

# FACULTY OF HUMANITIES



## FROM THE DEAN'S DESK:

This issue of *Humanities Update* offers a glimpse into some of the major happenings in the Faculty of Humanities at UCT over the past year and a half. I apologise that this newsletter has appeared later than usual – I hope we make up for our tardiness with a splendid review of activities. This year, unlike in previous years, *Humanities Update* has been written and edited by a team from the Centre for Film and Media, most particularly Ron Irwin, Christie Cope, Simon Hartley, Inge Niehaus and Angelique Redmond. I am grateful to them for their efforts in this regard and hope that you enjoy reading what they have produced as much as they have enjoyed doing it. This issue reviews activities since the last issue, so spans aspects of life in the Faculty from the first semester in 2008.

The most significant event of the past year was the launch of the Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts (GIPCA) on the Hiddingh campus in late 2008. This multimillion rand project, made possible through a donation by the Donald Gordon Foundation, promises to provide a unique cultural link between the university and the city of Cape Town. It marks a major step forward for the performing and creative arts at UCT, opening up exciting new possibilities for interdisciplinary work. The Great Texts/Big Questions series has been running since August this year, and is attracting large audiences from within and outside UCT. We are delighted to welcome Associate Professor Rob Baum to UCT as the new Director of GIPCA.

It is difficult to do justice to the quantity, quality and diversity of contributions made by staff and students in 18 departments in the Faculty to research, teaching, leadership and public service. *Humanities Update* provides but a glimpse, yet we hope this gives some sense of the excellent work produced across the Faculty. You can find out more about individual departments via the website.

Staff continue to publish widely. There are now 42 NRF-rated researchers in the Faculty, with Professors Raj Mesthrie (Linguistics) and Mark Solms joining the ranks of A-rated scholars. Professor Solms is the only A-rated scholar in Psychology in South Africa and is a major contributor to UCT's Brain and Behaviour Initiative.

Last year we announced the award of four research chairs: to Professors Carolyn Hamilton (Archive and Public Culture), Raj Mesthrie (Migration, Language and Social Change), Lungisile Ntsebeza (Land Reform and Democracy) and Abdulkader Tayob (Islam, African Publics and Religious Values). These chairs have established themselves within a very short space of time as exciting hubs of activity, drawing in postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows, and sponsoring a range of new initiatives. The Faculty now has the largest number of honours, masters and doctoral students (1182) of any faculty at UCT.

Dr Lesley Green and her colleagues in the Department of Social Anthropology have been awarded a prestigious Sawyer Seminar entitled "Knowledge Diversity and Power: Science, the Indigenous Movement, and the Post-colonial University". This seminar will bring researchers across UCT into conversation with eminent scholars from inside and outside South Africa.

In the newsletter we describe a number of books which have been published by members of the academic staff. In addition to these, a number of other book launches took place, including *Porcupine* (Jane Bennett), *A new generation of African writers: migration, material culture and language* (Brenda Cooper), *Stealing Empire* (Adam Haupt), *Savage systems: religion and colonialism* (David Chidester), *Shakespeare, Love and Service* (David Schalkwyk), *Robert*



THIS ISSUE OF THE UCT HUMANITIES UPDATE WAS CREATED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF UCT FILM AND MEDIA STUDENTS AND STAFF



The new Gordon Institute for Creative and Performing Arts offers a creative link between the University and Cape Town



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Gavin Younge hosts a new exhibition



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Prof. Etienne van Heerden (School of Languages and Literatures) wins the M-Net Award for Fiction

*Brandom* (Jeremy Wanderer) and *At the heart of healing: Groote Schuur Hospital 1938-2008* (Howard Phillips and Anne Digby).

Many Faculty activities, especially those of GIPCA, are open to alumni and are advertised on the University website. If you are in Cape Town please join us – we would be delighted to welcome you. It is always a pleasure to reconnect with our graduates.

Warm good wishes to you all,

Paula Ensor

Please note that the Faculty website provides up-to-date information about each faculty department. Log on and join us.

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

## ACADEMIC PASSION LEADS TO SUCCESS

By Christie Cope

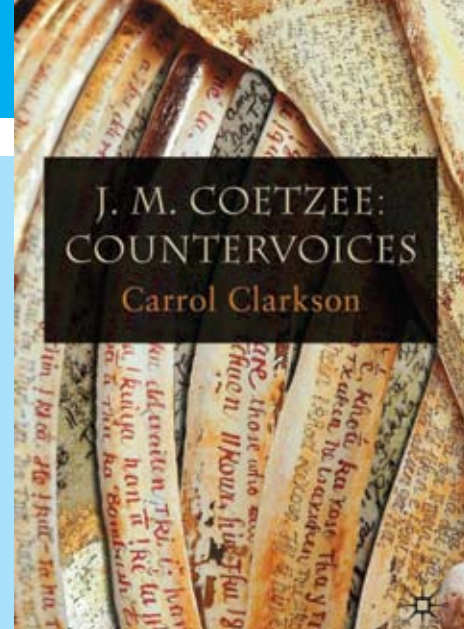
Dr Carrol Clarkson's research is centred on two signature themes: J.M. Coetzee and post-apartheid South African literature and art. Her interest in Coetzee's writing came about when she first read *Disgrace* while giving lectures on Thomas Hardy in Johannesburg. She realised that a sentence in *Disgrace* was a quotation from one of Hardy's novels. Hardy, in turn, was passionate about Darwin's theory of evolution. Dr Clarkson became interested in Coetzee's focus on animal ethics, tracing his thinking from Darwin to Hardy.

Dr Clarkson has always been passionate about the philosophy of language. She is particularly attracted to "the way in which Coetzee's attentiveness to language in a technical, and also in a philosophical way, has an impact on his writing of fiction". When she first came to UCT she was asked to give three lectures on *Disgrace*. She agreed a little hesitantly, but soon realised that "students were wild about the lectures. I had so many people wanting to write Honours dissertations on Coetzee the following year, and this developed into MA and PhD projects too. Before I knew it I had emails and enquiries from postgrads

all over the world." Thus her inspiration for the Coetzee Collective discussion group. The group currently has over a hundred members on the mailing list, representing eleven different countries. Dr Clarkson says "it is a great privilege to be hosting these Coetzee discussions at UCT – where Coetzee himself was a student and a professor for so many years". She feels that at UCT in particular, "it is our responsibility to attempt to do justice to one of the world's greatest contemporary writers – especially since Coetzee started out, and did so much of his life-work here".

Dr Clarkson has also recently written a book called *J.M. Coetzee: Countervoices* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009). It focuses on the link between Coetzee's explicit engagement with linguistics and his engagement in his fiction with questions of ethics.

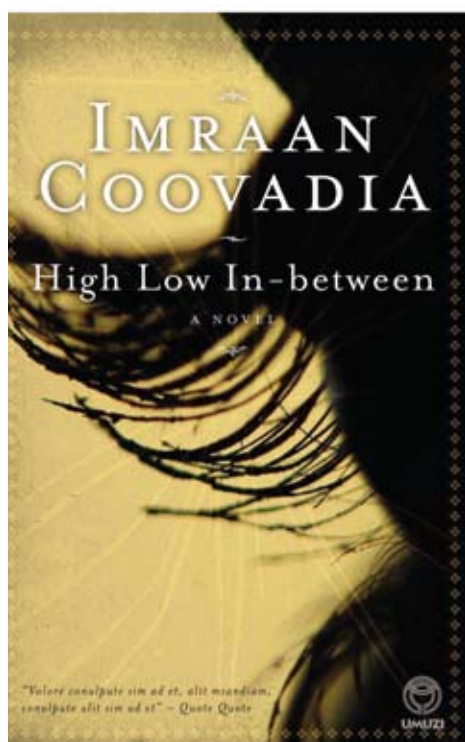
Dr Clarkson says that her students inspired her to write the book and she feels that Coetzee's non-fiction is under-discussed in the scholarship. "I thought I might have a contribution to make here as I've been reading in Continental philosophy and literary theory for many years. It's been an exhilarating process."



