012
- Mohau Modisakeng wins 21st Sasol New Signatures award
- Students bag prizes at Chinese competition
- Future students learn the ropes
- Psychology student interns at the WHO
- Standing ovation for Dance students

## Alumni & staff news

- Knighthood for Wilhem Snyman
- Thomas Pringle Award winner 2012
- Alumni interview: Phindile Sithole-Spong
- Husband and wife pen new psycho thriller
- Interactive art expo – Community Punching Bags
- Jane Yu’s bite of the Big Apple
- Alumni trailblazers

- 4
- 5
- 7
- 8
- 20
- 22
- 25
- 34
  
- 9
- 10
- 19
- 29
  
- 6
- 12
- 13
- 15
- 18
- 26
- 31
  
- 14
- 14
- 16
- 21
- 28
- 30
- 32

Humanities Update is a newsletter for alumni and friends of the Faculty of Humanities, University of Cape Town.

Greetings to Faculty alumni from the

# Dean of Humanities



**W**arm greetings to you all - the readers of HUM Update and our community of Faculty alumni. It is with great pleasure that we bring you this year's edition - a longer, newsier HUM Update than in previous years, with lots of interesting information about the activities of staff and students of the academic departments in which you have spent time as undergraduate or postgraduate students, as well as news about some of our graduates. We hope that HUM Update provides an opportunity for you to

stay in touch with developments in the Faculty, and with each other.

This issue of HUM Update applauds a number of staff and student achievements: participation by psychology students in a major international conference, a glimpse at this year's Michaelis graduation exhibition, and coverage of a celebration of student academic excellence. You will read about Mandarin, about dance, about books that have been published, prizes that have been won and personal profiles we felt we wanted to share with you. You will be able to read about our honorary doctorates and the esteem they enjoy both nationally and internationally. We bring news of the African Cinema Unit, of HUMA, of the Centre for Popular Memory. You will be able to read about Faculty news, such as the formation of a new department, the School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics, and a new unit within it, CALDi, which has been established to promote language diversity. We announce the incumbent of the prestigious AC Jordan Chair in the Centre for African Studies – Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza – and his vision for CAS. This Chair has stood vacant for many years and we are delighted that we have been able to fill it with someone of Professor Ntsebeza's calibre and experience.

We also announce a new fundraising drive, to support the invaluable work of the Opera School within the South African College of Music and secure this work for the future. We seek financial support to provide bursaries for needy students, to support excellence in teaching and to fund the staging of operatic productions. We have educated outstanding singers for the world stages and we need your support to be able to do so in future.

Taken together, this news gives a sense of a Faculty which prides itself in the excellence of its research, the quality of its teaching, the success of its graduates, and the commitment of both staff and students to contributing to the communities in which we live and work. I feel enormously proud of what our staff, students and alumni have achieved, and hope that you will too. Please stay in touch with us, and send us news of your activities and accomplishments.

My warmest good wishes to all of you for the festive season, and for a prosperous and happy 2013. ■

Professor Paula Ensor  
Dean of Humanities



UCT psychologists pictured here (L-R): Margaret McGrath; Robyn Human; Tarah Swanepoel; Danyal Weinstein and Catherine O'Leary

## Psychology sponsors 100 students for conference

Students and staff from the Department of Psychology attended the annual International Congress of Psychology from 22 to 27 July. The conference, which was hosted at the Cape Town ICC, was the 30th annual congress to be convened and the first to be held on African soil.

The International Congress of Psychology (ICP) is held every four years under the auspices of the International Union of Psychological Science. This year, it was organised by the National Research Foundation of South Africa and the Psychological Society of South Africa, in partnership with South African universities as well as psychological associations of neighbouring countries. As one of the prime sponsors, UCT was able to extend an invitation to 100 third year and postgraduate psychology students, some of whom acted as student assistants providing an important support function to conference organisers.

According to Dr Debbie Kaminer (UCT Child Guidance Clinic), who together with Dr Ines Meyer (Organisational Psychology), co-ordinated UCT's involvement in the conference, both students and staff benefited enormously from being able to exchange ideas and research with their international peers at this event. "Of the 100 sponsored students, about 30 master's and

doctoral students presented material at ICP. In addition, a number of staff members also presented papers. Topic areas included neuropsychology, traumatic stress, eyewitness research, domestic violence, and the history of psychology in South Africa" said Debbie.

*Psychology Serving Humanity* was the broad theme for the 2012 conference and the format included presentations and symposia on advancements in the field, workshops and debates as well as exhibitions staged by corporate entities, technological innovators and international psychology organisations. One of the highlights for the international delegates was a tour of Cape Town's World Heritage sites.

"This congress provided an opportunity to showcase the research contributions of the UCT Psychology Department to an international audience. It also gave us exposure to a broad range of international research in the discipline and allowed us to network with international students and scholars," concluded Debbie. ■

## Theatre director secures prestigious Fleur de Cap

Theatre director and UCT lecturer Christopher Weare was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 47th Fleur du Cap Theatre Awards ceremony which took place earlier this year. These annual awards are given in recognition of excellence in the field of professional theatre production and focus on performances staged in the Cape region over the past year.

In 2012, awards were made in 20 different categories and winners (with the exception of the Lifetime Achievement Award) received a R15 000 cash prize as well as a silver medallion. This year's glamorous event was held at the Baxter Theatre on 18 March and was attended by the 'who's who' of South African theatre. The judging panel comprised local academics, critics, journalists and writers who were collectively charged with viewing more than 100 productions in the year under review.

Associate Professor Christopher Weare received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to theatre over the course of his professional career. Weare was specifically acknowledged for founding The Intimate Theatre and The Mechanicals collective. The Intimate Theatre and The Mechanicals annual repertory season have provided invaluable platforms for young professional theatre practitioners. He is lauded for his commitment to students in training and to young theatre practitioners beginning their professional careers. Weare is currently the Director of UCT's Little Theatre, an acclaimed actor as well as a well-known freelance theatre director. In 1993, he received the University's Distinguished Teacher Award, the highest accolade awarded at UCT for excellence in teaching.

At the 2012 Fleur Du Cap presentations, The Mechanicals collective was won 3 major awards for their production of *Die Rebelle Van Lafras Verwey* (Best Director, Best Actor and Most Popular Production 2012). Furthermore, The Mechanical's collective nominated for Best Supporting Actor (Andrew Laubscher in Weare's production of *Lovborg's Women*). Tinarie Van Wyk was also nominated for Best Costumes for The Mechanicals production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In addition, Weare's production of *Decadence* for The

Mechanicals collective received 10 Naledi Award nominations this year!

**HU:** What does winning the Lifetime Achievement Award mean to you? What are the most memorable productions you have worked on?

**Christopher:** The award has meant everything to me. It is a recognition from and by all the wonderful 'partnerships' I have had the privilege of participating in throughout my professional teaching and theatre career. The acknowledgement that I have made some contribution to people's lives is humbling. In the months that have passed I have received congratulations from all over the world, and for that I am truly grateful and flattered.

**HU:** What is the significance of the Fleur de Cap judging process and what does it achieve for the local theatre industry and/or actors?

**Christopher:** This is a contentious question. Firstly I am extremely supportive of these awards. I believe that it is important for artists to be rewarded in this manner. It is important to have an event where the culture of theatre is celebrated and 'aired' to a broader public. It is an opportunity for artists to acknowledge one another and to celebrate a contribution toward promoting a healthy society – that contribution which allows people to laugh, makes people question and interrogate, searches for answers, and always questions! For theatre practitioners (actors, directors, designers etc) the awards should remind us of the role theatre can and does play in enriching a society, a community and a country. ■



# Top students lauded at Excellence Awards



The Faculty's top students celebrated at this year's Student Excellence Awards.

More than 140 of the Faculty's top students gathered at the Centre for African Studies Gallery for the Humanities Student Excellence Awards held in October. The exclusive annual event is held in recognition of excellence over the course of the academic year, across the Faculty's undergraduate classes.

*Dean of the Faculty, Professor Paula Ensor congratulated the students on their academic achievements and presented each one with a certificate of excellence. She encouraged them to consider postgraduate study within the Faculty.*

Formerly known as the Dean's Merit List event, the 2012 celebration underwent a significant revamp resulting in a sophisticated cocktail and jazz evening with each student receiving a certificate of excellence as well as public acknowledgement from their peers and Faculty members. Invited guests included Faculty scholarship recipients, students on the Dean's Merit List, high performing Extended Degree Programme students as well as staff members. Nominations for the awards are based on consistent academic performance and take into consideration programme load as well as the total duration of the degree.

Given that entry into the Humanities honours and master's programmes is highly competitive, the event provided the ideal opportunity to promote postgraduate studies amongst the Faculty's high achievers. Dean of the Faculty, Professor Paula Ensor congratulated the students on their academic achievements and presented each one with a certificate of excellence. She encouraged them to consider postgraduate study within the Faculty. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Crain Soudien, who attended the event, commented on how proud the institution was of its high achievers. He wished the students well in their studies and future endeavours. Entertainment was provided by the talented *Jazz Between Friends* quartet comprised of SACM students. One of the group's members, jazz vocalist Vuyo Sotashe has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue postgraduate studies at the Manhattan School of Music in 2013. He is one of only 20 students selected from South Africa for this very prestigious scholarship.

Guest speaker Afsana Khan, an alumna of the Centre for Film and Media Studies and a part-time multimedia lecturer, stressed the importance of self-belief and confidence. She spoke of how she had successfully utilised her Humanities degree to secure a first job in graphic design and ended up as the creative director of a website and graphic design agency two short years after leaving UCT. ■



Humanities staff members visited Marsh Memorial Home in celebration of Mandela Day.

## Humanities visits local children's home

**Nelson Mandela Day was an emotional and eye-opening experience for Faculty of Humanities staff members when they visited Marsh Memorial Home in July.**

Located in Rondebosch, Marsh Memorial Home is a place of safety for children who are deemed to be at risk by the courts. The children, who range in age from 4 to 17 years, are housed in five cottages on the property, each with their own team of dedicated care-workers. The facility can accommodate up to 60 children at a time and although it operates under the auspices of the Methodist Church and is supported by the Department of Social Development, it relies on donor funding for survival.

Following a successful initiative (making sleeping bags for the homeless) in 2011, Faculty staff decided that they wanted to focus on children this year. According to Shireen Webber who works in the Faculty's Undergraduate Office, Marsh Memorial Home appealed to her because of the type of intervention they provide. "I have often driven past this building on my way to work and wondered what

they do there. When I discovered that they are a place of refuge for children who come from troubled home environments, I was immediately drawn to the place. It wasn't hard to convince my colleagues that this is how we needed to spend our 67 minutes this year."

After initial contact with the home to establish their needs, a staff appeal was launched. The result was a significant cash donation as well as an impressive collection of second-hand goods which included: clothes, a stereo system, television and DVD player as well as boxes of books. The Faculty's Information Technology (IT) department also pitched in with a refurbished PC. Money raised was used to purchase items of clothing and stationery for each of the 42 children currently housed at Marsh Memorial Home. "We decided quite early on that we didn't just want to be involved in the collection and collation of goods, we wanted to actually visit

the institution and experience what they do for ourselves" says Paula de Castro, another Undergraduate Office staff member.

