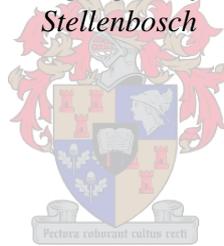


**Media language representations of
xenophobic attitudes in university settings:
a critical discourse analysis of Western
Cape campus newspapers**

by
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ABSTRACT

This study focuses on aspects of linguistic communication, specifically in campus media discourse, where portrayals of minority groups, such as African foreigners, affect the attitudes of readers and shape public ideology regarding these minority groups. The research examines published items in two Western Cape campus newspapers that topicalise Africa or African foreigners in South Africa. These items, which were published over a three year period from 2007 to 2009, are critically analysed, in order to evaluate the way in which Africa and Africans, specifically Africans in South Africa, are represented, to determine whether such representations make use of xenophobic language, and to gauge the potential effects on the attitudes of student readers with regards to foreign Africans living and studying in South Africa.

The aim of this thesis is to examine the possible (re)enforcement of xenophobic attitudes in the campus news media by analysing how Africa/foreign Africans are portrayed in South Africa's campus press against the background of the current xenophobic situation in South Africa. This is accomplished by making use of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), specifically the theoretical frameworks of van Dijk (1991) and Fairclough (1995; 1998), which allow for critical analysis on multiple levels of discourse. While the results of the media analysis illustrate a difference in coverage between the two campus newspapers, the overall impression is that campus press does indeed influence the attitudes of readers, more often than not, to the detriment of oppressed minority groups. Coverage of Africa/Africans in South Africa in the two campus publications indicated a slight growth in empathy towards the plight of Africa/African foreigners over the three year study period.

ABSTRAK

Hierdie studie fokus op aspekte van kommunikasie, veral binne kampusmedia-diskoers, waar die uitbeelding van minderheidsgroepe, soos buitelanders vanuit Afrika, 'n invloed uitoefen op die houdings van lesers en die vorming van openbare ideologieë ten opsigte van hierdie minderheidsgroepe. Dié navorsing ondersoek gepubliseerde items in twee Wes-Kaapse kampuskoerante wat handel oor Afrika of buitelanders vanuit Afrika wat in Suid-Afrika woon. Hierdie items, wat oor 'n tydperk van drie jaar (2007-2009) gepubliseer is, is krities ontleed ten einde te evalueer hoe Afrika en Afrikane, veral buitelanders in Suid-Afrika, uitgebeeld word, om te bepaal of sodanige uitbeeldings gebruik maak van xenofobiese taal en om die moontlike gevolge hiervan op die houdings van die studentelersers met betrekking tot buitelandse Afrikane wat in Suid-Afrika woon, te bestudeer en te meet.

Die doel van hierdie tesis is om die moontlike afdwinging van xenofobiese houdings in die kampus-nuusmedia/kampusnuusmedia te ondersoek deur die ontleding van hoe Afrika / buitelandse Afrikane in Suid-Afrika se kampuspers uitgebeeld word teen die agtergrond van die huidige xenofobiese situasie in Suid-Afrika. Dit word bereik deur gebruik te maak van Kritiese Diskoersanalise ("Critical Discourse Analysis"; CDA), spesifiek die teoretiese raamwerke van van Dijk (1991) en Fairclough (1995, 1998), wat ruimte laat vir 'n kritiese analise op verskeie vlakke van diskoers. Terwyl die resultate van die media-analise 'n verskil in dekking tussen die twee kampuskoerante illustreer, is die algehele indruk dat die kampuspers wel die houdings van die lesers beïnvloed, en in die reël tot nadeel van onderdrukte minderheidsgroepe. Mediadekking van Afrika / Afrikane in Suid-Afrika in die twee kampuspublikasies toon 'n effense groei in empatie teenoor die lot van Afrika / buitelandse Afrikane oor die drie jaar studietydperk.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background

One might think that with the dramatic rise in electronic media and social networking, that the humble campus newspaper would have become a thing of the past. The truth of the matter is that millions of South Africans, including students, read newspapers on a daily basis, which means that millions of South Africans are still directly affected by the print media (Danso & McDonald 2001). And campus newspapers form part of the print media landscape of South Africa. It is therefore important to analyse campus newspapers critically, as they play a critical role in reflecting and perpetuating student attitudes and perceptions regarding various important issues.

Over the past few decades substantial research has been done focusing specifically on the role that the mass media plays with regards to its representation of African migrants in South Africa (Adegoke 1999; Danso & McDonald 2001; Harris 2002; Neocosmos 2010; Steinberg 2005; 2008). Newspapers and newspaper headlines are often blamed for perpetuating negative stereotypes about Africa and African migrants in South Africa and continuing to portray African migrants as job-stealers, criminals and disease spreaders (Danso & McDonald 2001: 116). Interestingly, animosity towards foreign students, specifically those from Africa, has not received much attention, yet most of the student communities in the Western Cape are made up of a veritable mosaic of different races, cultures and belief systems, including those not from South Africa.

The aim of the study is to analyse the discourse trends in two Western Cape campus newspapers so as to examine the way in which Africa and Africans, specifically Africans in

South Africa, are represented. This will be done in order to determine whether such representations make use of xenophobic language and to gauge the potential effects on the attitudes of student readers with regards to foreign Africans living and studying in South Africa. This study will make use of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), specifically the theoretical frameworks of van Dijk (1991) and Fairclough (1995; 1998), which will allow for critical analysis on multiple levels of discourse. This study will therefore investigate and report on the works of several theorists who have made valuable contributions to the field of CDA, as well as understanding the social phenomenon of xenophobia in terms of discourse and ideology.

The concept of “xenophobia” might, until recently, have been unfamiliar to most South Africans as this issue tended to get buried beneath the broader discourse of racism in South Africa. However, Adegoke (1999) argues that xenophobia should be topicalised separately from racism in order to give it the much needed attention which it deserves. Furthermore, contrary to popular belief the incidents of xenophobia have actually risen since South Africa was declared a democracy in 1994 (Neocosmos 2010).

Xenophobia can be simply defined as an irrational fear/hatred of foreigners, but for the purposes of this study a more specific definition is needed. Harris (2002) makes the observation that xenophobia in the South African context has escalated from a mere dislike of foreigners towards a fully blown violent hatred of African foreigners. It is important to note that xenophobia in South Africa is aimed almost exclusively at African migrants in South Africa. Neocosmos (2010: 15) makes the important point that this "new, different kind of racism" should be understood in terms of political identity as well as political consciousness and discourse, because it is fundamentally about exclusion from citizenship rights.

The primary motivation for this study is the dangerous rise in xenophobia in South Africa as evidenced by the events of May 2008. Between 11 and 26 May 2008, 62 people (mostly foreign nationals) were killed in violent xenophobic pogroms around the country. Thirty-five thousand foreign nationals were driven from their shanty-town homes in Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town and elsewhere (Steinberg 2008: 1). In order to explain this massive outbreak of violence towards foreigners I draw insights from the wealth of studies done on the topic of migrants in South Africa (Danso & McDonald; Harris 2002; Neocosmos 2010). A trend which revealed itself in the early research on the topic of xenophobia and migrants in South Africa was how negatively the rest of Africa as well as African migrants in South Africa are portrayed in the mass media.

1.2 Research questions and hypothesis

The central research questions of this study are as follows:

- (1) How are Africa and Africans, specifically Africans in South Africa, represented in campus newspapers?
- (2) Does the language use in campus newspapers potentially contribute to xenophobic attitudes of intolerance and exclusivity among Western Cape students?

The working hypothesis is that a critical analysis of two Western Cape campus newspapers over a period of three years will reflect a dominantly prejudiced attitude (especially towards African migrants) among student communities in the Western Cape. Furthermore, it is anticipated that xenophobic discourse in student media will potentially have an overall negative effect on the attitudes of South African students towards foreign Africans.

1.3 Rationale

This study focuses on campus media discourse where various aspects of xenophobia (and prejudice in general) are topicalised. The main focus of the study will be to identify any form

of "othering" language in campus newspapers. A critical discourse analysis of the archives of two different campus newspapers will potentially yield evidence for xenophobic/"othering" language in campus newspapers and will give insight into the way in which African, and Africans in South Africa, are represented in these newspapers, especially in light of the build-up, perpetration and aftermath of the May 2008 xenophobic attacks.

This research falls within the field of CDA and focuses on the study of language in relation to broader social, political and economic structures of society. The study will look to contribute to the ever expanding body of work in the field of CDA – specifically in the area of discourse and ideology.

Extensive research has been done on and around xenophobia in South Africa, especially the incidents of May 2008 (Robins 2008, 2009; Neocosmos 2008, 2010; Sharp 2008; Steinberg 2008, 2011). These aforementioned studies are mainly focussed around first-hand accounts of the specific attacks of May 2008 and there are very few studies that attempt to look at sources like print media for the cause of attitudes leading to such action. This study will look to fill a gap in the research by looking critically at how campus newspapers specifically could have had a role to play in purveying negative attitudes towards foreigners and creating a climate of xenophobia.

1.4 Chapter layout

Chapter one serves as an introductory chapter, in which the research questions and working hypothesis are stated. Additionally, a background to the study is sketched along with the rationale behind the undertaking of the study. Chapter two gives a brief introduction to the field of CDA before going on to review the theoretical work of two critical discourse analysts, namely van Dijk and Fairclough. These scholars' works provide the main theoretical frameworks for the analysis of the media texts. Chapter three provides a brief explication of

the term "xenophobia" while giving some background information on the rise of this social phenomenon. Chapter three reviews the studies done on xenophobia by prominent theorists Neocosmos (2010) and Steinberg (2008) who view xenophobia in terms of political discourse and practice as well as reviewing the works of Danso & McDonald (2001) and Adegoke (1999), who focus on xenophobia and the role of the media in creating and perpetuating negative stereotypes with regard to Africa and African migrants in South Africa. Chapter four provides an overview of the methodology used in this study, in terms of aims, data collection, procedure and instruments. Chapter four already anticipates the analyses that are systematically presented in Chapter five. Chapter five presents a discussion of the findings of the study. The core of the study focuses on a critical analysis of prejudiced discourse in campus media publications. A significant portion of this study focuses on the works of theorists who have conceptualised xenophobia as a social product, and attitudes towards foreign Africans as being constructed by and reinforced through discourse. This conceptualisation provides the basis of the study, as ideologies reflected in campus news media are taken to be both reflective of and formative in the attitudes of South African students towards their foreign African counterparts.

Chapter 2

Critical Discourse Analysis - the discursive construction and reinforcement of ideologies in news media

This chapter will present an overview of the field of CDA and examine the theoretical works of two prominent theorists within the field of CDA, namely Teun van Dijk (1985, 1991, 1998, 2008) and Norman Fairclough (1989, 1995).

2.1 Introduction to Critical Discourse Analysis

Blommaert & Bulcaen (2000: 1) introduce CDA as follows: "Critical discourse analysis (CDA) emerged in the late 1980s as a programmatic development in European discourse studies spearheaded by Norman Fairclough, Ruth Wodak, Teun van Dijk, and others. Since then, it has become one of the most influential and visible branches of discourse analysis."

According to Janks (1997: 1), CDA

stems from a critical theory of language which sees the use of language as a form of social practice. All social practice are tied to specific historical contexts and are the means by which existing social relations are reproduced or contested and different interests are served. It is the questions pertaining to interests - How is the text positioned or positioning? Whose interests are served by this positioning? Whose interests are negated? What are the consequences of this positioning? - that relate discourse to relations of power. Where analysis seeks to understand how discourse is implicated in relations of power, it is called *critical* discourse analysis.

Fairclough (2001: 25) makes it clear that, among other things, CDA is concerned with how unequal power relations are expressed through the use of language "in processes of

exploitation and domination of some people by others". CDA sees discourse, power and identity as interconnected and, for this reason, CDA is ideal for this study which aims to look at the discursive construction of power relations and identities in society through the use of news media discourse. Chilton (2005: 24) also notes that,

CDA is good at showing how particular language users establish exclusionary attitudes and maybe practices by recurrently and selectively asserting certain attributes (i.e. social roles, behavioural characteristics, physical appearance, etc.) of social and ethnic groups (e.g. van Dijk 1991, 1993a, 1993b, Wodak 2000, Reisigl & Wodak 2001). In other words, CDA draws attention to the existence of stereotyped categorisations in daily talk, elite talk and texts.

CDA is not without its criticisms, the most prominent one of which is explicated by Chilton (2005: 22) when he says that, "CDA despite some interest in (mental) representations has by and large not paid any attention to the human mind". This lack of attention to the human mind is a serious theoretical gap in its own right, yet it is even more troubling that in taking stock of the recent research in cognitive sciences it might be realised that CDA is not needed at all. (Chilton 2005: 22)

Because of the focus on power and inequality in this research, the frameworks adopted from the works of Fairclough (1989, 1995) and van Dijk (1998) are useful.

2.2 Critical Discourse Analysts

The main impetus of van Dijk's research lies in examining the relationship between dominant discourse and ideology. He develops a framework which demonstrates how dominant ideologies come to be represented in discourse. Van Dijk (1998) also proposes a five-step process for conducting ideological analysis on discourse.

Fairclough as one of the founders of CDA also looks at how power is exercised through the use of discourse. Fairclough (1989, 1995) provides a model which allows for the analysis of discourse on three different levels - text, processes and context.

2.2.1 Van Dijk

Van Dijk (1998: 21) believes that ideologically based opinions are expressed through textual devices in the news media which is why he embeds his socio-cognitive approach inside a CDA framework. Van Dijk explains CDA as having an explicit socio-political agenda through which prejudice and unequal power relations can be studied. The CDA approach focuses on the role of discourse in reproducing or challenging dominant socio-political ideals.

The role of the Press in the reproduction of racism in society can no longer simply be assessed by listing its stereotypical topics or by giving examples of obvious bias against minorities or anti-racists. Since its role is largely symbolic and ideological, and hence based on discursive practices, we first of all need a thorough discourse analytical approach that is able systematically to describe and explain the subtleties of ethnic reporting (van Dijk 1991: 253-254).

Throughout his extensive studies on racism and power relations in the press, van Dijk manages to totally redefine the nature of the relationship between dominant discourse and ideology as well as make clear the complexity of the framework in which news text is analysed.

The Press find themselves in the position to provide the ideological framework necessary for the interpretation of minority groups and the prejudice they face. Van Dijk finds, however that these ideological frameworks work against minority groups as they serve to reinforce and reproduce prejudiced interpretations of them.

Van Dijk (1991: 45) goes on to state that, "[t]ogether, surface forms and their underlying meanings, when used in a particular communicative situation, realize specific social acts, that is, so called 'speech acts', such as assertions, questions, promises, threats or accusations." Van Dijk wishes to clarify the important point of discourse being able to constitute what we know as 'speech acts' i.e. social acts with real world consequences.

As with Steinberg (2008) and Adegoke (1999), whose work will be discussed in chapter 3, van Dijk raises the important point that "[the] reproductive and symbolic role of the Press is not isolated, but linked in many ways to political, economic, or other power institutions or the elites in general" (Van Dijk 1991: 254). The ideologies of the power elite are filtered through the Press and play an ever increasing role in creating and reproducing prejudice in the public sphere.

Van Dijk (1998: 21) proposes a new definition for the term "ideology" in an article entitled, "The Discourse Structure of News Stories" and develops a framework which aims to demonstrate how the ideologies of journalists and editors come to influence the discourse structures of press articles. He also develops a five-step process for conducting a critical discourse analysis which can reveal underlying ideologies in the print news media. Van Dijk (1998: 22) proposes his "socio-cognitive theory" to reconcile the divergent views on the problematic term "ideology". This theory is comprised of three main parts, namely social functions, cognitive structures, and discursive expression and reproduction. In a nutshell, van Dijk's (1998: 23) socio-cognitive theory on ideology involves the acquisition of shared social representations and their uses in social contexts.

Van Dijk (1998: 23) argues three main points when it comes to the social functions of ideologies. Firstly, he states that all social groups need to have an ideology. Ideologies are not limited to the dominant class. Secondly, he argues that there are no wrong or right ideologies,

rather that they are more or less successful in promoting the interests of a group. Lastly, he proposes that the main function of an ideology is the coordination of shared social practices of group members for the effective realisation and protection of group goals and interests.

Another notable point which van Dijk (1998: 23) makes is that in many cases ideologies are developed specifically for the purpose of creating and reinforcing group conflicts as well as unequal power relations.

According to van Dijk (1998: 24), the cognitive structures of ideologies need to be developed specifically to sustain the social functions. He goes on to argue that group actions should reflect group mentality/ideology. It is for this specific reason that the commonly held beliefs of specific social groups determine the collective practices of these specific groups. Van Dijk (1998: 24) attributes the ethics of certain groups to the ideologies they hold.

Van Dijk (1991: 208) makes the valuable point about minorities (in this case he talks about Asian minorities in Britain, but the same point can be made for the South African situation) that, "[f]or the public at large especially, this negative portrayal of minorities, white anti-racists and the left, may be translated into a persuasive set of popular appeals based on an ideology of commonsense interpretations and evaluations of the ethnic situation". Each and every instance of discrimination has its own unique contextual nature.

Furthermore, with regards to ideology, van Dijk (1998: 25) notes that ideologies are naturally polarised. The negative representation of the 'other' and the positive representation of the self both influence the way in which individuals and groups see each other. Van Dijk (1998: 25) reiterates the point that ideology is manifest in the shared social practices and discourse, which is to say that each individual has a slight variation of these shared social representations. A final and important point made by van Dijk (1998: 26) on the cognitive

functions of ideologies is that people usually belong to more than one social group, therefore they have several different ideologies influencing their social practices.

Van Dijk (1998: 26) introduces the concept of 'mental models' which act as the interface between social representation and their manifestation in discourse. He defines a mental model as being made up of an individual's representations of their own experiences and evaluations of certain phenomena. Mental models are therefore unique and subjective to each different individual. Van Dijk (1998: 26) proposes that a person's personal opinions expressed in discourse are derived both from socially shared ideologies as well as personal mental models. Van Dijk (1998: 27) states that while mental models are person-specific and contextual, they do have a social aspect in that they are internalisations of shared socio-cultural knowledge and group opinions. The process that van Dijk (1998) proposes of the process by which ideology comes to be represented in discourse is surmised as follows, *ideology* gets organised into *group attitudes* which get internalised into *personal mental models* which then in turn are expressed in *discourse*.

It is the internalised mental models then which determine the content of discourse, because it is the mental models which determine the certain components of group ideologies which individuals choose to internalise and express (van Dijk 1998: 27).

A final important concept discussed by van Dijk (1991: 32) is the notion of 'reproduction';

Groups can remain dominant only if they have the resources to reproduce their dominance...[b]y 'reproduction' we mean the dialectical interaction of general principles and actual practices that underlie the historical continuity of a social system.

The practice of 'reproduction' in the press enables us to analyse the ideological reproduction of xenophobia as it is found in the content structure of news articles. The critical discourse analysis of campus news aims to uncover the socio-political structures manifest in the meanings and structure of news articles and how these collective ideologies in turn contribute to the manifestation and reproduction in the social cognition of readers.

In his article *The Discourse Structure of News Stories* van Dijk (1998: 61) proposes five steps for conducting an ideological analysis:

1. Examine the context of the discourse.
2. Analyse which groups, power relations and conflicts are involved.
3. Look for positive and negative messages about different social groups.
4. Spell out the presupposed and implied messages.
5. Examine all formal structures that (de)emphasise polarised group opinions.

The five steps mentioned above along with Fairclough's 1989/1995 model for conducting critical discourse analysis on three different levels will be employed in the analysis of ideological news reports published in Western Cape campus newspapers from 2007 through to 2009.

2.2.2 Fairclough

Norman Fairclough's (1989, 1995) model for conducting critical discourse analysis allows us to study three levels of discourse - text, process and social context. The model is represented by three concentric boxes/sections each of which represents a level of discourse analysis. The central box represents the actual text aspect of the discourse i.e. the finished product (a piece of discourse) which involves textual analysis. This first level is known as the level of

description (Fairclough 1995). The central box is surrounded by a second, larger box entitled "production and reception processes" and represents the level of interpretation. The second level of discourse analysis handles the examination of processes of production and reception i.e. speech, hearing, reading, writing, etc. The third level of analysis involves the study of social context and also sits at the level of explanation. The box labelled "social contexts" is the largest and surrounds the other two while examining the conditions under which production and reception take place.

Fairclough's model is represented in figure 2.1 below.

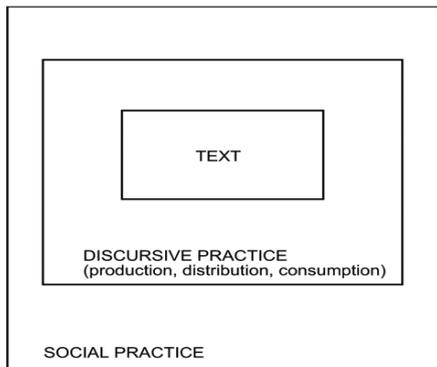


Figure 2.1: Fairclough's (1995: 98) model for conducting CDA

The model above illustrates that the three levels of analysis do not stand in isolation from each other, but are interrelated in a complex way. The text itself acts as a finished product as well as the cue for the process of production and reception, however, the level of discourse practice also constrains text production while simultaneously acting as a bridge between socio-cultural practice and the text. (Fairclough 1995)

Socio-cultural practice (the outer level) in turn constrains discourse practice which contributed to the text production. The text itself plays an important role in that it has the ability to redefine social practice. Intertextuality plays an integral role in Fairclough's model, because in the reproduction of texts which is itself a prerequisite for discourse processes

editors and journalists draw upon new and old codes of discourse, processes and practices (Fairclough 2003: 47). According to Fairclough (1995: 60), intertextuality refers to the points of intersection between the text and discourse practice. "Intertextual analysis aims to unravel the various genres and discourses - often, in creative discourse practice, a highly complex mixture - which are articulated together in the text" (Fairclough 1995: 61).

Intertextual analysis can help in the examination of the modes of representation in media discourse, e.g. discourse types and historical resources may contribute greatly to the understanding of xenophobic language in the media. The notion of intertextuality allows for discursive interdependency. This discursive interdependency allows the analyst to have the option of multiple entry points into discourse analysis as well as allowing the oscillation between the different levels of analysis (Fairclough 2003).

Fairclough's (1995: 17) multi-functional view of texts as representations, relations and identities opens up possibilities for researchers to delve deeper into texts and uncover the ideologies and assumptions upon which these texts were written. The ideational level deals with representations in the world while the interpersonal function of language manages the establishment of identities and relations. The textual level involves the constitutive linguistic properties and the overall structure of the text. Janks (1997: 1) summarises Fairclough's model for CDA, pointing out that it consists three inter-related processes of analysis tied to three inter-related dimensions of discourse. According to Janks, these three dimensions are:

1. The object of analysis (including verbal, visual or verbal and visual texts).
2. The processes by means of which the object is produced and received (writing/speaking/designing and reading/listening/viewing) by human subjects.
3. The socio-historical conditions which govern these processes.

Janks (1997: 1) points out that, according to Fairclough, each of these dimensions requires a different kind of analysis, which she characterises as follows:

1. text analysis (description),
2. processing analysis (interpretation),
3. social analysis (explanation).

2.3 Conclusion

This chapter has given a brief overview of the CDA frameworks employed in this study. Theoretical frameworks adopted from the works of van Dijk (1998) and Fairclough (1989, 1995) are employed in the study to explain how popular ideologies are formed and perpetuated through discourse in the media, often to the detriment of minority groups. Van Dijk (1998) proposes a five-step process for conducting CDA, while Fairclough's (1989, 1995) model allows for the analysis of discourse on three levels, text, process and context. The next chapter will explore the concept of xenophobia by examining some prominent studies on xenophobia in South Africa.

Chapter 3

Xenophobia - the social construction of an exclusive citizenship

3.1 Introduction

Between 11 and 26 May 2008, 62 people, the majority of them foreign nationals, were killed by mobs in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and elsewhere. Some 35,000 were driven from their homes. An untold number of shacks were burnt to the ground. The troubles were dubbed South Africa's 'xenophobic riots'.

(Steinberg 2008: 1)

The term "xenophobia" can be defined as "a deep antipathy to foreigners" (Oxford English Dictionary). However, Harris (2002: 170) argues that viewing xenophobia simply as a negative attitude, or antipathy, does not account for the fact that in South Africa xenophobia "is not restricted to a fear or dislike of foreigners", but rather results in intense violence towards immigrants. The question is, what sets xenophobia apart from racism?

Xenophobia can be seen as a unique form of racism (targeting mainly African foreigners), but as Adegoke (1999: 4) argues, the analysis of xenophobic discourse should be isolated from the broader discourse of racism, so as to give it the attention it deserves. This chapter will look to unpack the concept of xenophobia in order to make it clear that South Africa is dealing with a new, different kind of racism. Neocosmos (2010: 15) makes it clear that xenophobia must be understood as a phenomenon in the realm of political identity as well as political consciousness and discourse, because it is fundamentally about exclusion from citizenship rights.

In order to achieve this aim, the chapter will examine some prominent studies on xenophobia in South Africa by the authors Neocosmos (2010), Steinberg (2008), Danso & McDonald (2001), and Adegoke (1999).

3.2 Understanding xenophobia in terms of political discourse and practice

3.2.1 Neocosmos (2010)

In his book *From 'Foreign Natives' to 'Native Foreigners': Explaining Xenophobia in Post-apartheid South Africa - Citizenship and Nationalism, Identity and Politics* Michael Neocosmos attempts to explain the phenomenon of xenophobia in South Africa by firstly looking at the apartheid state and the strong anti-migrant policies which went along with it. He shows how these anti-migrant policies have helped form anti-foreigner mentalities among the public which inevitably lead to the violent pogroms of May 2008. Neocosmos (2010) argues that the attacks on foreigners during May 2008 should be understood mainly in terms of political discourse and practice.

Through looking at the very specific historical context of pre- and post-apartheid South Africa and how the notion of citizenship was fought over and developed, Neocosmos attempts to sketch a very clear political picture of how xenophobia has become entrenched in the beliefs and ideologies of the state and the public alike. The creation of an exclusive citizenship in South Africa's new democracy has seen fear and hatred of foreigners take a steep rise (Neocosmos 2010).

In the conclusion of the book, Neocosmos argues rather successfully that many of the previous explanations for xenophobia have been lacking and do not really get to the crux of the problem. He argues that while explanations such as relative deprivation (cf. Harris 2002) could explain the sudden outbursts of violence in May 2008, they do not explain why these attacks were focussed almost solely on black African foreigners (Neocosmos 2010: 105).

According to Neocosmos(2010: 1), xenophobia is a form of discrimination which can be very closely linked to the racism which characterised our apartheid state in the late eighties. Xenophobia can be seen as a "new racism" which is afflicting our society, it is new in the sense that it is only now, after violent attacks on foreigners around the country, that it is getting media and public attention, yet xenophobia has been around for longer than we care to remember. Neocosmos (2010: 3) emphasises the role of state institutions and politicians in creating a culture of xenophobia, stating "it is mainly state institutions, legislation and personnel which are the most obviously guilty of xenophobic practices". He goes on to explain how concepts such as 'affirmative action' and 'black economic empowerment' have given rise to a culture of entitlement among the new middle-classes as well as giving rise to exclusionary conceptions of nation and citizenship. It is unnatural, for Neocosmos (2010: 5), that nationalism is taking this particular form in South Africa, since many of those who helped greatly and achieved leadership positions in the liberation struggle were not of South African origin.

Neocosmos (2010: 13-16) provides four theses to explain his theoretical position. Firstly, "[x]enophobia is a discourse and practice of exclusion from community." Secondly, "[t]his process of exclusion is a political process." As Neocosmos (2010: 14) succinctly puts it, "[p]olitical discourses demarcate boundaries." His third thesis states that [x]enophobia is concerned with exclusion from citizenship which denotes a specific political relationship between state and society". In other words, "[x]enophobia is about the denial of social rights and entitlements to strangers, people considered to be strangers to the community (village, ethnic group as well as nation) not just to 'foreigners' as conceived by the law." Lastly, "[x]enophobia is the outcome of a relation between different forms of politics." In this sense, xenophobia exists in the limbo between a subjective state politics and a subjective popular politics.

According to (Neocosmos 2010: 15) xenophobia must be understood as a phenomenon in the realm of political identity as well as political consciousness and discourse, because it is fundamentally about exclusion from citizenship rights. In his book, Neocosmos (2010) explicates the argument that in South Africa the exclusionary conception of the nation state is a direct result of the mode of rule of the apartheid state as well as the manner in which this rule was understood and fought against by the nationalist movement.

Neocosmos (2010: 16) proposes various theoretical steps to be used in understanding xenophobia in South Africa. These steps include looking at the division of labour first and foremost, because it is this political economy which lead to the conditions for a society filled with social divisions. Room was left open by the previously disadvantaged black victims of the apartheid struggle for a new contingent to occupy the space reserved for 'the impoverished other' and this space was quickly filled by rural migrants and illegal immigrants. "The process of state interpellation takes place as ideology, power and institutions address people as citizens or subjects over time" (Neocosmos 2010: 16). Under apartheid all rural migrants were branded as foreigners by the state, whether they originated from within South Africa or not. Lastly, but most importantly, Neocosmos (2010: 17) argues that we must look at mediation politics and how South Africa has spawned a type of state politics which reduces citizenship to indigeneity, formalised by state legislation, as well as a politically passive conception of citizenship.

Neocosmos (2010: 58) points out that such a conception of citizenship is the outcome of state interpellation and popular politics (which is often in contradiction with state interpellation). The apartheid state systematically manipulated the concept of citizenship in order to de-nationalise rural black South Africans so they could exploit as many people as possible for cheap labour. Neocosmos (2010: 59) finds that what is lacking, or rather, what

was withheld from the rural populous is that very thing which is needed for a new democracy to thrive - an **active** citizenship.

Interestingly, Neocosmos (2010: 59) highlights the contradictions in the popular struggle of the 1980's. Popular identities and leaders shared an urban bias, which was never reconciled with the rural periphery and as such the latter were ironically left out of the liberation struggle completely. One of the main contradictions was the appointment of Mangosuthu Buthelezi to the head of the ministry of home affairs. "While this appointment did help to reduce the slaughter between UDF/ANC and Inkatha supporters, it also helped to develop a state discourse of xenophobia which this minister in particular expressed virulently" (Neocosmos 2010: 59).

Neocosmos discusses the construction of state xenophobic discourse in post-apartheid South Africa of which the transformation/nationalisation of the migrant labour system was central. "What this meant of course, was that the replacement of 'foreign' by South African labour on the mines as well as the urbanisation of migrants, were both understood as fundamentally 'democratic' processes." (Neocosmos 2010: 66) This seems to be trend running though South African state discourse and "[a]s a result the hegemonic discourse of nationalism was one which equated democracy with the exclusion of foreigners from citizenship rights and which reduced the latter to indigeneity" Neocosmos (2010: 71).

Neocosmos (2010: 67) notes that the South African mentality with regards to the rest of Africa is inherently one of exclusion. This "South African discourse of exceptionalism" is not simply founded in the fact that South Africa stands out because of its industrial development, but also includes a (Western) tendency to see the rest of Africa as backward, poverty stricken, rural, politically unstable and corrupt.

As a result of state discourse and legislation, South Africans are left defending what Neocosmos (2010: 77) dubs "Fortress South Africa"; "Clearly the process of 'nation-building' (whether implicit or explicit), is not simply about the creation of 'national unity' around a common political project, it is also about demarcating that unity from others - from 'foreigners'."

It is worth noting the common argument used by most state policy makers in defence of exclusion; "Poverty is high in South Africa and unemployment has been growing, we must look after our own first; it would be disastrous to "open the floodgates" and allow the poverty of Africa to overwhelm our economy" (Neocosmos 2010: 82).

Neocosmos (2010: 103) hypothesises that it is the process of 'disabling' and 'de-politicising' which lies at the centre of the problem of xenophobia in South Africa. "This disabling has provided the conditions for state discourse to become hegemonic largely because it goes unchallenged by alternative politics." (Neocosmos 2010: 103) According to Neocosmos xenophobia in South Africa today is a public state discourse. "Over the years since liberation, Africa, for South Africans, has become the place 'over there', the place of the 'other', to be acted upon, 'led' by politicians, 'studied' by academics, 'developed' by investors or 'visited' by tourists in search of the natural and the authentic" (Neocosmos 2010: 107).

What Neocosmos (2010: 106) shows in his book is that xenophobia in modern day South Africa is a specifically political discourse with a specific history. It has developed as an outcome of the relation between state and society. "The extreme power of state officials over the weak, whether actually foreign or not, has been accurately stated to be a mere continuation of apartheid oppression, while immigration legislation enables the continuation of a pass-like system" (Neocosmos 2010: 108).

What needs to change says Neocosmos (2010: 110) is that there needs to be a recovery of active politics in South Africa. Only through active citizenship can true democracy be realised. "The overcoming of xenophobia then, presupposes the recovery of a prescriptive politics in society, and hence the recovery of an active citizenship which alone, under current conditions in post-colonial Africa, can make such prescriptive politics possible" (Neocosmos 2010: 115).

In the epilogue of his book, Neocosmos deals in detail with the violent pogroms of May 2008 and what he calls "the Politics of Fear" (Neocosmos 2010 : 119). The reason why these violent attacks in which 62 lost their lives can be called pogroms is because the violence was sometimes organised and at other times spontaneous. (Neocosmos 2010: 118) He goes on to state once again that these episodes of xenophobia are to be explained politically, because they are political actions i.e. It was about identifying a solution to perceived problems and executing it.

From a linguistic perspective, Neocosmos notes that the language hatred i.e. the names that are given to foreigners such as *Makwerekwere* (standard derogatory name for African foreigners, which apparently depicts the phonetic sound of foreign African languages), *Grigambas* ("dung beetles"), *Amagundane* ("rats"), *Cockroaches*, etc. is the same type of language used during the genocide in Rwanda, ex-Yugoslavia and Nazi Germany (Neocosmos 2010: 121).

Neocosmos (2010: 141) explains his conception of the politics of fear as it is being practiced in South Africa and explains that it is a three-pronged concept. The three major components of the politics of fear are: a state discourse of xenophobia, a discourse of South African exceptionalism and a conception of citizenship founded on indigeneity (Neocosmos 2010: 147-148).

It should be clear that this violent 'cleansing' is the consequence of a politics of fear, which can easily tip over into a politics of war against those who are seen to be different for whatever reason. To counter these politics, an active politics of peace is necessary, but for this to develop, we need first to understand the politics of fear which prevails in South Africa today.

(Neocosmos 2010: 147)

3.2.2 Steinberg (2008)

In 2008 a paper was published by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) about *South Africa's Xenophobic Eruption*. The author, Jonny Steinberg, who has written extensively for the ISS on criminal justice policy in South Africa, argues that "the riots bore some of the classic features of a fight for resources driven by a patrimonial understanding of economic distribution" (Steinberg 2008: 16).

As noted in the introduction, between 11 and 26 May 2008, 62 people, the majority foreign nationals were massacred in pogroms in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and elsewhere. In the immediate aftermath of the riots Steinberg and a research colleague visited several sites of violence throughout the greater Johannesburg area, and recorded the testimony of several people who had to flee their homes. He also interviewed people who were a part of the mobs as well as civic and political leaders, and security personnel (Steinberg 2008).

The first section of this paper recounts the experience of a single victim of the xenophobic violence in South Africa, a Mozambican national by the name of Benny Sithole. The second section explores the genesis of the violence in Alexandria. In the final and most interpretive section of the paper Steinberg (2008) conveys how the violence was understood by the perpetrators and victims interviewed, and how they made sense of their views. Apart from recording some of the complexity of what happened on the ground and giving voice to those

who were forced to be silent, this paper makes a modest analytical contribution to understanding the causes of the violence against foreign nationals.

Steinberg (2008: 1) argues that the "conception of the economy [in South Africa – MW] invites conflict, for it assumes that access to resources is a zero-sum game". Steinberg questions why South African citizens have come to understand their democracy and their economy in this way, and argues that at least part of the answer lies in the character of the country's new political elite and the bargains it struck with established white wealth at the beginning of South Africa's democratic era (Steinberg 2008: 2).

Steinberg (2008: 2-4) gives a fairly detailed narrative of Benny Sithole's experience throughout the pogroms of May 2008 and states that Benny and his wife were among the millions of foreign nationals that have poured (illegally) across South Africa's borders since the end of apartheid. "On the lips of those who had gathered to loot and kill were songs composed during the struggle against apartheid. Only now, they no longer sang of white minority rule, but of foreigners, and of the jobs, houses and women the foreigners had stolen" (Steinberg 2008: 3).

According to Steinberg (2008:5), the return of crowd violence to South African streets along with the apartheid narrative still intact recalls the direst images from the country's past, and invites a dire prognoses of South Africa's future. His opinion is that a new democracy cannot survive under the burden of misery on such a large scale. Steinberg (2008: 5) goes on to argue that "[a]mong the kindling from which the violence ignited was a nasty feud, part ethnic, part party-political, among South Africans themselves".

Steinberg's observations support the position taken by Neocosmos (2010), that a culture of entitlement has begun to develop among the South African population. Steinberg (2008: 7) feels strongly that a society that understands its economy as a fixed lump must breed conflict,

and not only between locals and foreigners. In an economy such as this it is literally every man woman and child for him/herself.

Steinberg (2008: 9) goes on to ask the question; "Why have many South Africans come to see their democracy as a struggle for state patronage?" The answer lies as much in the past as in the present, given the sheer diversity of people who have come to claim some part of South Africa as their own, competitive conflict is an inevitable part of any diverse society, especially one that sees its economy as a fixed sum.

3.3 Understanding xenophobia and the role of the media

3.3.1 Danso & McDonald (2001)

In 2001 a paper was published in *Africa Today* which deals directly with the topic of the print media's coverage of immigration in post-apartheid South Africa. "The paper argues that coverage of international migration by the South African press has been largely anti-immigrant and unanalytical." (Danso & McDonald 2001: 115) The reason why this paper is pertinent to the topic at hand is because studies such as this one add greatly to our understanding of the issue of xenophobia and anti-immigrant attitudes in South Africa. The media's role in shaping public opinion should never be underestimated.