Carrol Clarkson's *J.M. Coetzee: Countervoices*. Cover photograph by Pippa Skotnes.



Dr Carrol Clarkson



High Low In-between by Imraan Coovadia

## Faculty Highlights: Department of English

Associate Professor Gail Fincham served on a panel, with Johan Jacobs, at the book launch of *Ways of Writing*, a new collection of essays on Zakes Mda published by UKZN press and introduced at the June Book Fair in Cape Town.

Dr Imraan Coovadia's novel, *High Low In-between*, was published by Random House-Umuzi in May 2009. The first chapter was published in the New York literary journal *N+1*. A piece published in the anthology *How They See Us* (Atlas & Co., 2009) is an attempt to show Americans how their country is seen by foreigners. He also placed a story in the anthology *Touch* (Zebra, 2009), an essay in the anthology *Load-Shedding* (Jonathan Ball, 2009) and a story about a Muslim-American surgeon in Iraq in the U.S. journal *Bombay Gin*.

Associate Professor Natasha Distiller was invited to lead a seminar at the British Shakespeare Association in September 2008, which she did in collaboration with Dr Sandy Young.

Associate Professor Ana Deumert was invited by John Singler (NYC) to attend the African Linguistics Symposium in Ghana as one of 13 international specialists on sociolinguistics and language contact.

Dr Sandra Young's "Pain and the Struggle for Self-Restoration in Prison and in Prison Writing: The Narratives of Ruth First, Caesarina Kona Makhoere and Emma Mashinini", will appear in a special issue on 'The Futures of Trauma' by *English Studies in Africa*.

# RAISING UCT'S INTERNATIONAL PROFILE: THE NORTH-SOUTH TEACHING EXCHANGE

By *Angelique Redmond*

Associate Professor Gail Fincham (HOD of English, UCT) alongside Professor Russell West-Pavlov (Professor of Postcolonial Literature, Free University of Berlin) have collaborated to set up a North-South Teaching Exchange. The exchange will be between Kenyatta University in Kenya, UCT and FUB. The project aims to produce four new modules at Master's level, enabling an exchange of information and close collaboration between all three universities. It will involve three teams each offering a semester's worth of teaching in intensive two-week programmes.

Starting in 2010 the exchange will include both undergraduate and postgraduate students at the three universities. The programme will offer PhD students overseas opportunities that have not previously existed, as well as develop new avenues of research for Masters students. The funding will be provided entirely by DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst), the German Academic Exchange Service, enabling 80 student trips between the three universities over the next four years. Collaboration on this scale has not previously existed at UCT. While established academics at UCT can apply

for international conference funding every second year, postgraduate students have in the past had very limited access to funding for international travel. In this envisaged three-way exchange, MA and PhD students will be offered equal funding for travel and subsistence as mid-career and senior academics.

Academics in the English Department participating in the planned exchange include Gail Fincham, Kelwyn Sole, Harry Garuba, Nigel Bakker, Reuben Chirambo, Imraan Coovadia, Peter Anderson, Sandy Young, Coilin Parsons, Megan Cawood and Chris Lazley. Academics in other departments participating in the exchange include Abner Nyamende in African Languages and Noelene Murray in the Faculty of the Built Environment.

The four MA modules designed for the programme are entitled "Conjunctures and Disjunctures: Colonialism/Postcolonialism/Neocolonialism", "North-South Spaces and Flows: Territories, Topoi, Migrations", "North-South Temporalities: Traditions and Modernities" and "North-South Literary and Cultural Theories". Members of the three teams will be investigating new transformative configurations within local allegiances and contexts. While the

exchange is envisaged as a four-year plan, this collaboration could very well see further exchanges and initiatives become available to UCT on an international scale.



*Prof. Russell West-Pavlov, Professor of Postcolonial Literature, Free University of Berlin*



*Kenyatta University*



*Associate Prof. Gail Fincham, Head of UCT's English Department*

## HOPE FOR DEPRESSION FOUNDATION RENEWS FUNDING FOR THIRD YEAR

By Angelique Redmond

The University of Cape Town will again be receiving a boost to its resources by way of a sustained funding stream from the Hope For Depression Foundation (HDRF). Founded in 2006 by Audrey Gruss in honour of her mother, Hope, who suffered from clinical depression, the Foundation has funded UCT for the past two years. A large part of the funding is due to the efforts of Professor Mark Solms, Chair of Neuropsychology, which is a relatively new area of expertise in the Department of Psychology. Professor Solms also directs the HDRF and finds suitable universities and research initiatives for the Foundation to support.

The HDRF is aimed at funding depression research. While the National Health



Prof. Mark Solms, Chair of Neuropsychology at UCT



Scheme and drug companies are the two main researchers in this area, the HDRF is looking to fund research that is cutting edge and not based on profit. UCT has much to offer in this area, with many junior researchers receptive to focusing on depression research.

Through actual studies into the treatment for depression, researchers have learnt that the administration of Serotonin, which is currently the main treatment for depression, only works in two out of three people and only for a certain period. Professor Solms along with Jaak Panksepp are using their backgrounds in neuropsychology and cognitive-affective neuroscience respectively to further understand the cause of the disease.

To date UCT has received \$1 010 000 in funding from the HDRF. These grants and donations are held by various researchers at UCT. These include Gyuri Fodor, Michelle Jackson, Mark Solms, Jack van Honk, Neil Horn, Eleni Pantelis and Dan Stein, Head of the Psychiatry Department. There is also negotiation to establish the first functional clinical neuroscience-based institute involving Groote Schuur Hospital and the UCT Academic Hospital. This will enable research to expand into testing and functional neurosurgery and stereotactic surgery, with an end goal of treatment for depression and finding the cause for depression. Research is also being done by the Brain and Behaviour Research Initiative into trauma, post-traumatic stress disorders and substance abuse in response to stressors.

In 2008 Professor Mark Solms received an A-rating from the National Research Foundation of South Africa, making him the only A-rated psychologist in the country.

Solms has published 350 journal articles and book chapters and six books, the last of which, *The Brain and the Inner World*, has been translated into 12 languages.

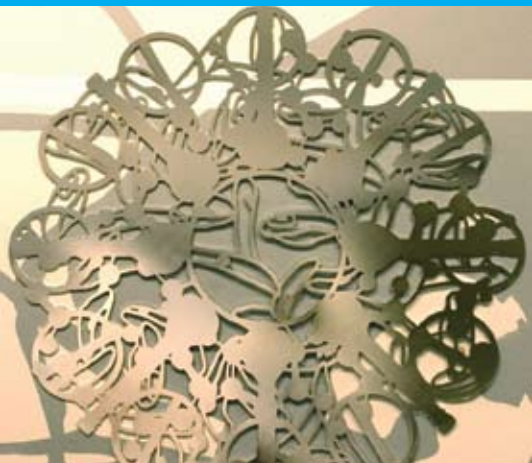
Visiting faculty to the Department of Psychology in 2008 included two scholars funded under the Mellon Visiting Fellows initiative, namely Professor Mark Lipsey from Vanderbilt University in the USA and Professor Siegfried Sporer of the University of Giessen, Germany. Additionally, Dr Tendayi Viki, of the Universities of Kent and Zimbabwe, visited under the auspices of the UCT Visiting Scholars programme.

## GOBODO-MADIKIZELA PUBLISHES NEW BOOK

Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, Associate Professor of Psychology, has a new book entitled *Memory, Narrative and Forgiveness: Perspectives on the Unfinished Journeys of the Past*, with Cambridge Scholars Publishing, along with her co-editor, Chris van der Merwe, Associate Professor of Afrikaans and Dutch Literature. Here is a brief summary from the publisher:

"The UN's declaration of 2009 as the International Year of Reconciliation is testimony to the growing use of historical commissions as instruments of reconciliation in post-conflict societies. Since the SA Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has had a profound impact on international efforts to deal with the aftermath of mass violence and societal conflict, this is an appropriate time for scholars to debate and reflect on the work of the TRC and the wide-ranging scholarship it has inspired across disciplines. With a foreword by Harvard Law Professor Martha Minow, *Memory, Narrative and Forgiveness: Perspectives on the Unfinished Journeys of the Past* draws on both theoretical analysis and case studies from around the world to explore the themes of memory, narrative, forgiveness and apology, and how these themes often interact in either mutually supportive or unsettling ways. The book is a vibrant discussion by scholars in philosophy, psychology, psychoanalytic theory, history, literary theory and Holocaust studies."