On arrival at the home, the group was welcomed by Principal Steven Moolman who outlined the history of the institution, its aims and ongoing challenges. This was followed by a tour of the facilities led by senior care worker, Venetia da Silva. Venetia explained the importance of the holistic intervention approach they utilise – one which aims to address all aspects of the children's lives whilst keeping them connected, where possible, to their own communities.

In a letter following the visit, Principal Steven Moolman commented that the visit had meant a great deal to both the children and staff members. "It happens quite often that groups of people reach out to our children on any given day. However, the fact that you did it on Nelson Mandela Day will make the experience last so much longer. Your visit suddenly became part of a bigger experience of generosity and goodwill. Indeed, our children have renewed hope in what's to come because of people like you" he said.

The Faculty's Undergraduate Office plans to retain strong ties with the home and several staff members have committed themselves to volunteering at this institution on an ad hoc basis. For more information on Marsh Memorial Home, contact Lira Greeff on +27 21 689 9301. ■

# Opera School launches sponsorship fund

**M**ore than 90 invited guests attended the launch of the Opera School Endowment Fund at the Baxter Theatre on the 28 August. The event was planned to coincide with the opening night performance of *Così fan tutte*, a production mounted in collaboration with Cape Town Opera. This Endowment Fund has been established to kick-start the school's fundraising project which commenced this year.

The UCT Opera School was founded in the 1920's. It is part of the South African College of Music (SACM) and is headed by renowned conductor, coach and pianist Professor Kamal Khan. For nearly 90 years, the school has been creating opera stars for the world's stages through the intensive training, coaching and personal supervision offered. The school is particularly proud of its legacy of discovering talent amidst disadvantaged communities that are rich in musical culture. Success stories can be found in the careers of opera stars such as Pretty Yende, winner of all the prizes in the Belvedere Competition. Yende is currently on contract at La Scala. Golda Schultz continues to enchant audiences at the Bavarian State Opera and Sarah-Jane Brandon won both the Kathleen Ferrier Award and The Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother Rose Bowl awarded for excellence in music. In addition, Fikile Mvinjelwa is established at the Deutsche Oper in Berlin and Musa Ngqungwana is resident artist of the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia. These talented individuals are among those who attribute their career success to the Opera School and its teachers.



*Bulelani Madondile and Magdalene Minnaar in Don Giovanni (Courtesy Cape Town Opera).*

Luthando Qave, in the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artists' programme, says: "Kamal Khan told me in 2005 that within five years he could see me at The Met. He was right. He knew what was needed to nurture my talent. He gave me the courage to go beyond the chorus."

Academic programmes on offer from the school include: The Performer's Diploma in Opera, the Bachelor's Degree of Music in Performance (Opera stream) as well as foundation programmes for those without formal training in singing or theory. However, the Opera School programmes are amongst the most expensive at UCT because productions are expensive to mount and tuition fees are steep. Student bursaries cover the cost of tuition, travelling, accommodation and basic subsistence. Ongoing funding is required for the dedicated voice coaches and distinguished teaching staff in residence, for specialised training in the form of the international masterclasses as well as to provide much-needed bursaries and scholarships for talented students. The Endowment Fund aims

to partner the donor community with the school to ensure that future generations of South African Opera stars continue to shine.

Speaking at the launch of the endowment fund, UCT Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price said the School's mission fits aptly into the University's broader transformation agenda, including its aims to develop inclusive curricula and engage with African voices. "Grants ensure that an increasing number of students are given the ongoing opportunity to participate in operatic productions of high professional standards under the musical and stage direction of such international experts" said Price.

This new fund aims to make the process of pledging donations more accessible to individuals and organisations who wish to support the Opera School. Whether it is in support of a specific student, a production or an academic residency, each donation has the potential to impact a promising student's future and will help to ensure the sustainability of the UCT Opera School. To pledge your support, contact +27 21 6504143. ■

## New centres to preserve language for future generations



*Attending the launch (from left to right): Dr Matthias Brenzinger outlines CALDi's strategic vision. Dr Matthias Brenzinger; UCT Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price; Professor Rajend Mesthrie. Dr Tessa Dowling and Professor Paula Ensor.*

**Two exciting research hubs; the Centre for African Language Diversity (CALDi) and The African Language Archive (TALA) have been established at UCT to safeguard the future of South Africa's languages. CALDi, which forms part of the linguistics section in the new School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics (AXL), marked its official launch in early November with an African Linguistics conference featuring a host of international guest speakers.**

**L**anguage diversity is one of Africa's most essential intellectual treasures and Dr Matthias Brenzinger, who heads both CALDi and TALA, has dedicated a considerable portion of his academic career to researching African languages in different parts of the continent. The southern part of the continent is home to numerous languages which are without parallel anywhere else on earth. Among the approximately 6500 languages currently spoken throughout the globe, it is only a handful of South African Bantu languages, including Zulu, Xhosa and Southern Sotho, which utilise all four speech sound production mechanisms identified by linguists, namely: pulmonics, ejectives, implosives and clicks. Clicks, the rarest of all speech sound types and found only on the African continent, were adopted by these Bantu languages from speakers of Khoisan languages in the more recent past.

In the early 1990s, UNESCO began raising awareness of the threats to the world's language heritage. A substantial number of languages are losing speakers amongst the younger generation such as Phuti in Lesotho and Yeyi in Botswana. These Bantu languages are endangered, as are the twelve surviving Khoisan languages, only four of which are still spoken by South African citizens. N/uu language documentation is one of the most important and urgent tasks for linguists even on a global scale, and the six remaining speakers should be considered a national treasure in South Africa.

According to Brenzinger, a key priority for CALDi will be to engage scholars in more in-depth study and training on the documentation of our African languages, and in so doing promote linguistic diversity on the continent. Joining Dr Brenzinger on the CALDi's core leadership team are his colleagues in the linguistics section, Associate Professor Ana Deumert and Professor Raj Mesthrie, as well as Dr Mantoa Smouse from the School of African Languages and Literatures. In addition, CALDi is supported at a wider university level by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Crain Soudien, who serves on the board together with a cross-functional team that includes academics from the Departments of Historical Studies, the Michaelis School of Fine Art and the Multilingualism Education Project.

"The idea is to make CALDi the research hub for African linguistics not just at UCT but on the continent as a whole. There are currently more universities teaching African linguistics in Germany than in South Africa, and for that reason, most linguists working on African languages are from outside Africa. CALDi will aim to counter this trend through our targeted scholarship programme, by which we aim to attract master's and PhD students in African Linguistics. We will also capitalise on our international network of language scholars and the support of established international institutions active in this field of study" says Brenzinger. All of which underscores UCT's commitment to Afropolitanism. ■

# Centre for Popular Memory



The Centre for Popular Memory celebrated its 10th anniversary with a cocktail event in May 2012. This dynamic academic unit is responsible for archiving South Africa's oral history, sharing important stories from our past and present. It also performs a key advocacy and teaching role and is a valuable research hub within the university and beyond.

on the ways in which memory-work produces knowledge and how this knowledge contributes to social and developmental change. In addition, the CPM trains organisations and students in audio/visual history research. According to Deputy Director of the CPM, Renate Meyer, local interest in memory work has increased. A phenomenon in line with international trends in the field.

*It is deeply important to examine how critical voices have become muted; how particular 'new' master narratives of the post-Apartheid nation-state gained ascendancy; and how this impacts on the politics of memory, oral history and voice.*

The CPM is part of the Department of Historical Studies and was originally called the Western Cape Oral History Project which was established in 1985. In 2001, it changed its name to the Centre for Popular Memory (CPM) when it adopted a new strategic focus. The unit now focusses

The restorative justice work conducted by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the 1990's utilised interviews and recordings to expose individual stories. This work highlighted the value of documenting people's experience of the past based

on their individual and collective memory of events.

As part of the new strategy, the CPM has developed a multimedia archiving system utilising state-of-the-art digital recording equipment, compliant with international standards of digital archiving. A new fully-searchable online catalogue was launched this year, which has greatly enhanced research capability, enabling postgraduate students and historians to access information in a more user-friendly way. Today, the CPM's archives include: memories of people who lived through forced evictions (under Apartheid); the experiences of people living with HIV, memories of Congolese migrants, the experiences of refugees, the impact of violence and trauma and much more. The Centre has collected more than 3000 audio interviews and 500 hours of video material. This rich resource has informed a multitude of books, radio programmes, articles and documentaries, exhibitions as well as theatre productions.

"The role that the CPM fulfils at UCT is unique because our approach is innovative. We do not utilise traditional or static methodologies for finding the answers. Rather, we adopt an open approach to gathering historical facts. Ultimately, we are interested in how this knowledge in the form of a living history can be used," said Renate.

The CPM is keen to engage in public partnerships and cross-functional research. The aim is for the centre to be a resource for UCT as a whole, which means collaborating on projects across



Guests admire the 'We remember' exhibition at the CPM 10 anniversary event.



Attending the anniversary event pictured L-R: Renate Meyer; Professor Alessandro Portelli (Mellon Visiting Fellow in CPM) and Dr Sean Field (CPM Director).

faculties and departments. Future plans include training students from the Centre for Film and Media Studies (CFMS) and Department of Historical Studies on audio-visual material and on the visual documentation process, as well as developing content for portable media platforms, such as for mobile phones and online teaching resources. Externally the centre partners with research organisations and academics from universities around the world

including internationally renowned oral-history pioneer Professor Alessandro Portelli who spoke at this year's 10-year celebrations. Although CPM is supported by UCT and the Faculty, the centre relies heavily on external funding which comes from a variety of corporate donors as well as foundations. Fundraising is therefore an ongoing priority and crucial for the future sustainability of the centre.

"Another one of our aims is to increase public knowledge. We

try to ensure that each project has a strong social impact and public engagement component with both academic and educational outcomes. For example, when we conduct research in a particular community, we incorporate skills development by training members of the community in interviewing techniques. We also ensure that the project outcomes are shared in schools via educational posters and other learning tools," concludes Renate. ■

## New student spaces in the Faculty

A number of new student spaces have been created in the Faculty for undergraduate and postgraduate students. The Arts Building on Upper Campus, which is home to a number of Humanities departments including the Centre for Film and Media Studies, has recently opened a new postgraduate space for its Film Studies students. The new facility features seminar rooms and upgraded computer stations, to bring the provision in the Arts block up to the level of facilities in Robert Leslie.

In other news, the Department of Psychology moved from the Graduate School in Humanities building into a modern, purpose-



built space in the PD Hahn building in June. The new location underwent an extensive renovation earlier this year and now features a state-of-the-art 'Sleep Lab' for research purposes, a new tutor's room which includes a consultation area as well as a dedicated computer lab and lounge space for PhD students.

According to Deputy Dean David Wardle, these new student spaces indicate something of the Faculty's commitment to improving the postgraduate student experience by providing dedicated areas where postgrads can work uninterrupted in pleasant surroundings.