The paper starts off by looking at the two nationwide surveys conducted by SAMP (South African Migration Project) on the attitudes of South Africans toward immigrants and immigration.

From the surveys, it is apparent that South Africans as a whole carry strong anti-immigration sentiments, with fully 25% of the population calling for a complete ban on migration into the country and approximately half [...] calling for "a strict limit on the number of foreigners allowed into the country".

(Danso & McDonald 2001: 115)

The surveys also found that the common perception around migrants is that they are the ones to be held responsible for stealing jobs, causing crime and spreading HIV/AIDS around the country (Danso & McDonald 2001: 116). Only 25% of the sample taken stated that they had nothing to fear from foreigners living in South Africa. It is also important to note that the negative stereotypes associated with migrants are held by virtually every socioeconomic and demographic group in the country (Danso & McDonald 2001: 116). Interestingly enough, the surveys noted that only 4% of the sample in 1997 and only 6% in 1998 said that they have had a great deal of direct contact with foreigners from other African countries. "Clearly then, anti-immigration sentiments in South Africa are not a result of personal exposure to noncitizens but rather a product of (mis)information from secondary sources such as schools, friends and the media" (Danso & McDonald 2001: 116).

What is required, say Danso & McDonald (2001: 116), is a rigorous, quantitative assessment of a representative sample of print media from a broad range of sources. This is what their study attempts to deliver by examining a random selection of articles from a comprehensive database of published items related to cross-border migration. The timeline for their sample ends exactly ten years before the start of the May 2008 pogroms which is why it is valuable to look at the character of the print media which laid the foundation for anti-foreigner sentiment to spread and develop over time.

Danso & McDonald (2001) argue that media coverage of foreign migration into South Africa is characterised by two polarised views. The majority of the media portrays immigration from an anti-foreigner perspective and calls for immediate and stringent control over migration (this coverage almost always tends to be unanalytical). The minority section of the press seems to be more accommodating and thoughtful in its coverage and attitude towards migration (Danso & McDonald 2001: 117).

According to Danso & McDonald (2001: 117),

the media have a right, indeed a responsibility, to report on xenophobic attitudes and actions in South Africa [... b]latantly *racist* editing and reportage would never be condoned in the new South Africa and neither should blatantly xenophobic editing and reportage. Danso & McDonald give an overview of the South African print media in which we interestingly find that the overwhelming majority of newspapers in South Africa are owned by a handful of large conglomerates, "and the management and editorial control of most of South Africa's mainstream press remain largely in white hands" (Danso & McDonald 2001: 118). However, a pertinent point which Danso & McDonald (2001: 118) highlight is that in 1997/1998 an estimated ten to fifteen million South African adults were considered functionally illiterate.

[T]here is clearly a large percent of the South African public that is not *directly* affected by print media reporting [... n]evertheless, English-language newspapers dominate the print media in South Africa, and millions of South Africans read English-language newspapers on a daily basis. The *Sowetan* alone, with a predominantly black readership, has over 1.5 million daily readers.

(Danso & McDonald 2001: 118).

In their study, Danso & McDonald (2001: 119) used two methods of analysis. Firstly, they assessed all the articles in their sample for their depth of analysis and their attitudes toward immigration. Secondly, they critically analysed "the language and imagery used in the articles and the kinds of associations made between immigration and other social and economic developments (e.g. crime)" (Danso & McDonald 2001: 121).

Central to Danso & McDonald's discussion of the results of their analysis is the topic of perpetuating stereotypes. As noted earlier, there are three common stereotypes when it comes to migrants; migrants as job stealers, migrants as "illegals" and migrants as criminals (Danso & McDonald 2001: 124).

The fact that so many South Africans believe that migrants from neighbouring African countries are criminals, job-stealers and carriers of disease, is all the more reason to be concerned about the role of the press in creating and/or perpetuating these stereotypes.

(Danso & McDonald 2001: 124)

What is more is that it is only foreigners which come from other African countries who are the main victims of discrimination.

Most disturbing of all is the manner in which the press tends to nationalize and racialize crime involving migrants, with black Africans being portrayed either as perpetual criminals or more prone to commit serious crime than immigrants from non-African countries [... w]hen African (and to a lesser extent Asian) migrants are associated with a criminal act the event becomes newsworthy, while the same crime committed by a white foreigner is ignored or given less publicity.

(Danso & McDonald 2001: 126-127)

In terms of vocabulary used, Danso & McDonald (2001: 128) found that the term "illegal" occurred in 38% of the sample. They point out that by using this term, the media predefine otherwise law-abiding migrants as criminals. Furthermore, it is quite scary that the common use of the term "alien" to describe non-nationals was found in 24% of the sample. What makes this term even more unacceptable is the fact that it was initially used in the first part of the 20th century to single out Africans and Jews. Danso & McDonald (2001: 129) argue that the use of such terms imply a "sense of 'difference' and 'unwantedness' [which – MW] only serves to aggravate xenophobic sentiment". They note further that the media has made little or no effort to address the issue of xenophobic language in its reporting or to make their readerships aware of the controversial nature of the terms used (Danso & McDonald 2001: 129).

Danso & McDonald go on to discuss the cumulative effects of negative coverage and while they conclude that they cannot make definitive statements about the media's role in creating or inciting xenophobic attitudes in South Africa, as "research has shown that it is notoriously difficult to make direct, cognitive links between media representation and public attitudes, and the research community is highly divided on whether the media is a creator of attitudes or simply a reflection of attitudes (or both)" (Danso & McDonald 2001: 130), they do argue that the print media "have an important role to play in guiding, shaping and transforming the way we look at the world, how we understand it, and the manner in which we experience and relate to it" (Danso & McDonald 2001: 131). Before they reach their conclusion they also highlight the very pertinent point that the media cannot accept all the blame for anti-immigrant sentiments around the country when we had a minister of home affairs who took great pride in his anti-foreigner rhetoric, namely Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Danso & McDonald (2001: 132-133) conclude that while "[t]he press does not bear sole responsibility for high levels of xenophobia in South Africa, [...] it clearly contributes to the

problem in creating and reinforcing ideologies, discourses and policies related to cross-border migration and the lives of migrants." What is needed they argue is a more balanced coverage of migration in the press.

3.3.2 Adegoke (1999)

In a Master's research report entitled, *Media discourse on foreign Africans and the implications for education*, Rosaline Adegoke critically analyses representations of foreign African countries and their nationals in the South African media, in order to motivate for an extension of the critical literacy curriculum to include questions of xenophobia. Being a research report in conjunction with English language education, the expected outcome of Adegoke's study was to motivate a change in the English curriculum to include opportunities for learners to engage critically with concepts of 'xenophobia' and 'foreignness', as is already being done for other types of prejudice in the critical literacy curriculum (Adegoke 1999: 1). The three central research questions around which this study was constructed were as follows;

1. What discourses are available in the South African press in relation to foreign African countries, and in relation to African foreigners in South Africa? Which of these discourses are dominant?
2. How do available discourses relate to xenophobia?
3. How might education assist learners in examining and engaging with issues of exclusion and inclusion based on nationality or 'foreignness'?

In order to answer these questions Adegoke (1999: 1) undertook a critical discourse analysis of representative newspaper articles in the South African press by looking at discourses which are concerned with foreign African countries in general as well as discourses that are concerned with foreign Africans resident in South Africa.

Adegoke (1999: 2) explains that the focus on xenophobia is linked to her personal experience as a foreign student in a South African university class, however, she points out that, her study does not attempt to offer any universally applicable solutions to discrimination in the classroom, but rather attempts to establish what discourses exist in wider society that could be contributing to problematic racial/ethnic relations in classrooms (Adegoke 1999: 3). As she argues,

The evolution of South African governmental policy on black foreigners in South Africa, is a useful instrument for understanding the social and political conditions that have shaped the discourses on foreigners in present day South Africa.

(Adegoke 1999: 5)

Adegoke (1999: 5) examines the history of South African immigration policy, its evolution over the decades, and its eventual influence on post apartheid policy and practice. She proceeds on the very valid assumption that the discourses in the media inform and are informed by the discourses in broader society. After a review of the historical legislation, she notes that, "in the minds of the public- colonials, politicians, parliamentarians and others, foreigners are blamed for crime, disease, the lack of sufficient infrastructure, and the lack of economic development in South Africa" (Adegoke 1999: 17).

What is particularly ironic about the post-apartheid character of South African society is that it is still mainly black or African immigrants that are regarded as undesirable "illegal aliens" (Adegoke 1999: 20). Adegoke's observations support those of later studies, namely that "this racial exclusion is now also tied to nationality, so that this kind of nationality-orientated racism is best described as xenophobia."

Adegoke (1999: 24-31) discusses the nature of the South African press as well as providing the motivation for the newspapers she selected for her study. She chose three popular and

well circulated English language newspapers in the Gauteng area; *The Star*, *Mail & Guardian* and *Sowetan*. "They have been selected for this research because they are diverse in the audiences they address, and in their ideological codes for news reporting" (Adegoke 1999: 27).

Adegoke (1999) discusses the concept of 'xenophobia' defining it as a racism based on nationality. However, Adegoke (1999: 50) proposes a more inclusive definition in her study, using the term "xenophobia" to refer "not only to the 'feeling' or 'attitude' of fear and hostility towards foreigners, but also the consequent actions such as verbal abuse, attack, killing and any other form of aggression, which collectively contribute to the expression of xenophobic ideology." Adegoke (1999: 56) makes it explicit that xenophobia should be analysed separately from racism as racism draws away the much needed focus from the problem of xenophobia. People are killed for reasons of xenophobia, this fact alone should lend priority to the study of the phenomenon of xenophobia.

Adegoke (1999: 87) takes into consideration her personal role as a 'foreign researcher' and possible subjectivity as an African foreigner,

In this regard, I have made a careful effort to provide a detailed and documented historical and theoretical background to this study, which provides evidence for my assertions and conclusions...[I] am persuaded that however subjective a researcher might be, the analysis of cognitive patterns and linguistic features in a discourse can force a high degree of objectivity on the analyst.

(Adegoke 1999: 87)

The author also notes her potentially heightened sensitivity to issues of prejudice against foreigners than someone in the 'in-group' would be (Adegoke 1999: 88).

Adegoke (1999: 89) focuses on the analysis of the gathered data by firstly presenting a summary of the data in table form showing the frequency distribution of texts by country. She goes on to give an analysis of the different topics/subject frames ranging from 'dictatorship' and 'political crisis' to 'sports' and 'tourism', to name a few. One of the prevailing trends found by Adegoke (1999: 102) is that "in the political and economic sphere, the dominant discourses on foreign Africa show an ideological construction of foreign Africa as a place of constant war and violence, a place of oppression and lack of democracy." South Africa, however, stands in contrast to the rest of Africa, because, "South Africa has a good democracy and a strong economy. Its leaders are equal to any world leaders and can challenge the West on its dealings in the continent" (Adegoke 1999: 104).

Adegoke(1999: 109) finds that there is a tendency towards a 'unitary language' – "a unified negative discourse built around these [negative - MW] perceptions." She is able to draw a link between texts that have to do with foreign Africa and its citizens, and texts that have to do with foreign Africans inside South Africa and states, "the xenophobic discourse from within South Africa is strongly related to the general negative discourse on foreign Africa, which is disseminated by the press" (Adegoke 1999: 111).

Adegoke (1999: 113) argues for the ideological impact of headlines in news texts, pointing out that "headlines often have ideological implications (van Dijk 1991: 51), since they represent the positions of the text producers (newspaper editors)." It becomes apparent says Adegoke (1999: 119) that press headlines do their best to highlight the worst in foreign Africa and in doing so constructs a negative and damaging representation of foreign Africa.

Adegoke (1999: 120) makes it clear that the discourses examined in her study focus on a range of negative subjects about Africa, such as violence, war, corruption, crime, despotism, poverty, immorality and disaster. "All of these have drawn from various ideological

narratives and have been systematically used to represent foreign Africa negatively in the South African press, while simultaneously engaging in positive self-representation" (Adegoke 1999: 120). As Adegoke (1999: 121) notes, "The press has played a vital role in propagating this discourse by forming the secondary myth about foreign Africa through consistently focusing on the negative information about Africa. [...] media representations are 'not a value-free reflection of facts' (Fowler 1991: 4), and people depend on the media, which is able to 'collapse space and time' (Hall 1992), to inform them about foreign lands."

Adegoke (1999: 122) hypothesises that language use, together with the discursive and socio-cultural practices in which it is embedded, plays a role in furthering xenophobic prejudice in South Africa. As CDA theory has shown, language encodes ideologies and power relations, and often constructs our cognitive experiences, and motivates our actions.

Adegoke (1999: 124-125) contends that a practice in self-criticism through critical evaluation of one's own text production, could be a step towards social transformation which is why she proposes that discourse on foreigners should be included among the class of issues to be considered in the critical literacy curriculum. A noticeable trend throughout Adegoke's study is that South Africa is portrayed as part of the West rather than part of Africa, especially in relation to economic and socio-political achievements.

From the reviews of media history and the history of immigration policy in South Africa, and from the analysis of media texts, it [becomes – MW] clear that several historical ideologies and discourses intersect in the present xenophobic discourse in South Africa...All of these discourses have at one point or the other played a role in the societal discourses in South Africa, and have all helped to shape the present social practices.

(Adegoke 1999: 142)

3.4 Conclusion

This chapter has unpacked the concept of xenophobia by looking at prominent studies on the topic by Neocosmos (2010) and Steinberg (2008) who both take the stance that xenophobia should be understood as a form of political discourse and practice. Danso & McDonald (2001) and Adegoke (1999) focus on xenophobia and the role of the media in perpetuating prejudicial attitudes and both come to the conclusion that the role of the media in creating/perpetuating xenophobic attitudes should not be underestimated as it continues to influence public ideology regarding foreign Africa/foreign Africans.

The next chapter will lay out the methodological framework used to conduct this study.

Chapter 4

Methodological Framework

4.1 Introduction

Within the general framework of CDA theory, van Dijk's (1991, 1998, 2006) research focus lies mainly on examining the relationship between dominant discourse and ideology. The critical discourse analysis approach proposed by van Dijk focuses on the role of discourse in reproducing or challenging dominant socio-political ideals. The role of the press is especially important in reproducing/challenging dominant ideals.

Van Dijk (1991) develops an analytical framework in which he states that the press' power lies in discursive social practices, which is why it is important to develop a thorough discourse analytical approach that is able to systematically describe and explain the subtleties of ethnic reporting. The framework which van Dijk (1991) develops will be of utmost value when it comes to analysing the relatively new phenomenon of xenophobia in the press.

4.2 Aims

As discussed in chapter 1, and against the background of the theoretical and historical considerations given in chapters two and three, this thesis aims to explain (i) how African migrants/foreign African students are portrayed in South Africa's student press against the background of the current xenophobic situation in South Africa and (ii) how this portrayal might affect the attitudes of both South African students and foreign African students studying in South Africa. Attitudes articulated in newspaper reports will be compared and interpreted with a view to establishing first the characterising features of the discourse, and second the extent to which xenophobic stereotypes/prejudices are linguistically constructed and perpetuated.

The primary aim of this study is therefore to examine the nature of reported attitudes in student media discourse. The study will take the form of a qualitative analysis of two different campus newspapers. The secondary aim is to establish whether there has been any development, for the positive or negative, in the reported attitudes over a period of three years. The strategic aim of this study is to contribute to an understanding of the status quo on South African campuses regarding xenophobic and more generally prejudiced attitudes towards foreigners/foreign students in South Africa, specifically those from elsewhere in Africa.

4.3 Data Collection

For this study data was collected from two sources. The first was a review of all items published in the Stellenbosch campus newspaper, *Die Matie*, during the three year period of 2007-2009, which made explicit reference to Africa and/or African foreigners in South Africa (see Appendix A). The second source was a review of all items published in UCT's campus newspaper, *Monday Paper*, during the same time period (2007-2009) also making reference to Africa/African foreigners in South Africa (see Appendix B). Over a period of three years, these two campus newspapers published a collective 156 items making explicit reference to Africa/African foreigners in South Africa. The majority of these (115) were published by *Monday Paper*, while the remaining 41 items appeared in *Die Matie*. Over the three year period of 2007-2009 the distribution of the 156 references was as follows: collectively 47 were made in 2007 (12 in *Die Matie* and 35 in *Monday Paper*), 50 were made in 2008 (16 in *Die Matie* and 34 in *Monday Paper*) and 59 in 2009 (13 in *Die Matie* and 46 in *Monday Paper*). Table 1 below gives a summary of the distribution of items referencing Africa/African foreigners published by both campus newspapers.

	2007	2008	2009
<i>Die Matie</i>	12	16	13
<i>Monday Paper</i>	35	34	46

Table 4.1: Distribution of references made over three years

4.3.1 *Die Matie*

Die Matie Student Newspaper has kept students informed about university affairs for the past 70 years. As the only independent student newspaper in Stellenbosch, *Die Matie* is published every two weeks during the academic year. The editorial content includes sections on news, student life, sport, current affairs and arts and entertainment.

The entire production of *Die Matie* – from photos, articles and advertisements to page layout and distribution – is managed by the editorial staff: all students. 8 000 copies of *Die Matie* are distributed on the main campus of Stellenbosch University, as well as on the satellite campuses Tygerberg and Bellville and to certain businesses in Stellenbosch. *Die Matie* has an estimated readership of 16 000 students, staff and Stellenbosch residents. (<http://www.diematie.com/about/>)

4.3.2 *Monday Paper*

The 28 year-old *Monday Paper* is a corporate publication, part of UCT's formal suite of print and online communications. It is published fortnightly (previously weekly).

Monday Paper's readership is made up predominantly of academic and professional and administrative staff, though it does have a sizable postgraduate readership and is beginning to cater for student readers.

Monday Paper sells advertising (*Monday Paper* started out as a classifieds bulletin and used the back page for news.) in the newspaper. The publishers print 20 editions a year and occasionally print special editions to highlight important university milestones, for example, the installation of a new chancellor or vice-chancellor, or to underpin a strategic area of the University's mission, such as Afropolitanism.

Monday Paper also publishes two 'celebratory' graduation editions each year, in June and December, devoted to graduation news, whether on interesting postgraduate or interesting human stories.

4.4 Procedure

As noted above, the two main sources of data for this study were media contributions of various genres (mostly articles) made over a three year span in the two respective campus newspapers, *Die Matie* and *Monday Paper*. Publications were accessed through online electronic archives. All published items making explicit reference to Africa or African foreigners in South Africa were selected and analysed using instruments and methodologies from the field of CDA. Frameworks developed by van Dijk (1998: 61) and Fairclough (1995, 1998) were implemented in a qualitative analysis of the ideologies discursively represented in the media.

4.5 Instruments

Two frameworks were adopted from the theoretical works of van Dijk (1998: 61) and Fairclough (1989, 1995), and applied in a qualitative analysis of the relevant campus news media items.

Van Dijk (1998: 61) identifies five steps in doing an ideological analysis, namely:

- 1) Examine the context of the discourse;

- 2) Analyse which groups, power relations and conflicts are involved;
- 3) Look for positive and negative messages about different social groups;
- 4) Spell out the presupposed and implied messages; and
- 5) Examine all formal structures that (de)emphasise polarised group opinions.

Norman Fairclough's (1989, 1995) model for conducting CDA allows us to study three levels of discourse - text, process and social context. The model is represented by three concentric boxes/sections each of which represents a level of discourse analysis. The model is illustrated in the figure below:

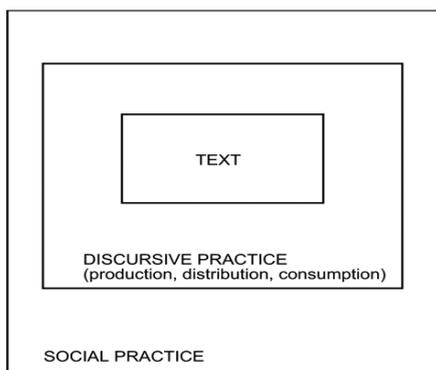


Figure 4.1: Fairclough's (1989, 1995) model for conducting CDA

Using this model involves a description of the text, specifically the thematic structure of the text; interpretation, analysing the processes of production and reception; and explanation, providing a social analysis (Janks 1997).

4.6 Conclusion

In this chapter I have discussed how the theoretical frameworks of van Dijk (1998: 61) and Fairclough (1989, 1995) will be used to examine how Africa/African foreigners in South Africa are portrayed in the Western Cape campus press and how this may affect the attitudes,

positive or negative, of readers. Furthermore I have outlined the data collection process, as well as the procedure followed, and the instruments used, for the data analysis itself.

Chapter 5

Discussion

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the results of the data analysis and a discussion of these results. As outlined in chapter 4, an in-depth analysis was conducted on three years' worth of published items, mostly articles, from both UCT's *Monday paper* and Stellenbosch University's *Die Matie*, in which Africa and African students in South Africa are topicalised. The time span for the analysis stretches from January 2007, a year before the infamous xenophobic pogroms took place in South Africa, through to the end of 2009, a year after they took place. As the analysis below will show there was a prevailing indifference towards the issue of xenophobia before May 2008 which had changed slightly by the end of 2009 towards a more sensitive disposition regarding the issue of Africans and African students in South Africa. The analysis below will also show the difference in ideologies between the two respective campus newspapers over the three year span. I use the term "African" frequently to refer to the group primarily targeted by xenophobia, African foreigners living, working and studying in South Africa.

The analysis of articles in both UCT's *Monday Paper* and Stellenbosch's *Die Matie* will be discussed in a chronological fashion in order to better illustrate the change, or lack thereof, in the ideologies of the public as far as can be related from campus media trends from 2007 through 2009. It is important to note that no definite causal links can be drawn between what is printed about xenophobia and actual xenophobic violence.

5.2 Data Analysis

5.2.1 Articles in UCT's *Monday Paper* during 2007

Being a newspaper produced by an academic institution, *Monday Paper* focuses mainly on the academic progress of the university as well as its students and professors in South Africa and abroad. This focus on the academic aspects of the university is one of the things that sets it apart from *Die Matie*, which will be discussed in depth shortly. During 2007 a total of thirty five articles were printed which involved discussions on either Africa or Africans in South Africa. The majority (nineteen) of these articles shed negative light on the issue of Africans in South Africa or Africa as a whole. Sixteen of the articles in 2007 have something positive to contribute to the discourse of Africa and Africans in South Africa. Where articles contribute positively towards this discourse is mostly when these articles have to do with foreign (African) students making strides in their respective academic fields. For example, the article titled *USHEPiA fellows arrive* deals with the arrival of African scholars as part of USHEPiA, a partnership of eight Southern and East African universities, established in 1996 and funded since 1997 by the Andrew W Mellon Foundation, which aims, through fellowships, to build capacity and collaboration among established African researchers (*Monday Paper* 26.03).

A critical analysis, adopted from the theoretical works of van Dijk (1998: 61) and Fairclough (1989,1995) was applied to selected articles in an attempt to reveal the explicit and implicit ideologies that are present in the texts.

In conducting an ideological analysis of the *Monday Paper* it is immediately apparent that the ideology in 2007 regarding Africa and its citizens in South Africa is one characterised by condescension. The discourse used throughout 2007 by the writers and editors of the *Monday Paper* resonates a sense of superiority over other African countries. For example, by saying

"South Africa is at a crossroads: part of both worlds, a bridge between Western developed and African developing countries lacking innovation" (*Monday Paper* 26.01), the implication is that South Africa is innovative and (largely) developed, while the rest of Africa is not. An additional trend also develops throughout the discourse of 2007's *Monday Paper* which involves the description of the upliftment and betterment of various African countries while at the same time making them appear inferior compared to South Africa. The texts say something positive about the advanced position that South Africa finds itself in compared to the rest of the continent and although most of these articles do not necessarily make explicit mention of the poor state of the rest of the continent, it is definitely implied when compared to utopian South Africa. This implicit ideological degradation of Africa and its people is done in the most subtle ways, which is why the analysis of these texts is both extremely important as well as complex.

An example of this subtle discursive construction of a negative African ideology can be found in *World Watch* (*Monday Paper* 26.03) which states; "Last year, 53% of government scholarships to Ugandan public universities went to science students [...] According to the sports and education ministry, this policy will continue until government attains its target of 75% science-based state scholarships." This small excerpt of text clearly illustrates the trend of stating something vaguely positive about another African country but then concluding by making explicit the overall negativity of their status quo.

As stated earlier, the majority of 2007's articles (nineteen out of thirty-five) that mention Africa or Africans in South Africa produce negative connotations. It is common to find in many of these articles the blatant perpetuation of negative stereotypes regarding Africa, as the following examples illustrate.

As if the continent's burden of communicable diseases isn't bad enough, add lifestyle-based ailments to Africa's health woes.

(Monday Paper 26.04)

Budeli added that the South African Labour Law is more advanced than those of many African states, and those countries can learn a lot from us.

(Monday Paper 26.09)

THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT is to scrap funding for students' welfare, including meals, accommodation and medical care, in all public universities, education minister Namirembe Bitamazire said in Parliament recently. Until now the government has been funding some 5 810 students in four public universities.

(Monday Paper 26.11)

The first of the above listed quotes perpetuates the stereotype of Africa being a continent characterised by disease. It does this by explicitly using the phrases "the continent's burden of communicable diseases" and "Africa's health woes." The second example shows how South Africa sees itself as superior in comparison with the rest of Africa and perpetuates this idea that South Africa is somehow not a part of this dark Africa, but separate and more advanced. The final example ties in with the previous one in that it makes Africa look inferior in comparison with South Africa. The fact that the Ugandan government is scrapping funding for student welfare gives the impression that Ugandan education system is lagging far behind that of South Africa.

Looking at these texts from the perspective of Fairclough's multi-level model for discourse analysis we can firstly conclude that the text, process and social contexts of the subject matter of these texts are very tightly intertwined. Secondly, and most importantly, we can see the perpetuation of the social practice of exclusion. It has become the South African way of

thinking that we are somehow separate and more advanced than our neighbours in the continent. This ideology has flowed over into the social realm and therefore we hold the same ideological position socially. It is completely plausible to report on the achievements of South Africa and its citizens without breaking down Africa's image in the process, but that would not give the South African reader that sense of distance and superiority over our African compatriots that we appear to need so desperately. This is what is reflected in our national press (cf. Danso & McDonald 2011) and unfortunately this is what is still being perpetuated in campus media.

Looking at these texts through the lens of van Dijk's ideological analysis framework it spells out the same message; that out of the different groups involved in these articles, it always seems that those labelled as 'African' bear the brunt of the negative associations. Being that there are more negative stories about Africa and Africans in the *Monday Paper* in 2007, it is safe to say that these texts could only have influenced the perceptions of students at UCT about Africa and African foreigners for the worse.

5.2.2 Articles in *Die Matie* during 2007

Stellenbosch University's *Die Matie* stands in contrast to UCT's *Monday Paper* in that the subject matter of the articles tend to lean more towards the reportage of very local matters. This is why during 2007 *Die Matie* only produced a total of twelve articles which have any mention of Africa or African students, where nine of the twelve gave positive opinions of Africa/African students.

One of the most pertinent articles regarding the perceptions of Africa is titled *BYM poog om persepsies oor Afrika te verander* ("BYM attempt to change perceptions of Africa") (*Die Matie* 21/02/07). This article describes a campaign launched by the student group, Brightest Young Minds, which aims firstly to make people aware of the current world perceptions of

Africa and secondly to change this negative perception for the better. The slogan on the posters of this campaign which was visible all around the campus read as follows; "According to the rest of the world, you are a criminal with AIDS. Change the way people see Africa." This slogan is ironic, because South Africa, our beloved advanced country, out of all other countries in Africa, still has the highest crime rate in the world. It is hypocritical in the sense that South Africa sees the rest of Africa in almost exactly the same way as the poster for BYM says the rest of the world sees Africa.

The year 2007 also saw the appointment of the University's first non-white rector, Prof Russel Botman who stated clearly in one of his first addresses to the press that he aims to make Stellenbosch University a multicultural home for all students and staff. A clear resemblance can be seen between Russel Botman's vision of multiculturalism and UCT's rector, appointed in 2008, Max Price's idea of an 'Afropolitan' university. We will discuss the term "Afropolitan" and what it means to African students in the next section.

The Brightest Young Minds continued to make headlines in *Die Matie* during 2007, this time for their eighth BYM conference held in Johannesburg. They entered the conference carrying the same theme, i.e. "Change the way people see Africa", and 100 top students from around South Africa were invited to attend. The author of these specific articles on the BYM makes it clear by using formal structures (e.g. word play in the headline) that he is clearly in favour of the outcomes which BYM look to establish. The word play used in the headline, *Groot idees kom BYMekaar* ("Big ideas come together") (*Die Matie* 01/08/2012) conveys the impression that the author agrees with the aims of the organisation. In the article the author reports that Stellenbosch residents have grown accustomed to their homogenous surroundings and this is something which has to change.

On the 29th of August an article appeared in *Die Matie* reporting on the difficulties of the University of the Free State in integrating different cultures in their hostels. The author uses the word "culture" instead of "race" to soften the impact of the truth which has plagued universities in South Africa since the end of apartheid, segregation based on race. The use of a euphemism "culture" in the headline suggests that the author is afraid of bringing up the sensitive topic of race, which is why he uses the term "culture" instead. The article focuses on the forced integration policy which will be implemented in 2008 and how students rise up in protest to this. This article is pertinent for African students, because, even though there is no mention of foreign students and Africans in the article, they are a group which will be marginalised while the debates continue. The fact that they were not mentioned in the article already illustrates the problem of exclusivity.

Compared to UCT's *Monday Paper*, *Die Matie* has far fewer articles involving Africa or African students in South Africa and what is more is that the majority of the articles in *Die Matie* pertaining to the subject reflect positive ideologies instead of negative. As I mentioned earlier, this is in part due to the fact that the two different campus newspapers focus on different areas of student life, specifically *Die Matie* has a much greater focus on local student affairs and student organisations, whereas *Monday Paper* has a far greater preoccupation with the political and prestigious elements which go on at the University of Cape Town. It is important to note these differences in agendas before trying to critically analyse the differences and similarities between the two campus newspapers which, geographically, are separated by a mere thirty kilometres.

From the perspective of van Dijk's ideological framework it can be seen that the majority of *Die Matie's* articles in 2007 contributes to a positive ideology regarding Africa and African foreigners. A mere three articles throughout 2007 mention Africa/African foreigners in a negative light. Articles involving the BYM contributed most of the positive opinions on

Africa, largely because their campaign deals with the issue of multiculturalism and African stereotypes head on.

Fairclough's multi-level model for discourse analysis illustrates how the social practice of breaking down cultural/race boundaries flows into the text element of the analysis. Most of the articles analysed in *Die Matie* during 2007 reflect positively on Africa/African foreigners which in turn reveals the nature of currently held ideologies and social practices. However, the fact that *Die Matie* published far fewer articles discussing the nature of Africa/African foreigners than UCT's *Monday Paper* during 2007 is testament to the fact that the Stellenbosch student community lives in a bubble where they choose to look at more local and positive news than that of UCT. We will explore this hypothesis as the analysis goes on.

5.2.3 Articles in UCT's *Monday Paper* during 2008

The year 2008 saw a continuation of the effort to highlight the internationalism of the UCT campus. A total of thirty four articles mentioning Africa/African foreigners were published in *Monday Paper* throughout the year. Interestingly, in contrast to the discourse in 2007, the majority of these (twenty four) shed positive light on the topic of Africa/African foreigners, where the remaining ten articles speak negatively about the issue.

In April of 2008, a month before the instigation of the violent pogroms which took place all around the country, an article appeared in *Monday Paper* stating that UCT students and staff are to get more international exposure. The deputy vice-chancellor of UCT, professor Thandabantu Nhlapo stated that despite UCT's impressive international footprint, it is still unable to create a steady outflow of students. This means that UCT now has to focus on creating awareness of internationalisation at home. The article goes on to mention the inevitable influence of international students and staff on the local dynamics of the UCT campus. The colloquium held by the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED) and

the International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO) aimed to discover means to improve students' relevant international perspectives and intercultural competences. By making use of the term "We should.." the author implicitly gives the article a prescriptive character. The prescriptive manner in which the article is written looks to change ideologies about international citizens for the better, however the prescriptive formal structure outlined above makes this aim harder to achieve.

On the 28th of April another article on African foreigners was published in *Monday Paper*, this time directly addressing the issue of foreign African students, specifically those from Zimbabwe. In the article entitled *Students march against crisis in Zim (Monday Paper 27.06)* students were reminded that the majority of international students at UCT are from Zimbabwe. The manner in which the article is written seems to reflect the general attitude towards the rest of Africa which is one of rushed concern. The article states that students and staff gathered on the day of Zimbabwe's 28th independence to protest the "crisis" in the neighbouring country. When we look at the formal structures in the article, specifically the fact that the word "crisis" is published in inverted commas implies that the crisis is not a real crisis, but just another one of the everyday problems which the country regularly faces.

Throughout May of 2008, the month in which xenophobic violence made itself visible in the country, *Monday Paper* published very few articles which involved Africa/Africans. The only two articles which had any mention of Africa/Africans discussed HIV/AIDS and TB initiatives, as well as African music becoming popular around the UCT campus. The latter article focusing on the rise of popularity in African music (music made with traditional African instruments) read more like an advertisement to other international students (non-African) to come and enjoy the traditionalism of Africa than an article reporting on the progress of the programme. This trend of advertising Africa's fun and quirky side (such as music) while skimming over the more negative issues – such as rigged election results in

Zimbabwe – has become ever more prominent in UCT's *Monday Paper*. This ties in with van Dijk's (1991: 253) view of the press perpetuating ideologies which work against oppressed minorities.

The first mention of the xenophobic attacks which took place the month prior came in an article entitled, *Africa Day* published on the 9th of June. The faculty of commerce's programme took precedence as they celebrated Africa Day under the theme of "Making a difference". According to the article, "The faculty's celebrations focused on social conscience, respecting diversity, celebrating unity and reclaiming humanity" (*Monday Paper* 27.09). The fact that the author uses the phrase, "reclaiming humanity" implies that humanity has been lost. The focus of the statement is on Africans reclaiming their humanity which would imply that the author is under the impression that Africans are less human than the rest of the world, thus the need to "reclaim" their humanity, but from who? The general trend of depicting Africa as inferior to the rest of the world would suggest that the author means that Africans need to reclaim their humanity from the colonising West. A huge positive which came from this article is the direct attention it gives to the xenophobic attacks which took place around the country:

An anti-xenophobia and violence petition was circulated for signatures and will be sent to the President, and the Ministers of Foreign and Home Affairs.

(*Monday Paper* 27.09)

An article was published in the same issue entitled *UCT reaches out* which dealt directly with the xenophobic attacks. The article focuses on the helping role which UCT played in the aftermath of the attacks, stating that the Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO) and the UCT Law Clinic were at the forefront of the relief effort providing foreign nationals with much needed support, both health wise and legally. The Faculty of

Health Sciences also lent aid where they could by sending medical students to provide support to SHAWCO as well as Doctors without Borders. Another way in which UCT shared its resources was through the use of the Jammie shuttle which transported close to 2000 refugees to places of safety. In addition, the vice-chancellors crisis response task team also called for marks of visible solidarity which came in the form of white ribbons to be worn by staff and students to show their support to the disadvantaged foreign nationals. "Such visible solidarity will also signify our recognition of the contribution that nationals of other countries make to UCT as a university of, and in, Africa," said a press release (*Monday Paper* 27.09).

This article was only one of three published in *Monday Paper* during 2008 which directly addressed the issue of xenophobic language and the state of the foreign refugee issue in South Africa. This article also stands alone in the fact that it implicitly tries to change the public ideology regarding foreign nationals for the positive, by highlighting the collective relief effort put forth by UCT.

On the 23rd of June another mention was made about the adornment of white ribbons during the June graduation ceremony. In this article entitled, *Graduands wear white ribbons in solidarity*, it was acknowledged that there are students and staff at the university from over 100 countries throughout Africa and also noted the wealth of experience and knowledge which comes with such a diverse student and staff base. "These marked the university's commitment to victims of xenophobia, and to contributing to understanding the causes of the present crisis and the development of appropriate solutions" (*Monday Paper* 27.10). Articles such as this one, as well as the previous article discussed, show a way forward with regards to van Dijk's (1998: 26) shared public ideologies about foreign nationals and the phenomenon of xenophobia.

In the same issue of *Monday Paper* an article appeared which saw the white ribbon campaign, initiated by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, take a step onto the international stage. At the annual conference of the North American Association for International Education (NAFSA) held in Washington DC. "He explained the significance of the white ribbons that guests were requested to wear during the graduation functions, in solidarity with the victims of the recent xenophobic violence in the country." (*Monday Paper* 27.10)

In August of 2008 Prof Max Price was appointed as the ninth Vice Chancellor of UCT. In the article "VC shares vision for UCT" Vice Chancellor Price introduced a very pertinent concept in thinking about the future of the University, that of 'Afropolitan'. According to the article,

The 'Afro' element connotes an open, assertive engagement with the world from the standpoint of Africa. It describes a growth in African studies, particularly the economic sociologies of different African countries and regions. 'Politan' suggests cosmopolitan, and signals firstly a sophisticated and future-oriented approach to understanding Africa, as opposed to a sentimental, naïve, often 'rural peasant and wildlife' view of what an African perspective is.

(*Monday Paper* 27.14)

The introduction of the idea that UCT is to become more "Afropolitan" has many positive connotations which are able to start to change the way South Africa and the world sees the rest of Africa. The new vice chancellor stated that in order for UCT to become a global university, it must become an African University first and foremost. The introduction of the idea of an "Afropolitan" University has wide reaching implications and for the improvement of relations to the rest of Africa, and the further these implications reach, the better.

In the same issue of *Monday Paper* a distillation of the address given by the newly appointed vice chancellor was published. In this article Price once again outlines the University's proposed vision of getting back to its roots and becoming an "Afropoitan" institution. In the article, aptly titled *UCT: Local, African, Global*, Price discusses, among other things, the need for UCT to regain its African roots and start to think more "continentally", because at the end of day, these are the countries and business partners with which UCT graduates will have to deal with the most. He also re-instils his concept of UCT becoming an "Afropolitan" University and advocates assertive, honest engagement with the world, from an African perspective. This continued message of solidarity within Africa is invaluable to the development of the idea of "Afropolitan" as well as the development of a positive ideology with regards to African foreign nationals in South Africa.