From *Subtle Thresholds*, by Fritha Langerman

## THE GORDON INSTITUTE FOR PERFORMING AND CREATIVE ARTS

The Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts (GIPCA) was launched on Hiddingh campus in December last year. The Donald Gordon Foundation has invested several million rand to support interdisciplinary projects at UCT and create a "cultural hub" for the university and public.

The Donald Gordon Foundation has made a R50 million challenge grant which UCT hopes to match. With these funds GIPCA plans to renovate Hiddingh campus, construct a new building for the performing and creative arts and support a host of interdisciplinary projects. These include annual creative awards for UCT staff, fellowships, the commissioning of five new African operas (to celebrate the centenary of the SA College of Music in 2010) and a public lecture series at which high-profile figures including Andre Brink, Zackie Achmat, Mamphela Ramphele and Jonathan Shapiro will speak.

Incoming Director of GIPCA, Rob Baum, who is from the United States, said she accepted the position "because GIPCA is an extraordinarily exciting project, with a breadth of disciplines not found in other such institutes around the world". She was speaking at a briefing on 28 July 2009 at the Michaelis Gallery on Hiddingh campus, which was attended by luminaries from the worlds of art, music, dance, creative writing and theatre. There are seven UCT centres and departments participating in the Institute:

the Baxter Theatre, the Centre for Creative Writing, the Centre for Film and Media Studies, the Department of Drama, the Michaelis School of Fine Art, the South African College of Music and the UCT School of Dance.

Several GIPCA-sponsored projects are underway:

- Art exhibition *Subtle Thresholds*, by Fritha Langerman, at Iziko South African National Museum, draws attention to the visual representation of infectious diseases. The museum was chosen because "a multitude of people" visit it, said Baum. "This is a breathtaking work in every regard."
- At the Great Texts/Big Questions public lecture series at Hiddingh Hall, starting on 6 August 2009, highly regarded speakers will discuss life's big questions, or the significance a book or artwork had for them. The first speaker was Andre Brink; others listed are Treatment Action Campaign founder Zackie Achmat, cartoonist Jonathan Shapiro, philosopher David Benatar, neuropsychologist Mark Solms, cosmologist George Ellis and former UCT vice-chancellor Mamphela Ramphele.
- Five 20-minute operas with South African themes are being composed for performances in November next year to celebrate the centenary of the SA College of Music. The composers are Peter Klatzow, Martin Watt, Hendrik Hofmeyr, Bongani Ndodana and Peter Louis van Dijk. Their opera themes, respectively, are Memory and the Khoisan people; Breyten Breytenbach's imprisonment in Pretoria Central; Saartjie Baartman; and Xenophobia and the Assassination of Chris Hani.
- Dance-theatre production *Qaphela Caesar – Part Two*, a South African adaptation by Jay Pather of Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar*, will be performed in early 2010.
- A photographic exhibition to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the School of Dance will be held at the Baxter Theatre in November.
- The Michaelis graduate student exhibition will take place from 2-6 December at Hiddingh Hall.
- The *Third Worlds Exhibition* by Svea Josephy will be held at the Michaelis

Gallery in February 2010.

- An Arts Colloquium will be held at Hiddingh Hall in December. Langerman, Josephy and Pather are three of five recipients of GIPCA special awards, which are given to UCT staff to promote interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation. GIPCA is also awarding several fellowships, similar to post-doctoral fellowships, to facilitate the crossing of boundaries between academic disciplines.

Applications for the special awards and fellowships for next year opened in August 2009.



### ROB BAUM – BIOGRAPHY AND HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

Baum studied in California and Alaska and taught in Israel, New Zealand and Australia. She describes her research as "wildly cross-disciplinary", having included theatre, dance, medicine studies, gender and anthropology. She was also director and trainer of a performance collective for the physically and intellectually disabled. Baum says GIPCA provides an opportunity "to interest and involve communities in strong academic work". She describes how students might use "art as activism". Exploring the theme of unemployment, for example, they might interview jobless people to obtain their stories, then perform these on the streets. In regard to the students who might use GIPCA, she says, "This is quite a homogenous group. I would love to be able to go into Hiddingh Hall and see people there in all their swank, and people in their working clothes – people from quite diverse economic and ethnic backgrounds who, by virtue of rallying around a cause, can build something together, celebrate their art together."



(Left to right) Barbara Schmid, Jill Olivier and Prof. James R. Cochrane

## ARHAP COMPLETES THREE STUDIES

By Christie Cope

The year of 2008 was a very busy one for the African Religious Health Assets Programme (ARHAP), located in the Religious Studies Department. Three prominent pieces of research were completed by ARHAP during this time period. Involved in all of these projects was Professor James (Jim) Cochrane, the Co-Principal Investigator of ARHAP.

The first research project was commissioned by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2007 and was completed in May 2008. The project required the ARHAP team, led by Ms Barbara Schmid (ARHAP/UCT) and Dr Liz Thomas (ARHAP/Wits and MRC), to conduct a study of religious health services in sub-Saharan Africa. According to the research report "the study closely focuses on describing the services provided, their 'comparative advantage', the way they collaborate with each other and the public health system, and offering specific recommendations on funding of these services".

Just after the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-commissioned research project ended, so did Phase 1 of a Tearfund and UNAIDS commissioned research project headed by Dr Beverley Haddad (ARHAP/UKZN) and Professor Steve de Gruchy (ARHAP/UKZN), with Jill Olivier as Research Manager (ARHAP/UCT). This was presented in Mexico in July 2008. In this project the ARHAP was required to "conduct a three-country study, in Malawi, Kenya and the DRC, of collaboration between religious entities and their collaborative stakeholders (donors, governments and interfaith bodies)".

In October 2008 the members of UCT ARHAP, including Professor James R. (Jim) Cochrane, Ms Barbara Schmid and Jill Olivier along with counterparts from Wits and UKZN, joined partners from the Departments of Religion, Theology and Public Health at Emory University. They met with members of the Schools of Public Health at Wits and UCT.

These meetings took place over four days and were put into "Better Words" workshops, creating "a common lexicon for use in the religion/public health interface".

These research projects conducted by ARHAP allow not only faculty and staff to extend their knowledge; they also create opportunities for improvement of health services. This offers the potential for Africa to beat the AIDS pandemic and other deadly illnesses that exist on this continent.



"Better Words" workshop

## SYMPOSIUM LOOKS AT MUSLIM MINORITY RIGHTS, EDUCATION, CITIZENSHIP

By Dr Inga Niehaus

In October 2008, UCT Centre for Contemporary Islam (CCI) and the University of Hamburg co-hosted a symposium entitled "Muslim Minority Rights, Islamic Education and Democratic Citizenship". The symposium was funded by the Böell Foundation. In particular, Drs Ben Soares (Leiden University) and Kai Kresse (Berlin) focused on their work in Mali and Kenya respectively. The lectures laid the ground for the NRF research

project on "Islam, African Publics and Religious Values" and coincided with the launch of the new CCI website at [www.cci.uct.ac.za](http://www.cci.uct.ac.za).

The symposium brought together around 60 participants from various academic and non-academic fields to discuss aspects of Muslim social, political and religious engagement as well as Islamic education in South Africa and its impact on democratic citizenship. It also created a forum for practitioners and academics in the field of Muslim minority rights, Muslim identities and Islamic education to exchange views and research findings. The main theme of the conference, Islamic Education, was explored through two areas: Islamic educational institutions and concepts and theories of Islamic education.

# FACULTY NEWS

## ABDULKADER TAYOB

Bayreuth International Graduate School for African Studies (Germany) invited Professor Abdulkader Tayob to be its first Heinrich Barth Guest Professor. Professor Tayob presented a seminar on Islam in Africa from November to January.