# Student talent on show in December

The Michaelis School of Fine Art will host its Graduation Exhibition at Hiddingh campus in December. This annual showcase enables members of the public to view the extraordinary work of students who are in their final year of completing either the Bachelor in Fine Arts Degree or the Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art.

**52** students will showcase their work this year in over 30 rooms, which will be made available on Hiddingh campus. A broad selection of painting, sculpture, new media, print and photographic works from the country's premier art school will be on show and the artists will be on-hand to discuss their work. According to exhibition organisers, the overall atmosphere of the opening night will be one of celebration, featuring live music and refreshments. Michaelis will also use the opportunity to launch a 200-page catalogue that will accompany the exhibits.

"The show is a culmination of four years of hard work and for the students, is the point of departure into a promising future. For art-lovers it has become tradition to attend the Michaelis Graduation Show opening to see the newest crop of talented and ambitious young artist – and to snap up some of their work at good prices," says Nadja Daehnke, curator of the Michaelis Galleries.

Three of the young artists on show this December are:



**Nobukho Nqaba** is a fourth year Fine Art student whose talent has already become recognised. She was awarded the 2012 Tierney Fellowship, a fellowship supporting emerging artists in the field of photography, and she will be one of the artists participating in the upcoming *Live Arts Festival* in Cape Town, alongside well-known

national and international artists. Nobukho's work at the graduation exhibition will be titled: **UNOMGCANA LIKHAYA LAM (My home is nomgcana)**. The work uses the image of the striped plastic, mesh bag to discuss issues around migration and 'otherness'.



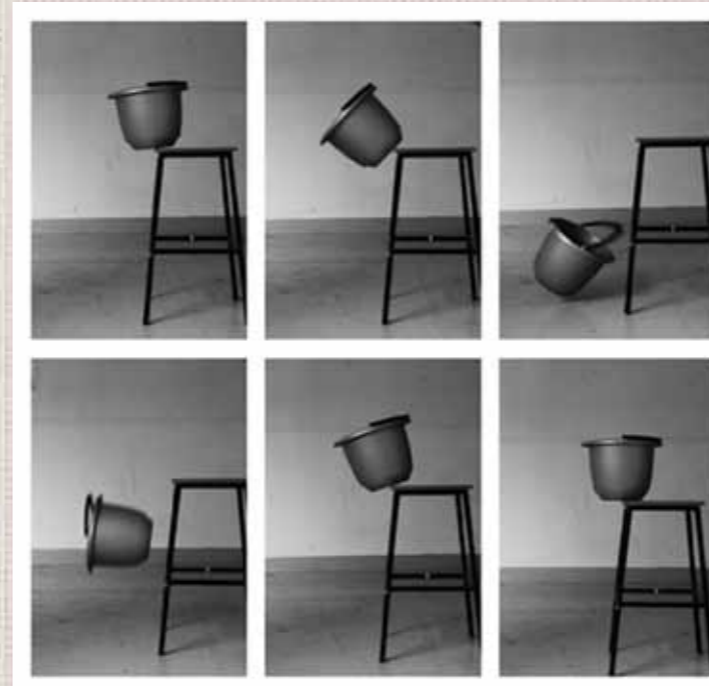
**Nicole Fraser** is currently completing her Bachelor in Fine Art Degree, majoring in photography. For her body of work titled: **Garrisons**, Nicole visited a number of buildings designed to house SANDF personnel in Cape Town. Of her work she writes, "My photographs explore living spaces of the military: the domestic, recreational and communal spaces. The project looks at physical markers within an architecture that reinforces strict order, hierarchy, and the use of design to control."



**Liesl Potgieter** is a Fine Art student who specialises in printmaking at the Michaelis School of Art. This talented artist also creates videos, photographs and sculptures. "My work engages with objects and acts that could be overlooked and passed by without a second glance. In my art I include a series of absurd and playful actions, performed on mundane objects of the everyday, but that are paradoxically documented with extreme

care and seriousness," she says of the work which will be on display in December.

The Graduation Exhibition will be open to the public from Tuesday to Saturday from 11:00 to 16:00, from 6 to 19 December 2012, with the opening event taking place 5 December at 18:00. For more information on these and other Michaelis events, contact Nadja Daehnke on +27 21 480 7170 or email: nadja.daehnke@uct.ac.za ■



Top Left: Liesl Potgieter's work  
Bottom Left: **Garrisons** by Nicole Fraser  
Right: **UNOMGCANA LIKHAYA LAM** by Nobukho Nqaba



## Student news:

### Mohau wins accolades

Last year, Michaelis postgraduate student, Mohau Modisakeng, scooped the coveted Sasol New Signatures award. Modisakeng's winning work, titled 'Qhatha' was described by judges as 'one that unites the artist's persona charging the work with a bold and sensual identity drawing the viewer into the space.' Modisakeng was awarded the Grand Prize of R60000 together with a solo exhibition at the Pretoria Art Museum which ran from 30 August to 30 September 2012.



Modisakeng's work entitled 'Qhatha' scooped the Sasol New Signatures award

### Visit the Michaelis Galleries:

The Michaelis School of Fine Art is home to a 200 square metre, state-of-the-art gallery space that houses exhibitions by students and staff members throughout the year.

The galleries regularly present open lectures, walkabouts and workshops which are open to members of the public. For more information, visit:

<http://www.michaelis.uct.ac.za/>

## Academic secures Thomas Pringle Award

Professor Kelwyn Sole, of the Department of English Language and Literature, received the 2011 Thomas Pringle Award for his 1700-word poem entitled Cape Town™.

The accolade was announced at an awards ceremony which took place on 15 June. Cape Town™, first published in the journal *New Contrast* in 2010, is Sole's third accolade from the academy. In 1989 he won its Olive Schreiner Prize for Poetry as a 'new or emergent talent' with his first collection, *The Blood of Our Silence*. He also picked up the Thomas Pringle Award for Literary Criticism in 1998.

"This poem was a way to channel a lot of emotion about the state of my city and my country; there's an amount of anger and frustration in the poem," he says. "It's the necessity of structuring the poem that allows me both to tame these emotions, and gain a more distanced – let's say 'objective' – view of them, and of their subject matter." ■



## Students bag prizes at CHINESE competition

The preliminary contest of the 11th Chinese Language Proficiency Competition was held at Boland College in Stellenbosch, on 5 May 2012. UCT students walked away with almost half of the total competition prizes.



UCT contestants pictured here with the School of Languages and Literatures' Professor Qianlong Wu.



First-year Mandarin Chinese students learn the art of making dumplings (jiao zi) at Doyu Restaurant in Rondebosch.

## Knighthood for Wilhelm Snyman

The Italian State has awarded Wilhelm Snyman the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, aka the Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana. This honour was bestowed in recognition of his efforts in promoting Italian language and culture in South Africa. Snyman, who is a lecturer in the School of Languages and Literatures, was formally presented with the order at the rank of Cavaliere, a knighthood, at a recent reception at the residence of the Italian ambassador to South Africa, Dr Vincenzo Schioppa. ■



## Professor Joan Hambidge



Professor Joan Hambidge has been awarded the prestigious ATKV prize for her volume of poetry *Visums by verstek: 'n Keur uit die reisgedigte* which was published in 2011. She has received numerous awards for her creative works in the past including the coveted Eugène Marais Prize for literature. She was shortlisted for the Sol Plaatje European Union Poetry Award 2012. Hambidge is a Professor of Afrikaans Literature & Creative Writing (School of Languages & Literatures). ■

## Dr Sylvia Bruinders



Dr Sylvia Bruinders (SACM) was awarded a doctorate by the University of Illinois in May. She has since become a recipient of the African Humanities Programme Postdoctoral Fellowship of the American Council of Learned Societies. The Fellowship allows her to write a monograph on the doctoral research she has been doing on the Christmas Bands Movement in the Western Cape. ■

23 participants, drawn from the Universities of Stellenbosch, Rhodes, Cape Town and South Africa (UNISA), took part in the South African leg of the competition. All of the participants are currently enrolled for Chinese language (Mandarin) courses, supported by the Confucius Institute at their respective institutions. The UCT delegation consisted of eight students, some of whom commenced Chinese language study in February 2012. Distinguished guests included: Mr Tong Defa, Deputy Consul General of the Chinese Consulate in Cape Town, Mr Wei Yanggen, first secretary of Education at the Chinese Embassy in Pretoria, Professor Doug Rawlings, Acting Vice-Rector at the University of Stellenbosch, and Mr Jeppie from the South African Ministry of Education.

After three hours of proficiency assessments, a total of nine prizes

were awarded. UCT's Rachel Anderson received second prize, qualifying her to attend the final of the Chinese Bridge Competition in Changsha, Hunan in July. Birte Toussaint, a UCT Engineering graduate, won third prize: a one-year Confucius Institute Scholarship. First year language students Tracy Semmelink and Hana Petersen each won the 'Best Talent Show' awards.

"This success is quite momentous considering the fact that UCT, with the help of the Confucius Institute, only launched Chinese courses in 2011. Our students impressed the audience and the judges with their vocal, dancing, and painting abilities. The words of the songs were uttered correctly, in tune and with the right rhythm. It sounded exactly like traditional music performed by Chinese singers. No wonder the MC joked that the Chinese culture is Karaoke," said Professor Qianlong Wu, Deputy

Director, UCT Confucius Institute. Judging from the pace of progress (in 2011 UCT walked away with two third prizes), it is possible that UCT students will be representing South Africa in the final of the Chinese Bridge Competition in 2013. "To ensure that this progress is maintained, the Confucius Institute is committed to offering credit-bearing courses through the UCT School of Languages & Literatures and will strive to raise the quality of teaching to a much higher level. It will also offer some Confucius Institute courses to the public. Within a short time, we hope that UCT will be the centre for Chinese in Western Cape," said Professor Qianlong Wu.

Chinese languages courses are currently offered through the Faculty of Humanities' School of Languages & Literatures (SLL). For more information on these and other available courses, please visit the Faculty's website. ■





# Overcoming adversity

## Phindile's story

**A** young alumna is tackling HIV/Aids head-on with the launch of her organisation: *Rebranding HIV*, a non-profit forum focused on advocacy and providing support to affected individuals. Phindile Sithole-Spong, who graduated in 2011 with a BA in Film and Media Production, found out she had been born HIV-positive when she was 19. She publically declared her status whilst still a student at UCT and has since been working to eliminate the stigma that surrounds the disease. *Humanities Update* caught up with the young, outspoken and extremely busy entrepreneur for an update on her life post UCT.

**HU: Tell us a little bit about your childhood, your family and upbringing.**

**Phindile:** My childhood was nothing special, but it was a childhood, which I think has made me into the happy person that I am today. Although it was filled with tragedies and a lot of deaths, especially during my formative years, I think that having grown up in a mostly loving and positive environment and being raised primarily by women has made me the go-getter that I am now. I was born in Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto and lived in Pretoria with my grandmother, sisters and cousins until I was four years old when I got really sick and moved to "the city" with my mom Paulina, who was working as a maid in Johannesburg. Although my family didn't have much, my mom was able to put my sisters and me through school and gave us what we needed so that we could make something of ourselves. Watching my mother and grandmother and the rest of the women in my family made me realize how strong women can be, and that they are capable of anything. Some of my biggest life lessons were learnt at an early age like cooking (my mom was the best cook and had a thing for Italian food); and my grandmother was a hard worker who managed to keep a family of nine together without any formal education.