The final pertinent article in *Monday Paper* during 2008 came in the issue published on the 1st of December. Entitled *UCT refugee-rights expert address AU* the article looks at Fatima Khan's contribution to the meeting held in Ethiopia on the issue of forced displacement in Africa.

Historically there may have been external factors responsible for the large-scale displacement of people in Africa, says Khan. More recently, however, it is the violations of and the denial of basic human rights by governments that have led to forced displacement of large numbers of vulnerable people on the continent.

(Monday Paper 27.21)

Here we see evidence of the perpetuation of negative portrayals of Africa, specifically the despotic nature of African governments. The article goes on to point out that the denial of basic human rights does not seem to stop once Africans are displaced, in fact, as is the case in

South Africa, it seems to get worse. The article notes that the recent xenophobic violence in the country is an untimely reminder of this fact.

5.2.4 Articles in *Die Matie* during 2008

Throughout 2008 a total of sixteen articles mentioning Africa/African foreign nationals were published in *Die Matie*. Of these sixteen, the majority (nine) reflected negatively upon Africa/African foreigners. There were three articles in 2008 which dealt with the issue of elections and illegal weapons in Zimbabwe, two of these added implicitly to the negative stereotype attached to Zimbabwe while one shed some much needed positive perspective on the situation in the neighbouring country. These three articles will be discussed in more detail below.

In an article entitled *Verkiesing gee ons Zim-studente hoop* ("Elections give our Zim-students hope") (*Die Matie* 09/04/08) a rare firsthand account from a Zimbabwean in Stellenbosch was published. The impressions that are taken from this account inevitably contribute negatively toward the image held by South Africans about Zimbabwe.

According to Zimbabwean Sanja Murray, a resident and mentor in the Nerina residence, the most striking thing about returning to Zimbabwe after a semester in Stellenbosch is the lack of basic products and services such as water and electricity available to the public in Zimbabwe. According to Sanja, it is not uncommon to go a week without water and electricity in the country. The article's title seems uplifting and encouraging, yet the message left with most readers after reading the article is one of pity and aversion. This is a trend which can be seen in both *Die Matie* as well as UCT's *Monday Paper* throughout the three year span of the study.

Again on the 23rd of April an article pertaining to the Zimbabwean status quo was published in which the views of Stellenbosch students on the issue was made clear. In the article *Maties*

praat teen Zim-wapens ("Maties speak out against Zim-weapons") the concern from Stellenbosch students was made clear by the student representative council's (SRC) chairman, WJ le Roux. Once again the intention of the article is overshadowed by the overwhelmingly negative connotation produced by the very first sentence of the article; "Meneer die President, daar is 'n krisis in Zimbabwe" ("Mister President, there is a crisis in Zimbabwe"). One of the positives which can be drawn from the article comes when the ceremony master of the event held on the Rooiplein, Tshepo Mvulane, delivered a message of solidarity and support towards all Zimbabweans present, stating that "we" as Stellenbosch students will continue to stand by them and will continue to offer support to all Zimbabweans that need it. The fact that this well intentioned article makes reference to 'us' as Stellenbosch students and 'them' as Zimbabwean students is testament to the construction of an 'us' vs. 'them' mentality and works against the ideal that all African students are equal. The crux of the article is basically that we as South Africans cannot stand idly by while shipments of illegal weapons make their way to a corrupt government in Zimbabwe with the intention of intimidating already fearful citizens of the neighbouring country. The last paragraph of the article highlights this fearful attribute of Zimbabwean citizens when it states that some of the Zimbabweans approached by *Die Matie* were reluctant to speak to the press for fear of follow-up.

The third and final article published in *Die Matie* pertaining to Zimbabwe comes in the same issue as the previous article discussed and is an interview with one of the more well known Zimbabwean students on campus. *Die Matie* interviewer Carline Jansen van Nieuwenhuizen speaks with Isaac Ndlovo, a doctoral student in the English department about his feelings towards the situation in his home country. This article stands out as one of the few which emphasises the views of African foreigners as opposed to the views of South African students/politicians which are rife throughout the three year analysis of both *Monday Paper*

as well as *Die Matie*. One of the positive stereotypes which gets mentioned in the article is that of Zimbabweans being hard workers, as Isaac is a clear illustration of this. Ndlovo remarks also on the negative stereotypes which surround African foreigners (and black people in general) as being untrustworthy and sub-standard in their field of work. He counts himself as one of the lucky few who has made a breakthrough on this front by becoming respected for his work and work ethic. Ndlovo goes on to turn the negative ideology about the living situation in Zimbabwe as opposed to South Africa on its head. He remarks on the very poignant point that; "I think it's unfair how the media have handled the Zim issue. Without the economic issue, Zimbabwe is a far better place to be than South Africa" (*Die Matie* 23/04/08). He justifies this claim by stating firstly that the issue of race is much more important in South Africa than in Zimbabwe, and secondly that there is not the same fearfulness which characterises South African society as in Zimbabwe. He is not naïve to think that Zimbabwe has no crime, but the unnecessary outbursts of violence – illustrated by the May 2008 xenophobic pogroms – are quite unique to South African society.

On the 30th of July the first of only two articles topicalising xenophobia appeared in *Die Matie*. In the article, *Studente help xeno-slagoffers* ("Students help xeno-victims") the author outlines the basic series of events which followed after the country was plagued by xenophobic violence and discusses the efforts by Stellenbosch students to aid the victims of xenophobia. The intention of the article is inherently positive as it focuses on the relief effort put in by Stellenbosch students, however the way in which the victims of xenophobia are portrayed (as helpless and hopeless) contributes to the trend of portraying Africans as inferior to South Africans. Despite its positive intention, the author of the article structures it in such a way that the condescension is visible and readers are left with an undeniable sense of pity for those who are supposed to be their equals.

An interesting point was made in the article by an SRC member, Mike Leslie, when he stated that it was difficult for most students to physically go and lend aid to the victims as the attacks occurred during exam times. When looking again at what most readers take away from reading an article like this it tends to give the impression that it is noble to lend aid where you can, but if it cuts into your schedule, it is also acceptable to do nothing. The article concludes by mentioning that the university residences also collected and donated various food and clothing items to the victims.

Being only one of two articles which mention xenophobia and the victims of the attacks, it is worrying to see the above mentioned "timing issue" which inhibited most students from doing anything to help the victims. On the positive side, it is very promising to see that certain students looked past the clothing and food relief efforts and actually considered that what these people need most of all at this present time is some reassurance that not all of South Africa feels antagonistic towards them and to feel that they are supported and valued as members of South African society.

The only other mention made by *Die Matie* of the xenophobic attacks which took place in May of 2008 comes in the very last issue of the year. In an overview of the year's most important events, under the simple title *Xenophobia*, the events of May 2008 gets compressed into a simple paragraph which resonates no sympathy whatsoever,

Conflict between South Africans and immigrants from Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe lead to violent attacks and large scale property damage. Local workers accused immigrants of, amongst other things, stealing their job opportunities. Immigrants were attacked with knives, torches and clubs. Following the incidents around sixty foreigners lost their lives, thousands were left without shelter and a large number returned to their countries of origin.

(*Die Matie* 08/10/08)

The overall lack of coverage shown by *Die Matie* during 2008 with regards to the xenophobic violence which erupted around the country illustrates the newspapers detachment from wider socio-political issues. This detachment also inadvertently fuels readers' apathy towards these important issues and does not do much to change the public ideology regarding immigrants for the better. In comparison to UCT's *Monday Paper* we can see that UCT is much further along in the process of, firstly, making people aware of the issue of xenophobia in South Africa and secondly, making changes at the public policy level to discard the idea of a South African citizenship as being only for people born in South Africa. UCT with its ideal of becoming an 'Afropolitan' university seems to realise more than Stellenbosch University that the world has become a global village and that South Africans have an obligation to the rest of the continent to learn and share from each other, rather than to fortify our secure enclaves, at least from the discourse present in campus newspapers.

5.2.5 Articles in UCT's *Monday Paper* during 2009

Two-thousand and nine is the year in which *Monday Paper* published highest amount of articles mentioning Africa/Africans with a surprising twenty seven out of forty six portraying Africa/Africans positively. During this time the emphasis of *Monday Paper's* socio-political scope seems to remain upon Zimbabwe and the struggles constantly facing the neighbouring nation.

The very first article making mention of this involves the director of the Institute of Development and Labour Law at UCT, Professor Evance Kulula, being appointed to a commission of inquiry to investigate complaints of non-observance of freedom of association by Zimbabwe. This article, like so many others, intends to relay the message that action is being taken to relieve the problems faced by Zimbabwe, but in the process implicitly sheds more negative light on the subject of Zimbabwe. This is illustrated by the title of the article which reads, *Kulula to sound out Zim (Monday Paper 28.01)* which makes it seem to the reader that Zimbabwe is a country which is not completely aware of the issues which it faces, that it needs an international commission to "sound out" its faults and issues.

In the same issue of *Monday Paper* (28.01) an article entitled *Call to action* appeared insisting that South Africans cannot sit idly by while one of our neighbouring nations undergoes such huge transformation.

Zimbabwe is facing unprecedented levels of economic and political turmoil, resulting in intolerable human suffering, disease and death. We as South Africans cannot sit by and watch while this massive disaster unfolds. We all need to act together to assist in alleviating the humanitarian crisis, apply pressure on our politicians to monitor the fair implementation of the joint government agreement for a peaceful transition to a new political order and, where possible, assist those Zimbabweans who have sought refuge within our borders.

(Monday Paper 28.01)

This is the opinion of vice chancellor Max Price and Professor Marian Jacobs, dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences which appeared in the *Sunday Argus* of 8 February. Again, the implicit negatives about Zimbabwe outweigh the positive message intended by the article. The use of the term "We as South Africans" in this article illustrates again the implicit

construction of an 'us' vs. 'them' mentality and therefore contributes to the ideology of inequality. This type of language use affects readers subconsciously and fosters a view of Zimbabweans as having a completely different identity than their own, a weaker type of identity. The main message taken from this article by most readers is that Zimbabwe is in a state of economic and political turmoil. It is one thing to make readers aware of the situation in Zimbabwe, but when the media becomes saturated with these messages, most readers skim over the main points in the article and what is taken away from these types of articles usually contributes to their apathy on the subject.

Mothers, fathers and children are watching one another suffer and die because the system has failed. Medical practitioners face dying patients without access to water, electricity or basic facilities like toilets. Equipment is desperately lacking and the most basic services are no longer available.

(Monday Paper 28.01)

Calls to alms and support at Zimbabwe assembly is another article published in the same edition of *Monday Paper* and talks about the mobilisation of help for "beleaguered" Zimbabwean students in the context of the humanitarian crisis faced by the country at the moment. The fact that the author chooses to describe Zimbabwean students as "beleaguered" contributes to the negative image of Zimbabweans constructed by the press. At the assembly arranged for Zimbabwean students vice chancellor Price opened proceedings with this statement to staff and students;

The enormity of this disaster is especially shocking as it consists of interlinked crises including an imploding economy, hyperinflation and severe unemployment; extreme poverty, starvation and malnutrition; the collapse of education and healthcare; and a cholera outbreak that has claimed the lives of over 3 000 people.

(*Monday Paper* 28.01)

Negative portrayals such as this one do not do much for the public ideology regarding Zimbabwe. What is being taken from these articles are feelings of pity and disgust, when what readers should be taking away when reading about Zimbabwe (and Africa as a whole) is a sense of solidarity, unity and a sense of commitment. This is where I find that *Monday Paper* as well as *Die Matie* fall horribly short.

However not everything in the article gives off this negative impression. In the same address to staff and students Price makes sure to remind everyone about UCT's goal of becoming an 'Afropolitan' institution and also of everyone's obligation as UCT members to respect human rights to the fullest, "UCT prides itself on being an institution that values justice, human rights and social responsiveness," he said. "I therefore encourage as many of you as possible to support our humanitarian efforts and to do what you can to assist" (*Monday Paper* 28.01).

The first issue of *Monday Paper* in March of 2009 (*Monday Paper* 28.02) contains an article which comments on Africa's challenge when it comes to urbanisation. "African politicians refuse to grapple with the growing urbanisation challenge on the continent, one of the reasons sustainable urban development seems impossible here." This was the statement given by the director of UCT's African centre for cities, Prof Edgar Pieterse at the launch of the Sustainable Urban Development Network (SUD-Net) Africa which aims to highlight the importance of knowledge sharing and networks as means for sustainable development

throughout the African continent. The characterisation of African politicians as stubborn, is a clear example of the negative discourse surrounding African/Africans.

In the article, *Gateway to good governance* which appeared in *Monday Paper* on the 13th of March, the problems faced by SUD-Net were made clear; "According to Boraine, one of the problems was that the relatively high average wealth of cities masks the huge problem areas of urban poverty and unemployment" (*Monday Paper* 28.03). The issue of urbanisation is still a question which needs much more attention than it is presently getting, especially in Africa. The fact that these two articles look at the challenges facing newly formed organisations about Africa is a positive thing, yet the articles themselves resonate negatively with the reader who comes face to face with yet another one of Africa's problems. Terms used in this article such as "myths" and "urban poverty and unemployment" contribute the idea that Africa is backwards and stuck in the dark ages. This once again leaves the reader with an overall negative impression of the continent. A full year after the infamous May 2008 xenophobic attacks took place the article entitled, *Law clinic awaits verdict in first Equality court hearing* appeared in *Monday Paper*.

The UCT Law Clinic's Refugee Rights Project will wait until 14 June to hear judgement in what could be a precedent-setting case for South Africa; a case of unfair discrimination on the grounds of xenophobia against the South African Police Service (SAPS).

(*Monday Paper* 28.07)

This is a landmark case not only for UCT's Law clinic, but also for South Africa as a whole as this is the very first case to be brought before the newly established Equality court in the Western Cape. The Law clinic is acting on behalf of a large group of asylum seekers whose homes and businesses were destroyed during the 2008 attacks. During these attacks it was

clear that the police had no intention of protecting refugees whose homes and businesses were looted and who were victims of violent crimes. This definitely constitutes unfair discrimination towards refugees in the townships by the South African police. The head of the refugee rights project at UCT Fatima Khan also added; "This is a strategically important case, recognising that refugees and asylum seekers have a right to safety and security and that the SAPS have a duty to protect all people in South Africa," said Khan" (*Monday Paper* 28.07). The South African police have never been far from the controversy when it comes to xenophobia. As we have seen from Neocosmos'(2010: 128) explanation of the role of the police and how "foreigners easily become 'arrest fodder' for arrest quotas and pockets that need to be filled". The negative ideology towards foreigners is still held very strongly by police, because of the years of anti-immigrant policy which shaped the way the government and police deal with immigrants. This is part of the reason why, among other demands (including a formal apology), UCT's Law clinic wants the SAPS and the United Nations High commissioner for Refugees implement police training programmes on sensitivity towards refugees and refugee rights. This is the first article which makes mention of someone failing to protect the victims of xenophobic violence. The phrase used in the article, "police failed to protect them" indicates that it is the police who are responsible for the violence. It is not uncommon for the press to go looking for scapegoats when issues such as this fail to resolve. Again we see the use of the term "them" which continues to contribute to the social construction of 'us' vs. 'them', however this time, "they" can refer to the victims of the violence as well as the South African police force (*Monday Paper* 28.07).

On 25 May the article, *New Programme to PERC up research* was published in *Monday Paper* and talks about the untapped research potential in the rest of Africa.

The three-year pilot project will build on the work of the Emerging Researchers Programme. Importantly, it will also promote locally-grown knowledge paradigms

that will ultimately shift scholarship from Eurocentric to African models, while recognising that African experiences are multiple in different parts of the continent and the Diaspora.

(Monday Paper 28.08)

In this paragraph we see the attempt to shift the negative discourse around Africa, to a more positive one, which acknowledges the value of Africa's contribution to research. This is supported by the criticism by deputy vice-chancellor for research, Professor Danie Visser, of the exclusionary view that South Africa takes to the rest of Africa, who argues that, as tied as we are to the theoretical and cultural voice emanating from the rest of the continent above us, there is a stark lack of belief in the value of what they do;

(T)here is probably no greater block to the production of appropriate, cutting-edge research on the continent than this self-induced censorship.

(Monday Paper 28.08)

This extension of academic vision is an integral step towards changing the general popular ideology regarding the rest of Africa for the better.

In the same issue of *Monday Paper* an article was published celebrating Africa Day and the significant academic and research collaborations with partners throughout Africa. *Celebrating UCT's African connections* formulated as an interview with UCT's Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo looks at some integral questions with regards to UCT's vision of becoming an 'Afropolitan' university. "UCT academics already enjoy significant collaborations in sister universities across the continent, and the beauty of the Vice-Chancellor's vision is that it builds nicely on these foundations" (*Monday Paper 28.08*).

The Deputy Vice Chancellor comments on the 'Afropolitan' aspect of UCT's vision and says that this is not a new idea, but looks to build on the already established connections which the university shares across the continent. It emphasises the unique expertise held by scholars on the African continent and the issues it faces while also being able to engage globally on these issues from the standpoint of Africa. This illustration of African solidarity and the intention on building on these connections highlights the positive aspects of UCT's 'Afropolitan' vision and gives readers hope that South Africa, as part of Africa, is on its way forward.

In an article entitled, *Sabwa graduates against all odds (Monday Paper 28.09)* the author gives the reader an insider's view of what it is like to be a foreign African student studying in South Africa. Jean-Marie Sabwa completed his master's degree in operational research when he submitted his thesis on the booming industry of Spaza shops in poor residential areas. Sabwa himself can be counted as one of the victims of May 2008's xenophobic attacks as his Philippi home along with all his research was looted and destroyed during the pogroms. "Sabwa has put that experience behind him, and is happy to graduate, hoping to make a difference to the society that, for all appearances, despised him" (*Monday Paper 28.09*).

Stories such as this one give the readers a sense of positivity and renewed hope. It also reinforces the stereotype of the hard working African immigrant, which in all senses is a positive stereotype. When stated so blatantly that he is working to better a society that "despises" him it instils a sense of guilt upon the South African student who, for all intents and purposes, is a part of this negative society and makes the South African reader feel the need to do something to change this perception.

Another article which appeared in *Monday Paper* on the 15th of June speaks about the perceptions held by South Africans about Zimbabwe. In the article entitled, *Life goes on in Zim, says Chimombe (Monday Paper 28.09)*, Shumi Chimombe, web editor at UCT's

communication and marketing department and recent master's graduate speaks about the currently held (distorted) perceptions held by South African society about the crisis in Zimbabwe. "In spite of the political and economic crisis, life is going on in Zimbabwe, and not every person living comfortably is corrupt or government-connected" (*Monday Paper* 28.09).

Chimombe wrote her dissertation on family life in Zimbabwe in an effort to make people realise that despite the current economic and political crisis going on in Zimbabwe, "life goes on as usual for most people, albeit under somewhat more challenging conditions." It is important to realise what most peoples' perceptions are when it comes to neighbouring countries in Africa and it is even more important to enlighten them towards realising that it is not as bad as they thought. An important phase in changing public ideology for the positive is to firstly remove all the negatively held connotations and false perceptions about an issue, especially if that issue happens to be the mother country of many of your colleagues and fellow students. This article accomplishes this by centring on a well respected member of the UCT student body and exposing her side of the story to the student public. The analogies used in this article such as "Not every Zimbabwean is a border jumper" and "Some people think Zimbabwe is a wasteland" challenges these negative stereotypes held by South African society about Zimbabweans.

In the article, *VC meets alumni in the windy city*, vice chancellor Max Price addresses the UCT alumni in order to familiarise them to his strategic goals regarding UCT as a global role player in academia.

UCT as a global player positions us as an entity that knows more of our continent than any university - and we become the hub on the South that speaks to Africa and the rest of the world.

(Monday Paper 28.10)

In this article the vice chancellor makes it clear that UCT is in the very privileged position to be able to act as a buffer between the rest of the world and Africa. It is clear to see that Price no longer sees UCT as only a South African university but an institution which carries the great responsibility of connecting Africa with the rest of the world. In interpreting the article it is visible that Dr Price's idea of an 'Afropolitan' university has taken root in the discursive social practices which surround debates about UCT's strategic goals and the fact that UCT is beginning to be seen by all as the 'Afropolitan' institution it strives to be is a positive indicator for positive change regarding public ideology about Africa.

In the same issue of *Monday Paper* an article was published discussing the issue of post-doctoral researchers leaving Africa once they have finished their studies and how this is detrimental to research as a whole in Africa. The article entitled *Postdocs vital to 'brain circulation' in Africa* speaks about the increase in the number of post-doctoral fellowships needed to increase the number of researchers in Africa. "It is important that we should have a 'brain circulation' rather than the 'brain drain' that is such a worry to the whole of our continent" (*Monday Paper 28.10*).

The article resonates a sense of desperation and does not reflect positively on Africa as a place of learning. The fact that fellowships are used as motivation to keep post-doctoral researchers in Africa gives the impression that no right-minded post-doctoral researcher would stay in Africa, because they wanted to.

In an article published by *Monday Paper* on the 14th of September Professor Jean-Pierre Ezin advocates the need for African scientists to take the reins when it comes to the development of science and technology on the continent. This is because heads of state lack the commitment to do so themselves (*Monday Paper* 28.13). "Ezin said only two countries on the continent had fulfilled a decades-old agreement for each nation to dedicate one percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) to the development of science and technology." This address took place at an open lecture entitled, *Establishing a Pan-African University* and shows the way forward for academics to take responsibility for the introduction of change, since heads of state are too busy with their own agendas. The article resonates positively with readers as it shows that progress towards a united Africa is being made. The negative aspect of the article however cannot be overlooked. The article makes it clear that there is a lack of commitment from the majority of African countries (heads of state) to work together to bring Africa into the twenty-first century.

In the same issue of *Monday Paper* an article was published that shines some light on the future of African urbanisation. Professor Edgar Pieterse director of UCT's African centre for cities states that, "Almost all future urban growth in African cities will take the form of slum growth. This is just one of the stark differences between urbanisation in Africa and elsewhere" (*Monday Paper* 28.13).

Pieterse adds that a staggering 62% of African urbanites live in informal makeshift shelters which would say that the "shanty city" is the real African city. The phrase used in the article, "To win this battle..." gives the impression that urban Africa and rural Africa are at war and the only growth shown is the growth of shanty towns. The impression that this article gives the reader about the state of African urbanisation is a bleak one and does little to improve the popular ideology regarding the continent.

The next pertinent article published by *Monday Paper* appeared on the 26th of October and focuses on one of the support programmes established by UCT for newcomers to academia i.e. the New Academic Practitioners Programme (NAPP). "NAPP is part of the university's transformation process, forging international links with Africa," said Price. "It is foremost an academic programme for the disadvantaged, and intended to accelerate familiarity with the university" (*Monday Paper* 28.16). The "quip" given by Price at the end of the article is interesting in that he uses the metaphor of "growing our own" when referring to the lack of black academics at UCT. This phrasing is troubling, because it conjures the image of black (African) academics being grown like trees, instead of being seen as fellow scholars and human beings, however the article gives the reader encouragement that policy plans are being implemented instead of just being discussed endlessly.

Another illustration of the growth of UCT comes in an article entitled *UCT joins the Worldwide Universities Network* (*Monday Paper* 28.16). The article discusses UCT's induction into the Worldwide Universities Network, the very first African university to become a partner. "By fostering and encouraging collaboration between members, WUN brings together the experience, equipment and expertise necessary to tackle the big issues currently facing societies, governments, corporations and education" (*Monday Paper* 28.16). The article explicates UCT's progress in forging international links while at the same time illustrating with the fact that UCT is the first African university to join WUN how far behind Africa as an academic continent is. The overall impression left with readers by the article is positive as it shows UCT's growth as an international and more importantly African institution.

In the same publication of *Monday Paper* the regular editorial *EDU Watch: Education news from Africa and the world* reveals what is going on at other universities around the world and in Africa. The narrative of this editorial is usually more negative than positive. For example

in a discussion of the development of e-learning at Ethiopia's Adama University, it is pointed out that until recently the university has had to make due with only five pc's connected to the internet by a very slow line and shared between 6500 students (*Monday Paper* 28.16). The article follows the same trend we have seen in many of the other articles topicalising Africa. The main focus of the article intends to be positive as it illustrates progression and development for the African university but the reader also takes away the negative aspect, being that Ethiopia's Adama University has had to "make due" with basically nothing for so long. This reinforces the reader's idea of a dark and underdeveloped Africa.

In the same article it is mentioned that "A This Day correspondent was attacked and injured while covering the protest of staff unions against Lagos State University's vice-chancellor, Professor Lateef Hussein" (*Monday Paper* 28.16). This reflects negatively on the state of African politics as it carries the message to the readers that not even reporters are safe when trying to cover a seemingly peaceful protest at Lagos State University. Negative coverage such as this also blackens the image of Nigeria for the reader, contributing to the negative portrayal of Africa.

The majority of *Monday Paper's* (and *Die Matie's*) articles mentioning Africa usually have to do with a select few African countries, e.g. Zimbabwe, Malawi, Somalia, Nigeria. In the 9th of November's edition of *EDU Watch Monday Paper* mentions Namibia for the first time.

Students in Namibia may take the government to court to explain why children of high-ranking Government officials had received scholarships to study in China while scores of "deserving poor students" had their applications rejected.

(*Monday Paper* 28.17)

Looking firstly at the structure of the first sentence, it states that students "may" take the government to court, so there is no certainty to the statement at all. Secondly, the article

explicates corruption in Namibian government leaving readers with a negative impression of the government of Namibia and the country as a whole. The phrase "deserving poor students" is placed in inverted commas giving the impression that these students do not exist, when they clearly do.

In the following edition of *EDU Watch* published in *Monday Paper* on the 23rd of November the editorial focuses on the violence taking place in Nigeria.

Students at the University Of Port Harcourt in Nigeria have called on the government to relocate the ex-military camp located at Aluu near Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital. This followed another violent protest staged by the ex-militants, numbering about 4 000.

(*Monday Paper* 28.18)

One student was killed - allegedly by police - in a three-day protest that turned violent at Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Nigeria. Some 27 students have reportedly been arrested.

(*Monday Paper* 28.18)

Articles such as this explicating the senseless violence going on at tertiary education institutes around Africa reinforces the idea that South African universities are fortified enclaves where such things would never happen. The phrase "another violent protest" gives the impression that this type of violence happens regularly in Nigeria. This perpetuates the detachment felt by students in South Africa from the rest of Africa and has a negative effect on the popular ideology regarding the rest of Africa and its institutions.

On the 7th of December *Monday Paper* published the article *Drug Discovery Award for Chin'ombe* showcasing the promising work of postdoctoral research fellow Dr Nyasha

Chin'ombe. "It is high time that African scientists find African solutions for Africa, says postdoctoral research fellow Dr Nyasha Chin'ombe" (*Monday Paper* 28.19). The article topicalises Chin'ombe's selection by the National Research Foundation to participate in the South African Drug Discovery programme and gives an all round positive impression of the progress being made by African researchers for Africa. Chin'ombe states in the interview that it is clear that vaccines save millions of lives around the world and it is important for Africa to start producing its own vaccines at home. The article illustrates the willingness of African researchers to start solving Africa's problems instead of waiting for outside help, because at the end of the day, no researcher is more familiar with the problems faced by Africa than an African researcher. The article definitely leaves the reader with a positive impression by showing the eagerness of Africans who want to work to make Africa better. On the negative side, the article makes it clear that Africa is indeed detached from the rest of the world, illustrated by the phrase, "at home". By using the term "high time" the author implies that Africa has been sitting and waiting, doing nothing, while the rest of the world searches for solutions to Africa's problems.

More negative news was to follow as *EDU Watch* (*Monday Paper* 28.20) looked at the horrible incidents taking place in Mogadishu;

In Mogadishu a suicide bomber disguised as a veiled woman killed at least 19 people at a medical graduation ceremony in a city hotel earlier this month, including three Somali government ministers.

(*Monday Paper* 28.20)

The article goes on to compare this attack to previous incidents of violence in Somalia and gives an awful reminder to readers of the dangerous conditions in which many students in

Africa find themselves. The overall impression of the article is definitely negative and serves as a harsh realisation of the dangers of living and studying in Africa.

In the same issue of *Monday Paper* (28.20) an article was published showcasing the positive results of USHEPiA's fellowship programme. The article, *Three more USHEPiA PhDs for Africa* discusses the success of three PhD graduates from around the African continent. This article is pertinent in that it focuses on graduands outside of South Africa. It is a positive signifier that UCT is taking its vision of 'Afropolitanism' seriously by running articles topicalising Africans outside of South Africa and not only articles concerning students and staff of UCT. The article conveys the sense that UCT is truly becoming an African university and builds also on the sense of solidarity between UCT and the rest of Africa.

The final article in *Monday Paper* which I wish to look at centres around an explanation of why SADC countries fail to work together. *SADC nations not on the same page* (*Monday Paper* 28.20) is an article which discusses Laurie Nathan's doctoral thesis on the main reasons SADC countries fail to collaborate successfully. In the article Laurie gives three main issues which undermine the success of SADC ambitions. The article already reflects negatively on Africa as it immediately assumes that SADC countries are incapable of working together successfully. The first reason he gives is that the different SADC states lack common values. Secondly, SADC states are administratively weak and lastly, SADC states are very hesitant when it comes to relinquishing regional sovereignty. When stated clearly like this, the reader becomes aware of the political deadlock inhibiting development and successful collaboration between SADC states. As it highlights Africa's inability to work together, the article reflects negatively on SADC states and Africa as a whole and perpetuates the idea that solidarity between African states is still an unattainable pipedream.

5.2.6 Articles in *Die Matie* during 2009

Compared to the forty-six articles mentioning Africa/African foreigners which appeared in *Monday Paper* during 2009, only thirteen pertinent articles were published by *Die Matie* during the same year. Again, as in 2008, the majority (eight) of these articles reflect negatively upon Africa/African foreigners in South Africa.

The first article worth mentioning was published on the 4th of February entitled, *International students receive warm university welcome*. The article starts off by giving the number of international students which arrived in Stellenbosch during the week of 19 to 23 January which was about three hundred and thirty. The article then goes on to explicate the orientation programme held for the new international students. "The orientation programme served as an introduction to living and studying in Stellenbosch and was packed with information to assist students to adjust to our culture" (*Die Matie* 04/02/09). We can see through the use of "our culture" that the social construction of 'us' vs. 'them' is still prominent in the discourse of the newspaper. The article explicitly encourages students to help in welcoming foreigners into the Stellenbosch way of life. The article resonates positively in that it encourages integration and solidarity between all students and staff while at the same time implicitly reinforcing the construction of an 'us' vs. 'them' mentality.

In contrast to UCT's vision of becoming an 'Afropolitan' institution, Stellenbosch university has its own vision, laid out by Rector and vice-chancellor Professor Russel Botman. Instead of focusing on collaboration with African partners, Stellenbosch university's main aim is to focus on academic excellence and research stature with the goal of becoming the preferred academic institution in Africa. Through this, Stellenbosch university looks to play a deciding role in the solution to social and environmental problems faced by South Africa as well as the rest of the African continent (*Die Matie* 18/03/09). This mission statement leaves readers with a positive sense of direction, however the fact that African integration and collaboration

is but a side note in this statement does not bode well for the objective of African solidarity so clearly visible in UCT's vision for the future. This article also reflects the dominant popular ideology of Stellenbosch which is increasingly becoming one characterised by elitism.

On the 15th of April an article was published in the election issue of *Die Matie* topicalising Africa's role in world politics. The article entitled, *Afrika bly stiefkind in wêreldpolitiek* ("Africa remains the step child in world politics") looks at the position of Africa in world politics and mentions that the continent is definitely a step behind the rest of the world when it comes to successful politics. The article starts by pointing out the main issues faced by South Africa which include large-scale corruption, xenophobic attacks and a lack of plan to successfully combat HIV/AIDS. However the discourse of this article perpetuates the separation of South Africa from the rest of Africa using the phrase *selfs in Suid Afrika* ("even in South Africa") to describe the issues face by this country, which is characterised as *die bastion van hoop vir demokrasie in Afrika* ("the bastion of hope for democracy in Africa") (*Die Matie* 15/04/09).

The rest of the article is divided into sub-sections describing the political situation of each of the following African countries; Zimbabwe, Sudan, Madagascar, Ghana as well as the Gaza strip (Palestine). The article focuses solely on the negative aspects of each of these countries' political situations and leaves the reader with a familiar sense of despair for the continent. The article reinforces negative public ideology regarding the state of African politics by making use of phrasing such as, *Afrika is in baie opsigte 'n stappie agter die res van die wêreld* ("Africa is in many ways a step behind the rest of the world"). This is the very first sentence in the article and immediately points out that Africa is lagging behind the rest of the world.

In the same election issue of *Die Matie* an article was published looking at the role that newly elected American president, Barack Obama has to play in the future of African development. Titled, *Must he carry the weight of Africa* (*Die Matie* 15/04/09), the article starts by giving a brief background of Barack Obama's life and childhood and then goes on to outline the US president's four policy goals with regards to Africa. "These include his past record, the genocide in Darfur, fighting poverty and increasing wealth in Africa" (*Die Matie* 15/04/09). The overall impression of the article is one of desperation. The fact that Africa is portrayed as looking toward the president of the United States to solve its problems is in itself problematic. The headline of the article is in the form of a question, "Must he carry the weight of Africa?", the key word being "must". This implies that the president of the USA might have an obligation towards the continent, just because his father hails from Kenya. The article leaves readers with a sense of despair and helplessness and brings across the message that Africa is incapable of positive development without outside help.

On the 26th of August *Die Matie* published an editorial entitled, *Wat dink jy?* ("What do you think") asking students around campus what they thought of newly elected South African president Jacob Zuma's first hundred days in office. One of the students gave this response;

Ek het nie baie problem met hom nie. Ek stem egter nie saam met die feit dat hy Suid-Afrika meer toeganklik maak vir immigrante vanuit ons buurlande nie. Suid-Afrikaners moet eers werke kry voordat daar geleenthede aan immigrante gebied word. ("I don't have many problems with him. However, I disagree with the fact that he is making South Africa more accessible to immigrants from neighbouring countries. South Africans must get work first before providing opportunities to immigrants.")

(*Die Matie* 26/08/09)

This statement makes it clear that anti-immigrant sentiments are evident in the student population of South Africa. The fact that *Die Matie* chose to publish this person's opinion on the matter reinforces this point. However, to determine how widespread these attitudes are, one would have to undertake a survey among South African students at various tertiary institutions.

In a more uplifting article published in *Die Matie* on the 23rd of September a Zimbabwean student tells of the positive experience she had when first applying and coming to Stellenbosch university. Farirai Tamirepi a post-graduate student in Theology tells in the article of the efficiency and compassion shown by the international office of SU during her application to come study at Stellenbosch. She goes on to describe how her biggest challenge was finances and how the university helped her to overcome all obstacles on her way to obtaining her degree. Articles exposing the positivity in dealing with foreign students such as this one were in very short supply in *Die Matie* during the three year analysis. This article leaves readers with a positive impression of how the university makes foreign students feel at home as well as highlighting the support available for these students.

The final article appearing in the 7th of October issue of *Die Matie* topicalises the relief effort put in by the University's United Nations chapter (UNASA) for Zimbabweans in need. The article entitled, *UNASA reaches out to Zimbabwe in November*, states that the main goal of the trip is to deliver an estimated 14 tonnes of maize, 500 water filters and mosquito nets to Zimbabweans in need. The impression given by the article is similar to the majority of articles published by *Die Matie* concerning Africa/Africans in that it sustains the trend of giving the reader a positive/caring impression of the university while at the same time making, in this case, Zimbabwe look like a destitute wasteland constantly in need of aid. The phrases used in this article such as, "Zimbabweans in need" reinforced the stereotype of the

destitute Zimbabwean and contributes negatively towards the overall negative impression of Africa.

5.3 Conclusion

A review of three years' discourse on Africa/African foreigners in South Africa in both SU's *Die Matie* and UCT's *Monday Paper* reveal the contrasting preoccupations of the two Western Cape universities' campus newspapers. There has been a marked consistency regarding public ideology on Africa/Africans in South Africa in *Die Matie*, while UCT's *Monday Paper* showed signs of ideological progress when it comes to the issue of Africa/Africans in South Africa. The fact that *Monday Paper* published so many more articles about Africa/Africans may be accounted for by the fact that *Die Matie* is a completely student organised publication, while *Monday Paper* is published by UCT's corporate news team. The preoccupation with immediate student affairs in *Die Matie* is illustrative of the fact that the Stellenbosch student community is one characterised by exclusivity and elitism. However, Max Price's vision of an 'Afropolitan' university, as reflected in the discourse of *Monday Paper*, is a positive indicator that South Africa is starting to realise that it is not necessarily a part of the West, but rather an integral part of Africa.

Chapter 6

Conclusion

The aim of the study was to (i) give a critical discourse analysis of Western Cape campus newspapers with a view to (ii) explain how Africa and Africans, specifically foreign African students in South Africa are portrayed in the Western Cape campus press and finally (iii) how these portrayals might affect the attitudes of South African students as well as foreign African students studying in South Africa. Based on the frameworks and theories developed by selected analysts and theorists, attitudes articulated in newspaper reports from two different campus newspapers were compared and interpreted. This was done with the aim of identifying and elucidating xenophobic language use in campus newspapers so as to determine the possible perpetuation of xenophobic attitudes by campus news media among Western Cape student communities.

Chapters 2 and 3 provided background on relevant theorists in the fields of CDA and xenophobia research respectively. Chapter 4 described the theoretical frameworks adopted from van Dijk (1998) and Fairclough (1989, 1995), which were used in conducting the critical discourse analysis of the two campus newspapers, while Chapter 5 consisted of the discussion of the results of the research. All of this was done with a view to gauging the use of "othering" language in relation to Africa and Africans, especially those in South Africa, and the possible perpetuation of xenophobic/prejudiced attitudes among students in South Africa.