## SA'DIYYA SHAIKH

Dr Sa'diyya Shaikh is the principal investigator on an ongoing empirical research project comprising both qualitative and quantitative studies, which aims to develop an understanding of attitudes, beliefs and practices of Muslim women within South African communities in relation to marriage, sexuality and gender. These studies also seek to determine how women understand these gendered relationships from an Islamic perspective. Key questions in these studies centre on gender power relations in Muslim marriages, religious beliefs and sexual dynamics, reproductive choices, socio-cultural perspectives on polygamy and safe sex, attitudes to HIV/AIDS, and an exploration of contextual factors that influence Muslim women's decision-making power on these issues in South African contexts.

She gave a public presentation at State of the Nation Dialogues, Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees, Oudtshoorn, 27 March 2008, Panel on the State of Minorities. The title of her presentation



*Imraan Buccus, Editor of al-Qalam newspaper, Durban and Dr Inga Niehaus, Hamburg University*

was "Engaging Gender among the Muslim minority in South Africa".

Dr Shaikh was also a discussant at the International Symposium on "Muslim Minority Rights, Islamic Education and Democratic Citizenship", 8-9 October 2008 in the Centre for African Studies Gallery.

The title of her response paper was "Deconstructing the Politics of Gender in Traditional Islamic Institutions of Learning".

She was also speaker at a public forum on Muslim Political Engagement at

the Islamic Peace University where she contributed to a panel discussion entitled "After the Honeymoon: Muslim Religious Leadership and Political Engagement in a Post-Apartheid South Africa". The title of her presentation was "Reflections on the Ethical Centre in Muslim Political Engagements".

Additionally, Dr Shaikh was a participant at the international workshop on "Contemporary Muslim Theology of World Religions" in Istanbul from 14-17 December 2008. She discussed the conceptual framework for this project on the theme of "The Universal and Particular in a Muslim Theology of World Religions".

# COLLEGE OF MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

In July 2008 eight choral works by Associate Professor Hendrik Hofmeyr of the College of Music were performed by six different choirs in Europe. Hofmeyr was one of 17 composers from 17 countries commissioned to write works for the World Sun Songs project of the National Youth Choir of Latvia. The works were performed at two sold-out concerts in July, and broadcast live on national television. The works were later performed at the World Choral Symposium in Copenhagen. The Akustika Chamber Choir of Pretoria sang two of Hofmeyr's works at the Llangollen Eisteddfod in Wales, where they won the prestigious Choir of the World title. Five of Hofmeyr's works were performed at the World

Choir Games, where South Africa took 15 gold medals, the most by any country.

Students from the College of Music held Jazz performances at the following venues in 2008: Cape Town City Hall, Stable Theater (Durban), Long Island University (New York City), Berklee College of Music (Boston), Salem State College (Salem, MA), The 606 Jazz Club and Foyles Book Shop (London), Ein Grundungsfestival der Plattform für Aktuelle Musik, Theater Rampe and Staatliche Hochschule für Musik (Stuttgart), Ein Traum von Wunderbarem Leben (Leonburg, Germany), Jazz Clinic 2008 (Dworp, Belgium).



## AWARDS FOR ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WANAMAKER

By Simon Hartley

Department of Religious Studies Associate Professor Chuck Wanamaker is a man with a generous spirit. His daily motivation is the transformation of people's lives through community development: "My outlook on life is informed by my Christian understanding and practice in which I see Christianity as a resource for human change and development."

And his efforts have not gone unnoticed. Recently, Wanamaker was honoured with the Community Development Award and Role Model Award by People of God Ministries for his developmental work in poor communities.

The Community Development Award was granted to Wanamaker for his work with scores of young soccer stars in Khayelitsha, Langa and Gugulethu. He raised money for kit, players' transport costs and even post-match meals. But what has soccer got to do with community development? Professor Wanamaker explains: "Team sports in general, and soccer in particular, replicate the experience of social communities. If you extrapolate the social experiences of a soccer team to the outside world, you foster better participation in community."

The Role Model Award was granted to Wanamaker for his mentorship of students and scholars from the self-same disadvantaged communities. Professor Wanamaker doesn't have a hard and fast method that he employs in his mentorship of students and scholars, but does apply one single golden rule: "The most important quality to have is empathy for others. If empathy is the driving value that helps me to mentor people, the most important goal of the mentoring I do is to help people imagine where their lives can go."

Time is a precious commodity for Professor Wanamaker. As Head of the Department of Religious Studies at UCT, the daily demands of his work mean that he has had to scale back some of his community development activity. "I am concentrating on developing one particular young individual whose potential to make a difference in the world is unparalleled in my experience."

But pressed a little further, the professor admits that he would be hard pressed to turn away anyone who came to him in need.

## LUCID PAUL CLAIMS KESWICK PRIZE

By Simon Hartley

Paul Smit made an indelible mark on the pages of the University of Cape Town's academic history when he was awarded the Keswick Prize for Lucidity. The Keswick Prize is awarded to a third or fourth year student in any technical field for writing a particularly lucid and jargon-free essay. It is sponsored by Sir Chips Keswick, former chairman of Hambros Bank Limited in the UK.

Titled, *Of Hume and Tragedy: The Controversy of Conversion and Other Tales*, Paul's essay is a defense of the theories of Scottish philosopher David Hume, who argued that audiences willingly subject themselves to the pain and sorrow of theatrical tragedy because a kind of cathartic pleasure is derived from exorcising misery through the affliction of fictitious characters. If this sort of subject matter ordinarily has you bracing for a hail of adjectives, the opening sentence of Paul's essay cuts through the fog, and sets up the beginnings of a simple, well-constructed argument. It reads as follows: "When you think about it, the human enjoyment of tragic drama is an odd thing."

Paul describes himself as "more of a fine arts and music kind of person", and the love for this kind of subject matter is apparent. However, it's surprising to learn that Paul attributes the clarity of his expression to his passion for the Arts, the field of the Philosophy of Arts, and for the works of the essay's subject, David Hume. "I don't think my passion for the subject made it more difficult to write clearly. If anything, my interest in the subject made transferring my thoughts onto paper a more fluid process," says Paul.

Since graduating, Paul has embarked on a new adventure, leaving the life of urban gentry to take up the position of game ranger in South Africa's wilderness. No doubt his lucid thinking will stand him in good stead in the months to come.



Paul Smit, winner of the 2008 Keswick Prize for Lucidity



# FOUNDATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY TAKES ROOT IN SCHOOLS

By Dr Greg Fried

Philosophical questions are not just for university students and other adults. Many bright teenagers wonder whether there is a God, or ask what it means to be yourself, or raise the puzzle of how we can be free if everything is determined.

The Philosophy Department recognises that the philosophical impulse often blooms in the early years, and believes that it is valuable to help teenagers to think carefully about some of the deepest questions of human existence. The skill of reflecting on contentious and important matters, rather than immediately accepting one's instincts or the views of others, is useful in philosophy and beyond it too.

Since 2007 we have offered an annual programme, Foundations in Philosophy, for students in Grades 10–12 from the greater Cape Town region. Invitations are sent to several hundred schools, and our enrolment has more than tripled in two years, growing from about 85 students in 2007 to about 300 in 2009.

Each programme involves three evenings of philosophy, spread over three weeks. On each occasion, a UCT philosopher gives

a brief talk, students discuss the topic in small groups led by departmental tutors, and then everyone comes together for a question session with the lecturer. In order to finish the course, students write on a subject related to a philosophical paper they have read. Everyone who completes the Foundations in Philosophy Programme has therefore heard, talked about, read and written some philosophy.

In 2008, the theme for our annual programme was freedom. This year the theme was religion: we discussed Plato's challenge to the divine command theory of morality, St Anselm's ontological argument for God's existence, and Pascal's pragmatic wager for belief in God.

We hope that Foundations in Philosophy will become an annual institution for schools in greater Cape Town. Judging by the responses we frequently receive from attendees – excitement, enthusiasm, even a feeling of liberation at realising that thinking about these deep questions is allowed – the prospects are promising.