**HU: What made you decide to major in Film & Media Studies at UCT? How has this shaped your career?**

**Phindile:** I hadn't planned to study Film & Media. I had originally planned to study Dance and Choreography, but after getting sick in the first week and not being able to dance I decided to study Film & Media. Although it was not my first choice, it was something I was always curious about, especially as I had grown up loving heroines and wondering about the mindset of people who wrote about them. Studying Film & Media also allowed me to pursue my other love, English literature. Although I wasn't amongst the most well spoken of students, I did love the English language and I was fascinated by words. Today I use my studies in English to write proposals, to speak to people and to engage with the world. Film & Media studies also opened my eyes to the world outside of South Africa and in fact was one of the reasons why I went into HIV/AIDS (advocacy work and social development) because I was able to assess media campaigns around a virus that was so much a part of my life and to ask the questions which have led me to where I am today.

**HU: Despite years of education campaigns and awareness, there appears to still be a lot of stigma around HIV/ AIDS. What are the most difficult challenges you have had to overcome as a person living with the virus and working in this arena?**

**Phindile:** The biggest challenge today I believe is ignorance. I, for one, was ignorant before finding out about my status and believed that I knew all there was to know about the virus. I think people have become lazy and just ingest whatever they are fed without looking into it and questioning it. As a person living with HIV I have had to put up with a lot of discrimination from people who were ill-informed and who had not taken the time to educate themselves on the issues. I have lost

a lot of friends, but I have gained some great teachers and have had the pleasure of meeting people I really look up to, like Jamar Rogers from "The Voice US", and of working with UNAIDS, FORD Foundation and the AIDS Consortium, to name a few. I realize now that people have become apathetic to the pandemic, and that, I think, will be to all our detriment.

**HU: You were selected as an African Youth Delegate to attend Living 2012, the 13th International Conference of people living with HIV which took place in Washington DC in July (and you attended the International AIDS Conference 2012) what an incredible honour! Tell us, what did you learn and what were you able to share with the international community? What impact has this had on your life and your advocacy work here in South Africa?**

**Phindile:** Attending the conference was a big wake-up call for me. Not only because I got to learn so much about the virus (based on scientific studies) but also because I realized just how many people around the world are involved in HIV/AIDS advocacy and the various problems in their countries. My biggest lesson, however, was that what I had unintentionally started had to continue at all costs because there is still so much that needs to be done, especially in the field of providing emotional support for people living with the virus. It's one thing to talk about all of the new drugs, it's entirely another to speak about the emotional implications of contracting HIV. That I think is something we as an HIV/AIDS community have not dealt with enough. I got to share my views on what I think needs to be done, especially in South Africa and as young people. I let people know that we have a job to do, and that it is far from over.

**HU: Tell us more about the work that your organisation Rebranding HIV is doing. In what ways do you believe that you are making a difference?**

**Phindile:** I started *Rebranding HIV* after thinking about where we had gone wrong as a nation, as a people, when it came to HIV/AIDS, and having attended a talk by Timothy Maurice Webster at UCT when I was a student. I realized that the major problem was that people had put out their own definition of HIV/AIDS before really learning about it, and that, as Mr Webster said in his talk, can be detrimental to any brand. It was when I started looking at it in this light that I realized that, if from the beginning we as a people, had taken time out to really find out about HIV/AIDS, we could have stopped a lot of misunderstanding and people today would know that it wasn't a "gay/black/poor disease" as so many campaigns have said it was at

the beginning, but that it was like cancer. Through *Rebranding HIV* I aim to educate people on HIV/AIDS, so they know what it really is, and fully understand it so that they don't make the same mistake we have made countless times.

**HU: What is Phindile passionate about?**

**Phindile:** I have many passions. My mother would tell you that I am passionate about clothing and shoes and she is probably right, but I also love food. I love meeting people and now that I get to travel more with work and going to conferences, I love discovering and learning about various countries, people's backgrounds and stories. I am also quite a nerd. I do get distracted very easily but I love learning, not just because you gain new insight but because you become a better person, a more aware version of yourself and that is something I hope to never lose.

**HU: You are engaged in very important work and have already achieved so much so where to from here? What does your future hold?**

**Phindile:** I honestly don't know 'where to from here'. It has been such a whirlwind year for me that I don't really plan beyond next week these days. At some point I would like to write a script for a movie, perhaps a book too and always be passionately curious about whatever I do. I am grateful to have been given the opportunities that I have been given but I also know that it is not something I will do forever. HIV/AIDS will change and new minds and ideas will be needed and my ideas won't be relevant in the next year or so, but I hope that whatever it is, it is for the love of the thing and it adds some value in the world, because that is something you can't put value on.

**HU: What would you say to motivate young people living with the virus today?**

**Phindile:** I would say don't let it define you. Tomorrow is what you make of it, so push on, learn, love, be loved and push to be a better version of yourself. Set your sights on something and go for it, don't let something as irrelevant as your status define your future or your plans. The world IS still your oyster, if you are willing to put in the work. Cry if you must, have a glass of wine, shout, scream, but then sit down and be grateful for what you have now, and no one can take that away from you.

To find out more on Phindile's advocacy work as well as her organisation *Rebranding HIV*, visit the website: <http://www.rbhiv.co.za/> ■

# Future students learn the ropes

The UCT applications process was made a little easier this year when the 'wannabe@humanities' programme hosted its annual applications workshop recently. This is the second time that the Faculty of Humanities has hosted this event, which attracts over 100 aspiring university students each year. The first was held in 2011.



High School students complete their UCT applications online as part of the Humanities applications workshop.

**W**annabe@humanities is a recruitment initiative aimed at identifying and supporting prospective applicants from disadvantaged communities. The year-long programme, which is targeted at talented grade 11 and 12 learners, consists of ongoing mentorship by current Humanities students as well as regular campus visits, which aim to expose learners to academic life at UCT. The applications workshop, which forms part of the broader programme, is open to all learners who have displayed academic potential as well as an interest in the Humanities. These learners are typically drawn from Plumstead, Cape Town and Thandokhulu High Schools, as well as various high schools in Khayelitsha, Philippi and Mfuleni.

On Saturday, 28 July, 96 learners were transported to Upper Campus so that they could spend the morning in the Beattie Computer Lab. Following a light breakfast and with the assistance of their mentors (senior Humanities students), learners completed their UCT online application forms. This process required that they first sign up for web-based email accounts and also register for the National Benchmark Test (NBT). Faculty Recruitment Officer and programme coordinator, Khwezi Bonani, said "Judging by last year's experience, about 80% of these learners will be working on a computer for the first time in their lives. Since the programme is about empowering kids, the brief to our student mentors is that they allow them to do as much as they can by themselves."

The initiative celebrated a major milestone earlier this year when nine of the 2011 applicants were accepted at UCT for study in 2012. Some of these students achieved entrance scores that were significantly higher than their mainstream counterparts. Of these nine students, two are currently studying Social Work; two are pursuing Bachelor of Arts degrees and the remainder are studying towards Bachelor of Social Science degrees. This achievement underscores the critical value of recruitment interventions, as without programmes such as 'wannabe@humanities' many talented black students from disadvantaged communities would not consider UCT a viable academic destination.

"I started coming to UCT events last year and I can say I know more about UCT now than any other learner in my school. I am even called *UCT boy* at school. The project motivates me to study hard and is making my life easy with all the assistance I get from them. Now I don't have to worry about how to fill in the application form or how to register for the NBT, I don't even have to pay a cent for all these things" said, Mzoxolo Sitoto, (17) from Intsebenziswano High School, Philippi.

The programme continues to gain momentum, thanks to a dedicated team of staff and students. The ongoing commitment is to generate a new and bigger intake of UCT students for 2013 and beyond. ■

Launched in September 2010, HUMA has established itself as a site of lively and productive intellectual debate within and beyond UCT. Working collaboratively with colleagues in many departments and faculties, we actively promote inter-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary exchange among academic staff and students. We have also made concerted efforts to bring the university into conversation with a variety of publics beyond the academy. During 2012, HUMA's programme of events comprised some 60 seminars, lectures, workshops and panel discussions. Some of the highlights were:



One of our most successful seminar series has been the *HUMA Book Lunches*. More in-depth than a book launch, these seminars headline the accomplishment of academic books, and their importance in advancing knowledge in the humanities. Intended to run once a month, the series became a weekly feature – a sign of how many books were being published, and the enthusiasm among authors for this kind of exposure.



In line with UCT's Afropolitan outlook, we launched a new series, *Continental Connections*, which brought a group of scholars from Mali, Senegal, Kenya and Ghana, to HUMA. Their visit, which included academic seminars and more informal meetings with students, has planted the seed for more extended exchanges – including visits by HUMA researchers to Ghana and Mali in 2013.

One of our forums for public engagement, Cape Town Commons, deals with issues of citizenship in Cape Town – including questions about how public monies are spent, and how this affects the quality of public life. 'Tata my billions', held in the Mowbray Town Hall, generated vigorous discussion on the lottery and its unspent billions.



The year saw a new lecture series on *Topics in Social Theory*, complemented by workshops on *Truth and Method*, covering a range of epistemological and methodological topics.

A series of workshops on *Calligraphic Africa* – which included input from a master calligrapher from Egypt – opened up a space to think about calligraphy as a mode of Arabic writing and representation.

*Silent Spring and the making of environmental publics*, a symposium marking the 50th anniversary of the publication of Rachel Carson's seminal text, *Silent Spring*, saw scholars and students from literature, history, sociology, geography, anthropology, and law reflect on the burgeoning field of the Environmental Humanities. The enthusiasm generated by this event has helped to galvanise efforts towards a new interdisciplinary master's degree in the field. ■

Professor Deborah Posel is the Director of HUMA. HUMA events are free and open to the public. Visit [www.humanities.ac.za](http://www.humanities.ac.za) or [www.huma.ac.za](http://www.huma.ac.za) for events in your area. We would love to see you there.