It was Janks (1997: 1) who stated that CDA "stems from a critical theory of language which sees the use of language as a form of social practice. All social practice are tied to specific historical contexts and are the means by which existing social relations are reproduced or

contested and different interests are served." By making use of the theoretical frameworks adopted from the works of van Dijk and Fairclough I have attempted to address questions such as how the texts are positioned, whose interests are served by this positioning and whose interests are negated and what are the consequences of this positioning are in order to answer the research questions set out in Chapter 1.

6.1 Summary of findings

From the discussion in Chapter 5 it is clear that firstly, there is a noticeable difference in news coverage between the two campus newspapers, illustrated by the fact that *Monday Paper* published more than double the amount of items mentioning foreign Africans/Africa than *Die Matie* over the same three year time period. Secondly, there is ample evidence to show that portrayals of Africa/African foreigners in South Africa are predominantly negative in nature, which therefore affects the attitudes of South African readers negatively. Fairclough (1995) states it clearly when he says that an important aspect of the print media is the extent of its power and how this is wielded through language. This study was an attempt to elucidate the presence and possible negative effect of xenophobic language use in Western Cape campus newspapers against the background of a xenophobic social climate catalysed by xenophobic pogroms which took place in May of 2008.

The time period of the study was strategically chosen to determine whether the way in which African foreigners/Africa portrayed in the campus media may have changed in the year leading up to the xenophobic attacks, the year in which they took place and the year following them. The results of the study indicate that there was no observable change in frequency of articles mentioning Africa/African foreigners, however sensitivity towards the plight of foreigners studying in South Africa has shown an overall positive increase in both *Die Matie* and especially UCT's *Monday Paper*. Below is a representation illustrating the dispersion of positive vs. negative articles published in both newspapers;

<i>Die Matie</i>	Positive	Negative	Neutral
2007	9	3	0
2008	6	9	1
2009	5	8	0

Table 6.1 Positive vs. negative portrayals of Africa/African foreigners in *Die Matie*

<i>Monday Paper</i>	Positive	Negative	Neutral
2007	16	19	0
2008	24	10	0
2009	27	19	0

Table 6.2 Positive vs. negative portrayals of Africa/African foreigners in *Monday paper*

While there were numerous items that mention Africa and Africans, including Africans in South Africa, the topic of foreign African migrants was not evident, except where explicitly linked to reports on the xenophobic violence of 2008. However, as pointed out by Adegoke (1999), xenophobic discourse in South Africa is strongly related to the general negative discourse on foreign Africa. The implications are that even though the issue of African migrants may not have been overtly dealt with in the negative way present in other media (cf. Adegoke (1999); Danso & McDonald (2001)), the fact that the discourse focuses largely on negative aspects of Africa, while simultaneously engaging in positive self-representations of South Africa, may still contribute to (re)enforcing xenophobic attitudes.

The most important aspect of the study's findings is that the South African campus print media definitely play a role in perpetuating certain negative perceptions about Africa and

African foreigners in South Africa, specifically those stereotypes related to Africa as backward, disease-ridden and lacking in democratic governance. However there is also a marked tendency for campus media to try and support initiatives that challenge the prevailing discourse. For example there are a few articles in both *Monday Paper* and *Die Matie* which deal specifically with the achievements of African scholars and researchers.

The observations made in the course of this study would suggest that looking for the solution to this problem of xenophobia would require a thorough examination of the language used in campus press, as well as other media sources. Additionally, a fundamental change is required to this type of language use if the climate of xenophobia is to become a thing of the past. "The overcoming of xenophobia then, presupposes the recovery of a prescriptive politics in society, and hence the recovery of an active citizenship which alone, under current conditions in post-colonial Africa, can make such prescriptive politics possible" (Neocosmos 2010: 115). Danso & McDonald (2001: 133) summarises the situation clearly;

The press does not bear sole responsibility for high levels of xenophobia in South Africa, but it clearly contributes to the problem in creating and reinforcing ideologies, discourses and policies related to cross-border migration and the lives of migrants. As South Africa becomes more integrated into the region, and as it moves hopefully toward an increasingly democratic future, the role of the press cannot but assume an even greater importance in constructing what, and how, South Africans think about migration issues.

It is necessary to reiterate the point that there are no definite causal links between what is printed in the media about xenophobia and actual xenophobic actions.

6.2 Recommendations for future research

The Critical Discourse Analysis of two campus newspapers over a tumultuous three-year period revealed that despite being so close geographically, the two campus newspapers in the Western Cape had very divergent attitudes when it comes to (i) the frequency of articles published which mention Africa/African foreigners in South Africa and also (ii) the tone (positive vs. negative) of the published articles. We can conclude that there was no marked change in frequency with regards to relevant articles, however sympathy towards foreigners living in South Africa became more prominent in both newspapers towards the end of the three-year time period.

The current study has only examined newspaper articles in campus media. Future studies on xenophobia and its presence in discourse would benefit from interviews with the actual/potential victims of xenophobia to gauge their attitudes with regards to the constant prejudice they face, as well as with South African students to determine whether xenophobic attitudes are widespread on South African campuses.

Due to the limited scope of this study, the results obtained from the Critical Discourse Analysis of the two campus newspapers were descriptive and exploratory in nature. In a study of a broader scope, it would be interesting to see whether or not attitudinal trends in the South African press will become more or less positive with regards to foreign Africans in South Africa.

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Addendum A

Monday Paper

Volume 26.01
19 February 2007
Former activist back at UCT

Property rights: Prof Julian Kinderlerer, who has stepped into UCT's new Chair of Intellectual Property Law, believes there are many challenges for intellectual property education in Africa.
 When Julian Kinderlerer left South Africa for Cambridge in the turbulent 1960s, it was on a one-way ticket to study biochemistry. He'd received a major scholarship, but there were also political considerations. The National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) activist was fast becoming persona non grata in the eyes of state authorities.

Nearly 40 years later, the UCT science graduate (chemistry) is back at his alma mater to take up the new Chair in Intellectual Property Law. "This is an important moment for the law faculty," the Dean of Law, Professor Hugh Corder, said. "UCT is delighted to have been able to secure someone who is a leading researcher with links throughout the world, and who is a member of the prestigious European Group of Ethics in Science and New Technologies, someone who reports to the president, council and parliament of the European Union."



Kinderlerer, the former Professor of Biotechnology Law in the Institute of Biotechnological Law and Ethics at Sheffield University, will spend six months of the year (December to June) teaching and researching in Cape Town. The other half will be devoted to his academic activities in the Netherlands (he has 12 PhD students to look after) where he is Professor of Biotechnology and Society in the Technology University in Delft.

Straddling both law and biotechnology, Kinderlerer is a treasured find. His five-year appointment has been underpinned by a R3 million grant from South Africa's Innovation Fund and further funding by the Andrew W Mellon Foundation for the establishment of a parallel research unit in IP law. Though he is not a law graduate, his interest in intellectual property grew in relation to that in biotechnology. In 1983 the British government set up an advisory committee in genetic manipulation and Kinderlerer found himself representing the university's teachers' union. Over the next 20 years he moved gradually from molecular biology to a "fascination with the law".

"It's very exciting to be back in my country after 40 years. The changes are discernable."

South Africa has come some way since then, but a poor development record still haunts the country and continent. In considering intellectual property law and its roles in African development, questions arise. Is the Western IP model of any value in an African context? Can IP be used to harness Africa's intellectual capital, especially traditional or indigenous knowledge? Kinderlerer points out that although African countries are rich in biodiversity and indigenous knowledge, they must address property issues if they want to stimulate inventions and innovations and compete in the global economy.

"South Africa is at a crossroads: part of both worlds, a bridge between Western developed and African developing countries lacking innovation.

"But we can do things here that others can't do. That makes it very exciting." HELEN THÉRON Professor Julian Kinderlerer was the keynote speaker at the two-day World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) National Symposium on Intellectual Property Education, Training and Research. The symposium featured prominent names in the IP field in Africa. IP is one of the key drivers of economic growth, but there is insufficient awareness in the developing world of how to shift from tangible property assets to IP assets - and how to commercialise such assets. The conference was a key event, not only for South Africa, but for the region. Speaking at the conference, the Dean of Law, Professor Hugh Corder, said: "The present state of affairs places developing nations at a decided disadvantage. By operating within the existing framework, multi-national corporations and developed nations have been able to maintain their dominance over developing nations by controlling intellectual property rights for such things as medicines, crop seeds, software and books." He added: "It is vital that new proposals, derived from independently-driven research, be encouraged."

Volume 26.01
19 February 2007
Faith-based organisations and HIV prevention

New standards: In Washington DC earlier this month, Prof Jim Cochrane (religious studies) presented ARHAP's WHO report on African religious health assets and their role in preventing and treating HIV.

A recently released World Health Organisation (WHO) study estimates that between 30% and 70% of Africa's health infrastructure is owned by faith-based organisations, with little co-operation between these and mainstream public health programmes, hampering access to HIV prevention and treatment.

The report, released at Washington National Cathedral earlier this month, focused on Lesotho and Zambia, countries with HIV prevalence rates of 23.2% and 17%, respectively.

Titled *Appreciating Assets: Mapping, Understanding, Translating and Engaging Health Assets in Zambia and Lesotho*, it found that Christian hospitals and health centres provide about 40% of Lesotho's HIV care and treatment services. Almost one-third of Zambian HIV/AIDS treatment centres are run by faith-based organisations. The report says that faith-based organisations play a much bigger role in HIV/AIDS treatment in sub-Saharan Africa than was previously recognised. It concludes that better co-ordination and communication are "urgently needed" between these organisations and the private and public health sectors.

"Faith-based organisations are a vital part of civil society," said Dr Kevin de Cock, director of WHO's Department of HIV/AIDS.

The WHO study was undertaken by partners in the African Religious Health Assets Programme (ARHAP) at the Universities of Cape Town, KwaZulu-Natal and the Witwatersrand and from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, Atlanta.

Researchers say they are confident that their efforts have yielded the first credible data showing the extent to which faith-based organisations are providing HIV/AIDS care in Lesotho and Zambia.

"Anecdotal commentary has long pointed to the huge presence of what we call religious health assets on the ground in Africa," said UCT's Professor Jim Cochrane of the Department of Religious Studies and director of ARHAP's UCT hub.

"Through participatory GIS mapping and validation processes we have provided the first systematic evidence of their scope, scale, character, reach and importance for health systems in contexts where such systems are struggling or collapsing."



The researchers argue that health, religion and cultural norms and values define the health-seeking strategies of many Africans and the failure of health policymakers to understand the overarching influence of religion - and faith-based organisations in HIV treatment - could seriously undermine efforts to scale up health services.

The report calls for greater dialogue and action in, among other areas, developing religious and public literacy and respect for interaction with religious and public health leaders.

"We were delighted to have the WHO, through its personnel at the Washington DC event, say that our work has set new standards for the way in which faith-based organisations need to interact with public health systems in the drive for universal access towards prevention, treatment, care, and support by the year 2010," Cochrane concluded.

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UCT to host genetic and biotechnology centre



Dissection: Minister of Science and Technology Mosibudi Mangena (left) on an earlier visit to the IIDMM's laboratories. The IIDMM will host the third component of the Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, a coup for UCT and South Africa.

South Africa, and specifically UCT's Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM), has won the bid to host the third component of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). The news was announced on 1 December last year. Nigeria and Tanzania also submitted bids.

There are existing components in laboratories at Trieste, Italy, and New Delhi, India. The ICGEB's research is expected to help the world's scientists determine the mechanisms related to infections and the resurgence of diseases at a molecular level. It is hoped the research will result in new drugs and vaccines in the fight against TB, malaria and HIV/AIDS.

Minister of Science and Technology Mosibudi Mangena said the Department of Science and Technology (DST) had allocated R40 million over four years to support its establishment. The centre will give South Africa access to sophisticated technologies aimed at solutions to both medical and agricultural challenges on the continent. Importantly, it will also enhance efforts towards the development of an African hub of technology.

IIDMM director Professor Greg Hussey said: "The Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine is extremely proud to be hosting the African component of the ICGEB here at UCT. We view this initiative as a positive step by the world community to contribute actively towards the advancement of science on the African continent. The research mandates of the IIDMM and the ICGEB are remarkably similar in context and focus and we look forward to forging closer links with our colleagues in Africa and on the Indian sub-continent."

Mangena said the development was significant on several fronts: "It will enable us to address the disease burden of the developing world, the agricultural challenges of poor yields, producing in difficult climatic conditions, enhancing our post-harvest capacities, and the use of biotechnology to develop our manufacturing and industrial sectors."

The component, he added, would boost the country's profile as the preferred destination for global science and technology initiatives and would drive Africa's development in innovation and technology.

Volume 26.02
5 March 2007
Students make sense of public opinion stats

Four intensive weeks of juggling and teasing out statistics ended on 16 February when the 2007 Afrobarometer Summer School drew to a close.

A group of 25 students, from NGOs and universities across the continent, spent the four weeks at UCT, where they were taught how to analyse public opinion, using statistical tools.

They used data from Afrobarometer Round 3 surveys, which was captured in 18 countries, to develop their own research papers in areas like political trust, gender equality and government performance.

"The course serves to increase the pool of people in Africa, who have no statistical knowledge at all, to interpret the Afrobarometer data," says Associate Professor Robert Mattes, director of the Centre for Social Science Research (CSSR) at UCT and co-founder of Afrobarometer. The CSSR is the supporting unit and host.

A Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD) grant to the value of \$350 000 funds the course for 2006 and 2007.

Locals must have say in security sector reform



Laurie Nathan
 UCT's Laurie Nathan has just returned from a visit to the United Nations headquarters in New York, where he participated in an Arria-style meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss security sector reform (SSR). The focus of the meeting was the need for a people-centred, nationally owned approach to SSR. As the invitation from the British government stated, the experience, knowledge and active participation of civil society is crucial to the success of security reform.

In his speech, Nathan, an honorary research fellow in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences, reflected on the South African post-apartheid security sector model to pinpoint key elements in reforming a developing country's security sector.

"We did it our way," Nathan said of South Africa's success story. "The process," he added, "has to be democratic, for the people and by the people."

South Africa, a non-permanent member of the Security Council, "faced a battery of formidable challenges in the security sector in the early to mid-1990s - including the integration of enemies from the guerilla and apartheid armies into a single defence force and ensuring that the security services served all South Africans equally".

Local ownership, he said, is fundamental to the reform process. Officials from donor governments often justify the absence of local ownership of SSR in post-conflict countries on the grounds that local actors lack capacity and legitimacy. But these do not constitute valid grounds for bypassing domestic actors, Nathan says. On the contrary, they are precisely the problems that SSR intends addressing.

The role of external actors is to assist in democratic reform.

"The main functions of the UN in relation to SSR are support for local initiatives, capacity building, facilitation and co-ordination." Also invited to the SC meeting were two other civil society speakers, one from Sierra Leone and the other from Indonesia. It was chaired by the British ambassador to the Security Council. A presidential statement on SSR will shortly be issued by Slovakia, which currently holds the presidency of the council.

Volume 26.03
19 March 2007
South Africans speak on new online archive



The Centre for Popular Memory (CPM) has launched a vast online archive, using material gathered through its 21 year history. For now, all material within the CPM's physical archives that have the necessary copyright release has been entered into this online database, accessed at www.popularmemory.org. The archive will be made up of transcripts, translations, photographs and, shortly, audio and video streams. The physical archive holds over 2 100 hours of audio and video footage collected over the past 21 years. That includes 1 500 hours of analogue audio recordings in five languages, crossing race, class, gender and population lines. In these recordings, South Africans talk on everything from forced removals, life histories and immigration to AIDS, trauma and contemporary popular culture. While the centre has its origins in audio interviews, its archive also has about 300 hours of unedited video footage, including material on the 1960 Langa March, the 1980s pass boycott, and the impact of the 1999 hurricane on

Manenberg. At the same time, the CPM is building up a visual archive of photographs, diaries, performances and documents. It sees the library as a way to preserve and celebrate South African people and history, says Renate Meyer, senior audiovisual archivist. "We wanted to move away from the physical barriers that archives tend to have. We wanted to create something that was accessible and by developing the online archive, we broaden the possibility of who gets to use our archival material." The centre sets the bar high for its archives. It wants to use oral history, visual history and digital archiving to contribute to social development and democratisation, says Meyer. The new online archive slots in well with one of the CPM's thrusts - disseminating memories and stories to various audiences. *At the same time as launching its online archive, the Centre for Popular Memory also released a new book, Imagining the City: Memories and cultures in Cape Town. The volume presents oral and visual histories drawn from people who live, work and creatively express themselves in the city. The book panders neither to the glossy tourist brochure image of the multicultural city, nor the historical descriptions of Cape Town as a violent, racist and un-African city. It was researched, written and produced by the staff and students at CPM. It is edited by Dr Sean Field, Renate Meyer and Felicity Swanson, and is published by the HSRC Press. Other contributors include Sofje Geschier, Anastasia Maw, Iyanwyan Masade, Gabeba Baderoon, Colin Miller, Ncedisa Nkonyeni, Louise Green and Thabo Manetsi.*

Volume 26.03
19 March 2007
World Watch
Last year, 53% of government scholarships to Ugandan public universities went to science students. In line with the science implementation policy, priority will be given to science students in the awarding of government scholarships to the four public universities of Makerere, Kyambogo, Mbarara and Gulu. According to the sports and education ministry, this policy will continue until government attains its target of 75% science-based state scholarships.

Volume 26.03
19 March 2007
UCT-designed GM crop nears trials



Harvest time: Much is on the line for a genetically modified crop of maize developed by UCT scientists.

From the 12 January edition of the prestigious *Science* magazine (Vol 315) comes news that Africa is gearing up for its first trial of a genetically modified crop, developed entirely in Africa by UCT's Professors Jennifer Thomson and Ed Rybicki and their team in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology. Endemic to Africa and nearby Indian Ocean islands, the maize streak virus (MSV) is carried by the leafhopper (*Cicadulina mbila*), manifesting as minute, pale circular spots on the lowest exposed portion of the leaf. Plants infected at an early stage become severely stunted, producing undersized, misshapen cobs or no yield at all. Considering that maize accounts for 50% of calories in local diets, virus-resistant maize would make an important contribution to grain provision. For the past 25 years African crop scientists have been trying to produce virus-resistant maize by crossing plants that carry natural resistance, but with limited success.

The UCT team's efforts proved more fruitful. They've been working with plant pathologist Frederik Kloppers at Pannar Seeds, Greytown, to test a GM plant carrying a mutated form of the maize virus. The plant has resisted infection consistently. Kloppers hope to start field trials later this year. Postdoc Dionne Shepherd, who has worked on the project for nine years, says field trials are crucial to test environmental and health risks. If all goes well, though, this will be the country's first GM crop to be field-tested at home. And with government now developing its own expertise to evaluate environmental and human safety, they're keen to use the UCT maize, the most advanced locally produced GM product, as a guinea pig. The team is well aware of GM's bad rep. GM plants don't always work, and sceptics believe GM technology is just a way of attracting funding that benefits industrial agriculture, not smaller farmers.

As UCT's maize was home-grown without big corporate bucks (Pannar was the only corporate contributor), the UCT scientists hope to shake off some of these criticisms.

Volume 26.03
19 March 2007
New USHEPIA Fellows arrive
 UCT has welcomed six new fellows on the University Science, Humanities & Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPIA) programme. USHEPIA, established in 1996 and funded since 1997 by the Andrew W Mellon Foundation, is a partnership of eight Southern and East African universities that, through fellowships, aims to build capacity and collaboration among established African researchers. The programme has graduated 31 fellows (master's and PhDs) since then. This latest group is made up of Rafiki Yohana of the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, who will pursue her PhD in linguistics, supervised by Professor Raj Mesthrie. Norbert Musekiwa of the University of Zimbabwe will read for a PhD in political studies, supervised by Professor Robert Schrire. Deo John Nangela, also from the University of Dar es Salaam, will read for his PhD in law, supervised by Professor Julien Hofman. Moses Batiibwe of Makerere University in Uganda is pursuing a PhD in religious studies, supervised by Professor David Chidester. (USHEPIA graduate Dr Mary Gorrete Nakabugo is his supervisor at home.) Christine Noe, a third fellow from the University of Dar es Salaam, is reading for a PhD in environmental studies, supervised by Dr Maano Ramutsindela. Isabella Njeri Wachira of the University of Nairobi in Kenya is working on a PhD in construction, supervised by Dr Dave Root.

Volume 26.04
10 April 2007
Global agenda on fitness



Running into trouble: With lifestyle diseases on the up in South Africa and elsewhere on the continent, many physical activity projects are targeting children, hoping to set the right patterns early.

As if the continent's burden of communicable diseases isn't bad enough, add lifestyle-based ailments to Africa's health woes. Once upon a time there was a clear-cut division of diseases in the world - the well-heeled citizens of the First World suffered from conditions brought on by their affluent but couch-bound lifestyles (obesity, heart disease, hypertension, high cholesterol), while developing nations, such as those in Africa, were saddled with the world's communicable disease load (AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, anything else you can think of).

But countries like South Africa, Brazil, Mexico, Malaysia and others are breaking the mould. Global and regional surveillance data suggest that 60% of men in South Africa, and 45% of women, are not getting the kind of physical exercise that bears health benefits. In addition, alarm bells are beginning to go off about the growing epidemic of obesity and associated medical conditions among children. Here, again, South Africa is following in the footsteps of Europe and North America. And some of South Africa's immediate neighbours are wary that they could be next. That may explain why some 45 delegates from seven African countries eagerly signed up for the International Physical Activity and Public Health Course for the African Region, held at the Sports Science Institute of South Africa in Newlands from 27 to 30 March. Over the four days, the delegates - representing government, the corporate and education sectors, health industries, academia and NGOs - discussed and debated the four pillars of the course: making a case for physical activity (it's the essential starting block); intervention strategies and best practices; planning and evaluating suitable programmes; and the must-haves for a national, even multinational, policy. The International Physical Activity and Public Health Course is the brainchild of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in the US and the International Union of Health Promotion and Education. It was designed as a response to the booming burden of chronic diseases, and aims to develop regional capacity for health promotion through physical activity. It also operates under a global mandate from the World Health Assembly's 2004 resolution on a Global Strategy for Diet, Physical Activity and Health.

The course was first run in North America, and was later offered throughout South America, Malaysia and China. Now, with the Cape Town workshop, Africa is also on the itinerary. In South Africa, a host of initiatives are already in place, says Professor Vicki Lambert of the MRC/UCT Research Unit for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine (ESSM), the hosts for the event. The government's Vuka South Africa campaign and Youth Fitness and Wellness Charter are up and running (albeit with limited resources), as are countless corporate social investment programmes such as SuperSport's Let's Play, Woolworth's Making a Difference programme, as well as NGO-driven programmes such as Little Champs and the SSISA's own Community Health Intervention Programme (CHIPs). These initiatives are huge steps in the right direction, but there is also a need for a common voice, and more by way of "inter- and intra-sectoral collaboration," says Lambert. This, she believes, will add gravitas and leverage to the message that Africa and South Africa, in particular, must act now. The SSISA meeting can also help. So keen were they on the idea that 21 delegates volunteered to serve on a steering committee for an African network for physical activity and public health. The group will have plenty to do, like spurring the authorities to action, and giving existing programmes a hand. But there are success stories to take a cue from. In Colombia, a national project turned lacklustre Bogotá - in one study, 79.1% of respondents reported being inactive - into a city that encourages "active commuting" and "walkability". As they're doing elsewhere across the globe, Africa could find it's an exercise well worth the effort.

Volume 26.04
10 April 2007
World Watch
If the quality of education at township schools does not improve, inequality, uneven development and social exclusion of the African child will be reinforced, said Gauteng Premier Mbazima Shilowa at a Gauteng education summit in March. All 14 schools in the province that obtained a matric pass rate below 30% last year were from townships, and the majority of the 21.65% of the pupils who failed matric last year were African.

Orange Democratic Movement Kenya presidential aspirant Kalonzo Musyoka recently promised that his government will offer free education to the disabled if he is elected.

Volume 26.04

10 April 2007

UCT centre picks up Carnegie grant

The UCT Centre for Information and Literacy (CIL) has received a Technical Assistance Grant of US\$271 000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, recognising its capacity to strengthen the development and provision of high-quality electronic information resources in libraries. CIL director, Professor Peter Underwood, said that an important element of the grant proposal will involve sending an international team of specialists to visit higher education, national and public libraries supported by Carnegie in Africa. This will build on a workshop that will take place after the 73rd Congress of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in Durban in August 2007. Some 41 delegates from African libraries are expected to attend the workshop. The workshop will help participants understand how to develop and evaluate electronic resources in library collections. They will also be taught how to market and promote these collections.

Volume 26.04

10 April 2007

Medical student's get-up-and-go attitude



Standing tall: Ronald Mothelesi, a final-year medical student, with his new wheelchair.
When Botswana Ronald Mothelesi applied to study medicine at four South African universities, there was one thing that set him apart from the other applicants: he's in a wheelchair. "Three of the four universities turned me down, but UCT said 'yes, we will take you,'" he recalls. At age five Mothelesi contracted polio and has been in a wheelchair since. He never gave up on his dream of becoming a doctor though, and while he was told it would be difficult, he believed that "success is failure turned inside out". Now, in his final year of MBChB at UCT, the limitations to his dream have been ousted following the arrival of his new wheelchair, one that also allows him to stand. "Surgery assistance is a requirement in my degree," says Mothelesi. "Because I could not stand, I previously had to sit on my wheelchair's armrest." With the new custom-built, hydraulic wheelchair, he can stand for up to 45 minutes. "Basically, it has helped me a lot during practicals and to assist in theatre," says Mothelesi. It also helps him get around the hospitals better, as this wheelchair's slim design allows him to pass through single-door entrances. Accessibility to hospitals for people in wheelchairs is often problematic, he says. "Having the same disability doesn't mean you have the same limitation." The wheelchair was funded mainly by a Vodacom Foundation sponsorship, says Reinette Poppelstone, manager of the Disability Service at UCT. The balance came from funds given to the Disability Service. "The foundation specified that a large quantity of the money should go toward the mobility of

disabled students." The disability service also bought Mothelesi an automatic Toyota Corolla, which was modified with hand-operated controls and a hoist for his old wheelchair. The only problem now is that the hoist has not yet been fitted for the new wheelchair. But this won't curb his enthusiasm. Mothelesi plans to do his internship in Cape Town. "These are the hospitals I have worked in, and I know how to get around them." And beyond that? "I want to be an ophthalmic surgeon - and I'd like to settle down."

Volume 26.05

23 April 2007

World Watch

PHYSIOTHERAPY STUDENTS are threatening not to return home if their entry salaries are not upgraded, two students from the Union of Botswana Physiotherapy Students in Ireland have said. Chairperson Kenny Boiteto said physiotherapists are hired at a salary scale equivalent to that of many other science degree holders and that physiotherapists in Botswana earn salaries that are two scales below those of doctors. He said considering that "physiotherapy is marketable worldwide, the low salary scale makes working in Botswana unattractive".

Volume 26.06

7 May 2007

UCT launches campaign to boost culture of respect



Sparked in part by the strike by professional and administrative staff earlier this year, UCT's new Respect Campaign strives to instill a culture of respect for people and opinions. UCT recently launched a major new campaign to boost the culture of courtesy and mutual respect that it says is critical to ensuring the transformation of the institution is kept on track. The campaign - called Respect - was launched on Human Rights Day with an email from the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Njabulo S Ndebele, to staff. According to deputy vice-chancellor Professor Martin Hall, who holds the transformation portfolio, respect is a vital ingredient for the smooth running of any organisation and a critical one for organisations undergoing transformation.

"Without respect for one another transformation cannot happen," said Hall. "While the university is publicly committed to creating an inclusive learning and work environment, it can only fulfil that commitment through the actions of individual members of the university community."

Hall says that the campaign will contribute to creating a nurturing and effective study and work environment at the university, and that this is an essential part of making sure UCT maintains its position as a leading tertiary institution on the African continent.

According to Hall, the campaign has been launched in response to ongoing issues at UCT but was spurred on by industrial action on the campus earlier this year. "While the strike was ostensibly about the traditional issue of pay, it was clear that there were other issues involved concerning the way people experience working at UCT that we need to address," he said.

Hall said that these issues included perceptions of racism, sexual harassment, intolerance and xenophobia, which are not conducive to a healthy institutional climate.

"Respect means a willingness to show consideration or appreciation for other people's points of view and the recognition that every person has an important contribution to make to the university community. The Respect campaign wants to get people to engage more robustly with these ideals. We want people to question their own attitudes and think about how they are interacting with their colleagues."

Hall said that the university is also serious about acting on what comes out of the campaign. He stressed that this is not about window dressing.

"We are committed to act on what comes out of this campaign and translate this back into action," he said.

The campaign will consist of a series of activities throughout 2007, ranging from rigorous debates and small, focused workshops to large public events. These will focus on the four key issues of 1) respect for cultural and religious diversity, 2) respect for individual rights, 3) the history of the institution and the land it is built on, and 4) UCT's institutional climate.

"We are bracing ourselves for a potentially difficult but exciting ride," says Hall. "We believe that the university as an institution will emerge stronger and better equipped to meet our exceptional development challenges, as well as able to continue to hold its own on the international stage." MP

Volume 26.07

21 May 2007

UCT Celebrates Africa Day

The International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO) and All Africa House will host Africa Day celebrations on 22 and 24 May. The official date of Africa Day is 25 May.

The celebrations will kick off with a seminar at All Africa House on 22 May at 18h00. On May 24, there will be a keynote address and discussion, held in Kramer Law Quad at 17h00. UCT student societies will provide entertainment with song and dance performances. A poster exhibition on aspects of African life, culture and research will be displayed.

This year marks the 44th Anniversary of Africa Day. Throughout the continent and the whole world, millions of people will converge to mark a day that in many countries across Africa is celebrated as a public holiday.

This will be UCT's third official Africa Day programme.

Everyone is encouraged to wear African attire or national dress on 22 and 24 May to celebrate the occasion.

For more information, contact [Masego Mogodu](mailto:Masego.Mogodu) or on extension 2822.

Volume 26.09

11 June 2007

Unions must stand on their own feet

Trade unions should stand on their own and deal with the burning issues of the workers' rights instead of spending too much time on political matters.

So says Mpfariseni Budeli, who graduates with a PhD in common law, in her thesis, *Freedom of Association and Trade Unionism in South Africa: From apartheid to the democratic constitutional order*.

Described by her supervisor, Professor Evance Kalula, as "shy but hard-working", Budeli, 28, argues that union federations such as COSATU should divorce themselves from politics and focus on issues affecting workers, such as empowering new leaders about strategies. "It is important to have a trade union that can stand on its own."

Budeli said freedom of association is a fundamental right of unions, as enshrined in the constitution. However, the apartheid regime prevented those rights from being exercised, prompting the International Labour Organisation, a United Nations agency dealing with labour matters, to exclude South Africa in 1963.

Budeli added that unions were instrumental in the demise of apartheid by furthering the agenda of the banned political parties.

A former shop steward at the University of Limpopo where she is a lecturer, Budeli called for an international labour federation to deal with globalisation and the violation of workers' rights in countries such as Zimbabwe, among other issues.

Budeli added that the South African Labour Law is more advanced than those of many African states, "and those countries can learn a lot from us".

Born in Venda, Budeli studied law at the University of Limpopo, obtaining a master's degree with distinction.

Volume 26.10

30 July 2007

Student's work lands her a top award



Watching relatives die of HIV/AIDS was painful for Tashinga Matindike, but it also inspired her to become an AIDS activist. Now, the 25-year old fine-arts student's work to combat the pandemic has won her a Women Leading Change Award from the World Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). Matindike, who hails from Zimbabwe, was one of 14 recipients of the accolade at the YWCA's International Women's Summit: Women's Leadership on HIV and AIDS, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 4 to 7 July. The women were recognised for their leadership in the battle against HIV/AIDS. Kenyan president Mwai Kibaki presented the 14 with the awards. Matindike was acknowledged in the Innovative Leadership category for a [website](#) she had designed as a self-motivated project last year. The site has since turned out to be a useful tool where people can share their stories. One student even used it to disclose her HIV-positive status. "I never thought it would have such an impact," says Matindike, who has lost three family members to HIV/AIDS. The YWCA award, which came with a \$10 000 (about R70 000) grant for further work on HIV/AIDS - which she'll do at UCT and with the YWCA of Zimbabwe - follows Matindike's nomination as a finalist in the SABS Design Achievers Competition in Johannesburg in June.

Volume 26.11

13 August 2007

World watch

THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT is to scrap funding for students' welfare, including meals, accommodation and medical care, in all public universities, education minister Namirembe Bitamazire said in Parliament recently. Until now the government has been funding some 5 810 students in four public universities.

Volume 26.11

13 August 2007

SRC president reports back

At the beginning of our term of office we boldly declared that this SRC would "strive to be the vanguard of its students" and that we would "unequivocally and unreservedly champion the student cause at the university".

And indeed, there were things we had to do to "give meaning to our presence in key chambers, and give purpose to our occupancy of our seats in student governance".

The SRC has been in the forefront of student issues at UCT. One of these was around the issue of academic exclusions. Here, we played numerous roles. We sat on review and re-admission committees and we trained student leaders to be deployed to RRCs. We organised a not-so-silent vigil, pushing for a more student-friendly exam timetable.

We also called for supplementary exams to be introduced in the science and engineering and the built environment faculties, a proposal for which has been drafted by the Academic Sub-Council. We drafted two similar proposals for Senate on the issues of exams scripts and the need for a 24-hour library service during exams.

In an effort to curb financial exclusions, the SRC was successful in institutionalising fee concessions for returning SADC students, in arranging loan agreements with the Department of Student Affairs, in raising approximately R300 000 through Jameson Plaza bookings towards the newly established SRC Financial Assistance/Bail Out Fund.

The SRC is in the process of securing R500 000 from the Vice-Chancellor, and will be advocating that specific reserves be freed up to aid Zimbabwean students.

We have also made a concerted effort to canvas students across all campuses on the issues that concern them by holding a SRC Imbizo and road show on each campus. We also launched the Vula site, the SRC website, and a quarterly email, which allow students to voice their concerns.

One of the bigger issues that the SRC has been looking into is the poor state of the Jammie Shuttle Service. The SRC conducted a survey that underpinned a report on issues around the Shuttles. The university has assured us that it will be used to upgrade and improve Jammie stops and routes.

In the residence sector the SRC and the Graça Machel Residence house committee have pushed successfully for cash compensation following the problems of last semester.

The SRC has also been instrumental in reviewing the food service provider and the new meal voucher system. We have also made a number of changes to the residence allocation policy to deal with transit students, student evictions and vacation accommodation.

The SRC still has a number of changes to make before handing over to the next SRC. Please check the SRC Vula website for this information.

If you have any concerns or suggestions that you would like to make, please don't hesitate to contact me at mqlzuk001@uct.ac.za, or the SRC secretary-general [David Watson](#).

We hope that our final stretch in office will be successful and that students remember us as an SRC that was proactive and responsive to student needs and concerns.

Yours in Good Governance,

Zuki Mqolomba

SRC President

Volume 26.12

27 August 2007

Chancellor thanks loyal donors



Showing gratitude: Chancellor Graça Machel thanks UCT donors at a function in the Baxter Hall.

Investing in knowledge will put Africa on a new level, says Chancellor. Chancellor Graça Machel has thanked UCT's loyal donors from greater Cape Town, saying their support and assistance had made the university one of the best institutions in the world.

During a donor recognition lunch at the Baxter Hall on 22 August, Machel said it was strategically important for them to choose to support UCT.

"This puts us on a level where no-one can overlook us as a nation or as a continent."

The event recognised the continued support of leading local individuals, corporate and trust donors, and aimed at further developing and strengthening the ties the institution has with them.

The donors were each handed small gifts as tokens of appreciation for their support.

The former first lady said any country wanting to be continuously successful

had to invest in knowledge and research.

"We have some of the best research and we are not only dealing with poverty but how to find a vaccine for HIV/AIDS, a global challenge." Machel said donors were creating opportunities for young people, who were sometimes discriminated simply because they were from families with fewer resources.

"This country believes in investing in the equality of human beings. Your investment is valued."

Volume 26.12

27 August 2007

Honorary degree for Aung San Suu Kyi

In December this year UCT will confer an honorary degree, Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*), on 1991 Nobel Peace Laureate, Aung San Suu Kyi.

As Suu Kyi is under house arrest in Burma, fellow Nobel Peace Laureate, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, will receive the honorary degree on her behalf.

Suu Kyi is a powerful figure worldwide for her non-violent protest for democracy and human rights for the Burmese people. She is leader of Burma's main opposition, the National League for Democracy (NLD), which won 82% of the parliamentary seats in the 1990 national elections. The NLD was declined office by the military, which ignored the results.

She is also the only Nobel Peace Laureate without freedom, and has called for countries to "use their liberties to promote Burma's".

Archbishop Tutu has been a powerful voice for the liberation of the Burmese people, particularly the release of Suu Kyi, calling for political dialogue that will lead to peace, freeing political prisoners, and a halt on attacks on Myanmar's ethnic minorities.

"We acknowledge Suu Kyi as an extraordinary example of the sheer strength, for her wealth of knowledge, for her perseverance and as a symbol of determination of women all over the world," Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Njabulo S Ndebele, said in a media release.

Volume 26.12

27 August 2007

World Watch

If you are a student at a Ugandan tertiary institution, it is possible that at the end of the course, you will get a qualification nobody recognises. Of the 137 private tertiary institutions in the country, only 17 are licensed to operate, according to the National Council for Higher Education. The Council's executive director Professor AB Kasozi explained that all tertiary institutions, including those that existed before the council became operational in 2003, should have applied for fresh licenses.

Volume 26.13

17 September 2007

Pieterse heads Cities in Africa theme



Urban evolution: The new director of the Cities in Africa Signature Theme is Prof Edgar Pieterse.

London School of Economics graduate Professor Edgar Pieterse has been appointed director of the Cities in Africa project, one of five UCT Signature Themes.

These are projects that will grow research capacity in priority areas. Others are drug development, marine preservation, brain behaviour and minerals processing.