## DR JACK RITCHIE LAUNCHES BOOK ON NATURALISM

In May 2009 Dr Jack Ritchie launched his new book *Understanding Naturalism* (Acumen, 2008) which offers, for the first time, an introduction to naturalism as a distinct philosophical position. The publishers describe the book thus:

"Many contemporary Anglo-American philosophers describe themselves as naturalists. But what do they mean by that term? Popular naturalist slogans like, "there is no first philosophy" or "philosophy is continuous with the natural sciences" are far from illuminating. *Understanding Naturalism* provides a clear and readable survey of the main strands in recent naturalist thought.

"The origin and development of naturalist ideas in epistemology, metaphysics and semantics is explained through the works of Quine, Goldman, Kuhn, Chalmers, Papineau, Millikan and others. Key objections to naturalism, such as it fails to engage with "real" philosophical

problems, it is self-refuting, and it cannot deal with normative notions like truth, justification and meaning, are all addressed. Ritchie distinguishes two strands of naturalist thinking – the constructive and the deflationary – and shows how this distinction can invigorate naturalism and the future of philosophical research."

Last year, Dr Ritchie taught five two-hour seminars that introduced honours students in zoology and botany to some basic issues in the history and philosophy of science. They examined ideas about scientific method, incommensurability and paradigms, scientific realism and anti-realism as well as the relationship between science and religion and ethical and political constraints on science and scientists. There was no examination or course work. The seminars were meant to encourage students to think critically and reflectively about their particular specialism and science in general.



Dr Jack Ritchie (UCT Philosophy Department), author of *Understanding Naturalism*

## SUCCESS AT THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

By Christie Cope

The CSSR faculty and students made a major impact at the XVII International AIDS Conference held in Mexico City in August 2008. Nicoli Nattrass, Director of the Aids and Society Research Unit (ASRU), presented research at the conference as well as seven CSSR students: Eduard Grebe, Colin Almeleh, Brendan Maughan-Brown, Ariane De Lannoy, Beth Mills, Timothy Mah and Hannah Lane.

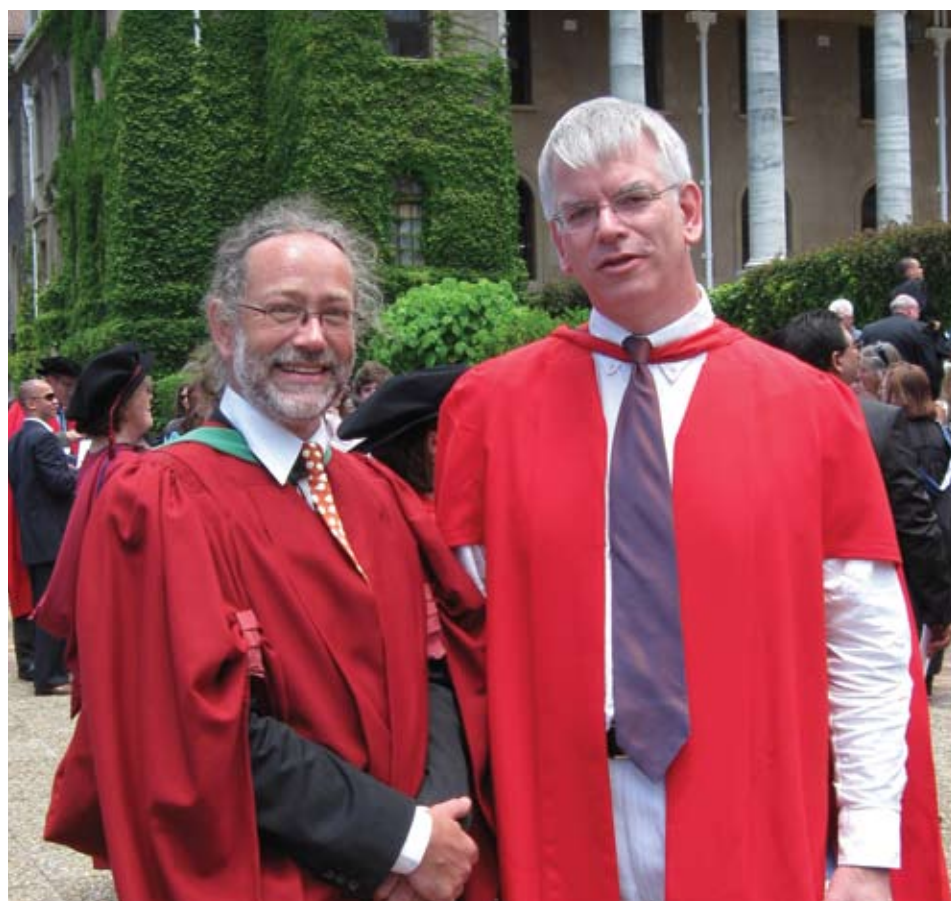
Professor Nicoli Nattrass won the Al Venter/Altron/University Vice-Chancellors' 2008 award for her book, *The Moral Economy of AIDS in South Africa* (Cambridge University Press, 2004). Eduard Grebe went on a successful research trip to Uganda as part of a World Bank-supported international collaboration on leadership, elites and coalitions.

Following on the concept of international study collaborations, the Deputy Director

of ASRU, Elizabeth Mills, collaborated with Cambridge and Sussex Universities to map changes in the lives of a group of HIV-positive women who had developed the "body maps": artworks first created by the Bambanani Women's Group in 2003. She also co-ordinated a research project on the architecture of stigma within public health services in Khayelitsha.

In December 2008 faculty member Per Strand presented research at the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) in Senegal. He also presented a study on policy outcomes for children affected by HIV/AIDS at a conference run by The Joint Learning Initiative on Children and HIV/AIDS (JLICA) in Dublin in October 2008.

He also spent time in 2008 working with the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation so as to assist them with their analysis of the institutional capacity of the Lesotho Mounted Police Services.



Prof. J Seekings and Prof. R Mattes at Graduation 2008



### SOCIOLOGY: NEW BOOK ON SEXUALITY MAKES WAVES

The May 2009 launch of *The Prize and the Price: Shaping Sexualities in South Africa*, (HSRC Press, 2009), edited by Associate Professor Melissa Steyn and Lecturer Mikki van Zyl, was a "standing room only" event at the Cape Town Book Lounge, where the authors questioned "heteronormativity" as the "institutionalisation of heterosexuality as society's normal condition". The following is a description of the book from the publishers:

"The desired and the desirable are often constellated through our ideas of what is undesired and undesirable, deeply knotted into our sense of self, our sense of where and how we fit into the world. These notions of desire form the backdrop to this powerful volume which examines the historical continuities and interruptions of heteronormativity in South African society.

Leading and emerging scholars disentangle the strands of particular sexual identities, and deepen the reader's understanding of the multiple workings of heteronormativity in South African society in particular, and sexuality in general. Through analysing where and how heteronormativity intersects with other axes of power and social identity, contributors to this volume reveal that it is not monolithic, and heterosexuality as the South African norm is effectively 'outed' from within heteronormativity."

## DRAMA DEPARTMENT PLAYS AT SUCCESS

By Simon Hartley

2008 and 2009 have been exciting years in the University of Cape Town's Drama Department. Maintaining the international status of the department, students and staff have been involved in a wide range of highly acclaimed productions appearing on local and global stages.

The first of the notable highlights of 2008 can be credited to department staffer and prolific theatre maker, Mwenya Kabwe. Kabwe wrote and directed the play *Afrocartography* as the thesis dissertation for her Masters Degree in 2007. Last year, it was performed at the UNESCO World Festival of Drama Schools in Barcelona, Spain. The performance was highly acclaimed, with the cast appearing on stage for no less than three curtain calls – a festival first.

Not long after reaching these highs, the department hosted a reading of Ariel Dorfman's play *Speak Truth to Power*, directed by the late Yvonne Banning. The production played at UCT's Little Theatre, and coincided with the launch of the book of the same name by Kerry Kennedy in South Africa. Also in 2008, four UCT final-year drama students were invited to travel to De Appel Theatre in The Hague. Under the guidance of De Appel Company the students collaborated to produce three new works which were performed in the Netherlands, Johannesburg, Cape Town and at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown.