# Religious Studies visits Khartoum



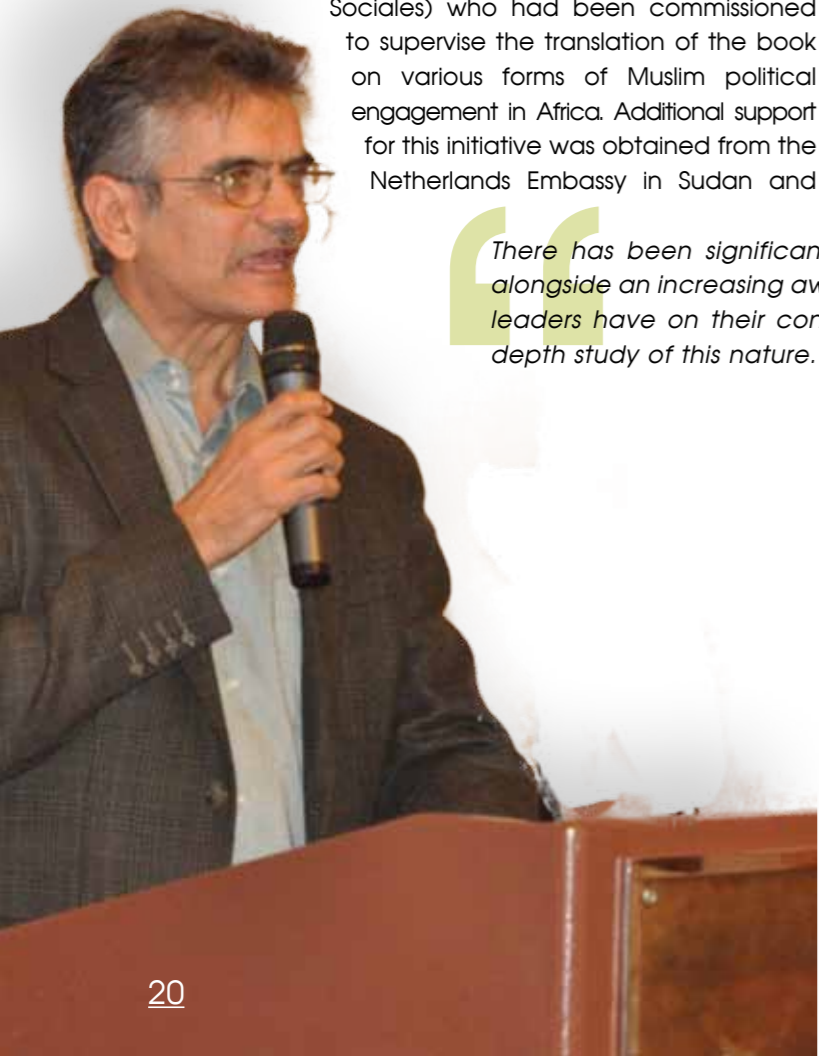
Professor Abdulkader Tayob attended the public launch for Islam and Muslim Politics in Africa which took place in Khartoum. This event was organised by The CEDEJ-Khartoum (Centre d'Études et de Documentation Économiques, Juridiques et Sociales) who had been commissioned to supervise the translation of the book on various forms of Muslim political engagement in Africa. Additional support for this initiative was obtained from the Netherlands Embassy in Sudan and

through collaboration with the LAM (Les Afriques dans le Monde in Bordeaux) and the ASC (African Studies Centre in Leiden). As part of this trip into Africa, Professor Tayob visited several universities in Nairobi, Mombasa, Zanzibar and Egerton to discuss potential research collaboration and to obtain support for a future project on religious leaders, which will commence in 2013.

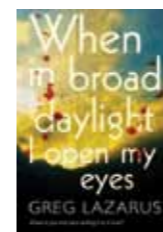
Professor Tayob is head of Religious Studies at UCT and he is one of the Faculty's four NRF Research Chairs. Professor Tayob and Dr Andrea Brigaglia are the project facilitators for a project on **Religious Leadership in Africa**.

*There has been significant growth in the number of mosques and churches alongside an increasing awareness of the responsibility and impact that religious leaders have on their constituencies. This is one of the key reasons for an in-depth study of this nature.*

Participants in this project will be selected from students and academics working in the disciplines of Religion, Sociology and Social Anthropology in East Africa, on the basis of their individual research proposals. They will be expected to share insights and methodologies in a research workshop planned for 2013. Religion continues to play a central role in the lives of the people of the region (East Africa). There has been significant growth in the number of mosques and churches alongside an increasing awareness of the responsibility and impact that religious leaders have on their constituencies. This, according to Professor Tayob, is one of the key reasons for an in-depth study of this nature. Moreover, the project will be an opportunity to develop research capacity among young academics and advanced research students. ■



# Husband and wife pen psycho thriller



Dr Greg Fried and his wife Lisa Lazarus have collaborated on their second book entitled *When in Broad Daylight I Open My Eyes*. Set in Cape Town, the novel explores the darker side of human relationships, family secrets and denial. *Humanities Update* spoke to this busy philosopher and his psychologist wife to find out more.

**HU: The novel is described as being a clever and intriguing psychological thriller. What was the inspiration for the story?**

**Greg and Lisa:** Our first book was a memoir, *The Book of Jacob*, on our first year of parenting. It was about the 'existential earthquake', as one reviewer put it, of having a child. That was quite a dark, though we hope also humorous, book. However, we knew that we wanted to focus on our first love, which is fiction. We have both always been avid fiction readers. For our novel, we had a very simple idea: we would begin with a female psychologist and a man with bad intentions, and see what happened.

**HU: Describe the experience of co-authoring a book with your spouse. Any creative differences?**

**Greg and Lisa:** We love writing together and are surprised that more fiction isn't co-authored. You share writer's angst, help each other over stumbling blocks, and bounce ideas off each other. What is exciting is that during the process, both people come to inhabit the same imaginary space and contribute to making it richer. We don't fight about writing. Of course, we fight about other things.



Photographer, Nikki Rixon

**HU: The novel was launched in April (at the Book Lounge). What has been the public reception both then and since?**

**Greg and Lisa:** The reception has been mostly very positive. The book has been described as 'part erotic thriller, part novel of ideas', and we think that this is a good summary of it.

**HU: What about future projects, any new books in the pipeline?**

**Greg and Lisa:** We are writing another book, which is set in Cape Town, both in the present day and in the eighteenth century.

**More on the authors:**

The book is written under the pseudonym "Greg Lazarus". Greg is a philosopher at the University of Cape Town. Lisa is a psychologist and freelance writer. She has a master's degree in Educational Psychology and a Higher Diploma in Education, and recently completed her master's degree in Creative Writing at UCT. The couple's first collaboration was the memoir *The Book of Jacob: A Journey into Parenthood*, published in 2009.

The new book is available in most bookshop as well as online bookshops (SA only). It retails at R200 (Exclusive Books price). ■

# AXL re-imagines the focus on Africa

A new partnership in the Humanities is engaging scholars on questions of knowledge-creation generated through disciplinary and interdisciplinary teaching and research.



A merger between four previously distinct academic departments has created the School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics (AXL) which held its official launch earlier this year. In this article, we look at some of the milestones achieved in 2012.

The AXL is an exciting place to be. Instead of working solely in silos, staff and students are encouraged to locate synergies, to explore innovative ways of working and to engage in knowledge and resource sharing. This partnership, which will consolidate years of research by African academics, is already bearing fruit in the form of cross-functional collaboration on initiatives. Issues such as what it means to be 'African', the meaning of culture,

feminist discourse in Africa, the construction of identity and race as well as the role of language alongside the continent's political and social developments, are examples of the areas in which AXL is uniquely positioned to provide exploration and insight. This, according to the director of the school, Associate Professor Jane Bennett, is the value of the school: its ability to examine familiar themes more critically, in new ways and from a quintessentially Afro-centric perspective.

However, the journey towards AXL has been long and not without controversy. In 2011, the merits of the proposed amalgamation were hotly debated, which led months of protracted discussions involving students, staff members and Faculty executive, under intense media

scrutiny. At the heart of the debate was the perceived devaluation of African Studies at the institution as well as the concern about the loss of departmental independence for the Centre for African Studies (CAS) in particular.

"There was a space where the whole Faculty was asked to think very seriously about what it would mean, not simply to create a new school, but perhaps to change the face of the Faculty itself" said Bennett.

But these anxieties have now been set aside following some significant gains achieved since the launch. Key among these is Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza's (NRF Chair in Land Reform and Democracy) appointment as AC Jordon Chair in African Studies which brings Professor Ntsebeza's renowned intellectual achievements



and vision into the heart of the School. In addition, Dr Susan Levine (Social Anthropology), a recipient of UCT's Distinguished Teacher Award in 2011, received a further accolade in 2012 in the form of a *National Excellence for Teaching and Learning Award* from the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA). Through the AGI and Gender Studies, AXL students and staff benefited from a visit from internationally acclaimed documentary film-maker and writer Yaba Badoe (Ghana) in August. Badoe spent a week at UCT giving seminars and screening her award-winning documentary *The Witches of Gambaga* which explores the negative impact of cultural beliefs and superstition in parts of Africa. The visit was coordinated in collaboration with the Faculty's African Cinema Unit. Linguistics hosted an extraordinarily successful residential seminar, entitled *Language and Desire*, to which several AXL postgraduates, affiliates and Faculty were invited. The three NRF Chairs held within AXL have continued to stimulate the School, and a very wide range of affiliated researchers and writers, through a thoroughly first-class array of seminars, digital production, and research publication.

"Even though we are still navigating our new partnership, we have made quiet progress and have much to honour" suggests Bennett. "For instance, we need to note with pride the new *Association of African Studies* established by CAS and Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza, the promotions of two Faculty (Fiona Ross to full Professor, and the promotion of Lesley Fordred to Associate Professor) in Anthropology, and the publication of three issues of *Feminist Africa* as well as two of *Social Dynamics*. These are all great achievements. AXL also plans to run an end-of-year Faculty seminar discuss the 'futures' of our disciplinary/trans-disciplinary spaces. This seminar will be stimulated by a dynamic paper written by Professor Francis Nyamnjoh on the Futures of Anthropology, and all AXL units will contribute their own inputs in an effort to stimulate our thinking across conventional and familiar zones of work' Bennett commented.