A co-founder of the Isandla Institute and a former special advisor in the Office of the Premier (Western Cape), Pieterse says the initiative will pull together the "incredibly rich" resources and expertise available in the area and allow practitioners to think holistically about challenges African cities pose.

The project will also contribute to building a network through the Association of African Planning Schools.

Pieterse says the initiative will add value to existing multidisciplinary work being done towards urban development across a range of UCT faculties.

Importantly, the centre will work with the City to identify several sites for "innovative human settlement interventions".

One of these is District Six. Another is Hout Bay, with its problematic integration of diverse communities, topographical challenges and the 60% unemployment rate in Imizamo Yethu.

He said the world is moving too fast for the planning norms of 20 years ago.

"The evolution and modernisation of African cities raises fundamental questions about how we theorise and teach these things and will influence what skills our students exit with."

Volume 26.13
17 September 2007

Deep transformation and common values hold key to a non-racial South Africa

A common identity can become a prison, says leading academic.

Transformation within South African organisations and society is happening at the superficial level of policies and laws.

This was the central debate of a discussion, titled *Diversity and Discrimination: New leadership challenges*, held at the Graduate School of Business (GSB).

The discussion stirred deep-seated emotions and did not provide any easy answers. What emerged was a general consensus that South African organisations could be doing better in terms of transformation.

"People are still carrying the emotional and psychological baggage of our segregated past and real unity can only come about through open discussion, empathy and a respect for human dignity," said Professor Julian Sonn, a key speaker on the discussion panel.

The event formed part of the UCT Respect Programme, created to provide a forum for discussing key issues of transformation within the university and broader society, and brought together world-renowned academics in the fields of race relations and diversity.

Leading the discussion were Professor David Goldberg, director of the University of California Humanities Research Institute and author of the critically acclaimed publication, *The Racial State*, and Philomena Essed, Professor of Critical Race, Gender and Leadership Studies at Antioch University and author of *Everyday Racism*.

They were joined on the discussion panel by local academic Professor Julian Sonn from the University of Stellenbosch and Claire Kelly, research co-ordinator for Intercultural and Diversity Studies at UCT. Together they led an open, frank debate about transformation, both within organisations and South African society, and the leadership challenges that go with it.

At the core of the issue lies the fact that people are not getting to grips with issues surrounding race and identity and have a tendency to forget the past rather than to deal openly with it.

Kelly's case study work has found that generally the conversation around transformation sits solely at the superficial level of employment equity.

"Our research has shown that organisations are not engaging in 'deep transformation' but simply following the rules set out in the Employment Equity Act," said Kelly. "This only serves to create a hostile environment and does nothing to encourage transformation on a constructive level. Organisations need to move past this surface level and start creating spaces where issues of race and difference can be engaged with more meaningfully," she said.

Essed added that South African leaders need to show more respect for individuality and that recognising people for who they are, not what they are (gender, race, religion), is the key to creating a culture of dignity and respect.

"The term 'diversity' is ambivalent," said Essed. "I prefer that people recognise the full individuality of a person - each of us is equal in our humanity but we are all different, even if our skin colour is the same."

Essed also maintained that the perpetual search for a common South African identity was, in fact, a dangerous exercise.

"South Africans should rather search for common values and learn how to live and behave so as to honour them and each other. A common identity can in reality become a kind of prison - a source of coercion and constraint.

"Those who act outside of the mould may come to be perceived as a threat and the spirit of difference and individuality is no longer celebrated," said Essed.

Volume 26.14

1 October 2007

Multilingual reading an open book

Pencils were scribbling, storyboards were pored over and ideas bounced back and forth as writers from 11 African countries gathered at a workshop at UCT over the past long weekend to pull together an anthology of stories that will, if all pans out, be read by children across the continent.

The workshop forms part of the pan-African Stories Across Africa (StAAF), a core project of the African Academy of Languages, the language agency of the African Union. Three anthologies of African stories - one directed at children aged 9-12, the other at teenagers - will come out of the project by the end of this year.

But two calls for stories have failed to scare up enough material for a volume aimed at the formative 0-6 age group, explains Dr Carole Bloch, who co-ordinates the project from the Early Literacy Unit at the UCT-based Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa (PRAESA).

"It's not tradition to write for young children in Africa," says Bloch. "As yet."

Hence the workshop, where writers sat down with illustrators and famed South African children's writer Niki Daly to pen - from scratch - stories, rhymes and lullabies for the anthology.

It'll be a while before the volume makes it into print, but thanks to the workshop, organisers now have a collection of stories and texts to start off with.

Volume 26.15
15 October 2007
DiMP wins international award



The Science faculty's Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (DiMP) has scored a first for Africa. In receiving a Certificate of Merit from the United Nations' Sasakawa Awards for Disaster Reduction, DiMP is the first educational programme on the continent to be so honoured. The annual global award was given to DiMP in recognition of their work and achievements in disaster risk reduction. Since its inception in 1996, the programme has been involved in many areas of risk reduction, including the training of development and disaster management practitioners in risk reduction, post-event impact research on extreme weather events and the promotion of social activities that contribute to the strengthening of disaster risk reduction.

"Africa has been slow to engage with risk reduction as a core area of scholarship," says DiMP co-ordinator Dr Ailsa Holloway. "But across the continent, we are at last beginning to see the emergence of really exciting and locally relevant disaster risk management academic programmes".

Volume 26.15
15 October 2007
Stigma based on ignorance



Cal Volks, director of HAICU (left), delivers a presentation of her research into HIV/AIDS stigma at UCT. To her left is colleague Puleng Phooko. HIV/AIDS is "an African disease" at UCT, and students living with the virus are seen as "sluts and promiscuous".

This was one of the findings revealed during the HIV/AIDS-related Stigma Colloquium at UCT, hosted by HIV/AIDS Co-ordination - UCT (HAICU) on 11 October.

The aim of the colloquium was to enrich collective understanding of how HIV/AIDS and its related stigma is experienced on and off campus, how it affects students' academic and personal lives, and how the issue can be addressed to achieve an AIDS-competent UCT.

Student Sara Cooper interviewed a group of "highly educated" white students who believe that the virus is generally associated with black people. Cal Volks of the HIV/AIDS Unit said only seven female students turned up when they made a call to get their experiences.

She said there was a "complex" relationship between disclosure and the fear of stigmatisation.

As a result, no students have publicly disclosed their positive HIV status, and only one staff member has done so.

The theory-and researched-based sessions at the event included the experience of students living with HIV and AIDS; perspectives on whether UCT students inadvertently stigmatise the virus and persons living with it; perspectives from members of the gay and lesbian community at UCT; perspectives from the Positive Muslims Society and the effect of cultural norms and attitudes towards HIV/AIDS-related stigma.

Volume 26.15
15 October 2007

Statement from Zuki Mqolomba, SRC President (Outgoing)



I have had limited engagements with the current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Njabulo S Ndebele, having served with him at Council and Senate. Most of them have mainly been at key university ceremonies and high-profile events of that nature.

My opinion of the current vice-chancellor is that he has undoubtedly proven himself as an intellectual and a man of stature and profile. His major successes lie mostly around fund-raising and establishing a strong senior leadership group. Though I believe that he is a good, gentle and courteous man who led with humility, it is also my belief that he could have played a more instrumental role in advancing the transformation agenda at the institution. He could have played a more instrumental role in leading discourse on transformation on campus and providing the political direction and political authority needed to entrench it. His role was mostly that of facilitating discourse on transformation and creating the space for discourse, which, too, is commendable.

What we need right now is a vice-chancellor with overt leadership, who will provide political direction on issues of transformation, leading the discourse on transformation at the institution. One who is politically astute, who can effect change not only within the institution but also in the politically-contested terrain of higher education. One who will sympathise with student issues, and create the space necessary to dealing with student issues. Most importantly, one who will bring back the African in this 'world-class African institution', and re-position the institution to address regional, national and continental challenges and provide solutions for these. This is how UCT will find legitimacy, not only

nationally, but how it also will achieve international acclaim.

I believe that Dr Max Price has this vision for the institution, and also a proven track record to realise it, having demonstrated his commitment towards advancing transformation, collective freedoms and human rights within our democracy. We wish him all the best for his tenure as vice-chancellor.

In closing on this issue, I'd like to extend warm words of gratitude to Professor Ndebele for his sterling contribution, and we wish him success for all future endeavours.

Volume 26.16
29 October 2007

World Watch

THE KADUNA STATE University in Nigeria will soon boast its own College of Medicine to train doctors for hospitals in the state. **MAKERERE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS** hailing from Mukono have launched a campaign to improve health and sanitation in their district. The campaign, dubbed Get involved, keep Mukono clean, will see students clean the Ugandan town the second week of every month.

Volume 26.16
29 October 2007

Travels of a bibliophile in Africa



By the book: Dr Colin Darch.

When Dr Colin Darch talks of his travels into Africa in search of books for the African Studies Library, two images stand out.

One is of a Michelin Man, his waistcoat stuffed with wads of crumpled local currency - exchanged from US dollar bills - for his purchases. The other is of a reflective man sifting through obscure or old and dusty wares for rare treasure. These book-buying forays are one of the pleasures of his job. He loves books and he loves Africa and has a wide and useful network of friends and former colleagues on the continent. It makes hunting and procurement that much easier.

Darch has done three trips. His 2002 sortie took him to Lusaka, Blantyre, Zomba, Harare and Maputo. In 2003 the search went to Accra, Lagos, Ibadan and Port Harcourt. And last year he visited Kigali, Kampala, Nairobi, Bagamoyo and Dar es Salaam.

He's due for another trip and fancies Angola.

But it's hard to get a visa, says the senior information specialist.

His reports read like travelogues. The trips are not leisurely rambles through African bookstores, universities and libraries. There's quite a bit of preparation required in procuring title lists from publishers in each country.

And it's tiring work. Each purchase requires its own paperwork, notes and descriptions.

But it's the unexpected find that thrills him. Each trip yields something rare and interesting - beyond scholarly monographs or research reports.

In Rwanda he was able to complete a rare, three-volume dictionary in Kinyarwanda and French, with examples of usage taken from Rwandan oral poetry.

These are things you can't order by post. Each trip yields between 400 and 600 new items for the African Studies Library.

"To acquire materials you need lots of time, patience, politeness - and often multiple visits."

And then the books have to be sent home with couriers DHL. Remarkably, they have never lost a single consignment.

Darch has had some adventures and unlikely experiences. He once booked into the Speke hotel in the middle of Kampala. But library executive director Joan Rapp found it was frequented by ladies of the night and known for robberies in the rooms.

"Protecting first the university's cash and (a long way second) my virtue, she changed the booking to a respectable Italian guest house in the suburban hills."

Once, running short of money to pay for some purchases and unable to exchange money after hours, Darch found himself in a black market exchange with a hotel waiter between toilet cubicles.

And some countries offer a less relaxing shopping experience.

"Nigeria makes some people nervous," Darch said. "Knowing someone there was very useful."

Volume 26.18
26 November 2007

UCT joins the international giants



The observation by editor Martin Ince in the *The Times Higher Education Supplement* sums it up nicely: "... the University of Cape Town finally enters the top 200 after three years of near misses."

The occasion, of course, was UCT becoming the first African university to make it into the top 200 - the list of high flyers that make it into print - of the *THES-QS World University Rankings*, conducted each year by *The Times Higher Education Supplement* and study-abroad specialists Quacquarelli Symonds.

UCT shared spot number 200 with RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia.

It also marks UCT's rise into the top half of the list, which ranks a final pool of 500 institutions. Just a few years ago, the university was placed around the mid-300s, and moved up to 257th place last year.

The ranking scores hundreds of universities around the globe on six indicators - peer review by over 5 000 international academics; recruiter review, ie evaluations by companies that employ graduates; the number of international faculty at the university; the number of international students at that institution; faculty/student ratio; and research citations, based on numbers generated by Scopus, the abstract and citation database.

UCT scored particularly well in the recruiter reviews and its intake of international students, as well as citations. Its 68 points out of a possible 100 in the latter is, particularly, a feather in the university's cap.

"Contributing factors are that we emphasise the importance of high-quality research and particularly the importance of peer-reviewed publications in high-impact journals, in those

disciplines where this is appropriate," says Professor Cheryl de la Rey, deputy vice-chancellor for research.

The university's highest marks, however, came in the international student category, where it scored 91 points, on par with log leaders Harvard and Cambridge. It's not hard to see why - UCT boasts some 3 000 international students from more than 100 countries, close on 20% of the university's student total.

"UCT takes seriously its stated mission of providing an internationally recognised education which is locally relevant, at the same time enabling our students to enjoy an international environment right here on campus," comments Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, deputy vice-chancellor for student life. "We have never doubted that diversity is good for its own sake and that, in an academic environment, it is a priceless foundation for vibrancy of thought and an impetus to creativity."

UCT is one of only four universities from the developing world in the rankings. As usual, UK and US universities took pole positions. And while the top universities hail mostly from the English-speaking world, 28 countries are represented in the rankings.

But editor Ince recognises that universities from developing countries may be punching above their weight.

"Despite the presence of South African, Brazilian and Mexican institutions in this table, the overall message of these rankings is that the sort of universities we list here, mainly large, general institutions, with a mingling of technology specialists, are a dauntingly expensive prospect for any country, let alone one in the developing world."

It's a hard row to hoe for smaller universities when they go up against institutions with much deeper pockets. In the US and UK, for example, governments pump billions of dollars into higher education, and privilege universities and colleges with tax breaks, notes Ince.

"There is no reason to suppose that brainpower is not distributed uniformly around the world," he adds. "But it is only one of the inputs to academic excellence."

"It is hard to imagine a world-class university in a country that lacks a significant tax base."

Which makes UCT's achievement - even a modest 200th place - all the more commendable.

"International rankings are becoming increasingly important in a global education market," says Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Njabulo S Ndebele. "And I believe the rating bears out our mission to be an African university of international repute."

"It's a tribute to the dedication and hard work of the entire university community."

Volume 26.18
26 November 2007

More black graduates since 2002



According to the latest Teaching and Learning Report, black African undergraduate student success rates showed marked improvements between 2002 and 2006.

The report has changed in format and now covers quantitative and qualitative dimensions of teaching and learning, with emphasis on faculty-based initiatives to improve both facets.

It also contains a summary of the strengths and challenges identified through the academic reviews conducted in 2006 and progress with regard to the implementation of the teaching- and learning-related sections of the University's Quality Improvement Plan, submitted to the HEQC in December 2006.

Although the course performance gap between African and other students diminished somewhat at the 200- and 300-levels, the reverse is true at the 100- and particularly the 400-levels.

In 2006, students on extended programmes performed well at the 100-level.

Success rates among Academic Development Programme students averaged 84% in commerce, 73% in science and 90% in engineering.

The improvements in course success rates are coupled to overall undergraduate performance. Completion rates, measured in relation to the progress of first-time entering students, have improved. Sixty-seven percent of the 2002 entry cohort, in comparison with 61% of the 1998 entry cohort, completed their undergraduate qualifications within five years.

Improvements among the 2002 entry cohort resulted from reduced rates of drop-out in 'good academic standing' and academic exclusion.

As is the case among mainstream students, completion rates among those entering extended curriculum programmes varied markedly in relation to faculty. Completion rates within the two extended BBusSc cohorts examined in this report (69% and 61% of the 2001 and 2002 cohorts, respectively) compared well with commerce mainstream (70% and 77%).

They were markedly higher than the average completion rate among the 1998 to 2002 extended BCom cohorts (34%).

Overall, there have been gradual increases in graduation rates in most qualification types. In some cases, such as the three-year bachelor's degree, the professional first bachelor's degree and the postgraduate diploma, the 2006 graduation rates approximated the qualification-specific NPHE rates.

The picture is slightly different for postgraduates. While the honours graduation rate exceeded the NPHE 60% benchmark between 2002 and 2006, master's and doctoral graduation rates remain markedly lower than the NPHE benchmarks.

At doctoral level this can be linked to a 25% increase in enrolments between 2002 and 2005. However, a comparison of master's and doctoral graduates between 2003 and 2006 shows that the average time to degree at both levels has shortened.

There are various factors that might have influenced the improvements in retention and throughput. The Institutional Planning Department plans to conduct an in-depth investigation on these during the course of 2008.

However, analysis of the progress report on the implementation of the University's Quality Improvement Plan suggests that there has been significant progress in integrating strategies aimed at improving teaching and learning into mainstream faculty plans.

These activities include changes in teaching models to accommodate more small-group teaching, the establishment of mentoring schemes, improvements in the tutorial system, and the strengthening of monitoring systems to identify problem areas.

All faculties have put in place a mechanism to monitor compliance with the memoranda of understanding between supervisors and postgraduate students. In addition, several small-scale research and development projects within the Postgraduate Writing Project have been initiated by the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED) to assist with improving postgraduate throughputs.

A process of developing policies to reduce the use of temporary staff has commenced. A pilot programme in EBE to strengthen the course monitoring system has been launched and class representatives received training from the Department of Student Affairs for the first time at the beginning of 2006. It is hoped these measures will improve the student feedback systems.

The significant improvement in the completion rate within the 2002 extended BCom cohort (54%) and the particularly low rate of academic exclusion within this cohort (17%) are noteworthy. These trends have continued beyond 2002.

Significant numbers of students entering the General Entry for Programmes (GEPS) in science (more than 40% of each entry cohort) were excluded on academic grounds. Although the completion rates among students beginning their BSc degrees in the GEPS programme between 1998 and 2002 averaged only 31%, this figured must be viewed in the context of the lower entry criteria for this group.

At the end of the first year, about two thirds of the students are able to proceed to the next year, where they are taught in the mainstream. Of these, about half graduate with BSc degrees, which compares with the mainstream average of 58%. It is worth noting that GEP accounts for a significant proportion of the African graduates (29 out of 57 in 2000).

The average completion rate for the 1998 to 2001 ASPECT cohorts was 41% compared to 59% in the mainstream.

Tribute must also be given to innovative teaching practices which are showcased in the report. The initiatives identified through the Academic Reviews and by the deans are:

- The Commerce faculty's tutor training and review processes
- The use of on-line tools to support learning in the Department of Statistical Sciences
- The Law faculty's Inkunda yeHlabathi/World Forum Online, an interactive simulation of contemporary international legal practice
- The Engineering and Built Environment faculty's programme to develop discursive identity and build community in first-year chemical engineering
- Science faculty's Skills for Success in Science, helping students adjust to higher education and enhancing academic competence in the Academic Development Programme
- The Graduate School of Business's (Associate Certificate in Management Programme) learner support service
- The School of Language and Literature's transformation of the French curriculum to reflect cultural and literary materials from North, Central, West and Francophone Africa.

Details of these initiatives can be viewed on the IPD's "Good Practice" website.

Volume 26.18

26 November 2007

Three new books from CFMS

The Centre for Film & Media Studies has been more than busy with the publication of three new books in the last two months.

They are *L'art d'enseigner de Martin Heidegger*, edited by Valerie Allen and Ares Axiotis; *Travels into the Interior of Africa via the Cape of Good Hope* by Francois le Vaillant, translated by Professor Ian Glenn in collaboration with Ian Farlam and Catherine Lauga du Plessis; and *Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa: The Fundamental Documents*, selected, introduced and annotated by Professor Eric Doxtader and Professor Philippe-Joseph Salazar.

"These books are the products of lengthy scholarship, and they will form the basis for further research because of the re-orientation of thinking that each achieves," says Glenn, director of the CFMS. "For example, the translation of le Vaillant's travel notes demonstrates unequivocally that the discourse of human rights was present in the South African landscape of the 18th century."

The book on Francois Le Vaillant was launched at the wine farm Rust-en-Vreugd last month, some 224 years after that homestead was used to house the collection that resulted from the writer's 16-month voyage into the Eastern interior.

The series on Heidegger, for which Salazar is the general editor, has already attracted a major review from Nicolas Weill in *Le Monde*.

Glenn argues that Le Vaillant was a far more influential and wide-ranging literary and media influence than Olive Schreiner or later literary figures.

"*Le Vaillant's Travels into the Interior of Africa via the Cape of Good Hope* not only shaped European perceptions of South Africa but also provided the model for many of the most influential literary and cultural products internationally," he says. "This travel book can claim to be the model for a wide range of media genres and products: the hunting narrative; the safari as a higher, more spiritual version of the hunting narrative; the anthropological field-record; the lavishly illustrated and mapped first-person travel account we associate with National Geographic reports; the exotic adventure story; the erotic possibility of the exotic; and the investigative exposé of colonial brutality and abuse based on Enlightenment sense of human rights and a critical distance from European ethnocentricity."

Glenn asserts that le Vaillant's influence can be found in an extremely broad range of writers and painters, including John James Audubon, Gordon Cummings, his own great-nephew Charles Baudelaire, Paul Gauguin, Henry Rider Haggard, Joseph Conrad, Teddy Roosevelt, Ernest Hemingway, JM Coetzee, TRC reporters, and millions of modern safari-goers and bird-watchers.

"The books form the basis for further research because of the re-orientation of thinking that each achieves," he says.

Volume 26.19

10 December 2007

Investigating famine

As part of her long paper for her honours degree, economics student Amy Power Jansen spent three weeks in Niger in Western Africa investigating the causes of the famine that plagued the country from 2005 to 2006.

In 2004, locust swarms and low rainfall meant that food production - primarily the cereal crop millet - dropped. There was a food crisis in 2005, but while when food production had dropped by even more in 2001, there was no crisis in 2002.

Jansen's research investigated why.

She found that although the national drop in production was sharper in 2001, some regions were affected more than others at a sub-national level. Areas near the Sahara, for instance, already had a higher variability in rainfall. This was also the main area affected by locusts, so the drop was more severe.

Additionally, farmers in the area tend to sell their harvest in October and re-buy what they need the following June to August. So with less to sell in October and higher prices in June, they had far less access to food than usual.

Volume 27.02

3 March 2008

African dinosaurs emerge from the shadows



Prof Anusuya Chinamy-Turan has published a new African dinosaur book for children. Featuring 26 of the continent's most famous dinosaurs, it is published by Siruik and will be launched at the SciFest in Grahamstown on 18 April. It is available in bookshops from 1 March.

Successful machine that it is, the American media may have given T Rex its celebrity status as the most fearsome meat-eating dinosaur to have stomped the planet, but did you know that the title actually belongs to North Africa's *Carcharodontosaurus* (put your teeth in for that one)?

This six-tonner makes *Tyrannosaurus*, which roamed North America, look like a wimp on the prehistoric beastie scale.

Dubbed the shark-toothed lizard of the Sahara, *Carcharodontosaurus* is the biggest known predator of all time. A product of the Late Cretaceous era (97-90 million years ago) this whopper grew up to 13m long. Its skull alone measures 1.6m, and its jaws are lined with 15cm-long teeth. Remains have been found in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya and Niger.

Something else you probably didn't know: Africa is also home to the first stegosaur ever discovered, *Paranthodon*, which once lived just across the border in the Eastern Cape.

And more recently, Africa got its first dinosaur name with an isiXhosa click, *Nqwebasaurus thwazi*.

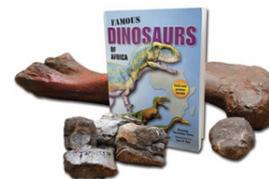
Nqwebasaurus is the earliest-known coelurosaur from Gondwana, a small species unearthed in the Kirkwood Formation (Nqweba is the isiXhosa name for the Kirkwood region) in the Algoa Basin in 1995.

Information like this seldom reaches the public and for a palaeontologist like Professor Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan, that's not good for science.

Her new children's book, *Famous Dinosaurs of Africa*, puts African dinosaurs firmly on the world map - and dispels some of those T Rex myths.

Not that she's interested in one-upmanship.

She wants to introduce African children to their own heritage. Though African dinosaurs are important to palaeontology, they're often omitted from books.



"I believe that dinosaurs can be a kind of stepping stone into the world of science."

A global expert on the microscopic structure of fossil bones, Chinsamy-Turan recently (2005) published an academic contribution to the field, *The Microstructure of Dinosaur Bone*, which has received glowing reviews in several ISI-rated journals - including *Nature*. Her children's book is a first for Africa, completed during her six months' sabbatical in Turkey, where she also penned five scientific papers, and a chapter for a book.

South Africa's first dinosaur bones were unearthed in the mid-19th century, but because the country was a British colony they were shipped back to the UK to be studied. These bones were misidentified, and it was much later that they were recognised as belonging to *Paranthodon* - the stegosaur mentioned above.

"In 1854 another South African discovery, *Massospondylius*, became the first African dinosaur, and one of the first few in the world, to be identified and named," Chinsamy-

Turan writes in her introduction.

"Among the most remarkable 20th century palaeontological expeditions undertaken in Africa were those to the Tendaguru region of southwestern Tanzania, which took place in the early 1900s. Many significant dinosaur discoveries were made here, first by German palaeontologists, and later by the British.

"More than 250 tons of dinosaur bones were excavated from the Tendaguru region, and they tell a tale of the incredible diversity of dinosaurs that once lived in the region about 150 million years ago."

Subsequent finds in various parts of Africa have allowed palaeontologists to piece together the history of dinosaurs on the continent - and their relationship with dinosaurs on other continents.

The book is aimed at young readers, but has broad appeal for anyone interested in Africa's dinosaur heritage. For Chinsamy-Turan, getting the book on the shelves for under R100 was important.

It's all about access to knowledge and to science.

Volume 27.05

14 April 2008

Staff and students to get more international exposure



Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo says that despite its global footprint, UCT still has difficulty in creating a steady outward flow of students, prompting the need for Internationalisation at Home

UCT's drive to promote internationalisation took another step forward when international and local delegates gathered for a colloquium titled *Internationalisation at Home* at UCT. Organised by the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED) and the International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO), the meeting on 3 and 4 April increased awareness of internationalisation on campus.

About 20% of UCT students are international students, hailing from 100 countries. It is inevitable that they have an impact on the dynamics of the academic and social experience on campus, said IAPO's Caz Thomas.

But due to many factors, UCT is unable send as many exchange students abroad as it receives. The question then is what can what can be done "at home" to give students relevant international perspectives and intercultural competence.

That is where Internationalisation at Home, a process of integrating an international dimension into the research, teaching and services function in higher education, comes in.

According to deputy vice-chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo, UCT has a "decent footprint" around the world, but still has difficulty in creating a steady outward flow of students, prompting the need for Internationalisation at Home.

"We should use the fact that we have a diverse international population on our campus to the fullest extent," he said.

Volume 27.05

14 April 2008

Marine ecosystem under threat



It'll blow your coral reef: A study by Tessa Hempson shows that dynamite fishing in Tanzania is laying waste to that country's coral reefs.

Dynamite fishing is having a severe impact on the coral reefs along the Tanzanian coast. Combined with the effects of overfishing, this is placing the entire marine ecosystem, which supports a population of threatened coelacanths, under extreme pressure.



Conservation biology master's student Tessa Hempson from UCT's Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology joined a team of researchers from the African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme to study the extent of the damage to the reefs in the Tanga region along the northern Tanzanian coast. Based on the long hours Hempson spent underwater carrying out fish counts and reef surveys, she describes the level of destruction as "dire". "Dynamite fishing not only indiscriminately kills all fish and invertebrates within range of the blast, but also destroys the reef structure itself, often reducing it to rubble," she says. As the reef, which feeds the fishing population, can take up to fifty years to recover, or not recover at all, this destructive and dangerous practice affects not only the ecosystem, but also the subsistence fishing community in the area. "It is neither legal nor condoned by the fishing community," explains Hempson. "Patrols scout the area, but funds for boat costs are limited and there are reports of intimidation and bribery." Hempson's research provides some of the first empirical evidence of the impact of dynamite fishing on coral reefs, and the data she collected has already helped to support lobbies calling for government action against the practice in Tanzania.

Volume 27.06
28 April 2008
Students march against crisis in Zim



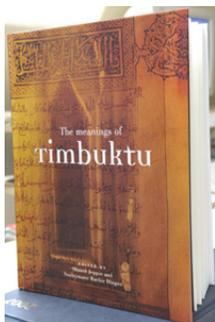
Viva Zimbabwe: UCT students protest against the crisis in Zimbabwe. As Zimbabwe celebrated 28 years of independence on 18 April, UCT students and staff gathered at Jammie Plaza to protest against the "crisis" in the neighbouring country. Students called on President Thabo Mbeki, as well as the rest of the world, to acknowledge the crisis in Zimbabwe - and to take action. The Student Representative Council's Thami Ledwaba reminded the protesters that the majority of international students at UCT are from Zimbabwe, and that "we can't just sit back and watch what is happening there". South African Student Congress' Mashao Moshabela called for the release of the election results, while Chris Ryllal of the Democratic Alliance Student Organisation said, "What we see in Zimbabwe is the abuse of power."

Volume 27.06
28 April 2008
Book on Timbuktu brings West African intellectual tradition to the fore



Between words: Dr Shamil Jeppie, co-author/editor of The Meanings of Timbuktu, published by HSRC Press UCT scholar Dr Shamil Jeppie is co-author/editor of a valuable new book, *The Meanings of Timbuktu*, a collection of 24 essays that unveils West Africa's illustrious tradition of scholarship. As myth and legend suggest, Timbuktu is in the middle of nowhere. But this Malian city was once a cultural hub, a thriving centre for trade and learning. And the written record of this era has found its way into the book. Over 300 000 manuscripts, some dating back to the 13th century, and covering everything from law to medicine, astronomy to literature, are scattered in libraries around Timbuktu. African scholarship before the advent of European colonialism is lesser known than the continent's archaeology or oral history, say the authors. It is not part of school or university curricula. This belies the vast corpus of material available for study, extending from West and East Africa, even to Cape Town in the corner of the continent.

school or university curricula. This belies the vast corpus of material available for study, extending from West and East Africa, even to Cape Town in the corner of the continent.



Jeppie and his colleague from historical studies, Shaïd Mathee, have been studying the scripts, part of UCT's Ford-Foundation-funded Timbuktu-UCT Manuscripts Project, or Tombouctou. It is this material that forms the backbone of the volume, co-edited by Professor Souleymane Bachir Diagne of Northwestern University in the US. Most of the papers were presented at a conference of the Tombouctou Manuscript Project at UCT in 2005. "... we believe Timbuktu's recent fame should be kept alive for a bit longer among scholars interested in the past of books and libraries; it should remain prominent among those concerned with at least a part of Africa's last few hundred years of written history," the authors write in the preface. Timbuktu was not the only centre of intellectual pursuit. Abyssinia also boasted a thriving centre of reading, writing and knowledge production, and there are other examples across the Sahara, from Senegal to Ethiopia, down the East African coast to Mozambique. "They unambiguously reveal the sophisticated use of a wide diversity of Africa's languages in high-level intellectual pursuits, demonstrating African people's capacities to express themselves in complex forms and African intellectual capabilities over the centuries," Jeppie writes in the first chapter. It is thus a myth that African oral traditions were the sole reflection of African intellectual tradition. "This new history will no doubt have to correct the hitherto most neglected aspects of the study of Africa's past, including the written legacies from the period before European colonialism," Jeppie concludes.

Volume 27.07
12 May 2008
Wellcome boost for HIV and TB initiatives



Research boost: Wellcome Trust Fellows Assoc Prof Robert Wilkinson (left) and Dr Graeme Meintjes(right) with senior students at the IIDMM. The fight against HIV and TB received a boost when the Wellcome Trust recently granted a consortium of researchers, led by Associate Professor Robert Wilkinson, £3-million (R45 million) to establish a Centre for Clinical Infectious Disease Research at UCT. The grant was part of an African £20-million investment by the trust, in research and training in Africa, aimed at ensuring that researchers are equipped to tackle the most pressing problems in their respective regions. Awards have also been made to research programmes based in Kenya, Uganda and to Professor Brian Greenwood from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to support training for African scientists to undertake malaria research in African universities.

The UCT centre will focus on HIV and TB, which are among the main causes of death in Sub-Saharan Africa, says Wilkinson, UCT's Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine and a Senior Fellow of Clinical Tropical Medicine for the Wellcome Trust, the UK's largest medical research charity. Wilkinson says the situation is dire. Life expectancy had fallen to below 50 years in a number of African countries. "Added to the crisis is that remaining in Africa to help combat these problems is not attractive for the few doctors and scientists that the continent produces. "We therefore requested an increase in the core support to an existing group of Wellcome Trust and other agency-funded researchers in Southern Africa, to link them more effectively and thereby provide better career prospects for African researchers." Around 25 entry positions in research will be established to develop the skills of scientists working in Southern Africa so that they can compete better for their own funding. In addition, the capacity to conduct clinical and laboratory research will be enhanced.

Volume 27.08
26 May 2008
African music rocks



The universal language: Assistant lecturer in African music Zweli Tukayi has developed a close friendship with his international students. While many local young people see African music as outdated, the African music practical course at UCT is fast becoming popular among international students. This semester, 42 students from around the globe have enrolled for the semester-long programme, and loving it. One of them is Evin Brege, an international relations student from the Washington University in the US. "I was interested in playing African drums and experiencing the practicality that comes with it," he said. The course saw Brege and his classmates learning how to play drums, xylophones and mouth bows, among other instruments.

"The instruments are very different to the rock and roll type I'm used to," says Brege. "I'm hoping to take some of these instruments home." Zweli Tukayi, who is assisting lecturer Dizu Plaatjies in the course, said the class had become a family of sorts, sharing and enjoying each other's company.

Volume 27.09
9 June 2008
Africa Day



Tradition: Dancers from the Ubuntu Theatre, all part of UCT's Africa Day celebrations. Several celebrations took place at UCT in the run-up to Africa Day on 25 May. The Faculty of Commerce's programme on 23 May included visual, verbal and musical arts. Titled Making a Difference, the faculty's celebrations focused on social conscience, respecting diversity, celebrating unity and reclaiming humanity. Representatives from HIV/AIDS Coordination - UCT (HAICU), the National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders (NICRO) as well as the Children's Institute and other HIV/AIDS organisations were also invited to help spread awareness. All proceeds from the day will be donated to Bishop Paul Verryn of the Central Methodist Church, who feeds and provides shelter to displaced and victimised refugees. An anti-xenophobia and violence petition was circulated for signatures and will be sent to the President, and the Ministers of Foreign and Home Affairs. The International Academic Programmes Office also held celebrations on 23 May. Their programme was student - centred, with UCT students participating in entertainment such as praise singing, poetry and Marimba music. In turn, the Centre for African Studies hosted a concert featuring music, poetry and dance performances, as well as a seminar on the Timbuktu library.

Volume 27.09

9 June 2008

UCT reaches out

As foreign nationals fled violence-stricken areas, UCT staff and students were doing their bit to help out. Leading the university's efforts were the Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO) and the UCT Law Clinic. Over that first dramatic weekend when violence first broke out in the Western Cape, SHAWCO marshalled scores of student volunteers to collect food, clothing and other supplies from residences and departments, channelling this to camps and safe havens via the Treatment Action Campaign. Similarly, bands of medical students were called in to help Médecins Sans Frontières, aka Doctors Without Borders, going out to over 33 refugee centres to conduct an audit of facilities, services and needs. "This was invaluable to developing an integrated health response," says SHAWCO's Jonathan Hoffenberg. SHAWCO continued discussions with officials from both the province and the City of Cape Town to find the best way to help. The Faculty of Health Sciences was also rallying other medical students with clinical experience to offer their services to SHAWCO. In turn, staff at the Law Clinic have counselled and continue to counsel and give legal support to refugees, seeing some 500 people at the offices on Monday alone. UCT has also given of its other resources. The Jammie Shuttles bussed close on 2 000 people to refugee centres and other places of safety. The university has also set up an online site, through the Centre for Educational Technology's Vula system, for debate and discussion, already thriving on other forums. Last week, discussions continued on all these sources, with regular updates. Scores of other initiatives are also under way to help staff and students who fear for their safety or need help as exams loom. In addition, the university has published numerous statements condemning the violence and attacks on foreign nationals. And last week, the vice-chancellor's Crisis Response Task Team called for marks of visible solidarity - white ribbons - with the victims of xenophobic violence, at the same time making a commitment to contributing to interventions and informed policy positions that address the causes of the crisis. "Such visible solidarity will also signify our recognition of the contribution that nationals of other countries make to UCT as a university of, and in, Africa," said a release.

Volume 27.09

9 June 2008

Blooming algae



Water is an increasing challenge in Africa, not only the quantity, but the quality, says DPhil graduand Lindah Mhlanga, whose doctoral thesis examines water quality in Zimbabwe's Lake Chivero. A vital water resource for Harare, the lake is one of the world's most eutrophic reservoirs, characterised by excessive plant and algal growth. "In sub-Saharan Africa we must conserve the limited amount available, and both the quality and the quantity through proper management." For the past 12 years, the University of Zimbabwe has employed Mhlanga at the University Lake Kariba Research Station where her research has focused on aquatic ecology. Her thesis was conducted through UCT's Freshwater Research Unit and examines a system under extreme pressure, both as a water source and means of waste removal, two opposing functions. Mhlanga's work showed that the character and intensity of cyanobacterial blooms in Lake Chivero can be managed by controlling the concentrations of nitrate, relative to phosphorous.

Volume 27.09

9 June 2008

To Protest or Not To Protest



About protest: In his master's dissertation, Glen Mpani looked at popular protest in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwean Glen Mpani, who graduates from the Department of Political Studies this week with a distinction for his master's dissertation, didn't have to look far for inspiration. In his study, Mpani described the levels of popular protest in Zimbabwe and then developed a model to explain who protests and who doesn't. "My interest was motivated by an unprecedented political and economic crisis which has existed over the last eight years," says Mpani. He also wanted to understand why Zimbabweans were not taking part in protests - defined as anything from stay aways, boycotts and closing businesses to attending demonstrations or marches - "despite what would seem like a conducive environment". Contrary to standard models, it was not the unemployed or the

working class who protested in Zimbabwe, but rather the urbanised, the young professionals, the educated and the economically secure, says Mpani. Added to this, skilled professionals have become part of the diaspora, stifling the protest potential even further. This raises questions about the strategies of civil society and opposition in the country to mobilise Zimbabweans, notes Mpani. Also, stated unwillingness to take part in protests has jumped from 50% in 1999 to 65% in 2006. In fact, only 8% professed to participating in protest action in 2006. "Yet the declining trend in protests stands in sharp contrast to increasing levels of popular dissatisfaction with the economy and political system," he says. Mpani is currently working on his PhD.