In August 2008 the department also staged Sam Shepard's *Buried Child* and David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross*.



Mwenya Kabwe and Lesoko Seabe in *Afrocartography*

## RAINBOW WORRIERS: EXPATRIATES ONLINE

Martha Evans, from the Centre for Film and Media Studies, has been spending a lot of time in cyberspace with white South African expatriates as part of her current research project. The interests of the 'Packing for Perth's' and 'Chicken Runners', as they are pejoratively called, have thrown up some interesting research areas, including nostalgia for apartheid and Afropessimism. On YouTube, for instance, Saffers wax lyrical after watching old television adverts from the eighties. Forum discussions suggest interesting things about geographical displacement as well as the effects of apartheid television on white South Africans. In darker areas of the Net, a number of dystopic sites strive to expose what they term the 'real' South Africa and entertain the possibility of Boer genocide, fabricating news reports and bursting the boundaries of conventional news journalism. The Internet, Evans argues, is increasingly being used as a site for fantastical news production, and offers refuge for expatriates who feel more and more marginalised and distant from events in their home country. Two forthcoming publications by Martha Evans, one in the *Journal of Global Mass Communication* and one in a book on Afropessimism to be published by the University of Ottawa Press in 2010, explore these and other issues.

## SINGING A NEW SONG

By Simon Hartley

Since his appointment as Head of the UCT Opera School in early 2009, Kamal Khan has thrown himself head-long into the melee that is musical training. Prior to his permanent arrival, Professor Khan was the President Conductor at Palm Beach Opera School, and ran the International School for Vocal Studies at the University of Majorca in Palma, Spain.

Despite the daily challenges of his profession, music education is incredibly rewarding for Professor Khan. "Seeing what students can do at various levels of harmonious function is special. Hearing a young kid really sing a clean Italian legato for the first time, or perhaps seeing a student who has been here for a while finally claim the stage as their own. There is such an incredible mixture of reward in this job, and it's an incredible thrill."

So what does he make of the state of Opera in South Africa?

"I think we're on the edge of something extraordinary. I think most importantly we need to be creating new works that speak to the total African experience of opera students of every colour of the rainbow. You know, opera has never been popular in any society unless it has told the story of that society. And we need to give our composers the time and support to get there."

# AN INTERVIEW WITH PROF. MARTIN BOTHA,

recipient of the special Ischia Global Award at the 7th Annual Ischia Global Film & Music Festival, held on the Isle of Ischia, Italy, from 12 to 19 July

Interview by Simon Hartley

## 1) What brought you to Italy over the course of the July vacation?

I received an invitation from the festival director, Pascal Vicedomini, of the Ischia Global Film and Music Festival. Vicedomini announced at the 2009 Cannes press conference that this year's Ischia Film & Music Fest would include a special dedication to South African Cinema with several South African films being screened at the festival. The Cape Winelands Film Festival in co-operation with the South African National Archives presented an exhibition of South African film history, entitled *The Heritage of South African Cinema*. I also received a special Ischia Film Award for my contribution to the South African film industry.

**"Among the decades of film escapism, racist films and government propaganda, South African cinema produced cinematic jewels."**

The exhibition on the 113 year history of South African cinema was indeed one of the highlights at the 7th Annual Ischia Global Film and Music Festival. It was a unique collection of film stills, posters and DVD clips. Although 1994 saw the birth of democracy in South Africa our film industry is much older, in fact, our great documentary film tradition dates back to

1896. Edgar Hyman, for example, shot scenes of Johannesburg and President Paul Kruger. The first ever newsreels were filmed at the front during the Anglo-Boer War (1899–1902) and at the same time "fake" newsreel footage of battles were shot to create propaganda for Britain's war effort. While celebrating the past 15 years of democracy we shouldn't forget those filmmakers who created films against all the odds. Veterans such as Jans Rautenbach (*Jannie Totsiens*, 1970), Ross Devenish (*Marigolds in August*, 1980), Manie van Rensburg (*The Fourth Reich*, 1990) and the younger generation of the 1980s challenged moral and political censorship, a severe lack of audience development and inadequate film distribution to shape progressive texts, which became the foundation of a new, critical South African cinema during the 1990s.

The reality of South African filmmaking before 1994 was that in many ways black South Africans were excluded. Black South Africans had no money to make films. They had no access to equipment. Opportunities were almost non-existent for black scriptwriters or directors to create their own images on the screen. And apartheid policy led to a very fragmented film industry. A few individuals, however, should be noted for their contributions to the local film industry. They attempted to move beyond an exclusive cinema for only white audiences. The exhibition at Ischia highlighted especially the contributions by individuals such as Zoltan Korda, Lionel

Rogosin, Jans Rautenbach, Emil Nofal, Manie van Rensburg, Ross Devenish, Oliver Schmitz, Katinka Heyns, Darrell Roodt, as well as several post-apartheid filmmakers. The exhibition on our film heritage at Ischia hopefully demonstrated to an international film audience that among the decades of film escapism, racist films and government propaganda, South African cinema produced cinematic jewels. It was an opportunity to "discover" these achievements.

## 2) Besides the great honour of being presented an international award, can you name a few highlights of the trip?

The opportunity to meet one of the greatest masters of cinema, Lina Wertmüller, was a highlight. I also loved the documentary *The Journey and the Labyrinth*. It shows another side of Sting, which I didn't know – his musical adaptations of work by John Dowland. The seminar on South African cinema was another highlight thanks to great participation by film students from Italian universities and film schools.

## 3) How would you describe the state of cinema in South Africa?

My greatest concern is the lack of a national film audience in South Africa (despite recent box office successes such as *White Wedding* and a few Afrikaans language films) and the monopolies of the mainstream distributors. A film industry or in more ambitious terms, a national cinema, is ultimately dependent on the number of people who are willing to pay for it. Without a paying audience, whether it is cinema, television, video or new media exhibition, there can be no industry to speak of. With a total population of approximately 47 million people, South Africa has a tiny cinema-going audience measured at approximately 5 million persons with a rapidly growing television consuming public penetrating approximately 49% of the total number of South African households.

## 4) What's your all time favourite film?

*Cries and Whispers*, by the Swedish film master, Ingmar Bergman.



Prof. Martin Botha, Danny Glover and Regardt van den Bergh at the 7th Annual Ischia Global Film and Music Festival

## HIGHLIGHTS FOR UCT SCHOOL OF DANCE IN 2008

Gerard Samuel, the new Director of the School of Dance, was appointed in May 2008 and is the fifth director in the school's 75 year history.

Last year, the 5<sup>th</sup> South African Dance conference was hosted by the UCT School of Dance, "Confluences 5: High Culture, Mass Culture, Urban Culture – Whose Dance?". The conference examined the impact of urban dance and music forms on notions of mainstream theatre and performance. Five keynote speakers spearheaded the conference, including Professor Emerita from the US and Brenda Dixon-Gottschild, author of *The Black Dancing Body: A Geography From Coon to Cool*. Amongst other presenters were Joan van der Mast, Nita Liem and Daniel Renner – dance scholars and theatre makers from Holland – whose combination of teaching, theatre direction and choreography embraced a fusion of dance styles. Also present was South African Emile YX?, director of "Black Noise", who enthralled audiences on the topic of the evolution and shifting trends of Hip Hop culture.

African Dance Classes continue to run at full capacity. Over 30 young dancers, mainly from the US, showcased their African dance works in performance on 19 September 2008.

Senior lecturer Sharon Friedman completed her MMus in December 2008 and offered an insightful commentary on the state of dance education in the Cape Province in the context of a transforming South Africa. Her MMus thesis is entitled "Challenges to Dance Teacher Education: Interrogating the Training of Dance Teachers at the UCT School of Dance 2001–2008".

The School's annual production, "Dance UCT 2008", included two productions: *Not in Words* and *Words in Motion*, both of which explored the domains of seduction and alienation evoked by physical and spiritual travel or pilgrimage. It expressed such dis/connections with the foreign and the exotic, including topics in our country's celebratory embrace of multiculturalism, Afro-centricity and internationalism in a catholic range of movement and soundscapes.