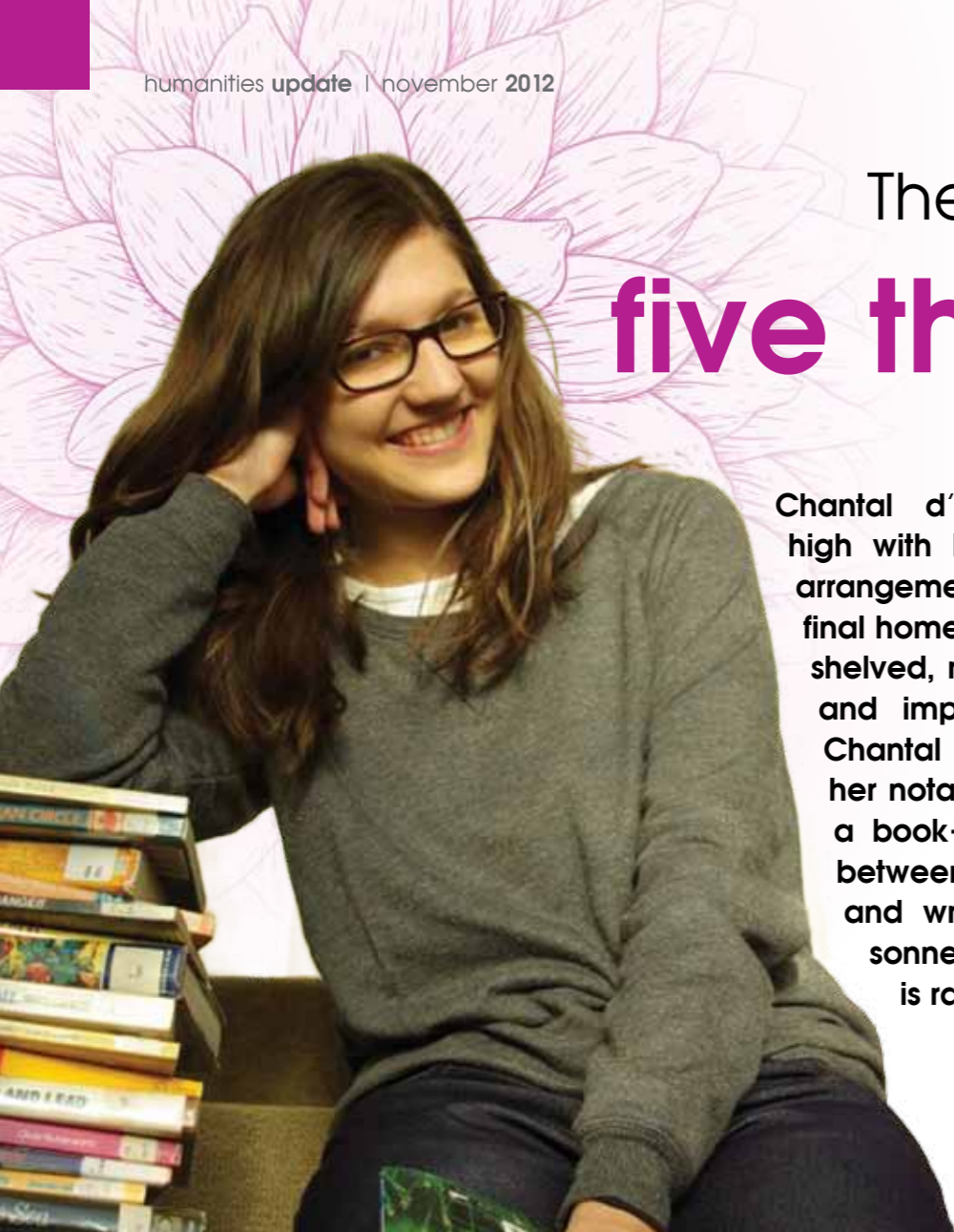
*The African Feminists: Talking the Walk* is another project that connects UCT academics and students with their counterparts in different African contexts. Initiated in 2011 by the African Gender



Institute, this programme exposes the work and ideas of African Feminists in order to answer the question: 'What do African feminists look and sound like?' Key events include seminar presentations, book launches, documentary screenings and panel discussions. In 2012, one of these included a visit from Feminist activist, Sara Longwe who gave a talk entitled 'Legal Voice: feminist activism from the body up', an account of her legal struggles for equality in Zambia.

Another important milestone for AXL has been the establishment of the **Centre for African Languages Diversity (CALDi)**, a research unit headed by Dr Matthias Brenzinger. CALDi has been created to stimulate the study and documentation of African languages in order to promote linguistic diversity on the continent. Through its scholarship programme and its collaborations with international institutions, the unit will soon attract MA and PhD students from around Africa. More details on this exciting initiative are available on page 9. of this issue of *Humanities Update*.

AXL is fast approaching its one year anniversary and a great many more projects are in the pipeline from this dynamic unit. "The School is now travelling towards synergies which encourage debate on the challenges of creating imaginative, intellectual, and politically engaged communities whose gaze on the world is, unqualifiedly and complicatedly, African. The extent to which the School is able to grow organically as a creature which can be 'more than the sum of its parts' is the extent to which the School's own participants have the time and space to imagine modes of working outside the narrow, if demanding, frameworks of management-administered academia. It is fundamentally a new collegiality which will enliven AXL" concluded Bennett. ■



# The reading of the five thousand

By Aimee Dyamond

**Chantal d'Offay's living room is piled high with books. But this is a temporary arrangement. The books are en route to their final home where they will be ordered and shelved, ready to be devoured by young and impressionable generations. While Chantal is a self-confessed bibliophile, her notable collection is not the result of a book-hoarding affliction. Somewhere between catching up on her own reading and writing an honours thesis on the sonnets of British Romanticism, Chantal is raising a library.**

of Newlands Rotary, who overheard Chantal discussing her campaign in a Tamboerskloof deli, approached her table, eager to help. Some weeks later, the recipient of the new library was officially confirmed. Hector Pieterse Secondary School in Kraaifontein will soon receive its very own literary treasure trove stocked with a wide range of material.

Since launching the campaign, Chantal has become well-practiced in the art of literary curatorship. "It's a time-consuming process," she admits. "I have to inspect every book to make sure it's up to date and in good condition." This process includes sorting works freckled with mould and discolouration, damp from months of storage, pages sliding out of their binding. But Chantal isn't picky. The musty bouquet of well-used pages is a welcome scent.

The objective behind the *Launching a Library Campaign* is to source a colourful range of titles, including career advice publications and self-help material designed to give learners a scholarly head start

The idea for Chantal's *Launching a Library Campaign* emerged when a deposit of orphaned books entered her care in March. A family friend had passed away and Chantal suddenly found herself bequeathed with the collection of titles. She decided that her box of books could be multiplied, and their collective wisdom compounded. The formula would be a simple one: one school, one library, one librarian.

For the past two years, Chantal has been involved in UCT's tutoring initiative, *TeachOut*. Her weekly visits to Intsebenziswano Secondary School in Philippi allow her to share the spirit of learning with a class of disadvantaged pupils. Yet, every week Chantal is reminded of the challenges facing education in South Africa. A small room, once

envisioned as the school library, stands bare, without a single title on its gaping shelves. "It was just an empty room, with no books at all," Chantal recalls. So in 2012, she established a project called *Launching a Library Campaign* to transform bare shelves into troves of knowledge in collaboration with The Bookery, an initiative launched in 2010 by Equal Education. "I worked out that I need to collect 250 books a week in order to reach my target of 3 600 for the library," she explained. By April 2012, the campaign was online, attracting virtual interest and a good deal of conversation. A generous donor in Johannesburg offered to courier her unwanted titles to Cape Town, while a box was delivered by a mystery benefactor from Stellenbosch. A kindly member

for the future. While Chantal feels that schools do not prepare learners enough for the leap into tertiary education, books provide a window into a world of new subjects.

In 2012, the tumultuous story of education in South Africa experienced a triumph of its own. The Centre of Science and Technology (COSAT) in Khayelitsha became the first township school to be listed on the Western Cape's top ten for the National Senior Certificate examinations in 2011, a victory and "beacon of possibility" for education in South Africa, said former principal Dr Jonathan Clark. The key to COSAT's success is the school's extensive after-hours programme, which supports and supplements classroom learning. Libraries function in much the same way, acting as an invaluable teaching aid for inquiring young minds. "School libraries are a must-have," adds Chantal. "A good deal of learning is not syllabus-based, but experiential and interactive. Well-stocked school libraries provide secure learning environments where quiet after-hours consolidation can take place" she says.

Chantal's book count has now reached 2000 and The Bookery has pledged the additional 1600 she needs from their own donations. From comic to canon, Chantal plans to stock the library shelves with a wide range of titles. She is keen to incorporate African Literature into the collection and says that she has already received four copies of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. "I was also chuffed to have received two editions of Natalie Babbitt's novels. She was my own favourite childhood author." Copies of *Tuck Everlasting* and *The Eye of the Amaryllis* will join the collection as Chantal passes on her own two favourites to a new generation of readers. Sourcing, dusting, sorting, wrapping and labelling may be a labourious process, but in the long-term there are few causes worthier than raising a library. ■

# Honorary degrees 2012

**The university regularly confers high academic honours to distinguished individuals in the form of degrees awarded *honoris causa*. These awards are in the form of doctorates or master's and are awarded to individuals who have made a valuable contribution to society. Of the eight degrees awarded by UCT in 2012, four were awarded in the Humanities:**

**Marlene Dumas:** Artist Marlene Dumas will be presented with a Doctor of Fine Arts degree. Widely regarded as one of the most influential painters working today, Dumas has continuously explored the complex range of human emotions. Born in Cape Town, she obtained a Fine Arts degree from UCT's Michaelis School of Fine Art before continuing her studies in the Netherlands. Her work appears in collections in many countries, including South Africa, the US, Japan and across Europe.



**Basil Jones and Adrian Kohler:** Basil Jones and Adrian Kohler of the Handspring Puppet Company will receive Doctor of Literature degrees, recognising their outstanding contributions to contemporary theatre. Both graduated from the Michaelis School of Fine Art at UCT in 1974, and established the company, along with two other graduates, in

1981. Handspring has since become one of the best known and respected puppet companies in the world, their collaboration with, among others, the Royal National Theatre's Warhorse project winning international acclaim.



**Zakes Mda:** Novelist, poet, playwright, painter, composer and film-maker, Zakes Mda was awarded a Doctor of Literature degree at the June graduation. A key figure in South African literature, Mda now commutes between South Africa (where he serves as director of the South African Multimedia AIDS trust in Sophiatown) and the US, where he is a professor of creative writing at Ohio

University. His many accolades include the Commonwealth Book Prize, and the Sunday Times Fiction Prize, while his 2004 novel, *The Madonna of Excelsior*, was one of the Top Ten South African Books Published in the Decade of Democracy. ■

For the full list of distinguished individuals who have received honorary degrees from UCT, visit: <http://www.uct.ac.za/about/honours/degrees/>

## Masters student **interns at WHO**



The WHO's Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability (VIP) was established to research and prevent the incidence of injuries and violence. It is also concerned with improving the quality of life for people living with disabilities. Before her departure, Wessels had the following to say about this exciting learning opportunity: "My assignment is to assist in the development of an 'evaluation primer' on outcome evaluation for parenting programmes in low and middle-income countries. This project is particularly necessary, as very few programmes in low and middle-income countries have been evaluated to determine whether they are effective or not. The project aligns with my master's thesis which investigates the design and evaluation practices of parenting programmes in South Africa."

Wessels assisted with implementing a global status report on violence prevention. She will be part of a globally diverse group of interns who work in the various UN agencies around the world. Supervisor Dr Cathy Ward says she is excited to see how Wessels' thesis has fed so directly into work that is both locally and globally relevant – and she can't wait to see the draft primer!

Wessels had spent a year as a research assistant with UCT's Safety and Violence Initiative, and this gave her the initial contact with the WHO. ■

**A**fter submitting her thesis, Psychology master's student Inge Wessels jetted off to Geneva, Switzerland, to fulfil an eight-week internship with the Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability at the World Health Organisation (WHO).

## Isidore and Theresa Cohen **Chair**

**I**n 1971, the late Mr Isidore Cohen made a bequest to UCT to establish a Chair of Hebrew Studies. Consequently, the Isidore and Theresa Cohen Chair in Hebrew Language and Literature was established in the Department of Hebrew Studies, which at that time understood its teaching mandate to include both Hebrew language and literature and Jewish culture and religion. With the establishment of the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research in 1980 and the subsequent moving of Hebrew language and literature into the School of Languages and Literatures in 2007, UCT took the necessary legal steps to

redesignate the Chair. Professor Milton Shain has been appointed as the first incumbent of the newly named Isidore and Theresa Cohen Chair in Jewish Civilisation, he is located within the Department of Historical Studies.