Volume 27.10

23 June 2008

Graduands wear white ribbons in solidarity



White for solidarity: (From left) Commerce graduates Rudo Masheke, Enmah Gimani and S'thembisio Majozzi show off the white ribbons on their wrists, worn by the June graduands to express solidarity with victims of xenophobia. Graduands at the June ceremonies wore white ribbons when they stepped into Jameson Hall. These marked the university's commitment to victims of xenophobia, and to contributing to understanding the causes of the present crisis and the development of appropriate solutions. Vice-Chancellor Prof Njabulo S Ndebele's Crisis Response Task Team called for marks of visible solidarity with the victims of xenophobic violence, indicating at the same time UCT's commitment interventions and informed policy positions that address the causes of the present crisis. "Such visible solidarity will also signify our recognition of the contribution that nationals of other countries make to UCT as a university of, and in, Africa," he said.

"We have students from almost every country in Africa, and from some 100 hundred countries in total. We also have staff from many parts of the continent and the world, giving us the wealth of their diverse knowledge and experience." Accordingly, the Vice-Chancellor asked all staff and students to wear a white ribbon on their wrists, culminating in the graduation ceremonies on Friday, 13 June, when graduating students and their families were asked to renew their commitment to the principles and ideals of the university in this way.

Volume 27.10

23 June 2008

Nhlapo addresses NAFSA conference in Washington



Attending the conference were (from left) Bob Naidoo of the Embassy of South Africa in Washington DC, US; Lara Hoffenberg of IAPO at UCT and DVC Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo and the South African Ambassador, Welile Nhlapo, co-hosted a reception at the South African Embassy in Washington DC on 29 May, 2008 during the annual conference of the North American Association for International Education (NAFSA), which celebrated its 60th anniversary this year.



(Front left) Welile Nhlapo, SA ambassador to the US; DVC Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo; Dr Loveness Kaunda, director of internationalisation at UCT; and Dr Nicolette DeVille Christensen of Arcadia University

The reception, which was partly sponsored by the ambassador, who provided the venue as well as a selection of South African wine for the event, was held to acknowledge and celebrate UCT's strategic partnerships around the world, which raise the university's profile as a destination for international students, on both full-degree programmes and on semester-study abroad.



Attending the conference were (from left) DVC Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo and Derek Moyo of the Embassy of South Africa, Washington DC.

Prof Nhlapo delivered the keynote address in which he assured UCT's partners that the university was acutely aware of issues around security for the students that they send to Cape Town, and that efforts were ongoing to fight crime on campus. He explained the significance of the white ribbons that guests were requested to wear during the graduation functions, in solidarity with the victims of the recent xenophobic violence in the country.



Signing the MoU were (from left) Dr John Dixon, Associate Vice-Principal at Queen's University and DVC Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo.

Nhlapo signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Queen's University with his counterpart from that institution. In the NAFSA Exhibition Hall UCT shared the Study South Africa booth with the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Pretoria and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, as well as the International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA). Prof Nan Yeld, Dean of CHED, was also at the conference, helping to promote UCT's short-term programmes as offered by the Centre for Open Learning (COL) and SHAWCO. The UCT team also included Varkey George of SHAWCO and Adrian Strydom of COL. The reception was attended by new and existing partners as well as UCT alumni and donors, who were invited by Tina Barsby of the UCT Fund Incorporated in New York. Also in attendance were Dr Loveness Kaunda, director of internationalisation at UCT, and Lara Hoffenberg, manager responsible for mobility and links.

Volume 27.11
21 July 2008
Transformation at UCT under the spotlight



Hard look: Prof Martin Hall and VC Dr Max Price at last week's meeting with the ministerial committee.

The ministerial committee on discrimination in higher education, set up by Minister of Education Naledi Pandor in the wake of the video row at the University of the Free State, stopped at UCT last week. Over the visit on 15 July, the committee, led by UCT's Dr Crain Soudien, met separately with three UCT constituencies - the university executive and members of Council, student leaders and house committee representatives, as well as staff representatives. Professor Martin Hall, deputy vice-chancellor responsible for transformation, had prepared a document for the committee chronicling UCT's transformation initiatives. In their meetings, the committee posed some hard questions. Including why UCT is, to all appearances, failing to hold on to black, especially African, staff.

"As someone still very new to UCT, the visit gave me a chance to see how 'other outsiders' view transformation at UCT, as compared to the insider's view I enjoyed at the Khuluma workshop recently," said Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price. "It's obvious that there are some big questions we have to answer, and a lot of hard work we still have ahead of us. To some extent, it is precisely because we are identifying the problem that we appear, both internally and externally, as having a long way to go. I strongly urge all UCT staff to sign up for a Khuluma workshop. It is really a worthwhile experience".

Volume 27.12
4 August 2008
MBA elective targets Africa
 This month, UCT's Graduate School of Business (GSB) launches a landmark new elective on understanding business in Africa into its MBA programme. The Doing Business in Africa elective has been designed by Dr Mills Soko, senior lecturer at the GSB, and will harness the knowledge of senior business and public sector leaders, investigate case studies of business success on the continent, and provide insight into the broader historical, cultural and policy/regulatory elements that are key to entering its markets. The elective has a curriculum running over eight lectures, each dealing with a different key element of business on the continent - from political, social and cultural contextual issues to business case studies and the current competition from emerging global players such as India and China. In another first, the elective will provide an opportunity for students to complete a week-long internship with a number of South African multinational companies operating in African markets.

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2008/2009 SRC elections
 The SRC elections are under way. Nomination of candidates were open from 21 July to 1 August. This year's election theme is "Building Democracy", adopted from the incidents that have been taking place throughout the world, and particularly on our continent. Obama is making history in the United States by becoming the first black man to be in the presidential race. We saw the former United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan, manage to bring in a government of national unity in Kenya. We are seeing the South African President as mediator to rebuild the democracy in Zimbabwe. We believe this theme to be appropriate, as we want all students to believe that they can be leaders, and that it is not necessarily only those with outstanding capabilities that make good leaders. We are remembering our neighboring countries, our leaders who have built democracy, and those who are still trying to build it on our continent. We are bringing this to UCT, to focus on our student leaders and find out who can continue building this democracy in our institution, in our communities, and on our continent. Nomination- 21 July 2008
 SRC Election Launch - 31 July
 Q&A Week - 11-15 August
 Election Week - 18-22 August
 Released by the Students' Representative Council

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UCT extends footprint into sub-Saharan Africa

First with data: Alison Siljeur, director Matthew Welch and Lynn Woolfrey of DataFirst are leading an initiative to revolutionise the way a number of African countries store priceless survey data.



In August, DataFirst, a small, dedicated unit in the Faculty of Commerce, will join a project that allows African countries to leapfrog to world-class standards of data access. DataFirst recently signed a contract with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to provide technical assistance, support and training in the installation and maintenance of an online survey data catalogue system for the national statistics offices of Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Mozambique and Nigeria. This, it is hoped, will revolutionise the way national survey data is stored and retrieved in these countries. DataFirst will provide support to ensure survey data from these countries are preserved and, importantly, made accessible to decision-makers and researchers.

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Africa's first Research Commons adds muscle to scholarship



Opening the doors: Cutting the ribbon at the opening of the new Research Commons were VC Dr Max Price, Deana Arsenian (Carnegie), Rookaya Bawa (Carnegie), Carnegie president Dr Vartan Gregorian, Joan Rapp (executive director of UCT Libraries), Thomas Kean (Carnegie), Pat Busby (UCT Libraries) and Professor Bruce Albert (Carnegie). UCT's research endeavour has a strong new ally in the form of the new Research Commons, a resource for senior postgraduate students, emerging researchers and academic staff, launched last week. The new facility is a first for Africa, the result of a partnership between the university and long-time supporter, the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The Research Commons is housed in the Chancellor Oppenheimer Library, overlooking the chemical engineering building. The elegant facility is a cocoon of support, providing advanced technology, additional bandwidth and experienced librarians, trained to assist researchers with their in-depth subject specialisations.

The facility was three years in the making and is one of three similar library developments supported by Carnegie. The other two Research Commons facilities are at the Universities of the Witwatersrand and KwaZulu-Natal.

"Sophisticated software will make searching seamless, refining searches based on the context of the researcher's work," executive director of UCT Libraries, Joan Rapp, said at the launch.

For Rapp, the most exciting facet of the project is the development of a cadre of librarians who can focus on research. Six interns from each of the three participating libraries have been especially trained, and two from each of the partner institutions did internships at leading US universities, part of the project's staff development component.

Opening the facility, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Vartan Gregorian, underlined the corporation's commitment to higher education in Africa.

Against the backdrop of developmental and health challenges, he said higher education should not be seen as a luxury. Libraries, especially, were the key to broader knowledge access.

"Higher education can provide leadership for Africa."

He added: "No matter what form they take, libraries have become indispensable to the advancement of South Africa's people and to the development of their democracy."

Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price paid tribute to the corporation, thanking them for their long-standing support and partnership.

"Africa will need excellent leaders and professionals. It's important not to let investment in our universities decline."

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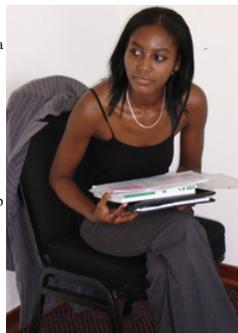
4 August 2008

Painting her way



Engineering art: Tafadzwa Mukwashi's Diaspora.

Not many people would imagine that electrical engineering would attract a creative artist, but Tafadzwa Mukwashi, in her second year at UCT, has her creations hanging in private collections at home in Zimbabwe, and also in Australia, Austria, South Africa, Switzerland and the UK. Her paintings have helped pay for her studies. Mukwashi never considered herself an artist while at school, and gave up art as an A-level subject, but after school she started painting as a



hobby. Someone noticed her work and asked her for a copy, and from there the word spread.

She has held successful exhibitions in Zimbabwe, and was part of the *Contemporary Visions of Southern Africa* exhibition held in the Pretoria Art Museum recently.

Mukwashi has donated one of her works to the Legal Resources Centre, which is hosting the *Justice for All* art auction that will pay tribute to the contributions of Lady Felicia Kentridge, Dr Albertina Sisulu and the vision that established the Legal Resource Centre.

More information can be found on her [website](#).

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Speaking the truth

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu urged UCT students to be the watchdogs of the country's young democracy. "I say to you we have something that is fragile, special. It could disintegrate, and we have no-one but yourselves," said Tutu of South Africa's democracy at a human rights forum, Speak Truth to Power, held at UCT on 11 August. Tutu also pleaded with the students to value the country's democratic transition.

The event, which attracted a full house at the Kramer Law Building, was also attended by leading human rights activists from Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Liberia.

The Speak Truth to Power forum, which is a division of the Robert F Kennedy Memorial, seeks to promote a human-rights culture across the globe. The occasion also saw Kerry Kennedy, a leading international human rights activist, sign copies of her new book, *Speak Truth to Power*.

UCT vice-chancellor Dr Max Price described the event as uplifting.

"It's an inspiring occasion," said Price. "If any student felt that there are no causes, the speeches today should indicate that there is much to be done to preserve our democracy. It shows that our democracy depends on them."

Kenyan activist Koigi wa Wamwere warned that there is no country in Africa safe from negative ethnicity.

In turn, Rivonia trialist Denis Goldberg, a UCT graduate who was sentenced to life imprisonment along with former President Nelson Mandela, said he was pleased that UCT is transforming. Goldberg urged the students to stop blaming other people and be the ones who "speak truth to power".

"I hope you will be the glory of South Africa," he said.

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Martin Hall on UCT's transformation work

The committee set up by the Minister of Education to report on progress in transformation visited UCT in July, and met with three broad groups: the senior leadership, students and staff involved in transformation work.

The Minister set up the committee in response to the widely-publicised video shot by students at the University of the Free State. The following paragraphs summarise the UCT Executive's submission to the committee.

All universities discriminate in their admissions and employment practices on measures of students' aptitude for success and job applicants' qualifications, experience and potential. The more selective the university is, the more the discrimination, and the more the basis of discrimination to be challenged.

The combination of the Bill of Rights and the Higher Education Act requires us to discriminate fairly in admissions and to take account of past inequalities, in the context of considerable competition for places. This has resulted in extensive and continuing debate over appropriate admissions policies for UCT.

In the absence of reliable socio-economic data for all South African applicants, or a reasonable proxy for disadvantage (such as the still-incomplete classification of high schools by the Department of Education), UCT uses self-declaration of race as the proxy for the continuing effects of past inequality, and requires differing high school results for admissions and for the award of entrance scholarships.

We believe that, under present circumstances and with the resources available to us, our current admissions policy is both morally and legally defensible and the best way of meeting our legal and constitutional obligations.

But we also recognise that there is a risk of unfair discrimination and that our current admissions policy is unlikely to be sustainable. We urgently need to move to an admissions system that uses a measure of socio-economic status - ideally a reliable measure of overall household income - to meet the requirements for a differentiated admissions system in a highly unequal society.

Our Employment Equity Policy places an emphasis on diversity as an educational value, and that UCT's mission of being a university within Africa makes it appropriate and desirable to employ staff of other nationalities.

Have these policies and procedures succeeded in accelerating the transformation of the demographic profile of staff at UCT, and in removing unfair discrimination in employment practices?

While UCT is, generally, managing to meet the modest targets set in terms of the Employment Equity Act, about 40% of those employed are white, which is approximately four times the representation of whites in the South African population as a whole. While there are PASS departments and faculties that are exemplars of good practice, it is a reasonable conclusion that, as a whole, UCT has not yet moved away from seeing employment equity primarily as a compliance requirement, rather than as an opportunity for the advancement of diversity. As with race, UCT seeks to achieve gender equity through its student admission and employment equity policies. In broad terms, gender parity has been achieved in undergraduate admissions, student retention and graduation rates, and progress is being made in specific programmes where women have been underrepresented.

However, we have been less successful in moving towards gender equity in staffing, where women are over-represented in junior staff positions and severely underrepresented in senior staff positions. The challenge is particularly acute when race and gender are combined: UCT has very few black woman professors or senior managers.

In addition to our continuing focus on unfair discrimination on the basis of race and gender, we are giving active attention to unfair discrimination against staff and students at UCT on grounds of disability, religious belief, sexual preference, xenophobia, language, and HIV status.

We have achieved varying degrees of success with these programmes, all of which can be considered works in progress.

Dealing with forms of discrimination that are unfair is a necessary part of transformation, but is not sufficient in itself to achieve the objectives of transformation.

"Institutional culture" is the combination of formal processes (such as student and staff support, the curriculum, teaching and learning, and research work), and the informal "climate" of the university - the ways in which people relate to one another on a day-by-day basis.

For many students, UCT's "institutional climate" is defined by residence life. UCT has gone to considerable efforts to promote integration in the residences and to enhance the quality of student life.

This focus is steered by the admissions policy for student housing and by the work of the wardens and student leadership. Less attention has been given to the needs of "day students" who live off campus. An important student-led initiative has been the opening of UCT's first "day house".

Events focusing on key issues of transformation and institutional culture are initiated by student leadership in the faculties and by the SRC. For example, in 2007 student societies organised "The Wall", an installation that focused attention on Palestine and resulted in vigorous exchanges of views between Jewish and Muslim students. UCT seeks to establish the main parameters of staff "institutional climate" through periodic institutional climate surveys. The overall impression of these surveys is of a divided community. There is evidence of intersecting fault lines: by race and gender, by academic rank and pay class, and between academic staff on the one hand, and support and professional staff on the other. UCT's primary responses to the outcomes of the Institutional Climate Surveys have been the Respect and Khuluma programmes. The Respect Programme has been a university-wide focus on the values of the right to individual dignity, concern for others and appreciation of diversity.

Khuluma is a series of workshops, each for about 20 participants, that focuses on racial stereotypes. Participants explore their own assumptions and experiences in an environment that confronts that which is usually left unsaid, encouraging and promoting a recognition of the significance of arbitrary and unfair stereotypes, and seeking to link personal awareness with organisational behaviour.

The programme has been offered in partnership with ProCorp, and more than 700 UCT staff have participated over the past two years.

While the workshops are often traumatic, responses have been overwhelmingly positive.

The outcomes of the 2007 Institutional Climate Survey, as well as that which has been learned from the Khuluma and Respect programmes, is summarised in the latest Transformation Report to the UCT Council, and has been focused on as an Action Plan, following an open colloquium led by the Vice-Chancellor in February 2008.

This action plan has been directed to the Transformation Committees in each PASS department and faculty. Transformation Committees have been asked to identify three top priorities for positive change, and three most important negative findings to address, and to take these to faculty boards or full staff meetings for discussion and ratification.

Martin Hall

Deputy Vice-Chancellor

with responsibility for transformation

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VC shares vision for UCT

New chapter: Chancellor Mrs Graça Machel invests Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price with his robe of office at his installation in Jameson Hall.

Setting the tone for his term as Vice-Chancellor in his installation address on Tuesday, 19 August, Dr Max Price mooted the creation of pro-vice-chancellors to lead intellectual projects of national importance.

These would include safety and security projects.

In this regard, a pro-vice-chancellor would ensure that "... UCT brings all its intellectual resources to bear on the problem of violent crime and the threat it poses to our survival".

Price was installed as UCT's ninth Vice-Chancellor in the Jameson Hall, in a ceremony attended by Minister of Education Naledi Pandor and Chancellor Graça Machel, and graced by the musical and choral offerings of UCT's South African College of Music.



In his address, Price also provided a clear indication of his leadership style. "Transformative leaders value diversity, build self esteem, nurture talent, mentor, listen and respect, along with the leadership they provide." Speaking on the pomp and ceremony of the occasion, Price noted that they harked back to an earlier idea of a university as "a space of ideas, critique and the pursuit of truth". "It means that a university requires that people respect each other and give them the benefit of the doubt that all are equally committed to seeking truth." He committed UCT to promoting democracy by providing a highly skilled workforce educated in "thoughtful citizenry". "This is the basis upon which UCT makes its most profound contribution to the development and transformation of our society." Price spoke of his vision of UCT as an Afropolitan university. "The 'Afro' element connotes an open, assertive engagement with the world from the standpoint of Africa. It describes a growth in African studies, particularly the economic sociologies of different African countries and regions. 'Politan' suggests cosmopolitan, and signals firstly a sophisticated and future-oriented approach to understanding Africa, as opposed to a sentimental, naïve, often 'rural peasant and wildlife' view of what an African perspective is. "Secondly, UCT will be cosmopolitan in the sense of the mix of staff and students, from Africa, Latin America, Asia and from the North." UCT should replace SOAS in political studies, Oxford's Queen Elizabeth House in African

government and post-colonialism, Johns Hopkins in public health, and Harvard's Kennedy School and Columbia in executive education and public administration "as it is understood for Africa", noted Price.

"To be a global university, UCT needs to be an African university.

In her congratulatory message, Minister of Education Naledi Pandor said: "We have been working at home and abroad with the African Diaspora initiative in an attempt to encourage African scholars to work with African institutions in expanding research and development. Working together with the DST and other departments, we are creating conditions for real partnerships."

Price said UCT also had a responsibility to tackle four pressing national issues: threats to democracy and constitutionalism; HIV/AIDS and TB; violent crime; and a public school system that had "failed the country and the universities".

"Previously we took the view that this was not our problem to fix. We can no longer ignore it for it will be our downfall. We will do our share."

Digressing from her prepared speech, Minister Pandor's response was to the point. "We are going to have interesting times with Dr Max Price in higher education."

Click [here](#) for the full text of the installation address as well as to download audio and video podcasts.

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Plaque will commemorate renaming of Senate Room



Remembering: Xolani Mafeje, son of the late Prof Archie Mafeje, and Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price unveil the plaque that will adorn the newly named Archie Mafeje Room, formerly the Senate Room, in Bremner Building.

A plaque was unveiled by Xolani Mafeje, son of the late Professor Archie Mafeje, at a symposium in the Kramer Law Building last Monday night. It will be installed at the old Senate Room, which will be renamed the Archie Mafeje Room.

The symposium, Lessons of the Mafeje Affair, was hosted by the Academic Freedom Committee to mark 40 years since UCT appointed and then withdrew the appointment of Mafeje as senior lecturer in social anthropology.

The event drew wide protest and became a blot on the university's record of academic freedom.

Some 1 000 UCT students and staff staged a nine-day sit-in in the Senate Room to protest Council's decision.

Students who participated in the sit-in gathered at UCT to

commemorate the event this past weekend.

The symposium was part of Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price's installation programme.

Chaired by UCT's Andrew Nash, associate professor in the Department of Political Studies, it featured speakers Professor Fred Hendricks of Rhodes University, UCT Professors Ken Hughes and Lungisile Ntsebeza, and Emeritus Professor Francis Wilson. (Members of Mafeje's family, pictured below, also attended.)



Rebuilding bridges: Assoc Prof Lungisile Ntsebeza (UCT), Dorothy Nomabhele, Prof Shahida El-Baz, Duncan Innes (part of 1968 sit-in group), Lunko Nkanyuzza-Mafeje, Marshall Swana, Nandipha Mafeje, Langisa Nkanyuzza-Mafeje, VC Dr Max Price, Mlamli Mzwandile, Nomfundo Noruwana, Xolani Mafeje and Constance Swana. Not in picture is daughter Dana Mafeje.

According to Hendricks, UCT Council's decision to withdraw Mafeje's appointment amounted to "collusion between the apartheid state and the University of Cape Town".

UCT, said Hughes, was "blackmailed" by the government, but UCT's bowing to demands had cost the university. "In a hostage situation, nobody's hands stay clean."

In turn, Ntsebeza outlined some of the "flawed" selection processes that saw Mafeje's application for appointment in the 1990s rejected.

It was this, and other events in the 1990s, that lie at the heart of Mafeje's resentment towards UCT, suggested Ntsebeza. The later offer of an honorary doctorate was perhaps "too little, too late".

Wilson said it was "totally unacceptable" for the university Council to have buckled to government's veiled threats concerning Mafeje's appointment. In doing the government's dirty work, the Council had contaminated itself, he said.

More serious was the damage done by not having Mafeje teaching, writing and researching at UCT "for 10, 20, 30, even 40 years".

"[The incident] showed how isolated South Africa has been - and still is - from the rest of Africa. In the social sciences, for example, the debates in which Archie Mafeje was so vigorously engaged all across the continent, from Dar es Salaam to Cairo, to Dakar, to Harare, have not really been worked through adequately by the South African universities."

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UCT: Local, African, Global



The installation of Dr Max Price as Vice-Chancellor last Tuesday afforded him the opportunity to publicly present his vision and hope for the university to a broad community of scholars, staff, students, alumni, donors, VIPs and guests. These excerpts are distilled from his full address

On the symbolism of an inauguration:

When I suggested to the deans a few months ago that we do away with all this expensive, pretentious pageantry, they objected that both the internal and external communities expect a grand inauguration. On reflection, I now understand this better. The robes and ceremony are demanded by society because society expects the university to play a leadership role within it, to be a counterpoint to the state, and indeed to religious authorities, for knowledge, analysis and ethical guidance, and that the university must take responsibility for playing that role and recognise the authority it has been granted to do so.

On the threats facing our society:

I know I am not alone in fearing for the increasing fragility of our fledgling independence, and socio-economic rights are increasingly under threat. Debates

on race and transformation are often the camouflage for these attacks.

On protecting democracy:

Universities have a critical role in defending democracy, and UCT in particular, having a proud and long record in this regard during the pre-democratic era, needs to take up that responsibility. Universities can also promote democracy by educating their students in citizenship. That's what sets universities apart from training institutions.

UCT should ensure that it is resolutely committed to providing a highly skilled workforce to the South African and global economies, and one that is not just well-trained, but more importantly, well-educated, and mindful of the responsibilities of democratic citizenship. This is the basis upon which UCT makes its most profound contribution to the development and transformation of our society.

On the university's role:

My standing here, in this garb, with this funny hat, alongside all these other colourfully-froked men and women, is a tacit pledge to society, to you ladies and gentlemen, that the University of Cape Town will step up to the plate, will honour its responsibility to provide intellectual and moral leadership, will encourage its academic staff in their roles as public intellectuals, will welcome students in their questioning and challenging of the old and often corrupted ways of doing things, and will not be afraid to speak out when other leadership and governance institutions in our society are failing us.

On culture and values:

This is the primary purpose of a university, and its success depends on a culture within the institution that is tolerant of heretical views (I use that term deliberately), which is not tolerant of attacks on people based on their background, what they believe in or who they are, but insists on the



debate being about ideas and their evidence and their logic.

It means that a university requires that people respect each other and give them the benefit of the doubt that all are equally committed to seeking truth. It means that one may not call someone a racist as a way of challenging their views since this closes down the space for constructive debate and the expression of different opinions.

It means one may not label someone an affirmative action appointee since it communicates diminished respect for that individual and assumes their individual intellectual contribution and contribution to the institution to be less worthy, without evaluating the substance of their views.

On transformation and leadership:

Transformation requires a recognition of the weight of the past and its implications for an agenda of redress, including measures to ensure equality of opportunity and access, and efforts to change organisational cultures to become more inclusive and tolerant; and a capacity to change the way people think - about our heritage, culture, values and sense of self. Transformative leaders value diversity, build self-esteem, nurture talent, mentor, listen and respect, along with the leadership they provide.

On the changing nature of education:

The changing global milieu of higher education, and particularly the development of the internet in the past 15 years, has created new modes of connectedness, new opportunities and responsibilities to internationalise the pursuit of knowledge.

The globalisation of higher education has widespread ramifications. This means that universities today are nodes in global networks of knowledge-creating institutions. The independence and self-sufficiency of universities has changed. A university that does not actively insert itself into those global networks in the areas of research, teaching and exchanges will rapidly slip into the second league.

On future graduates:

Our graduates will, and must, be internationally mobile. They will be employed by companies, most of them South African companies, who will expect them to work in the DRC tomorrow, China next year and New York in five years' time. The university has to adapt to these trends by preparing our students better for that future. This requires, inter alia, ensuring that our students get an international education and global networks of colleagues.

On UCT's niche:

I would like to turn now to the particular niche I see UCT aspiring to fill, driven by a number of factors. These factors are: the threat to South African universities of the brain drain; the economic growth and political development of the African continent; the need to have a unique niche area with a comparative advantage if a university wishes to step into the first league of global universities; and the opportunity to help South African scholarship make its mark on world scholarship.

On the university's African roots:

The first trend that must impact on UCT's strategic thinking is a continental one. In the past five years, we have witnessed a new scramble for Africa. Democracy is breaking out all over the continent, accompanied by unprecedented rates of economic growth, foreign investment and international trade, as well as the concomitant problems of corporate and public governance, bottlenecks in infrastructure, education, health, management capacity, etc. South African companies are the major business partners in Africa. Our graduates will work in those companies. We have not addressed how we should prepare them for those tasks nor what role we could be playing to equip people from all over the world who need to engage with the continent in public or private projects.

On UCT being an Afropolitan university:

I have tried to capture this vision through the idea of UCT becoming an 'Afropolitan' university. The 'Afro' element connotes an open, assertive engagement with the world from the standpoint of Africa. It describes a growth in African studies, particularly the economic sociologies of different African countries and regions.

Businesses, governments and NGOs all over the world will know that if you want to understand Africa and how to operate here, you must go to UCT. 'Politan' suggests cosmopolitan, and signals firstly a sophisticated and future-oriented approach to understanding Africa, as opposed to a sentimental, naïve, often 'rural peasant and wildlife' view of what an African perspective is.

On attracting staff and students:

If UCT is to retain its top staff, if it is to attract the best students and academics from around the world, it will not be through higher salaries or better scholarships. It will have to offer something unique that makes this southern point of the continent a preferred place to study and research.

Academics and others from around the world will know, in 2012, that if you want to understand Africa, you must come to UCT. Because the substantive academic research, teaching and debate about Africa happens here, and because you will meet the rest of Africa in our seminar rooms and coffee shops. And you will also find Brazilian, Chinese and Malaysian scholars here, part of a hub of the global academic community.

To be a global university, UCT needs to be an African university.

On threats to South Africa:

The first I have already addressed - that is the threat to our fragile democracy and constitutionalism. The second is HIV/AIDS and TB. Friends, the greatest public health disaster of our time will be our undoing if we do not make it a top priority. In this regard I do believe that UCT is making a significant contribution, through fundamental and applied research, through training professionals, through curricula (though I commit us to doing more in the faculties that have not yet integrated this sufficiently), through outreach and caring in communities, through policy and advocacy.

On safety and security:

The third fatal threat is crime, particularly violent crime. Here I do not believe the university has been making a sufficient and coherent contribution. There are many fragmented efforts, but we have not begun to answer the question posed by President Mbeki: "Why is our society so violent?"

We do not have a thorough answer to the policy question: "Should we have more jails?" We do not understand how to challenge the deeply ingrained views that violence is the way to resolve conflict - views inculcated in children from birth as they grow up witnessing domestic violence around them or bullying on the school playground.

We don't seem to have a clue how to tackle the drugs problem. We have not asked those politically incorrect questions, considered heretical in polite, liberal circles such as those that exist at UCT, questions such as: "Is our constitution too concerned about individual rights for this society?"

On the creation of pro-vice-chancellors:

Most of the senior executive posts are largely administrative - they manage processes, rather than giving intellectual direction. I want to change that. I propose appointing pro-vice-chancellors to lead and co-ordinate some of the university's important intellectual projects, and the first of these will be to do with crime, safety and security.

The pro-vice-chancellor will be responsible for being the interface between the university and all outside bodies concerned with these problems. She will be the conduit for raising the finances required to address the problems in a more sustained way.

She will audit and co-ordinate the efforts of academics internally, and ensure that gaps are identified and filled, and that UCT brings all its intellectual resources to bear on the problem of violent crime and the threat it poses to our survival.

On the school system:

The fourth threat is the public school system, which has failed the country and the universities. We cannot expand our intake of black students because of the paucity of school-leavers with the right subjects at the right level. Previously we took the view that this was not our problem to fix. We can no longer ignore it, for it will be our downfall. The University of Cape Town, and indeed all universities, should, in my opinion, tackle this problem. We will do our share.

On thanks:

I want to pay a special tribute to my wife, Deborah Posel, for helping me become who I am, for her ideas and articulate style, and most of all for her love. Thank you Deborah.

I want to thank my daughter Jessica and son Ilan, my mother and late father, and my wonderful friends.

[Thanks] to the colleagues who have been so supportive, and not badgered me about the 400 unread emails.

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Universities must learn from Africa



Actively listening: Ghanaian academic Prof Akilagpa Sawyerr responds to questions at the Vice-Chancellor's Symposium. He is flanked by VC Dr Max Price, left, Dr Mamphela Ramphele and Prof Jonathan Jansen.

South African universities should learn from the travails of the post-independence experiences of Africa, and listen to the continent. Ghanaian Professor Akilagpa Sawyerr said at the Vice-Chancellor's Symposium at UCT on 20 August.

Sawyerr, a former secretary of the Association of African Universities, and former Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Law at the University of Ghana, was one of three speakers.

Others were Dr Mamphela Ramphele, former vice-chancellor of UCT, and Professor Jonathan Jansen, Honorary Professor of Education at the University of Witwatersrand.

The event was part of the VC's installation programme and was triggered by, among other challenges, the threat to academic freedom and the need for universities to "marshal our resources", as Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price put it.

Sawyerr suggested that South Africa should learn from the rest of the continent and outlined the "ups and downs" of the University of Africa in his home country.

This university had moved from being a world-class institution that produced high-calibre graduates with "enough leftovers for the brain-drain", to years of crisis that had led to doubts about the economic viability of higher education.

"Universities failed to adapt adequately to the changes, and this resulted in serious problems like understaffing, overcrowding and exodus," Sawyerr said.

Things had changed but there were still challenges around access, equity, quality of education, and globalisation.

Sawyerr advised South African universities to "actively listen" to the continent and foster meaningful regional activities.

Ramphele said the "thriving" years inspired by the Madiba Magic were gone and that reality had begun to dawn on the country.

There was a need to identify vulnerabilities, point to fragilities, and learn from the successes of the past 14 years.

Ramphele described as "scandalous" the absence of centres of excellence in Africa, which prompted students to go abroad for top programmes in African Studies.

"We should hang our heads in shame."

Ramphele said the morality of power was still the same - control and command - and it was the challenge of universities to redefine power and power relationships.

Jansen described the role of the university by likening it to a city upon a hill, with the eyes of all people on it.

"Imagine a university where the community from an informal settlement can make the same ownership and participation claims for their children as those of well-heeled alumni of the upper-class schools for whom that university has become a birthright," he said.

Turning to Price, Jansen said: "Now, imagine a Vice-Chancellor who imagines, whose life demonstrates that ideas matter - and people more.

Then you have the makings of a city on a hill whose light shines brightly through Newlands and Nyanga, Bishops court and Bishop Lavis, and onward through the rest of Africa and the entire world."

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8 September 2008

Turok's bold plan for South African cities

International expert on cities and economic development Professor Ivan Turok has returned to South Africa with ambitious plans for the future. During his 18-month secondment to UCT, he will be lecturing, mentoring postdoctoral researchers and working with the executive committee of the African Centre for Cities (ACC) to lay lasting foundations for the next 10 years.

Turok was born in Cape Town and is back under the Mellon Foundation's mentorship project from the University of Glasgow, where he is the director of research in the Department of Urban Studies.

"I expect to spend most of my time doing research in employment issues in Cape Town, exploring the role of cities in South Africa's spatial economy and developing a better understanding of the challenges of urbanisation in Africa," he says.

The focus of Turok's work here will be his collaboration with the ACC, a research initiative of the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, which focuses on the potential for urban areas to promote democratic and sustainable development.

"The challenge is to ensure a coherent programme of work beyond the sum of the separate projects, and to generate a momentum of institutional growth and intellectual development so that the ACC becomes a centre of global significance with a real impact on public policy," explains Turok.

The approach? "Gently does it," he says.

"There is already impressive talent and expertise in the Centre, and plans are well advanced for its growth and development. My role is to support and facilitate where I can, drawing on my own experience of building research capacity and of knowledge transfer to government and society."

Turok will be closely integrated into the ACC's research programme, which deliberately involves a range of disciplines and is organised at three levels: Cape Town, South Africa and Africa as a whole.

"The ACC is a very exciting initiative by UCT and is one of its main signature themes," notes Turok. "It goes without saying that the need is considerable, but the potential is also enormous since there is nothing comparable in the whole of Africa."

Volume 27.18

20 October 2008

UCT's top student leaders féted



Jonathan Hodgson with VC Dr Max Price

The coveted top student leadership accolade, The Vice-Chancellor's Award, was awarded to the education president of SHAWCO, Jonathan Hodgson, at a function on 13 October. A highlight of the student calendar, 11 other outstanding candidates received Student Leadership Awards. The annual prize-giving honours students' extra-curricular activities in a range of areas, including their work in societies, student councils and residences.

Hodgson was the 2005 recipient of the Goldman Sachs Global Leader Award, and a Brightest Young Mind awardee. Directing his energies to matters at the heart of local communities, Hodgson chaired the Southern District Committee, established to co-ordinate the Southern District's response to the recent xenophobic attacks.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Student Affairs' Student Leader Award went to 2008 SRC secretary-general, Thando Vilakazi, for his strong track record in leadership, serving the student body on

the University Student Affairs Committee and Senate.



Thando Vilakazi with Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo.

Thamsanqa Ledwaba and Tende Makofane shared the Executive Director: DSA's Student Leader Award. Ledwaba, recipient of the 2008 Abe Bailey Travel Bursary, was lauded for his outstanding student leadership in the arena of international student rights, as was Makofane, under whose leadership the Student Assembly grew significantly in 2008.

2008 President of the Law Students' Council Shingira Masanzu won the Most Outstanding Student Leader in an Undergraduate Student Faculty Council Award. Masanzu was active in the Student Assembly, chaired the Student Faculty Council, and served on the Distinguished Teacher Award Committee. Robin Bentele received the Most Outstanding Student Leader in Community Service Award, having served RAG with distinction over the past year, raising over R1 million for SHAWCO.



Robin Bentele with Dean of Commerce, Prof Melvin Ayogu
The award for Most Outstanding Student Leader in a Residence went to Sabelo Mncinziba, who served on the Student Affairs Committee, and is a member of the Residences Committee and co-founder of the UCT United Nations Association of South Africa. Nabeelah Martin and Murray Hunter shared the Most Outstanding Student Leader in Media Award. Martin is a member of Habitat for Humanity, a member of Stand Up and Volunteer at the SHAWCO Masizame Project, and 2008 editor of Varsity newspaper. Hunter is the editor-in-chief of the *Cape Town Globalist Magazine* and of the 2008 edition of the *Sax Appeal*, and a recipient of this award in 2007. He also initiated student journalism workshops. The Most Outstanding Student Leader in a Society or Student Organisation Award went to Tara Weinberg. Weinberg won the award for her work in the History and Current Affairs Society. She was also captain of the UCT Women's Soccer Team last year which was the Team of the Tournament at the 2007 University

Student Sports Association's National Championships.

The Dwane Martin Memorial Scholarship was presented to Thulani Madinginye.

Garreth Bloor won the Sir Richard Luyt Memorial Scholarship.

The Ackerman Family Foundation Award went to Robin Bentele, and was her second on the night.

Volume 27.19
3 November 2008
Field president of Oral History Association



Dr Sean Field of the Centre for Popular Memory in UCT's Department of Historical Studies has been selected as the new vice-president of the International Oral History Association (IOHA).

Field was elected at a recent IOHA conference in Guadalajara, Mexico, and will serve as the association's vice-president until 2010.

The IOHA is a worldwide network of oral history scholars, professionals, and researchers, first established about 30 years ago.

Field's tasks as vice-president run from web development to moderating debates, but his primary goal is membership development.

"I'd like to expand participation of African, and especially Southern African, oral historians," he says.

Volume 27.19
3 November 2008

Intellectual property policies under the spotlight at USHEPIA partners

Many strides have been made since the establishment of the University Science, Humanities and Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPIA) Intellectual Property Project in 2006.