The interdepartmental performing and creative programme for the Gordon Institute for the Performing and Creative Arts (GIPCA) was offered at the launch at the Hiddingh campus in December 2008.

The programme included *Embrace* choreographed by Daniel Renner, *The Swan* choreographed by Gerard Samuel, and *Our Revelation* choreographed by Maxwell Xolani Rani. All three works reflected interdisciplinary and contemporary re-visiting fusing styles, text and notions of repertoire.

Maxwell Xolani Rani was the choreographer in *Porgy and Bess* presented by the Cape Town Opera and Berlin Deutsche Oper in May 2008. Lindy Raizenberg was choreographer in *Don Giovanni*, presented by the Cape Town Opera in collaboration with the UCT Opera School at the Baxter Theatre last year.

Ms Savitri Naidoo introduced the first ever module on Indian dance in the Performance Studies course in August 2008.



Performance picture taken of the dance students in the UCT Dance 2008 season held at the Baxter Theatre. The photographer is Pat Bromilow-Downing.

## LANGERMAN PRESENTS MIXED MEDIA EXHIBITION

*Subtle Thresholds*, the representational taxonomies of disease, is a curated exhibition by Fritha Langerman at the South African Museum running until March 2010. The project, partially funded by GIPCA and the NRF, presents a mixed media installation together with objects from the collections of the South African Museum, and the Wits Adler Museum. The exhibition aims to use the public space of the museum to draw attention to some of the contemporary debates surrounding biomedical visual and material culture, presenting a complex visual network of the inter-relationships between zoological, human and microbial worlds. The exhibition also aims to expose some of the cultural and historical mythologies that have contributed to the location of disease as a state of otherness and separation.



From the *Subtle Thresholds* exhibition at the South African Museum

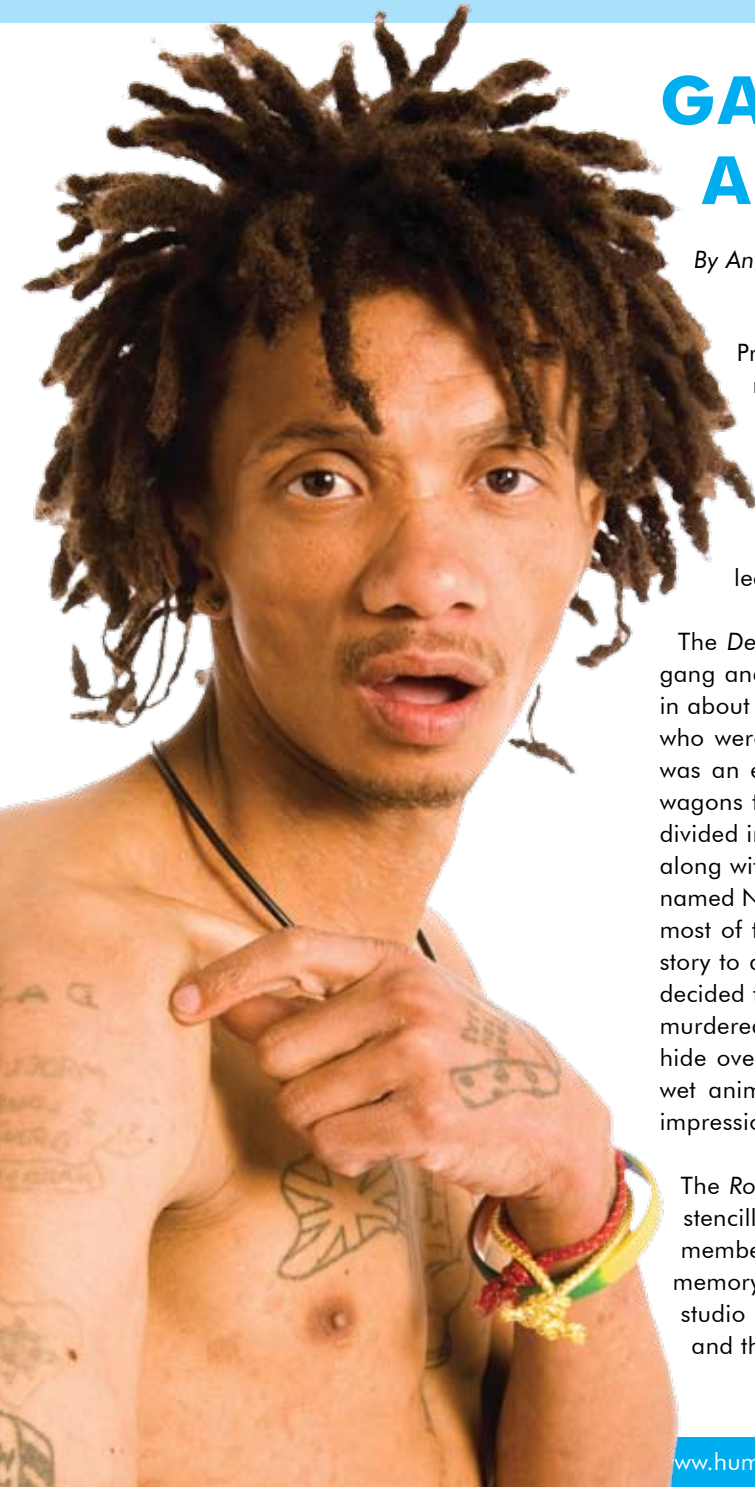
## GAVIN YOUNGE HOSTS A NEW EXHIBITION

By Angelique Redmond

Professor Gavin Young of the Michaelis School of Fine Art hosted a new exhibition in June and July of 2009 entitled *Deep Skin* at the Cosmopolis gallery. It was supported by an NRF research incentive award, the City of Nantes, La Noire Galerie in Paris and the ORMS. It featured large-scale photographs of members of the 28 prison gang as well as a new series of works on cowhide entitled *Rooiland*. Professor Young also travelled to Nantes, France to present a public lecture on "Transnational Trauma, Memory and Mythology".

The *Deep Skin/Rooiland* series is based on the mythology of the 28 prison gang and the explanation of its origins. The myth goes that a man called Po, in about 1890, created a band of robbers. These robbers comprised free men who were opposed to working underground in the gold mines, where death was an everyday possibility. Instead, they made their living robbing the pay wagons that served the gold mines along the Witwatersrand. They eventually divided into two groups. The first was headed by a man named Kilikijan who, along with six other men, robbed by day. The second was headed by a bandit named Nongoloza who, along with seven other thieves, worked by night. While most of the story is legendary, Nongoloza was captured and dictated his life story to a prison warden in 1912. The highwaymen, lacking writing material, decided to inscribe the laws of the gang onto a large boulder. Soon after, they murdered a farmer and stole a bull called Rooiland. They draped Rooiland's hide over the rock on which their history and rules had been engraved. The wet animal hide duly contracted onto the rock's surface and absorbed an impression of the text.

The *Rooiland* series consists of six calf hides onto which images have been stencilled. The images are derived from the tattoos worn by the photographed members of the 28 prison gang. The exhibition combines mythology with memory and the past with the present. Gavin Young was assisted in the studio photography by Vanessa Cowling, a part-time lecturer at Michaelis, and the catalogue for the exhibition was written by Maud de la Forterie.



## MACKENNY ENGAGES WITH INNOCENCE LOST

Virginia MacKenny's exhibition of paintings and etchings *Foam Along the Waterline* at the Irma Stern Museum (September 2008) engaged the world of innocence lost, in a time of ecological duress. Philosopher Glenn Albrecht coined the term 'solastalgia' to describe the effects of global warming on the mental wellbeing of Australians. Combining solacium (comfort) and algia (pain) 'solastalgia' describes "a pining for a lost environment". Akin to nostalgia, it reflects not on the pain felt having left a place, but the hurt experienced when one stays in a place and it irreparably changes around one.

In MacKenny's work the constraint of nature features large, but in an understated manner. Dominated by single colour fields, the paintings provide a terrain where large and small events gain equal prominence. Quotidian objects such as a glass of water, Christmas trees, flowers and ice lollies are juxtaposed with images of a less settling nature such as a wreck off the West Coast and an aerial view of the disintegration of the ice shelf along the Bering Strait.