Professor Paula Ensor, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, said that Professor Shain is an excellent incumbent for the Chair with a well-established international research track record. "Professor Shain's wide ranging scholarship has added much to our understanding of the South African Jewish experience as well as the history of anti-Semitism. He is very well positioned to provide leadership in the area of Jewish



Professor Milton Shain is the first incumbent of the newly-named Chair.

Studies at UCT, incorporating the fields of Historical Studies, Religious Studies and Hebrew Language and Literature." ■

## Music students **spread their wings**

A group of UCT Opera students were invited to participate in the prestigious Glimmerglass Festival, which took place in Cooperstown, New York State. The group departed on 26 of June to spend three months studying and performing in New York.



Maudé Montierre will pursue her master's degree at the Royal College of Music in London.



Reese Barkhuizen has secured a full scholarship at the prestigious Sibelius Academy in Finland.

**A**The Glimmerglass Opera Company was established in 1975 by a group of American artists, musicians and art-lovers, all residents of the village of Cooperstown. The 2012 programme included three opera productions as well as a series of special concerts featuring some of opera's most gifted performers from around the world. The South African College of Music (SACM) group was comprised of postgraduate vocal music student Thesele Kamano; Linda Nteleze who is completing her fourth year in Music studies (soprano), Bongiwé Nakadi and Makudupanyane Senoana who are both third year students and Amos Nomnabo who is currently completing his Postgraduate Diploma in Music (PGDip). Maudé Montierre, a BMus Honours student (soprano) was to have joined them, but instead left to pursue her master's degree at the Royal College of Music in London. Maudé will be back to perform in SACM's end-of-year collaboration opera with Cape Town Opera entitled: *The Tales of Hoffmann*.

Whilst these Opera students travelled west to America, another group headed east to take part

in the Choir Academy 2012 of the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival in Germany. Out of the 500 singers who auditioned this year, six were selected from the SACM. Victoria Stevens and Levy Sekgapane (third year), second year students Litho Nqai and Abongile Fumba and Thembinkosi Mgetyengana (PGDip) are the incredibly talented group who represented UCT in the 2012 competition.

In other news, Cellist Aristide du Plessis sought greener pastures this September when he relocated to Zurich to study with Thomas Grossenbacher at the Zurich Hochschule der Kunst. Reese Barkhuizen who is studying towards a BMus Honours (piano) has been accepted to the prestigious Sibelius Academy in Finland with a full scholarship.

Siya Charles BMus Honours (trombone) and Vuyo Sotashe a fourth year Jazz vocal student, were selected to visit and study in Arcevia (Italy) during the July vacation as part of an Italy/Cape Town jazz student exchange programme in conjunction with the Arcevia Jazz Festival. ■

# The Fine Art of punching

Community Punching Bags, an exhibition by Associate Professor Johann van der Schijff, run in collaboration with a number of high schools in Cape Town, intrigued viewers on its opening night at the Iziko South African National Gallery Annexe on 23 May.



Johann discusses his interactive art during a teacher's workshop.



An exhibition in Cape Town.

The multi-coloured punching bags – all adorned with faces – that learners and art teachers from Camps Bay High, Fish Hoek High, Heideveld Senior Secondary, Isilimela High School and Livingstone High had designed with van der Schijff were, read the press release, to “show that issues often not spoken about openly, such as those that deal with violence, ‘the other’, stereotyping, discrimination, racism, xenophobia and human rights can be addressed in a collaborative and creative way through the making of art”.

“I’m interested in interactive art, where the viewer actually becomes part of the artwork,” explains van der Schijff. “(This exhibition) speaks about violence, and a punching bag is something you can hit.”

With his punching bag, Ncoko Mabanga, a learner from Isilimela High School, told the story of when he and a friend were robbed. “Every time when I think about that day I still feel broken inside,” says

Mabanga, adding that his choice of red and black for the bag represented what he remembered about the appearance of his assailant.

Van der Schijff was pleased that so many learners seemed to pour their hearts into the bag designs. “I think it shows you the transformative power of art and what art can do in people’s lives,” he said.

Deputy-Vice Chancellor Professor Crain Soudien, a contributor to the project, added that despite appearing on the surface to embody violence and the “ugliness of the human spirit”, the exhibition aimed to show that there is more to what we see than meets the eye.

“When we see each other, we see faces to which we put instant codes, labels, meanings, attributes,” said Soudien. “What we’re trying to do here this evening is to try to show you that a face is not a face; that we need to be seeing beyond the face.” ■

\*article courtesy UCT Daily News



## Lights, Camera, Action... for African Cinema Unit

By Lesley Marx and Alta Du Plooy

Taylor also screened a promo of a documentary about the first all-black porn film in South Africa called *Black Fruit*.

In August the ACU launched Professor Jyoti Mistry’s book, *We remember differently: Race, Memory, Imagination*. In his speech Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, who attended the event, welcomed everyone and assured the ACU of his continued support. Jyoti Mistry’s book includes a DVD of the film, the screenplay, essays by the filmmakers and contributions by film scholars. Award-winning novelist Imraan Coovadia wrote the introduction and also addressed the audience at the launch. On successive days, two more of Mistry’s films were screened with discussion following: *Le Boeuf sur le Toit*, her experimental film essay on “Right-wing Vampires, Ritual and Rapture,” screened a range of cult and underground African films that are not easy to get hold of. Noted film festival curator, Trevor Steele Taylor, joined us after his stint as film festival curator for the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, to present highlights of Nollywood film, such as *Highway to the Grave* (d/Teco Benson) and *Bleeding Rose* (d/Chucks Mordi). We also watched Glenda (aka *Snake Dancer*, d/Dirk de Villiers), a biopic of Glenda Kemp’s exotic dancing days starring the dancer herself and her famous python, Oupa.

clips from his wealth of film and television work.

The last event for 2012 showcased the work of award-winning young director, Oliver Hermanus, who also conducted a Master Class. Our screenwriting and screen production students found this event especially valuable, and were charmed by Oliver’s wit and generosity. His films, *Shirley Adams* (2009) and *Skoonheid* (2011) were screened during the week before the event. ■

### About the ACU:

The African Cinema Unit (ACU) is part of the Centre for Film and Media Studies. Under the directorship of Associate Professor Lesley Marx, this unit aims to foster historical, theoretical and critical work on African cinema; provide a forum for the intellectual and creative interaction of film scholars and filmmakers dedicated to African cinema and cinema of the African diaspora through research projects, seminars and film screenings; visit African centres of film study and exhibition, and bring local and international filmmakers and scholars to UCT to develop collaborative projects. To find out more on the ACU, visit: <http://cfms.uct.ac.za/african-cinema-unit/> or join the ACU’s Facebook page for current information on events Search: “African Cinema Unit”.



Gifted pianist Jane Yu with her mentor earlier this year. Pictured here (L-R): Eben Wagenstroom; Jane Yu and Associate Professor Franklin Larey.

**New York based pianist Jane Yu is delighting audiences around the world with her extraordinary musical abilities. The young SACM alumna started playing piano at the tender age of 10 and has since won numerous accolades earning her the respect of judges, her former teachers as well as her peers in the music industry.**

For some, talent emerges late in life. However in Jane's case, her gift was obvious to everyone by the time she turned 14. In that same year, she received a distinction in her Grade 8 Piano examinations and continued to win numerous music prizes at school. In 2006, she was awarded a medal from Trinity College of Music in London and named the youngest person (in over 50 years) to achieve a distinction for a Trinity Performance Certificate.

Jane's music training at UCT commenced in 2008 when she was accepted to study towards a Bachelor of Music degree at the South African College of Music (SACM), under the tutelage of Associate Professor Franklin Larey. Larey is one of South Africa's leading concert pianists and is a renowned music academic. He has been mentoring Jane since high school and her studies at UCT were therefore a continuation of a process of honing her skills. During 2009, she won the senior piano category at the Asia Pacific Music Competition held in Taiwan. In addition, she was awarded a scholarship to attend the Adamant Music School (Vermont, USA), where she participated in numerous concerts. During her time at UCT she was awarded a Faculty Scholarship, was on the Dean's Merit List and was a two-time recipient of the Johnny Windham Bursary for music students.

Her mentor, Larey is very proud of these and other accomplishments. "Two short years ago, Jane had to

choose between going to New York City to play at Carnegie Hall (anniversary concert of the Adamant Music School, where I am director), or the World Piano Competition in Japan. We consulted, and agreed that going to the competition was, at the time, more important for her development. She won a bronze medal at the competition after a wonderful performance of Beethoven's third Piano Concerto. She has attended the Adamant Music School in Vermont, USA since 2008 and she has been outstanding. She has played in numerous concerts, and has been very impressive. As a result, she was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in March!" says Larey.

There is no doubt that Jane is set to enjoy a long and accomplished career in music. Within a relatively short period of time, she has achieved what some can only dream of. After completing her honours degree at UCT and following an incredible performance at Carnegie Hall earlier this year, Jane received no fewer than six university offers to pursue her master's degree. Out of the Royal Academy, the Royal College, Cincinnati, New York's Manhattan School of Music, Cleveland and New England, Jane chose to study at the Manhattan School of Music where she will be joining a few other SACM alumni: Kathy Tagg, Olga Rademan, Bradley Burgess, Jo-Mari Thorne-Burgess, Leon Schelhouse, Ramon de Bruyn, Marc Uys and Nicky Schrire. ■

# Standing ovation for dance students



Pictured here from L-R: Nadine Buys, Teagan Desvaux de Marigny, Tania Voss-gatter, Kirvan Fortuin, Jody Sissing, Odille de Villiers, Natasha Rhoda, Megan Goliath and William Constable.

Nine students from UCT's School of Dance have returned triumphant from the International Theatre School (ITS) Festival, an international dance competition held annually in Amsterdam. Of the seven international dance companies represented, this group was the only one from Africa and ultimately the one that walked away with a coveted ITS Guest Award prize for the best international performance.

*I think that there is something really special about the energy that we as South Africans bring to everything we do. We received a standing ovation from the audience because they responded to our compelling energy.*

The week-long trip, from 24 to 29 July, was made possible thanks to intensive planning and choreography, dedicated fund-raising efforts as well as a Faculty grant. The diverse group, all undergraduates ranging from second to fourth year level, were selected following an audition process. They were accompanied on the trip by School of Dance staff members Lindy Raizenberg and Angie Pearson. The winning performance, entitled *A Journey from Past to Present* consisted of four themed dance pieces, each forming a part of the South African story. From the experiences of 1950's black migrant workers in *Coal Train* (choreographed by African

Dance Lecturer Maxwell Rani); a performance entitled *A Brief Encounter* that portrayed a light-hearted meeting between strangers, to the power of sisterhood in *Tan Bi*, ending with a celebration of the Pantsula – a quintessentially South African dance style that originated in the urban townships.