The first development of its kind in Africa, the project has given muscle to intellectual property management at all UCT's partner universities: Botswana, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Dar es Salaam, Makerere, Nairobi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

USHEPIA intellectual property co-ordinator, Saudin Mwakaje of the University of Dar es Salaam, has visited the various campuses to present IP awareness seminars. Each of the member universities reported progress.

In 2006 a seminar was held at the University of Botswana, one that also attracted members outside the university. The seminar raised awareness of the implications of the commercialisation of humanities subjects such as art, writing and the production of artefacts, in terms of intellectual property rights.

At the University of Dar es Salaam a review of their Intellectual Property Policy was put before their Council for approval in March this year. An agreement between the university and the World Intellectual Property Organisation was signed for teaching and researching on

intellectual property, and a distance-learning programme launched in 2007. The university also established an intellectual property society for its students.

Mwakaje reported high levels of intellectual property awareness at the University of Nairobi. Three seminars were held at Jomo Kenyatta, among the first of the USHEPIA partners (UCT was the first) to adopt an intellectual property policy.

Keen to promote technology transfer, Makerere University has established the Private Sector Forum to enhance joint research and technology development and to address private sector needs.

At the University of Zambia, where Mwakaje reported low levels of intellectual property awareness, a committee was formed to set up an intellectual property policy.

There was concern that the University of Zimbabwe's research output is at risk unless an appropriate intellectual property policy and management framework is established then. Mwakaje is helping them build an intellectual property policy and management infrastructure.

Volume 27.19
3 November 2008
HODs discuss weighty matters



Prof Susan Bourne of the Dept of Chemistry, Prof Jack Fletcher of the Dept of Chemical Engineering and Prof Melvin Ayogu, dean of the Faculty of Commerce, discuss weighty matters.

UCT hosted its annual academic heads of departments' workshop on 29 October, where HODs and senior executives met to strategise on how to improve the university's business.

Opened by Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price, the event saw senior managers tackling issues such as enabling leadership, what practical steps UCT should take to work better and smarter, and how the university gives practical effect to and co-ordinates its African connections.

Volume 27.19
3 November 2008

Crime under-reported in South Africa

How do the South African media report on crime, particularly when it involves racial differences?

This was the question posed by Ian Glenn, the first professor of Media Studies at UCT's Centre for Film and Media Studies in the Faculty of Humanities, in his inaugural lecture on 15 October.

After a welcome by Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price and an introduction "with glee and some trepidation" by colleague Professor Henning Snyman, Glenn argued that in comparison with developed countries, the South African media under-reported violent crime, rather than over-reporting, because of dominant racist attitudes in the media, as has been claimed by former President Thabo Mbeki, among others. Glenn also spoke on how violent crime has created a state of "cultural trauma" for South Africans, particularly whites.

"Local television shows quite the opposite trend to the Americans in that the SABC plays down all crime, and particularly violent crime," notes Glenn. "This neglect is not benign, but has strong, sometimes fatal consequences, particularly for black victims. Media failure to deal adequately with a range of violence against poor black South Africans has been evident in a range of cases."

Noting that the SABC employs about 1 000 staff in the news divisions, Glenn argues that the publicly funded corporation offers very little "bang for the buck".

Glenn argued that the general assumption that not covering crime is a sign of non-racial virtue has resulted in the media being unable to protect poor black victims of violent crimes such as serial killings, ethnic cleansing, or xenophobic violence.

"Under-reporting crime is not left wing," he says.

The effects of violent crime also came under the spotlight. According to Glenn, white South Africans are experiencing what American sociologist Jeffrey Alexander calls a state of "cultural trauma".

"Cultural trauma is suggested by the defining or story-telling about crime by major figures in South Africa, like author Andre Brink," notes Glenn. "Recent Hollywood films on Africa suggest that international Afro-pessimism now sees white Africans and South Africans as traumatised victims of political and social violence, rather than simply as oppressors."

Finally, Glenn argued that South Africans have moved into what Zygmunt Bauman calls "liquid modernity". This means that educated, mobile South Africans are far less likely to see themselves as loyal to place or nationality.

"Liquid moderns are less likely to be tied to land and obligations," says Glenn. "Liquid moderns are typically highly educated, socially mobile, likely to emigrate."

Glenn concludes that the cultural-studies approach to crime and media has lost credibility, and generalising claims need to be replaced by further collaborative research. He also notes that the country would benefit from smarter, more aggressive crime coverage in the media. Lesley Marx thanked Glenn for a lecture she described as "impressively well-informed, both theoretically and evidentially," and also "provocative and witty". She said that in the 34 years she had known him, she had always admired Glenn's ability to range widely across disciplines, also one of the strengths of his teaching.

Volume 27.20
17 November 2008
Africa still lacks capacity



It is vital for African scientists to enhance the continent's drug discovery capability to address its health needs, Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price told about 55 scientists from around the globe. This was at the opening of the first Global Institute for Bio-Exploration Africa workshop on developing novel strategies for natural product-based drug discovery for tropical diseases, hosted at UCT on 4 November by Prof Kelly Chibale of the *Dept of Chemistry* (above). This expertise exists, but lacks capacity in several areas critical to biomedical research and drug development on the continent, Price added.

Volume 27.21
1 December 2008
UCT refugee-rights expert address AU



Finding a place: Fatima Khan at the AU's recent meeting on forced displacement in Africa.

The UCT Law Clinic's years-long work with refugees was fitting preparation for Fatima Khan when she attended a meeting called by the African Union's (AU) Division of Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons in Africa, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4-6 November.

Khan, director of the Refugee Rights Project at the clinic, was invited by the AU commission to participate at a Civil Society meeting, as well as at a gathering of experts, to discuss the theme, *African Union Addressing the Challenge of Forced Displacement in Africa*.

The meetings considered, in particular, the effective protection of victims of forced displacement; meeting the specific needs of displaced women and children; meeting the specific needs of victims of natural disasters; rebuilding affected communities; and forging partnerships in addressing forced

displacement. The aim of the meetings was to develop durable strategies to deal with the plight of victims of forced displacement in Africa, for consideration by the relevant ministers and heads of state in April 2009. Historically there may have been external factors responsible for the large-scale displacement of people in Africa, says Khan. More recently, however, it is the violations of and the denial of basic human rights by governments that have led to forced displacement of large numbers of vulnerable people on the continent.

Governments should first and foremost aim to respect such human rights as a preventative measure, she noted.

The recent xenophobic violence in South Africa was a timely reminder of this. Even experienced staff at the Law Clinic - who consulted with over 5 500 refugees and asylum seekers in 2007 alone - were horrified by victims' reports when they turned to the clinic for assistance. "In reality, large numbers of people are displaced, and live either as refugees in host countries or as internally displaced in their own countries," says Khan. "Either way, the displaced people are and remain human beings with rights and should be treated with the dignity any human being deserves."

Khan was named as the May candidate for The Legal Newsmaker of the Year award, established by Legalbrief and the Law Society of South Africa.

Volume 27.22
15 December 2008
USHEPiA graduates



The 12-year-old University Science Humanities & Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPiA) programme toasted its three latest doctoral graduates last week. That brings the total number of PhD graduates to have come through USHEPiA to 41. The newest additions are Dr Joseph Mulema and Dr Betty Owor, who both hail from Uganda, and Dr Isabella Wachira of the University of Nairobi, Kenya. Mulema and Owor (in picture with UCT's USHEPiA manager, Nan Warner, centre) did their doctoral work in UCT's Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, while Wachira was based in the Department of Construction Economics and Management.

Volume 28.01
16 February 2009
Kalula to sound out Zim



Professor Evance Kalula, director of the Institute of Development and Labour Law at UCT, has been appointed to a commission of inquiry to investigate complaints of non-observance of freedom of association by Zimbabwe.

The three-member commission was constituted by the International Labour Organization (ILO), and will be sworn in at its headquarters in Geneva next month. It is expected to complete its work in July.

Other members are Judge Raymond Ranjeva, senior judge at the International Court of Justice and former Chief Justice of Mauritius, and Dr Bertrand Ramcharan, a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and former commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists.

Kalula said the complaints relate to two conventions (ILO treaties) that Zimbabwe has ratified, that is to say the Freedom of Association and the Right to Organise Convention No. 87 and the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention No. 98.

"The task of the commission will be to examine the complaints by hearing and gathering evidence, and to make recommendation to the ILO's governing body," explained Kalula.

He added that the commission is similar to the one that was appointed for South Africa in 1992.

The 1992 Fact Finding Commission was appointed to probe complaints by COSATU and in retrospect has been seen as a factor in the galvanising of negotiation towards the 1994 democratic settlement in the labour sector.

Volume 28.01
16 February 2009
Curb climate change, leaders asked

African leaders have been urged to recognise the severity of challenges posed by climate change, and value the role of research in meeting these challenges.

Closing the 5th Humboldt International Conference on climate change in Africa, which was hosted by UCT recently, university students from 17 African countries signed a student declaration, demanding that leaders commit themselves to improving the situation.

"We call for a unified African voice in the face of the challenges before us and urge our African leaders to make a firm and lasting commitment to address climate change challenges and to support research in Africa," said the declaration.

It was one of the resolutions taken at the weeklong event, attended by scores of top international researchers, including Nobel Laureate in chemistry Professor Paul Crutzen.

The declaration appeals to the leaders to invest in research capacity, promote a unified policy across African institutions on data acquisition, access and sharing, and develop a unified African view on climate change, which would contribute to the new round of the Kyoto Convention.

Volume 28.01
16 February 2009
Call to action



Marching on: Students at a UCT gathering last year.

The following opinion piece was penned by Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price and Prof Marian Jacobs, dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, and appeared in the Sunday Argus of 8 February.

Zimbabwe is facing unprecedented levels of economic and political turmoil, resulting in intolerable human suffering, disease and death. We as South Africans cannot sit by and watch while this massive disaster unfolds. We all need to act together to assist in alleviating the humanitarian crisis, apply pressure on our politicians to monitor the fair implementation of the joint government agreement for a peaceful transition to a new political order and, where possible, assist those Zimbabweans who have sought refuge within our borders.

The impact of the crisis in Zimbabwe is being felt across Africa, and particularly in South Africa; from the steady stream of refugees; to additional strain on an overstretched health service as a result of cholera-infected people coming across the border for

treatment, following the complete collapse of the Zimbabwean healthcare structures; to impassioned pleas from students to be allowed to continue their studies in South Africa as many of their educational institutions are not functioning at all.

The University of Cape Town strives to be an Afropolitan institution, with its roots in South Africa, but its branches spreading across the SADC region and Africa as a whole. In this African institution of higher learning - where we teach young adults about human rights, social responsiveness and accountability - we condemn those responsible for the human rights catastrophe that is playing out in Zimbabwe.

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), an international health non-governmental organisation, headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has presented a report with hard evidence of the devastating situation in Zimbabwe. It was drawn up by independent investigators who visited several provinces in Zimbabwe in December 2008 and states that the government of Zimbabwe has effectively presided over "the dramatic reversal of its population's access to food, clean water, basic sanitation and healthcare".

It is a shocking story of the destruction of a country and its people. The report contains evidence of the horror stories heard for some years now. It records the traumatic experiences of sick, injured and dying human beings - many of whom will lose their lives as a result of treatable medical conditions.

Mothers, fathers and children are watching one another suffer and die because the system has failed. Medical practitioners face dying patients without access to water, electricity or basic facilities like toilets. Equipment is desperately lacking and the most basic services are no longer available.

The very system that exists to protect the basic human rights of every citizen has collapsed and its failure is undoubtedly the responsibility of President Mugabe and his government. It is untenable that they have allowed this. It is even more disgraceful that evidence suggests that this collapse is directly linked to their misguided, selfish actions to remain in power.

The report recommends that President Robert Mugabe should face the International Criminal Court. They argue that he is committing a crime against humanity - the results of which can be seen in thousands of deaths in that country following the utter collapse of its health service.

International statute allows the UN to intervene politically, through sanctions and even militarily in a country whose government is systematically killing large numbers of its own unarmed, defenceless citizens. The PHR report also recommends that a United Nations-led emergency health response should be enforced in Zimbabwe. It is time for us, the ordinary citizens of South Africa, to call for this to happen.

President Mugabe must be pressured into allowing international health NGOs immediate, full and unfettered access, in effect, to take over the running of the health system, particularly in communities facing health crises. These NGOs should be given funding by UN agencies and donor governments to re-establish medicine and equipment supply chains. Further, the UN should employ local health workers who want to work, but have no salaries, no food and no petrol in their cars, or taxi money to get to work; no medicines or surgical equipment to offer patients and no hope that their efforts will be appreciated.

While it is well and good to call on other bodies to take these actions, the university has also decided to take action. Firstly, we have undertaken to see how we can support the ongoing training of some of the advanced medical students in Zimbabwe where universities have collapsed. We call on the South African government to facilitate the issuing and renewal of study visas. We have made various concessions to assist Zimbabwean students who are struggling to release their available funds from Zimbabwe to enable them to register for study at UCT. In addition to making UCT funds available to assist these students, we are implementing a range of other practical ways to assist Zimbabwean students who face particularly difficult situations while studying at UCT.

Finally, we will mobilise staff and students at UCT to support humanitarian efforts and do what they can to assist those in need.

Volume 28.01
16 February 2009

Calls to alms and support at Zimbabwe assembly

Calls to alms and support at Zimbabwe assembly

At the time of going to press on Thursday UCT had begun mobilising help for its beleaguered Zimbabwean students by planning an assembly in the Jameson Hall on Friday 13 February, following the humanitarian crisis in that country.

Many Zimbabwean students are struggling to get money out of the country and cannot pay for food and tuition. UCT has approximately 880 Zimbabwean students, of whom 303 are postgraduates.

There will be a campus-wide collections of donations, to be sent to Zimbabwe to alleviate suffering.

In a communiqué to students and staff prior to the assembly Dr Price said: "The enormity of this disaster is especially shocking as it consists of interlinked crises including an imploding economy, hyperinflation and severe unemployment; extreme poverty, starvation and malnutrition; the collapse of education and healthcare; and a cholera outbreak that has claimed the lives of over 5 000 people."

He said the impact had rippled across the continent and had hit the Southern African region hardest.

"UCT prides itself on being an institution that values justice, human rights and social responsiveness," he said. "I therefore encourage as many of you as possible to support our humanitarian efforts and to do what you can to assist."

Speakers at the assembly were to include Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo, SRC president Chris Ryall, Zimbabwean student Faith Chirunda of the International Students Forum and secretary-general of ZimSoc, Brian Raftopoulos of the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Board, Kumi Naidoo, honorary president of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, and Nomboniso Gasa of the South African Commission for Gender Equality.

The Faculty of Health Sciences was also planning a campaign to collect food, clothing, bedding and stationery. UCT intends linking up with NGOs like Gift of the Givers to distribute goods to Zimbabwe.

Volume 28.02
2 March 2009

Urbanisation challenges

African politicians refuse to grapple with the growing urbanisation challenge on the continent, one of the reasons sustainable urban development seems impossible here, says Prof Edgar Pieterse, director of UCT's African Centre for Cities.

Pieterse was speaking at a workshop in Cape Town from 17-19 February, hosted by the centre, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT).

A highlight of the event was the launch of the Sustainable Urban Development Network (SUD-Net) Africa, the first regional-level implementation of the global UN-HABITAT initiative.

Volume 28.03
13 March 2009
Humanity at a crossroads



Thin line: Director of the James Martin 21st Century School, Dr Ian Goldin delivered the Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture, titled Future Shocks and Opportunities: 21st century challenges and choices

Speaking at the Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture, Dr Ian Goldin asked: Are the world's leading thinkers anticipating the risks and opportunities of the 21st century, or will humanity be overtaken by its own medical, technological and scientific successes?

In the 21st century, humanity teeters on the edge of catastrophe, treading a narrowing line between development and disaster, said UCT alumnus Dr Ian Goldin in the Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture on 9 March. Will climate change precipitate our demise? A rampant new virus? Biological warfare? Or will it be imploding civilisation, increasingly at sea and rudderless without meaning and values, as suggested by Emeritus Professor George Ellis in the question-and-answer session?

"We're at the best point in human history, but it's not certain that we won't manage to blow ourselves up," Goldin commented.

The challenge, he said, will be to secure the future of the planet and make it a safer place for the double-digit billions that will inhabit it by 2050.

A former vice-president of the World Bank, Goldin is the author of 12 books, including *Globalisation for Development: Trade, finance, aid, migration and ideas*, which has been recommended as essential reading by Nobel Prize-winning economist, Joseph Stiglitz. Now director of Oxford University's James Martin 21st Century School, Goldin has a unique vantage point for surveying the century's "unusually challenging" developments in science and technology - and understanding why the world's great thinkers and leaders have to start grappling with them.

Founded in 2005, the James Martin 21st Century School is a collaborative think-tank for tackling problems of the millennium. It has succeeded in bringing together leading scholars and researchers, providing the resources and space for them to think imaginatively about the things that will enhance or threaten humanity's future: armed conflict, cancer therapy, emerging infections, migration, nanotechnology and stem cell research.

"The world is changing in such fundamental ways that the past is no longer indicative of the future," he said. "Governments and companies should be thinking more about the future. We should all be thinking about systemic issues and major trends, and not trivial issues."

Population dynamics are also changing rapidly. People are living longer, with implications for pensions, retirement, dependency and migration patterns.

By 2050 the aged population bulge could herald a labour crunch, particularly in rich countries.

"Asia will absorb its labour force. Can migration be part of the solution?"

Goldin also outlined key elements in technological change: advancements in artificial intelligence, biotechnology and medicine; and the big ethical issues that accompany stem cell therapy, genetic research and even biological engineering.

"Should we worry about who's in the lab and what's cooking? I think so. We should be asking: 'Who's in control? What access will there be?'"

Similarly, nanotechnology offers great promise in the 21st century, especially in the medical field. But like many new technologies it's a field not yet fully understood.

"Is this the new asbestos?" asked Goldin.

Another signature theme of the 21st century, the information Big Bang would have huge implications for education.

The idea of learning would also change fundamentally as people will work longer and evolve their skill sets. With the future threat of pandemics, bio and nuclear terrorism, and climate change jostling for space on the radar, Goldin also showed how the nature of risk is undergoing fundamental change and that risk analysis requires new frameworks.

"There is a developing crisis for global governance structures such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, G8, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and World Trade Organisation.

"These are not institutions of the 21st century. Can we transform them? How do we begin to get something new?" Education and mass communication would play an important role in finding solutions, he said.

A collective awareness of global challenges would affect education and mass communication, providing "access to the ideas that will solve our problems".

Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price has mooted the establishment of a South African counterpart to the school, through which local scholars can contribute to work concerning these pressing issues, and also introduce African perspectives.

Speaking at a breakfast hosted by Price, Goldin endorsed the idea, keen to get the Oxford school's researchers thinking about the continent. "There's not a great awareness of Africa," he commented.

Volume 28.03
13 March 2009
Gateway to good governance



The importance of knowledge-sharing and networks as vehicles for sustainable development was emphasised at the launch of the first regional African Sustainable Urban Development Network (SUD-Net) in Cape Town on 18 February.

As Professor Edgar Pieterse, director of UCT's African Centre for Cities, commented, "making networks work requires a subtle alchemy of science and art". If the commitment and enthusiasm shown by the nearly 50 delegates from 10 African countries at the three-day workshop are an indication of a successful network, then it would seem that the magic is already at work.

Guest speaker Andrew Boraine, of the SA Cities Network and Cape Town Partnership, was excited by the promise of SUD-Net. "The urban question is still very under-recognised, particularly in Africa," he said. "In our own country, when we point out that most of the poor live in urban areas, people still get up and ask about rural and agricultural development.

"There are still a lot of myths about urban areas. The emphasis on

rural development means that cities are often seen as problems rather than solutions," he said. According to Boraine, one of the problems was that the relatively high average wealth of cities masks the huge problem areas of urban poverty and unemployment.

"So the national policy tends to see cities as cash cows rather than as places needing investment," he said.

"We want to support initiatives that use a multisectoral approach to give people a platform to fulfil their dreams," said Thomas Melin, lead urban specialist for the Swedish donor agency SIDA, one of the hosts of the workshop. "We've noticed that many dreams are urban, but in Africa we haven't found many institutions we can work with that acknowledge the strength and relevance of cities."

Volume 28.05

13 April 2009

Vaccines for Africa website launched



The Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM) at UCT has launched an African-based website, [Vaccines for Africa](#), to increase awareness and promote the uptake of vaccines in Africa.

This forms part of the Vaccinology Initiative of Professor Gregory Hussey, director of the IIDMM. The initiative's vision is an Africa free of vaccine-preventable diseases, explained Hussey.

"There needs to be a co-ordinated advocacy effort from within Africa to change this, and much of this is about access to information."

The site aims to be an interactive forum for the exchange of accurate, up-to-date and evidence-based information on vaccines and immunisation practices relevant to Africa.

Dr Charles Shey Wiysonge can be contacted by [email](#) for comment.

Volume 28.06

27 April 2009

Social Responsiveness Report launched



The Institutional Planning Dept (IPD) has launched its 2008 Social Responsiveness Report. The report aims to stimulate ongoing debate within the university and more broadly on UCT's role in addressing development challenges in society.

It features a number of case studies from around campus, including the work of the university in response to the 2008 xenophobia crisis and the development of new and effective TB vaccines. Top DVC Prof Jo Beall and the IPD's Sonwabo Ngecelwane and director Judy Favish were at the launch.

Volume 28.07

11 May 2009

HoDs on strategy

Strategy: Dr Max Price addresses HoDs.

On 30 April, UCT's heads of academic departments gathered at the Baxter Theatre Centre to discuss Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price's seven strategic goals, endorsed by the University Strategy Forum.

The workshop is part of an intensive consultation process around the strategic goals. These centre on transformation, internationalisation, research, UCT as an Afropolitan university, the size and shape of the institution, and social responsiveness.

Price started the session on a light note, saying he understood the reluctance of HoDs to grapple with strategic planning, especially if they were unconvinced that strategic plans would affect their academic roles and outputs.

"A strategic plan should modify those things we do. But not everything we do, and do well needs to be explained in terms of the strategic plan," he added.

"But we do need to ask: What will we be doing differently in five years? What can we do better to make UCT a destination of choice for students, postdocs, young researchers and senior academics? How can UCT adjust its activities to meet the social and developmental needs of the country?"

Price said the *raison d'être* of a university is to "address the social and developmental problems and to understand and improve the world around us".

"The seven strategic goals will suggest how, from the centre, we'll provide institution-wide guidance to heads of departments."

Volume 28.07

11 May 2009

Law Clinic awaits verdict in first Equality Court hearing



Courting equality: From left, Francois Joubert SC, Fatima Khan, Advocate Rosslyn Nyman, main applicant Mohamed Said (back) and Halima Dahira Bootan are taking the SA Police to task.

The UCT Law Clinic's Refugee Rights Project will wait until 14 June to hear judgement in what could be a precedent-setting case for South Africa; a case of unfair discrimination on the grounds of xenophobia against the South African Police Service (SAPS).

It is the first case to be presented before the new Equality Courts as a High Court matter in the Western Cape, and was brought before the court by the UCT Law Clinic, acting on behalf of a group of refugees and asylum seekers.

In March last year a number of "recognised refugees" from Somalia, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of Congo living in the Worcester township Zwelithemba were victims of looting and attacks by local residents.

Though their homes and business had been looted and they were the targets of other criminal acts, they say the police failed to

protect them.

When the case was presented before the Equality Court at the Cape High Court on 17 April, the team from the UCT Law Clinic argued that the omissions of the police (cited as respondents) constitute unfair discrimination.

"In particular, it is our contention that the police should or could have cordoned off the area of looting, used minimum force reasonable in the circumstances, effected arrests where necessary or fired warning shots, in the very least. Police should have conducted an investigation after the incident" said Refugee Rights Project head, Fatima Khan.

They requested an unconditional apology and public admission that "they committed acts of unfair discrimination", amounts in damages, and that the SAPS and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees implement police training programmes on sensitivity towards refugees and on refugee rights.

Equality Courts are designed to deal with matters covered by the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act 4 of 2000, also known as the Equality Act.

Found in Atlantis, George, Kuilsriver and Worcester in the Western Cape, Equality Courts were introduced to facilitate fair and speedy hearings so that those who have been the targets of discrimination can access the courts without the formalities and delays attached to the High Court.

"This is a strategically important case, recognising that refugees and asylum seekers have a right to safety and security and that the SAPS have a duty to protect all people in South Africa," said Khan.

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11 May 2009

Great debate on admissions gets under way



Panellists get the ball rolling

The recent Great Debate on UCT's admission policy drew together a number of views on the subjects of transformation of our society, redress within the higher education sector, and the use of race as a proxy for disadvantage in UCT's admission policy.

The following excerpts have been culled from panellists' written and oral statements.

The full debate can be downloaded from the resources section of the Admissions Policy website on [Yula](#).

The Admission Review Task Team, chaired by Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Crain Soudien, is setting up meetings with various stakeholders across campus.

Tende Makofane, South African Students' Congress (SASCO)

- Race is still closely correlated to disadvantage in SA. It doesn't make any sense to use other proxies to address the direct imbalances that were created on racial basis (by apartheid).

- The question of redress can never be addressed on admission policy alone. We must redress all the imbalances which were inculcated by the apartheid regime.
- The academic performance of white students (at schools) is still much higher than that of African, coloured and Indian students. There is not significant difference in performance between black students in under-resourced schools and those in middle-class schools, except among those at the richest schools in the country.
- Certain people hold the view that equity is tantamount to a compromise in quality. The university's pass rates suggest the contrary. African students have been shown to have a success rate of 79%, coloured students 81% and Indians 86% as compared to 91% of white students.
- To increase equity will lead to improvement of quality in institutions.

Ryno Goldenhuys, Democratic Alliance Students' Organisation (DASO)

- Many university admission policies are based on racial considerations which are used as a proxy measure for educational disadvantage. This policy has included the lowering of admission standards for certain racial groups without ensuring that that is met with increased throughput rates.
- We must continue to work for access to tertiary institutions for SA's poor and disadvantaged. However, there are many innovative ways to do this that do not require classification on arbitrary racial lines. We oppose such classification. We do not support the lowering of admissions criteria. However, the admission criteria should take into account any existing personal or economic disadvantages. Access should be increased through more needs-based bursaries, increased head-hunting in poorer or disadvantaged schools, and a better tutoring and mentoring programmes at university to ensure better throughput rates. In most cases the admission policy, as it stands, works as it should in identifying those who should be given the opportunity to attend UCT. We do, however, contend that the number of cases in which the policy is failing to give all South Africans of ability the opportunity is growing.

Professor David Benatar, UCT

- We all agree on the need to rectify injustice. If you want to rectify a disadvantage, then why use a proxy for disadvantage when you can use disadvantage itself?
- One possible scenario: determine whether (schools) are disadvantaged or not and have your admission policy favour people to the extent that they come from a disadvantaged school.
- People say we need diversity of opinion in a university. If you're interested in diversity of opinion, don't take a proxy, namely race; why not go after diversity of opinion itself? Have opinion tests on admission applications.
- People say we need to have black role models and teachers. There are also many claims about how racial diversity improves a university but the evidence is methodologically dubious.
- There is a long history of these sorts of (racial) classifications laying the foundation for inter-group conflict. And I think we need to avoid that. We can do so while still redressing injustice.

Siyaduma Biniza, Congress of the People (COPE)

- Race as a proxy for disadvantage should remain and the issue of academic development programmes should be addressed. The throughput of black students at UCT must be developed at academic development level. The point of redress is to redress issues

that are deeply rooted, social-economic issues, financial issues, that aren't solved by being accepted into university and excluded after the first year. Black students from disadvantaged backgrounds are inadequately prepared for university.

- The problem isn't finding black students; the issue is that UCT doesn't represent the demography of South Africa.

Dr Zimtri Erasmus, UCT

- In thinking about new criteria for admissions, we do not need race categories. UCT (should) add a disclaimer about race classification on all its official forms and expand the categories it offers on these forms; partner with the Academy of Sciences of SA on research to develop sophisticated tools for assessing disadvantage for the purposes of redress in higher education, with a view to eventually abolishing race categories on all of South Africa's official documentation; develop a more holistic, involved and transformative conception of recruitment in an effort to erode the complex barriers to accessing a place to study at the institution; and hire an agent to facilitate foreign student study permits and visas.
- UCT talks about the need to identify "academic potential at the individual level", and to use socio-economic indicators such as family income and school attended. The university needs to work towards making these promises real. We must move away from thinking with our eyes, to listening to our stories.



Putuma Zengetwa asks a question from the floor.



Prof Crain Soudien orchestrates proceedings.

Dr Thalo Radithalo, UCT

- 'Race' as a category seems intricately tied to notions of white superiority and black inferiority which have significantly shaped the mind-sets of both black and white South Africans.
- In the main, South Africans are not moved by the moral vision that apartheid was wrong nor are they by the need to make amends for that past.
- None of the historically disadvantaged institutions are having any of these kinds of debates. UCT should evolve into a new public university. We need to provide for an inclusive institution.
- The community must have a buy-in into whatever kind of admission policy we will have.
- Personally, I find the burden of 'race' rather than being a member of the human race, irksome. I'm tired of race, and yet, race impinges on me. Students seem by and large to expect a mistake from me. South African students do not associate me with excellence.

Xanthea Limberg, Young Independent Democrats

- Transformation policies need to be employed and race ought to be a factor in those processes.
- The university is a great platform to build social cohesion and to build a diverse environment for everyone. There are so many inequalities in our schooling system that it is not a suitable measure for admissions within universities. Race should (not) be the sole component but we should also take into account high school classification, class and introducing more programmes of intervention to create racial diversity within our university. We must also look at employment equity and the culture within the institution.
- We must address these in a way that we do not exclude white people but to redress the injustices of the past.

Professor Neville Alexander, UCT

- I don't see any fundamental contradictions among the various speakers. In SA one of the main reasons for hope is that we are not sweeping things like race under the carpet.
- Admission policy at this university is a tiny corner of a very large canvas about historical redress, affirmative action, the empowerment of the oppressed people.
- Section 1b of the SA constitution is very clear that we are committing ourselves to a non-racial, non-sexist future. Every speaker agrees we want to move away from a society in which race determines the worth and the character of people. I am very clear about what we need to do: We need to move away from race.
- I see this as the beginning of a whole long process - it mustn't take too long because people are going to get frustrated. The university has got to be congratulated on starting it.

Dr Molapo Qhobela, national Department of Education

- Government didn't say what type of admission policy you must have. All it said is that there should be some kind of policy.
- The university is debating; it is listening to its students, to its academics and it is making a decision to go in a particular direction. Institutional autonomy and academic freedom do work and can be used to good effect for positive change.
- This university is part of a new SA. It is a different institution than it was 11 years ago. It will be a different institution in time to come.
- We have a participation rate in our higher education system of around 17% of our population. Most countries are around 50% to 60%, sometimes 70%. If you disaggregate the 17%, you will find that white students have 60% participation rate relative to African students who have about 12%.

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Africa Day - celebrating UCT's African partnerships

Africa Day, 25 May, commemorates the founding in 1963 of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the precursor to the African Union (AU). On this day, the continent celebrates not just the anniversary of this event, as well as the organisation's aspirations for African unity, but it is also a time for reflection on the many challenges that the continent still faces, as well as its successes.

UCT, with students and staff from over 100 countries - including 37 of the 53 African nations - is a cultural melting pot. The university annually celebrates this diversity on Africa Day through various initiatives led by the International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO), faculties, departments and student societies.

This year a series of events will take place before and on Africa Day, culminating in an exhibition that will showcase already significant research collaborations and other academic partnerships between UCT and its counterparts in Africa.

Friday, 22 May

Students Africa Day Celebration Dinner

This event will take place from 18h00 to 20h00 in the Molly Blackburn Memorial Hall. (Please note that this is a change to the venue mentioned in the print version of Monday Paper of 11-24 May). It will be hosted by the Students Representative Council (SRC) and all students are invited. Entrance is free, but it is essential to book a seat in advance. Please RSVP to [Amanda Ngwanya](mailto:Amanda.Ngwanya@uct.ac.za) by 19 May.

Monday 25 May

Exhibition and panel discussion - Celebrating UCT's Africa Partnerships

This will take place in the Robert Leslie Social Science building.

An academic exhibition on the Mezzanine level of the RLSS building will showcase the various UCT research groups that have established strong links in Africa, and will thus show the richness of existing links between this and other African institutions.

Representatives from these groups will be on hand to answer questions and show what is possible for those who wish to connect with fellow researchers in other African countries.

The exhibition will be opened by Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price at a cocktail reception at 17h00 for 17h30.

Information on IAPO and the African Academic Links Section will also be on display.

A cultural exhibition hosted by a diverse range of student societies will be held on the foyer level during the Meridian.

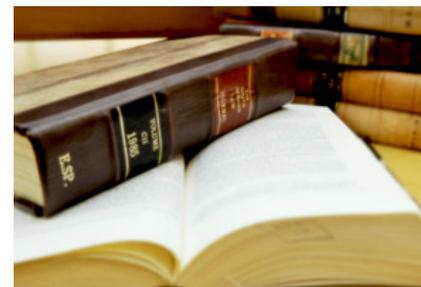
An interactive panel discussion has been scheduled for 16h00 in LT1, Graduate School of Humanities, next to the RLSS building, when the panel will share their experiences and successes in establishing links and exchanges in Africa.

For more detailed information on these events, please visit the UCT website. All members of the UCT community are warmly invited to visit the RLSS building on 25 May.

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25 May 2009

New programme to PERC up research



The Research Office has launched an innovative, university-wide programme to promote research capacity, as part of a Carnegie-funded project to further institutional transformation.

Under the banner Programme for Enhancement of Research Capacity (PERC), the broad aim is to stimulate research that will produce new knowledge that is pertinent to the university's position in South Africa, the continent, and the world.

The three-year pilot project will build on the work of the Emerging Researchers Programme. Importantly, it will also promote locally-grown knowledge paradigms that will ultimately shift scholarship from Eurocentric to African models, while recognising that African experiences are multiple in different parts of the continent and the Diaspora.

As such, the project is linked to three of Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price's seven strategic objectives, namely transformation, research and Afropolitanism.

"Tied as we are to the theoretical and cultural voice of the north,

many of our researchers doubt the value of what they do," said deputy vice-chancellor for research, Professor Danie Visser.

"This is a colonial and an apartheid complex. There is probably no greater block to the production of appropriate, cutting-edge research on the continent than this self-induced censorship."

First call for grants

The Research Office has launched a first call for PERC grants related to the programme's knowledge project.

Two donor-funded grants of R150 000 each will be made twice this year.

Applicants will need to demonstrate that their research contributes to the knowledge project (meta-project), within their fields, as described above.

Collaborative projects and diversity of backgrounds within the group's participants will be advantageous, as will cross-disciplinary research that capitalises on UCT's location in Africa.

Successful applicants are expected to produce an edited book, or a special journal issue, or at least five articles in accredited journals.

They should also show how postgraduate students or postdoctoral fellows are involved in their research project.

Applicants are expected to present at least two workshops in the Research Office, open to participants across campus.

They may also apply for a wide range of support, including travel and conference fares, research assistance, editorial input, workshop organisation, and invitations to distinguished visitors. This support does not include materials or equipment.

Applications should be accompanied by as much supporting evidence as possible.

Other PERC initiatives

PERC offers a number of initiatives encouraging researchers to contribute to Africa-based knowledge. Included are:

- support for the formation of collaborative groups of scholars from diverse backgrounds;
- support for groups working across discipline boundaries;
- workshops to help researchers find their writing voices; and
- assistance with National Research Foundation ratings, particularly the self-assessment exercise.

Drawing on the mentorship of senior academics, PERC has already run workshops and seminars on the self-assessment exercise, the cross-disciplinary research aspect, the nature of rigour in qualitative research methodology, research management and organisation, and the creative relationship between qualitative and quantitative research, and a residential writing retreat to encourage researchers to publish papers, chapters and conference presentations not yet completed.

PERC will also run a full-day workshop on the nature of working at this 'meta level' of knowledge production. This will be held on 2 June from 09h00 to 16h00 at the Research Office.

Closing date

The closing date for grant applications is 29 June. Prior to application, queries may be directed to [Professor Brenda Cooper](#). Cooper will run a seminar for potential applicants in the Research Office on 1 June, from 12h30 to 14h30.

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GSB 9th best business school

The Graduate School of Business has been named the ninth best business school in the world in the field of economics, according to the *Financial Times*.

It is the fifth consecutive year that the GSB has featured in the Times rankings and it holds the same spot in the ranking overall as it did last year (71st).

The GSB's full-time MBA programme was ranked as the best value for money MBA in the world, and remains the only business school in Africa in the top 100.

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Student survey on democracy planned

The Centre for Higher Education Transformation (CHET) is running a survey on students' attitudes towards democracy and governance. During the month of May, 400 students (mainly third-years, but across all disciplines) and student leaders from three African universities - UCT, University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, and Nairobi University, Kenya - will participate.

The study will gauge the general contribution of university education, as well as the contribution of active political involvement, to students' awareness of politics and government and the demand for democracy, among other things.

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Scientist among the best in Africa



Reaching out: Dr Andrea Rother, second from left, with fellow winners at the finals of the Women in Science Competition held in Addis Ababa.

Dr Andrea Rother of the School of Public Health has won second prize in the prestigious Young Professionals and Women in Science Competitions, aimed at African researchers.

The competition is organised by a consortium of science and development agencies, including the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The competition recognises young professionals and women scientists who are conducting innovative and pioneering research, and who communicate the outputs of their work to improve agricultural productivity and the livelihoods of rural communities.

Rother took second place in the Women in Science category for her paper, *Pesticide Risk Reduction Strategies for Vulnerable African Populations through Regulatory Capacity Building and*

Gender Appropriate Risk Communication Strategies. Pretty much in keeping with her research in the Occupational and Environmental Health Research Unit in the School of Public Health, where she looks at issues such as risk communication, risk perception, risk management and health literacy issues related to public health, safety, and chemical management (with a particular focus on pesticides), especially in Africa.

Her paper was initially shortlisted from a pool of 258 abstracts. The 10 finalists in the section then presented their papers at an event in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April.