The separate images, some iconic and emblematic, shift between different visual codes and are ultimately subsumed into a complex matrix where MacKenny engages with perception and ways of constructing meaning. Combining diagrammatic and

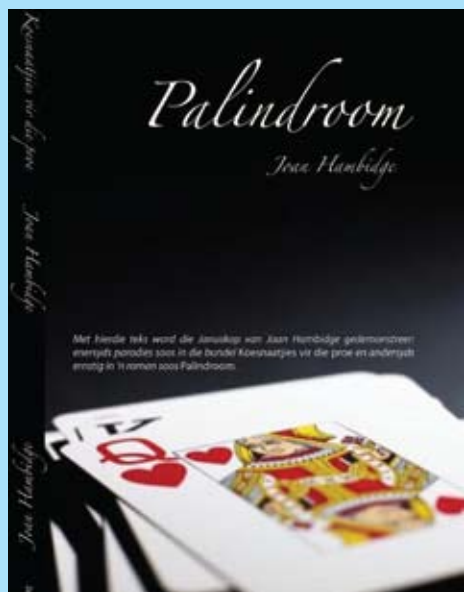
illusionistic rendering of images, the work is disrupted by spatial discontinuities that upset the expected comfort to be gained from the recognition of familiar objects. Mixing reverence, nostalgia, irony and a sense of wonder the work encourages viewers to make their own connections of memory and reflection on a planet changing irrevocably.



The work of MacKenny, a Volkskas award winner and Ampersand recipient, is held in a number of public collections. She is Senior Lecturer in Painting at Michaelis School of Fine Art. Above: 'Songs of Innocence and Experience (Dog Days)' (2007-2008). Oil on canvas, 1.6m x 2m (bought by Iziko South African National Gallery).

## SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

The School of Languages and Literatures (SLL) has seen many faculty members publishing important works in their fields.



Prof. Joan Hambidge's *Palindroom*, a novel combined with poetry

Professor Etienne van Heerden's novel *30 Nagte in Amsterdam* (Tafelberg, 2008) received three important awards: the M-Net Award for Fiction, the University of Johannesburg Award for Literature and the ultra-prestigious WA Hofmeyer Award for best literary work. *30 Nagte in Amsterdam* is currently being translated by Michiel Heyns, retired Head of English at the University of Stellenbosch. Professor van Heerden's other recent novel, *In stede van die liefde* (Tafelberg, 2005) has been translated into English by Leon de Kock, Head of the School of Languages and Literatures at Wits. The English rights to Professor van Heerden's novels have been bought by Penguin. Additionally, two of Professor van Heerden's MA Creative Writing students have novels coming out in 2009 through the prestigious Tafelberg imprint. The first is Christine Barkhuizen-Le Roux's *Padskraeper*, a novel about very poor white people living in road camps in the 50s and 60s all over South Africa. Toast Coetzer's novel, *Naweek*, looks at Cape Town's club life and a local rock star.

Professor Joan Hambidge's recent *Kladboek* (Protea Publishers, 2008) is a metafictional, hybrid text analysing the role of the writer

as traveler, columnist and theorist. She describes her *Palindroom* (Joho Publishers, 2008) as "a novel combined with poetry". She also recently published a volume of poetry entitled *Vuurwiel* (Human & Rousseau, 2009).

Dr Abner Nyamende recently published *Isaac Williams Wauchope: Selected Writings 1874-1916* (Cape Town: Van Riebeeck Society, 2008) in conjunction with Dr Jeff Opland (University of London).

Wilhelm Snyman received the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Translation Prize for his published translation of *Persuasion and Rhetoric* by Carlo Michelstaedter (University of Kwazulu Natal Press, January 2007).

Chris van der Merwe was invited to address the Oxford Round Table's conference on "Allusions to God in Prose and Poetry" in July 2008. The School hosted a number of international scholars in 2008, including Professor Kurt A. Raaflaub (Brown), Associate Professor Francois Lagarde (University of Austin, Texas), Dr Milcah Chokah (Kenyatta University, Nairobi) and Ondjaki, an internationally acclaimed Angolan writer.

# AN ACHIEVEMENT WORTH ARCHIVING

By Simon Hartley

UCT Michaelis School of Fine Art Professor Pippa Skotnes's new book *Claim to the Country: The Archive of Wilhelm Bleek and Lucy Lloyd* (Ohio University Press, 2007), has garnered substantial praise from a broad spectrum of notable voices.

The narrative that flows throughout *Claim to the Country* is, in Professor Skotnes's own words, "a story of breathtaking scope". The book presents the notes, drawings and insights of Wilhelm Bleek and Lucy Lloyd's study of the last of the San people in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, including essays by contemporary scholars such as UCT's own Nigel Penn. Professor Skotnes has meticulously compiled and arranged this mountain of historical data to tell a poignantly human story that remains a relevant reminder of the capacity of humankind to achieve stunning feats of good and evil.

The fact that the historical events featured in *Claim to the Country* resulted in the cultural genocide of South Africa's earliest inhabitants makes other aspects of the book all the more powerful. So says Professor Skotnes, "This is documentation of another world that was wonderful, and remarkable, and maximumly different from our own."

Additionally, the project kept up to speed with the digital age. A DVD of the archives was released with the book, featuring extra material not printed in the book, and high-resolution scans. Professor Skotnes comments that "it became important to digitise the material due to increased global interest". The professor, who has worked on various archiving projects at UCT for over 20

years, said that the first challenge that she and other colleagues working on the project faced was the sheer scale of the task at hand. Carefully planned scanning methods and standards had to be established and strictly adhered to in order to digitise the fragile material. Another hurdle that had to be overcome was the design and launch of the archive's official website.

*Claim to the Country* was awarded Outstanding Academic Title status by premier academic publication *Choice Magazine* and was jointly awarded the 2009 UCT Book Award. Anthropologist David Lewis-Williams has described the book as "surely the most amazing ethnographic source in the world".

Professor Skotnes has also authored and edited *Sound from the Thinking Strings* (University of Ohio Press, 2008), *Miscast: Negotiating the Presence of the Bushmen* (UCT Press, 1996), *Heaven's Things: A Story of the /Xam* (Juta, 1999) and *Unconquerable Spirit: George Stow's History Paintings of the San* (University of Ohio Press, 2009).



UCT Michaelis School of Fine Art Professor Pippa Skotnes



Professor Pippa Skotnes's *Claim to the Country: The Archive of Wilhelm Bleek and Lucy Lloyd*



Vice-Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow in the Centre for Film and Media Studies Signe Rousseau

## FOOD MEDIA AND SUPERSTAR CHEFS

Signe Rousseau has been making pasta and perfecting her brownie recipe lately. Now in her second year as a Vice-Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow in the Centre for Film and Media Studies, she has also been working on a book manuscript based on her PhD thesis (*From Chef to Superstar: Food Media from World War II to the World Wide Web*).

The book charts the growth of food television and the rise of superstar chefs as ironic indices of the fact that despite unsurpassed access to information about food and nourishment, more people seem to know less about how and what to feed themselves. Seen from this perspective, the success of celebrities like Jamie Oliver depends on the perceived failures of most of his fans, who in turn "need" his intervention – as does the UK government, which pledged almost £300 million towards

improving school food following the *Jamie's School Dinners* series. With a strong focus on media representation, the book is less about food than it is about the economics of attention and the politics of negotiating life in so-called risk societies.

Rousseau travelled to New Orleans last year to present a paper on her work at the annual conference for the International Association for the Study of Food and Society. While there she met Dr Harry West, the director of the Food Studies Centre at SOAS (London), and they are now collaborating on a project which will culminate in an open symposium on responsibility around food and media.

This year Rousseau hosted an open seminar at UCT on the "Uses of Theory". Open to all postgraduates and staff, it developed a fairly regular following of people from different departments who presented work in progress. She hopes to see more of this interdisciplinary exchange of ideas at UCT in the future.