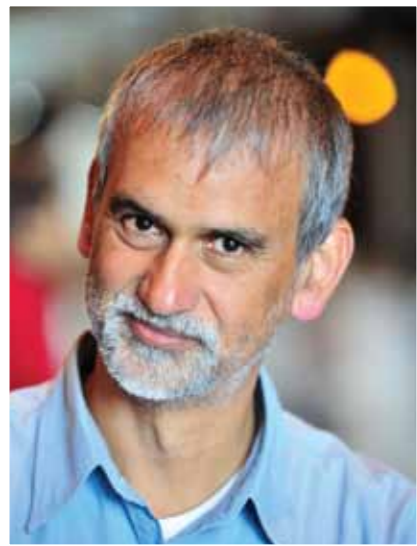
"I think that there is something really special about the energy that we as South Africans bring to everything we do. We received a standing ovation from the audience because they responded to our compelling energy. Our students did not try to emulate European dance styles but rather delivered an authentic and technically skilled performance" said Lindy Raizenberg, lecturer in Classical Ballet and Choreography.

The UCT dance group beat two other nominees for the ITS Guest Award: The Central School of Ballet from London who delivered a contemporary ballet performance entitled *Ballet Central 2012* and the Belgrade Faculty of Dramatic Arts who staged a dance interpretation of the play *Waiting for Godot*. In awarding the prize, judges commented on the novel way in which the South African performance had merged both traditional and international dance styles in a manner that was unique and exciting.

The Netherlands is widely acknowledged as the centre of dance in Europe and a visit to Nederlands Dans Theatre in the Hague, was a trip highlight. However, for some the trip held a significance beyond that of the competition – a chance to see the world and exposure to the highly competitive international dance scene. In between rigorous practice sessions and the workshops leading up to competition day, the group took time out to tour the city of Amsterdam. Third year African and Contemporary Dance major, Jody Sissing said "It was my first trip overseas, so it was very exciting and very cultural. Amsterdam as a city is very cultural and accepting of people. The trip helped me realise that dancing is what I want to do; I loved performing but seeing all the opportunity there for dancing made me really excited about my career."

It's clear that the future is bright for these students: Teagan de Marigny will soon join the Ikapa Dance Company; Kirvan Fortuin has been accepted into the prestigious CODARTS (Rotterdam) and William Constable is currently working with Bovim Ballet in a season of *Queen* at the Ballet, at the Baxter Theatre. ■





# Trailblazers

## Mike van Graan

UCT Drama Alumnus and prolific playwright, Mike van Graan, has received many accolades over the years including Fleur de Cap Best New Script Awards (2008, 2009) and a Naledi Theatre Award. His play *Brothers in Blood*, has now been translated into Italian and

was staged as a reading in Rome in October. The play has also been optioned by a Scandinavian theatre for production in Swedish in 2013. Another of his plays *Green Man Flashing* will premiere in Spanish in Buenos Aires. Mike van Graan is the Executive Director of the African Arts Institute based in Cape Town. ■

## Talia Sanhewe

Talia is a UCT Centre for Film and Media Studies alumna, an accomplished journalist and a media personality. As a journalist, she has worked for CNN; CNBC Africa; BBC World Service and *O, The Oprah Magazine*. On her return to South Africa, she established Talia Productions, allowing her to pursue a career behind the camera as a television producer and as a professional keynote speaker. Talia obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Film, Media and Visual Studies) in 2004. ■



## Xandi van Dijk

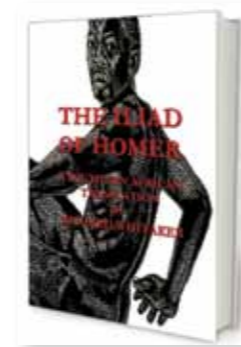
SACM alumnus and member of the *Signum Quartet* a German String Quartet founded in 1994. The group is currently supported by the stART Programme of the Bayer Cultural Affairs Department (Bayer Kultur) and in 2011 was named a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist. ■



## Michael Subotzky

Michaelis alumnus turned talented photographer, Mikhael Subotzky was recognised as the Standard Bank Young Artist for Visual Art 2012. This Capetonian's extraordinary work is exhibited around the world including in the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Foto Museum Amsterdam. Subotzky is a BA Fine Arts graduate (2004). He earned distinctions in Studiowork, Photography and Discourse of Art. During his time at UCT, he earned a Class Medal, was on the Dean's Merit List and received the Michaelis Prize, amongst other accolades. ■

# Look & Listen Faculty publications



## THE ILIAD OF HOMER: A SOUTHERN AFRICAN TRANSLATION BY RICHARD WHITAKER

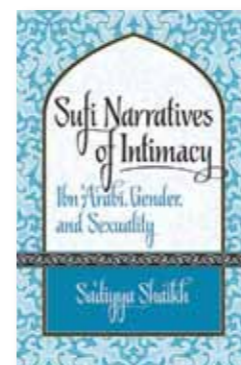
Emeritus Professor Richard Whitaker's translation took ten years to complete. The book aims to make Homer's classic poem of the Trojan War more accessible to local readers, through using a form of English that acknowledges the influence of other South African languages. Words such as amakhosi, kgotla, outspan, kloof, sloop, assegai, umkhonto, veld and jambok feature in the text. The book can be ordered from: [www.southernafricaniliad.com](http://www.southernafricaniliad.com) ■



## YOUTH VIOLENCE BY CATHERINE WARD

Associate Professors Catherine Ward and Andy Dawes (Psychology, and UCT's SAVI\*) collaborate with Amelia van der Merwe of Stellenbosch University to examine youth violence in South Africa - sources and what effective interventions might be. Thoughtful suggestions are made for keeping an evidence-based perspective while (necessarily) adapting interventions for contexts other than that in which they were developed, and particularly for developing world contexts such as South Africa. ■

\*Safy and Violence Initiative



## SUFI NARRATIVES OF INTIMACY BY SADIYYA SHAIKH

Working at the intersection of Islamic Studies and Gender Studies, Dr Shaikh (Religious Studies) has an interest in Sufism and its implications for Islamic feminism and feminist theory. In this book she explores the work of thirteenth-century Sufi poet, mystic and legal scholar Muhyi al-Din ibn al-'Arabi's. The book is published by the University of North Carolina Press (2012). ■

## IMAGINING WEB 3.0 BY LEE-ROY CHETTY

Current student, Lee-Roy Chetty has turned his master's thesis into a book which critically examines the next phase of the Internet and how the evolution to a



third generation will influence media and society. Chetty's postgraduate studies focused on digital media and information communication technology (ICT) and how technology could be used for social development. A two-time recipient of the National Research Fund Scholarship, Chetty is currently completing his PhD in Media Studies and is set to graduate in 2013. ■



## STATIC: RACE AND REPRESENTATION IN POST APARTHEID MUSIC, MEDIA AND FILM BY ADAM HAUPT

*Static: Race and Representation in Post-Apartheid Music, Media and Film* critically examines music, cinema, social media and the politics of change after Apartheid.

It cuts across academic disciplines, the creative arts and the media and poses two central questions: Is South Africa changing for the better, or are we static? Is there too much static for us to hear each other clearly? Dr Adam Haupt is an Associate Professor at the Centre for Film and Media Studies. ■



## BIKO: A BIOGRAPHY BY XOLELA MANGCU

A compelling biography on one of South Africa's foremost political activists, thinkers and the founder of the Black Consciousness

Movement. This is the first in-depth look at Steve Biko's early life, his political work, student years and his death whilst in police custody. Author Xolela Mangcu is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology. ■



## TO AND FOUR/ TO AND FRO (Darius Brubeck, Mike Rossi and The Darius Brubeck Quartet)

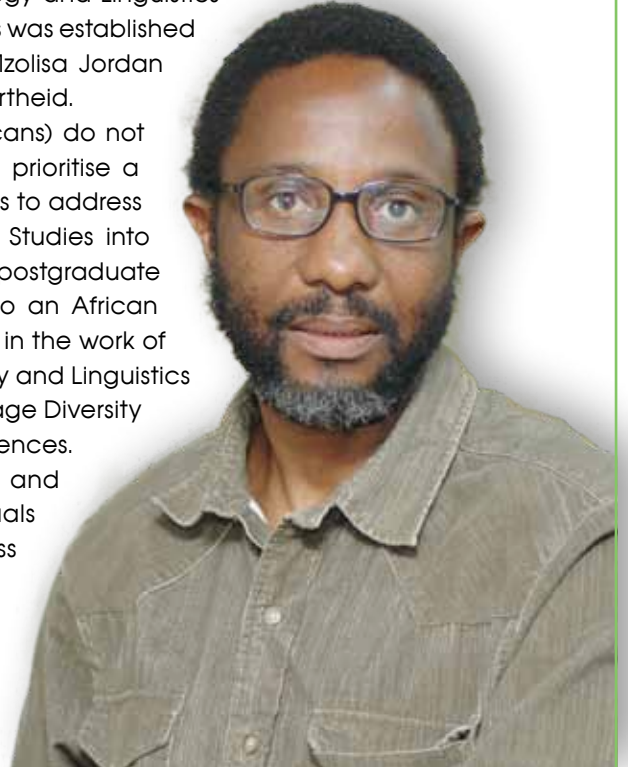
Mike Rossi (SACM) plays Saxophone and Clarinet as part of Jazz group *The Darius Brubeck Quartet* on this CD which features live music recorded whilst on tour in Romania in 2010 plus additional tracks recorded in South Africa during 2011. The group have known each other for many years and have performed numerous gigs together around the world. ■

## New appointment for **AC Jordan Chair**

**P**rofessor Lungisile Ntsebeza has been appointed as the new AC Jordan Chair in the School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics (AXL). This professorial chair in the field of African Studies was established at UCT in 1993 and is named after Archibald Campbell Mzolisa Jordan who was a pioneer in the field of African Studies under Apartheid.

According to Ntsebeza, Africans (in particular South Africans) do not know enough about their own continent and have yet to prioritise a meaningful study of African issues. The AC Jordan Chair aims to address this challenge by championing the integration of African Studies into research, teaching and learning at undergraduate and postgraduate level across the institution. Examples of this commitment to an African agenda can already be found in UCT's Afropolitanism drive; in the work of the new School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics (AXL) and the recently established Centre for African Language Diversity (CALDi), as well as the teaching of isiXhosa in the Health Sciences.

"African Studies is in a sense inherently cross and multidisciplinary, providing an opportunity for individuals from different disciplines and professions to address selected topics, problems or themes related to Africa" said Ntsebeza. "As a leading University on the continent, UCT has a responsibility to take a lead in developing Africa's intellectual resources by promoting African Studies across the continent," he concluded. ■



## 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.

E-mail: [hum-alumni@uct.ac.za](mailto:hum-alumni@uct.ac.za)

Website: <http://www.humanities.uct.ac.za>

Telephone: 021 650 4358

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/UCT.Humanities>

Compiled by: Libo Msengana-bam ([hum-alumni@uct.ac.za](mailto:hum-alumni@uct.ac.za))

Design Agency: Rothko PR/Design/Marketing

Faculty of Humanities

The University of Cape Town

Private Bag X3

Rondebosch, 7701