"This is a great honour and a fantastic achievement," said Professor Leslie London, director of the School of Public Health, of Rother's award. "It reflects lots of hard work on Andrea's part building links in Africa, and should encourage us all to keep pursuing social responsiveness, particularly in engaging with African issues, in our work."

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Celebrating UCT's African connections



UCT will use Africa Day on 25 May as an occasion to showcase its significant research and academic collaborations with partners throughout Africa. *Monday Paper* spoke to Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo about the university's renewed African thrust.

What is the rationale behind the Vice-Chancellor's vision to grow UCT's engagement with the rest of the African continent?

UCT, by virtue of its location and its relatively long history, is admirably placed to build on its sterling reputation as an African institution to become a sought-after destination and partner for Africa-generated knowledge and expertise. UCT academics already enjoy significant collaborations in sister universities across the continent, and the beauty of the Vice-Chancellor's vision is that it builds nicely on these foundations. It aims to establish UCT as an exciting place to live and work, attracting high-profile scholars from all corners of the globe.

How is this vision different from UCT's existing mission to be a world-class African university?

The Afropolitan vision is not really different; it simply recognises past efforts that have led to the enviable reputation that UCT enjoys as an African and international university committed to excellence, and builds on them. It signals UCT's connectedness to the continent and globally, and emphasises its unique expertise on issues facing the continent, combined, with an open, assertive engagement with the world from the standpoint of Africa.

How successful has the university been in building African partnerships?

UCT has established a wide network in Africa over the years. The academic exhibition and panel discussion that will take place today will show that there is already significant activity between UCT and many African partners. We are also hoping to encourage the university community to consider ways of deepening these relationships and to seek others, all with the aim of moving closer to our aspiration to become a recognised centre of knowledge on Africa.



Can you give some examples of linkages that already exist between UCT and its African partners?

There is a very wide spread of types of partnerships and collaborations, varying in size, scope, geographical location and disciplinary focus. (The IAPO display at the exhibition will be an eye-opener for many people on this). Examples that come to mind include: the Percy Fitzpatrick African Institute of Ornithology; the Marine Research Institute; the Disaster Mitigation for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme; as well as the African Gender Institute, and the Centre for Contemporary Islam in South Africa. The Universities Science, Law, Humanities and Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPIA), which features seven partners, continues to be a core initiative of capacity-building in Africa. These are only some - the tip of the iceberg as it were - of the myriad African partnerships enjoyed by UCT's academics.

How does this African thrust tie-in with the Internationalisation initiative?

Internationalisation has been on the go at UCT for over a decade, and the two concepts complement each other in many ways. Mainly, they both seek to insert UCT into networks outside South Africa's borders. By forging strategic alliances and partnerships, both in Africa and globally, both initiatives raise UCT's profile and connectedness, which are essential prerequisites for a future role as a centre of international and African scholarship. There are knock-on effects to this, including the fact that, in line with global trends in donor funding, UCT's positioning as a portal between the global north and global south will attract funding for research, student and staff exchanges, as well as regional and continental capacity-building initiatives.

How does this African vision align with the other UCT strategic themes such as transformation, research, and teaching and learning?

One of the clear benefits of this vision is its applicability to all the other aspects of UCT's forward strategy. It articulates well with transformation, not only in their shared interest in enhancing diversity and improving the institutional climate, but also in the transformative value of the vision itself. The vision will help to offer direction to the research energies of UCT academics at staff and graduate level, and this will inevitably lead to an Africa-rich curriculum across the board. As this vision unfolds, its impact will be felt in the classroom in many other ways, including the visibility of African visiting scholars and postdoctoral researchers, and eminent Africanists from all over the world.

How would you respond to the concern that these efforts by UCT may be seen as just another example of South African "expansionism"?

One has heard these concerns expressed and, to my mind, they are understandable. We must guard against any kind of behaviour that assumes a role for UCT as anything but an equal partner and collaborator, pursuing mutual interests. But I am pretty certain that we are up to the task. Experiences in partnerships such as USHEPIA have convinced many of us of the mutual benefits of such ventures: they are invariably two-way streets, where everybody learns as much as they share. One just needs to be cautious and respectful. For a start, one needs to think carefully before using words like "footprint" in describing UCT's presence abroad.

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15 June 2009

Sabwa graduates against all odds



Spaza bonanza: "This can be a boom industry" - Jean-Marie Sabwa.

Xenophobic attacks and his initial patchy English could not stop Jean-Marie Sabwa from conducting ground-breaking research on spaza shops and completing his studies at UCT.

Last week Sabwa, who hails from the Democratic Republic of Congo, completed a troubled journey when he obtained his master's in operational research from the Department of Statistical Science.

No mean feat given that he failed three courses out of 10 in his first year because he could not do presentations in English. And last year he lost all his belongings of his Philippi home, including a laptop and a computer containing all his work, when his family was displaced in the widespread xenophobic violence. That, naturally, took a toll on him, but Sabwa never thought of quitting.

"And the important thing is that we are all still alive."

Fortunately, his supervisor had copies of his research. Sabwa has put that experience behind him, and is happy to graduate, hoping to make a difference to the society that, for all appearances, despised him.

His research, after all, focused on those most iconic institutions in poor residential communities, the spaza shops. Having noticed a lack of documentation of spaza shops, and that they are generally unknown even in their locations, Sabwa investigated how these businesses could be more successful.

"Basically, I tried to check how and which areas we should focus on and improve," he explained. There are some 144 000 spaza shops in the Western Cape, and Sabwa believes it is a huge market that can help deal with unemployment, and perhaps even turn informal traders into prosperous business people in the formal sector. "This can be a boom industry. If half of the spaza shops can be formalised and each can employ one person, how many jobs can be created?" "Most of the traders take their businesses as something to put food on their table. They don't see that they can be the Bill Gates of tomorrow," he adds. There are multiple issues facing the sector but the key problem is the lack of business management skills among owners, Sabwa found. As a possible solution, he has developed an intervention model that suggests that wholesalers, financial institutions, government, non-government organisations and higher education institutions should work together instead of each trying to intervene on its own, on one hand. On the other hand, Sabwa attempted to determine the indicator(s) of performance in these businesses and set up some strategic measures on stocking and ordering issues. "They should focus on providing shop owners with management skills and monitoring their progress."

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Life goes on in Zim, says Chimombe

In spite of the political and economic crisis, life is going on in Zimbabwe, and not every person living comfortably is corrupt or government-connected. So says Shumi Chimombe, web editor at UCT's Communication and Marketing Department, who obtained her Master's in Creative Writing on 12 June. For her dissertation, Chimombe has written a novel on family life in Zimbabwe in 2007, looking at how people were living in those challenging times. "Not every Zimbabwean is a border-jumper," she emphasises. "Families are still hosting celebrations, people are still falling in love, getting married, cheating on each other, getting divorced. Troubles are there but people are getting on with their lives, and doing the best they can under difficult conditions," she says. As a Zimbabwean who has lived in South Africa for the past eight years, Chimombe has always been annoyed by people with distorted ideas on what it is like in her home country during the crisis. "Some people think Zimbabwe is a wasteland where not even the airports work anymore, and they ask me the most bizarre questions," she explained. She said many people there have persevered and are living relatively normal lifestyles under the circumstances. The dissertation - her first full-length novel (she has published three children's books with Cambridge University Press) - is a dream come true. For 35 years she has been trying to pen it, but life got in the way. "You can spend your whole life wanting to write a book and not write one." Doing the course was the only way she could manage as, in addition to learning about structure, it required her to be disciplined and meet deadlines. "It is also very helpful to have professional guidance in the form of a supervisor." (Chimombe's supervisor was Ron Irwin.) "It was very taxing," she says of studying while having a full-time job. "You work the whole day, and then when you go home, instead of stretching yourself out and watching *Isidingo*, you need to at least write 500 words." Chimombe is putting the final touches to her book and looking for a publisher before starting on the next one.

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Streamlined redraft for UCT mission statement



UCT's 13-year-old mission statement is under review following a Council decision to align it with the international, national and higher education contexts, which have undergone significant change since the mission was first developed. The Mission Review Task Team is chaired by Professor Francis Petersen, dean of the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment. The framework to develop the new mission was presented to all faculty boards, the PASS Forum, the Institutional Forum, the Students' Representative Council and various unions. Two revised statements (in column on far right) have now been drafted and are up for discussion. These are based on broad details captured under four discussion points that were developed after multiple discussions were held across the campus; namely UCT's research-led identity, its graduates, its role in society, and its values.

It is hoped the new mission statement will tap input from the broader UCT community. Vice-chancellor Dr Max Price has invited staff and students to comment on the two draft statements, and even to compose and present their own versions. Comments and alternative statements must be sent to draftermission@uct.ac.za. The Mission Review Task Team will consider all comments and will then redraft the mission statement for further consultation. The executive aims to have the final version tabled at Council's September meeting. The current mission statement was drawn up by a working group of the University Transformation Forum in the mid-1990s, and was affirmed and adopted at a special University Assembly on 24 April 1996. The statement speaks of UCT's ambitions to be an outstanding teaching and research university, to educate for life and to address the challenges facing South African society. In a recent statement, Price noted that UCT needs a "crisper, more forward-looking mission to distinguish us from our competitors". "We are now at a stage where the broader discussions and reflections are being distilled, and we wish to end with a mission statement that is, ideally, no longer than a paragraph or two," said Price. "This is not an easy process." The rationale for reviewing the mission, the approach to developing a new mission, the names of members of the task team, and a process and timeline are on the [Yula site](#). (Once on Yula, log in using student or staff log-in details - identical to logging on to your PC - select 'Membership', then 'Joinable Sites', then search for "mission".)

Mission statement draft example 1

Our mission is to be a world-class university, driven and informed by a search for new knowledge, with a commitment to excellence in teaching and learning, research and social responsiveness and underpinned with a value system characterised by a social conscience and contributing to the challenges facing society through an African context. In pursuit of its mission, the University of Cape Town will provide an environment to students and staff for intellectual debate, international exposure and a solid educational experience, thus developing graduates with critical comparative thinking and global skills.

Mission statement draft example 2

To be a leading university internationally and in Africa, which offers excellent teaching and learning through pursuing critical and relevant research and by making meaningful contributions to society. We seek to provide a safe and nurturing environment in which staff and students are free to think critically, develop their full potential and create and lead better societies.

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VC meets alumni in windy city



In conversation: Dr Loyiso Mzisi Mbabane (left) of the Walter Sisulu University in Butterworth, with the VC, Dr Max Price. UCT's strategic role as a global player, the state of higher education amid the recent financial meltdown and the international university ranking system were among the topics that Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price tabled in his visit to Port Elizabeth, where he addressed UCT alumni on 14 July. This talk was part of the Alumni Relations office's effort to introduce UCT alumni to Price's strategic goals - and his vision of UCT as an Afropolitan university and a global player in higher education. "UCT as a global player positions us as an entity that knows more of our continent than any university - and we become the hub on the South that speaks to Africa and the rest of the world," he said. He said UCT had to face its challenges head on, make the university a destination of choice for students, postdoctoral research fellows, staff, and researchers. The institution also had to

retain experienced academics and meet the country's social and developmental needs.

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Postdocs vital to 'brain circulation' in Africa



It was only after the release of his memoirs that we at UCT learnt that Ralph Bunche, American political scientist and Nobel Peace Prize winner (1950), had spent time at this university as a postdoctoral research fellow under Professor Isaac Schapera in the 1930s. Bunche's stint here followed his doctoral research in anthropology at the London School of Economics (1936-1938). Until recent years, little record was kept of our postdoctoral research fellows - and yet they have made, and continue to make, a substantial contribution to UCT's research output. Indeed, it is fair to say that 'postdocs' are an indispensable part of the research endeavour of UCT - as they are at any modern university. We have come to realise that, at a central level, the university has to step up its support for these highly productive and valuable members of our community. The Postgraduate Funding Office has taken the lead in this, and the Board for Graduate Studies has made the facilitation of increased support to postdoctoral research fellows a focal point of its work for this year. Today UCT has 168 postdoctoral research fellows distributed throughout the six faculties, but primarily located in the science and health sciences faculties. The University is keen to increase the number of postdocs in the other faculties - and of course, in the university as a whole - and to this end the University Research Committee is constantly looking for ways to increase the number of fellowships for postdoctoral research. These fellowships are usually awarded to individuals within five years of them having achieved their doctoral degrees. Fellowships are negotiable up to three years (and sometimes even longer - under exceptional circumstances, an extension may be considered for up to a maximum of five years). The purpose of the Postdoctoral Research Fellowship is to provide an opportunity for experiential learning in research. In many instances, this serves as a path for further academic and professional development. (Technically, the postdoctoral research fellows are neither students nor employees of the university, but occupy a unique niche: they do not earn salaries, and their work is funded through Postdoctoral Research Fellowships). We salute our postdoctoral research fellows for having chosen to make South Africa - and UCT - their research home. It is important that we should have a 'brain circulation' rather than the 'brain drain' that is such a worry to the whole of our continent. Africa's tertiary sector is under enormous pressure. A recent statement by the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) states that one-third of all African scientists live and work in developed countries, "the outflow representing a significant loss of economic potential". Postdoctoral fellowships can help to keep young scientists in Africa, and to bring them home after doctoral studies abroad - and, of course, to introduce our research opportunities to budding researchers from all over the world. Through this special supplement we wish to highlight and acknowledge the vital contribution made to our research enterprise by our postdoctoral research fellows.

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Quality of life: The value of numbers



Quality of life: Prof Jennifer Jelsma.

At first glance it may seem little more than a statistician's vanity to put an actual number value to the quality of life, but as Professor Jennifer Jelsma illustrated in her inaugural lecture, *The quality of life may be more important than life itself: but how do we quantify it?*, on 15 July, there are many good reasons for doing so.

Jelsma, head of UCT's Division of Physiotherapy, showed that the merits of quantifying the health-related quality of life (HRQoL) make good sense. Quality of life, as a concept, is too broad for some purposes; for one thing, HRQoL proves more than handy in planning health interventions and policy.

"If we can't measure outcomes," said Jelsma, "then we're not going to expend resources on improving those outcomes."

Jelsma then looked at the pros and cons of two systems used to measure HRQoL - the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) measure, and the EQ-5D instrument.

She reported that a study she and colleagues had conducted in Zimbabwe had quickly exposed some telling shortcomings of the GBD. For starters, it didn't always reflect the concerns of specific groups.

Jelsma found, for example, that the GBD (and local Zim health professionals) rated conditions such as migraines, dementia and quadriplegia as the most burdensome. Yet township residents viewed dementia, as a case in point, as a natural part of life, and were far more worried about conditions related to infertility, which scored low on the GBD. "Local people felt that having a child was far more important than many disabilities," said Jelsma.

The more numerically-nuanced EQ-5D - a measure Jelsma and colleagues contributed to - not only takes such cultural variation into account, but is also more flexible. While the GBD would, for example, assign the same value to amputation before and after treatment (so why treat?), EQ-5D and its scoresheet, known as EQ-5D-Y, compute even relatively small changes in health status.

It was a study in the UK using EQ-5D - which showed that Brits rated a number of conditions as being a fate worse than death - that inspired the title of Jelsma's lecture.

Jelsma and colleagues have since used the EQ-5D, which they've translated into both Shona and isiXhosa, for an early study on the use of anti-retrovirals to treat HIV, and on a wellness programme for factory workers. In both cases the EQ-5D, when used to measure outcome, led to higher quality self-reported HRQoL.

Volume 28.11
10 August 2009

Strategies and specifics for transformation

Your correspondent Aphwe Bewana, the provincial chair of Sasco, has written a letter (Volume 28#10) of "warm greetings" to complain about groups at UCT who display "tendencies ... whose underlying principles and acts are divergent to genuine transformation". This letter in response is written in the same spirit.

For a long time we have been told by Sasco and other black organisations that this university has been too slow in pursuing the goals of transformation. I suggest that if they want additional policy action they need to be much more concrete in their proposals. Apart from stating in general terms their wish to see more black appointments to senior academic and administrative posts, as well as certain curricular changes, they do not specify what actual changes would satisfy them, nor any strategies for carrying them out.

Until groups like Sasco become specific we are not likely to see a greater meeting of minds within the university on these issues. The following list contains the sorts of questions I venture require clarification by concrete answers. These are illustrative, not complete.

- What does black mean in this context? Africans, or all people other than white as designated in the old apartheid era terminology?
- Can black appointments be of people from anywhere in the world, such as the rest of Africa, the Caribbean countries and the US? Or do they have to be South African-born and bred to satisfy the demands of 'transformation'?
- Given the supply constraints - too few suitable applicants for employment who are black - should the university perhaps offer enhanced salary and benefit packages? Say, 40% more than the going rate, in monetary terms?
- If this is acceptable, then should the 40% premium be paid only to new hires after a certain date? Or should it be paid to all black employees in comparable grades?
- If such a strategy is adopted by the university, is it realistic to expect problems of morale and motivation among staff members who are not paid the premium? If so, how can this be countered?
- If curricula are to become less Eurocentric or global-centric in content and style, then what concrete changes are proposed for disciplines other than the obvious ones such as historical studies, languages, certain social sciences, and arts like fine art, drama and music?
- We need to recognise that curriculum regionalisation - greater African-oriented content - will entail costs. To meet such a goal, some of what is now taught in a range of disciplines will have to be substituted by the new content, because there is not room and time for everything. Is that simply a cost to be borne? What should be dropped, and by what criteria will these difficult decisions be made?

These are the kinds of questions that must be researched and distributed within the university community by groups, like Sasco, pushing for accelerated policy action.

Sean Archer
School of Economics

Volume 28.12
24 August 2009
Price's proposed plan will address concerns following Paul Ngobeni case



In a communiqué to UCT staff, vice-chancellor Dr Max Price has proposed an urgent workshop for the Senior Leadership Group (SLG) as well as other measures that will address the pace and nature of transformation at UCT, selection and support processes, and weaknesses in the university's disciplinary processes.

This follows the aftermath of the disciplinary hearing involving former deputy registrar Paul Ngobeni, and his subsequent departure from UCT.

Ngobeni was appointed as deputy registrar in August 2007. Following his appointment, a number of complicating factors led to a protracted and difficult disciplinary case. Price eventually annulled the disciplinary case brought against Ngobeni.

Nonetheless, Price said the case had highlighted areas of concern for the university. The subsequent process will be led by acting deputy vice-chancellor Professor Crain Soudien, who will deliver a report that spells out the patterns of UCT employees' working experiences - and ways in which various organisational units are dealing with them.

Among other things, the SLG workshop will examine the information and findings of the recent institutional surveys conducted at UCT. Price also plans a "360-degree feedback system" for all senior managers and deans that will test how staff in their units felt about the inclusiveness and openness of the institutional culture in these units.

He urged the UCT community to implement an acceptable code of behaviour,

"particularly when we differ with one another", and promote a culture of debate.

In his communiqué, Price urged staff to use the structures put in place for unresolved incidents of racism or discrimination, such as the Discrimination and Harassment Office, or formal grievance procedures.

In addition, he also called for an examination of UCT's human resources processes.

"Are our HR processes robust enough to deal swiftly with complicated cases? Recognising that there will always be a need for standard disciplinary procedures, I would like to put on the transformation agenda the exploration of alternative dispute-resolution mechanisms, that seek to restore relationships rather than having winners and losers. Such alternative processes could be strengthened by the introduction of an ombud and could, where appropriate, be applied to student conflicts as well."

Price added: "As a broader initiative we must interrogate our selection processes, our induction processes, the support systems available during times of conflict, and the disciplinary processes themselves."

Freedom of speech was also addressed. Price said that while UCT does not restrict employees from talking to the media, employees had a responsibility to point out whether they are writing in their personal, professional or official capacities.

"I propose, following a suggestion from the Academic Freedom Committee, that we review our disciplinary procedures to see whether we can increase transparency and management accountability by opening disciplinary cases related to public statements by an employee."

Volume 28.12
24 August 2009

Define new concepts of diversity, says Asmal

South Africans need to value multiculturalism in order to create a society that encourage members to see beyond signifiers of religion, race or ethnicity as the sole markers of identity.

So said Professor Kader Asmal in his address, *National Identity and Cultural Diversity* at the fifth annual JD Baqwa Memorial lecture on 5 August.

A former national minister of education, Asmal argued that the construction of society on the basis of a shared vision of the future, rather than on any mythologizing of our past, best guarantees a peaceful, just, multicultural society in which each individual is offered the best chance for flourishing and fulfilment.

"It means that people who make their homes in South Africa, who had no presence here in the past, should find a place, a sense not just of being, but of well-being, as they too participate, as full members, in articulating a vision of a shared future."

In his entertaining speech, Asmal said the Constitution protects multiculturalism, and that there must be more to identity than a description on a passport.

"We are each guaranteed equal claim, irrespective of our differences," he said. "We have the right to be the same and the right to be different."

Asmal said "identity politics" is one of the most dangerous forces now at play, and that there is a need to define a new, balancing concept of cultural diversity, liberty and rights, and to define what constitutes national identity.

Volume 28.13
14 September 2009

African science and technology development takes shape



Develop Africa: Prof Jean-Pierre Ezin

Scientists need to advocate strongly for the development of science and technology on the African continent, as heads of state lack commitment to do so, said prominent scholar Professor Jean-Pierre Ezin.

Speaking at an open lecture, *Establishing a Pan-African University*, at the Muizenberg-based African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (a collaborative project between UCT, Stellenbosch University and the University of the Western Cape), Ezin said only two countries on the continent had fulfilled a decades-old agreement for each nation to dedicate one percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) to the development of science and technology.

"To win this battle, we decided to set up the Pan-African University (PAU)," he said.

Ezin is a commissioner in charge of human resources, science and technology for the African Union Commission, an executive branch of the African Union. He is also the director of the Institute of Mathematics in Benin.

The PAU will see five centres of knowledge established in Africa's southern, central, eastern, northern and western regions, based on the topic of strategic importance in each region.

For instance, in Southern Africa, the PAU node is to be set up at Stellenbosch University to focus on space science, linking to the region's bid to host the Square Kilometre Array. Other nodes will be established next year and in 2011, and will focus on the science of water and energy, earth and life sciences, basic science and technology, and social science and governance.

Volume 28.13

14 September 2009

Slums: The future of African urbanisation



Almost all future urban growth in African cities will take the form of slum growth. This is just one of the stark differences between urbanisation in Africa and elsewhere.

So noted Professor Edgar Pieterse, director of UCT's African Centre for Cities in the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, in his inaugural lecture on 26 August. Titled *African Cities: Grasping the Unknowable*, Pieterse's lecture described the African city as an "elusive mirage clouded by limited data".

Despite the fact that Africa experiences the fastest rate of urbanisation compared to all other regions, with the United Nations predicting that the continent will double its urban population in the next two decades, there is an "absence of a well-rounded body of thought on the specificities of African urbanism," he said.

Pieterse argued that there has been a "tendency to focus on individual or micro practices in order to surface nuance, texture, variability, diversity and of course, contingency".

"We need to find ways in which we can clarify the knowledge agenda that will be able to articulate macrotrend data and perspectives with insights about the novelty of contemporary urban life as it comes into being at this late capitalist moment, when Africa remains an afterthought, an invisible placemat for larger power struggles, and the globalised allegory for failed modernisation," he said. Pieterse described African macroubanisation trends, starting with the fact that the continent is still in the beginning of its urbanisation transition, with only 38% of the population living in cities at present.

Another trend is that the vast majority of African urbanites reside in small cities with populations of less than half a million, which is "fundamentally different to the typical scenario of megacity explosions that is popularly associated with urbanisation".

Another unique and concerning trend is slum growth.

"Informal, autoconstructed, makeshift shelters house 62% of African urbanites. In other words, the shanty city is the real African city," said Pieterse.

"Clearly, for both what we know and do not know, the African city is indeed an edge, a site of danger, for there are an impossible number of dimensions to grasp at once."

Volume 28.14

28 September 2009

Labour force outgrowing jobs



Governing the crisis: Photographed at the 10th annual Steve Biko Memorial Lecture were (from left) VC Dr Max Price, speaker Tito Mboweni, Nkosinathi Biko, and the SRC's Portia Gama.

The South African economy has not created enough jobs to keep up with the growth in the labour force, Reserve Bank Governor Tito Mboweni said at the 10th annual Steve Biko Memorial Lecture at UCT on 10 September.

Mboweni concentrated on economic issues as he catalogued some highs and lows of South African macroeconomic development since 1994.

Foremost among the success stories has been the country's ability to keep inflation in check, a necessary condition for sustainable growth and prosperity, said Mboweni.

"I would like to believe that Steve Biko would have been gratified by the fairly contained pace of inflation over the past 15 years," said Mboweni, "knowing the dire consequences of inflation for the poor - those who are usually least able to hedge against inflation -

in particular."

But recent wage settlements above the projected rate of inflation are worrying, he added. So, too, have been the outbreaks of xenophobic violence in South Africa. This undermines the "lofty ideals" of establishing a free trade area, a common market and a monetary union in the Southern African Development Community region, among other outcomes.

While there have been a number of economic victories, including increases in real GDP and real gross national income per capita, they have not always delivered the desired results, said Mboweni. For example, the South African economy has not created enough jobs to keep up with the growth in the labour force.

"The growing unemployment rate, combined with the partly undesirable inequality trends, can be fertile ground for exacerbating polarisation between South Africans, leading to social tension across racial, class and gender lines," said Mboweni.

The current global economic crisis has also added to the country's woes, he noted.

"It is eroding some of the achievements we have made in stabilising the economy, broadening economic participation and improving the living conditions of many South Africans."

Volume 28.14

28 September 2009

Extend SRC's work beyond campus, says president-elect



Sizwe Mpfu-Walsh.

The Students' Representative Council should represent the voice of young people in society, and should broaden its work beyond the university, says Sizwe Mpfu-Walsh, UCT's SRC President-elect. Speaking after his 15-member team met for the first time, Mpfu-Walsh, a second-year student in economics, politics and philosophy, said dealing with internal matters was important, but student politics could do more than just focus on campus.

"We need to think about how we can contribute to addressing social and economic inequalities, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other pressing issues in society," he said.

This vision was at the heart of Mpfu-Walsh's SRC campaign, as it was when the elected members met to allocate portfolios.

However, he added that these were his thoughts only. The new council members, who are set to take office on 1 November, are still to finalise their official, collective vision.

The Johannesburg-born Mpfu-Walsh said he hopes the new SRC leadership will build links with student leaders in other institutions, both in South Africa and on the rest of the continent.

Mpfu-Walsh contested the elections as an independent candidate, and hopes that his committee will unite the different constituencies of the SRC, with its strong Democratic Alliance Students Organisation and South African Student Congress representations.

Other issues he would like to see addressed include students ploughing back into the community, and the promotion of environmental awareness.

"We want to make UCT the symbol for a clean environment in South Africa," he explained, one week ahead of Green Week on campus. Also high on his priority list is the inefficiency of the Jammie Shuttle Service on satellite campuses, as well as the academic and financial exclusion of students.

"We cannot have a situation where a student gets As in all subjects but is excluded because he can't meet financial requirements," he said.

What fuels his interest in politics?

His parents were activists from two diverse communities, factors that shaped his perspectives.

"I'm optimistic about human beings finding solutions to problems confronting them."

Volume 28.15

12 October 2009

Oral history programme helps pupils bridge divide



From left: Fairouz West, Nuraan Allie, Sibongile Cynthia Mtini and Aveline Akimana.

The Centre for Popular Memory's Bridging the Digital Divide programme at Western Cape high schools bore fruit when two learners won top prizes at a national competition.

Fairouz West, a Grade 11 learner at the Muizenberg High School, scooped the 2009 Chief Albert Luthuli Young Historians Award, and Aveline Akimana, a Grade 10 learner at Bridgetown High School in Athlone, came third.

Last year the award was won by Yumnah Jackson of Bridgetown High, who was also mentored by the centre.

The award, which is a Department of Education initiative, is an extension of the Bridging the Digital Divide programme which encourages learners to develop an understanding of the broad history of South Africa and the richness of the histories of their local communities through oral history research.

West's research was on local soccer, focusing on the oldest club at Cape District Football Association, Spenston AFC, which is 105 years old and still going strong.

Her research looked at the early establishment of soccer in the Western Cape, how Spenston was formed, the establishment of Cape District, their early racial policy, the club's best years between 1950 and 1962, the challenges the club faced thereafter, as well as the coming 2010 World Cup.

Akimana's topic was refugees in South Africa. Being a refugee herself, her focus was on why they fled Burundi, their expectations of South Africa before they arrived, xenophobia, human rights and the relationship between locals and foreigners.

Both learners are among more than 1 000 learners who are benefiting from the Andrew W Mellon Foundation-funded programme, which strives to bridge the divide in education and information technology skills transfer.

"The programme concentrates on the generational and cultural divisions between apartheid survivors and their descendants and the IT skills divide between what is perceived to be a 'developing' country and first world technology," explained Nuraan Allie, schools liaison officer at the centre.

Volume 28.15
12 October 2009
African heritage project goes live on Wikipedia



Moving forward: Ralph Schroeder, Christopher Held, Prof Heinz Rüter, Roshan Bhurtha and Stephen Wessels at work on the Musawwarat es-Sufra temple site in Sudan.

A glance at Emeritus Professor Heinz Rüter's wall diary tells you straight away that he travels a bit.

Tucked in between the local and national talks and meetings, there are - marked in bold red - 10- to 14-day stretches in Kenya, Mozambique, Sudan and Tanzania. And a little further afield, Kyoto.

The Africa-trotting is all in aid of the Zamani Project - the African Cultural Heritage Sites and Landscapes Database, conceived and run by Rüter from the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics. In short, the database holds spatial, geographic and photographic information - collected by Rüter and his four scientific officers via laser scanning, conventional surveys, GPS, traditional photography and photogrammetric imaging - of heritage sites and structures across the continent.

This information is then used to compile information-rich geographic information systems, faithful 3D computer models, maps and building plans of these hardly-seen sites.

"The idea was to create an integrated database of African heritage, where we take a holistic approach," says Rüter.

Among the project's eye-catching productions is a computer-generated video, found at the [World Monument Fund's \(WMF\)](http://www.worldmonumentfund.org) website, which allows the armchair traveller to take a virtual tour through the historic rock-hewn churches - each carved out of volcanic tuff - of Lalibela, Ethiopia.

"This is stuff most people have never seen," says Rüter proudly, as he plays the video.

The team is working on such educational eye-candy for all 25 sites it has visited in nine African countries. These include the Musawwarat temple complex in Sudan, rock art sites in the Drakensberg here in South Africa, and the Great Mosque of Djenné in Mali.



The team's laser scanner outside the St Sebastian fortress in Mozambique.

Initially, the project had only research and educational objectives, explains Rüter. But, just as he had hoped, the database is now also being put to good use in conservation work, such as that of the WMF and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) at Lalibela, the UNESCO initiative on the St Sebastian fortress in Mozambique, and the Getty Conservation Institute's project in the Valley of the Queens in Luxor, Egypt.

Pleased though he is, Rüter has bigger aims for the project. Beyond providing information - detailed and pretty as it is - he'd like the data to be used for actual site management, tourism planning and further conservation enterprises. And to extend its reach beyond Africa, perhaps mapping the slave routes into the Americas and elsewhere.

But there's enough hard work ahead for him and his "brilliant and dedicated" team - Roshan Bhurtha, Christopher Held, Ralph Schroeder and Stephen Wessels. Thanks to funding from the Mellon Foundation, the team has at least six more sites to visit over the next three years. Rüter is hoping to source further funding to document additional sites.

The work is no walk in the park. Team members haul pricey equipment to remote locales and toil for long hours in often trying conditions, all the while negotiating their way through power problems, equipment failures, goggas, suspicious locals (the word 'laser' evokes all kinds of ideas in people's heads, notes Rüter), red tape, rapacious officials and, when their constitutions don't agree with the local cuisine, upset stomachs.

"It's hard sometimes," sums up Bhurtha.

And the labour's not done when they return to their cramped offices at UCT, which they share with student volunteers from Germany. Each on-site day demands five to 10 days of processing.

"We're very lucky that we get to go out to sites in some hard-to-reach places, collect the data and then get back to process the data," says Wessels. "For most people, it's either one or the other."

With the evergreen Rüter leading from the front - notwithstanding a bandaged toe he broke playing with his dog - for, he plans, at least another five or six years, there's plenty more good times ahead.

Volume 28.16
26 October 2009
Praise for new academics programme



Grow our own: (From left) Mohohlo Tsoelo, Prof Paul Bowen, Fatima Williams, Prof Paula Ensor, VC Dr Max Price, and Gina Ziervogel.

Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price welcomed members of the New Academic Practitioners Programme (NAPP) at a function on 12 October, praising the programme as "innovative" and "well-established".

Launched in 2004 by the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED), NAPP serves as a support structure for newcomers to academia at UCT. In addition to an introduction session and a retreat later, NAPP also hosts workshops on topics

related to research, teaching and learning. These are presented either by CHED or the university's Research Office.

"NAPP is part of the university's transformation process, forging international links with Africa," said Price. "It is foremost an academic programme for the disadvantaged, and intended to accelerate familiarity with the university."

"We are short of black academics, so the university's strategy is to grow our own," Price quipped.

Volume 28.16
26 October 2009
UCT joins the Worldwide Universities Network



UCT's membership of the Worldwide Universities Network was formalised in a ceremony at the University of Sydney. At the ceremony, UCT's Prof Jo Beall joined Prof John Hearn in signing the Partnership Heads of Agreement.

UCT has become the latest partner in the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), making it the first African member of this global network.

"Its key objectives are aligned with UCT's own strategic vision, and we believe that our membership of WUN will help extend our partnership profile and enhance our goal of internationalisation with an Afropolitan niche," said deputy vice-chancellor Professor Jo Beall.

WUN is a partnership of research-led universities from Europe, North America, South East Asia and Australia. By fostering and encouraging collaboration between members, WUN brings together the experience, equipment and expertise necessary to tackle the big issues currently facing societies, governments,

corporations and education.

WUN chief executive Professor John Hearn of the University of Sydney said: "On behalf of all partners, I am delighted to welcome the University of Cape Town, with its many research strengths, to WUN. UCT brings complementary expertise to the partnership, and will create new opportunities and experiences for staff and students throughout the network."

Volume 28.16
26 October 2009
EDU Watch: Education news from Africa and the world

Ethiopia's **Adama University** (left) has launched its first self-developed, campus-wide eLearning environment at the university. Until just recently, the campus had only five PCs, connected with a very slow line, for nearly 6 500 students, but that number has now grown to over 600 computers.

A This Day correspondent was attacked and injured while covering the protest of staff unions against Lagos State University's vice-chancellor, Professor Lateef Hussein.

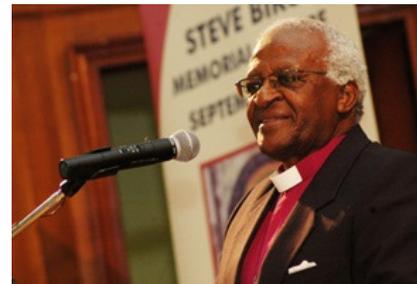
Following previous delays and crises, **Nigeria's Education Minister**, Dr Sam Egwu, has ordered the Governing Council of the University of Benin to appoint a substantive vice-chancellor within six weeks.

Even though tuition and fees in the US increased in 2008, the amount students borrowed in private loans declined by almost 50%, according to the first widely-accepted estimate of that drop. A significant reduction in loans was expected because of the turbulence in the credit markets.

Volume 28.17
9 November 2009
EDU WATCH – Education news from Africa and the world

Students in Namibia may take the government to court to explain why children of high-ranking Government officials had received scholarships to study in China while scores of "deserving poor students" had their applications rejected.

Volume 28.18
23 November 2009
Lens on reconciliation and post-conflict society at UCT conference



Arch peacemaker: A special International Award for Love and Forgiveness will be made to Archbishop Desmond Tutu at the Beyond Reconciliation conference on 4 December.

How do children of survivors or perpetrators of gross human rights abuses deal with the legacies they have been given?

This is one of the issues which will come under the spotlight at the Beyond Reconciliation: Dealing with the aftermath of Mass Trauma and Political Violence conference which takes place at UCT from 2 to 6 December.

The conference is a further reflection on South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission process, which was the subject of a similar conference in 2006.

Co-organiser and UCT psychology Professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, who served on the TRC, says the conference will examine the effects within countries which have used a TRC-type process to deal with reconciliation.

Conference papers include research on post-conflict communities

and reconciliation in societies with a history of mass trauma and genocide, struggles with memory, refugees and their children, and justice for victims.

Gobodo-Madikizela says a large German delegation will attend, reflecting the "interesting link between our work on reconciliation and the German story". The delegation will include the sons and daughters of Nazi perpetrators and Holocaust survivors which will highlight "inter-generational issues" such as the effect on younger generations of reconciliation.

There will also be a focus on xenophobia in South Africa.

"We are conscious of the social responsiveness element and the conference will also be looking at ongoing work within communities by scholars in their fields."

A special public dialogue event, Reconciliation in South Africa: Are things falling apart? will take place on Friday, 4 December at 17.30. Speakers include former Vice-Chancellor Dr Mamphele Ramphele, University of Stellenbosch political scientist Professor Amanda Gouws, University of the Orange Free State Vice-Chancellor Prof Jonathan Jansen and Professor Antjie Krog of the University of the Western Cape. The public dialogue event will include the presentation of an International Award for Love and Forgiveness to Archbishop Desmond Tutu. All proceedings of the conference, including the public events, will take place at Kramer Building on Middle Campus.

For further information, please contact [Ahmed-Riaz Mohamed](#) or go to the [website](#).

Volume 28.18
23 November 2009

Edu-watch Education news from Africa and the world

Students at the **University Of Port Harcourt** in Nigeria have called on the government to relocate the ex-military camp located at Aluu near Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital. This followed another violent protest staged by the ex-militants, numbering about 4 000. One student was killed - allegedly by police - in a three-day protest that turned violent at **Enugu State University of Science and Technology** in Nigeria. Some 27 students have reportedly been arrested.

Volume 28.19
7 December 2009

Law faculty recruits students in Rwanda



Long arm of the law: (From left) Assoc Prof Elrena van der Spuy, Emmanuel Muvunyi (SFAR) and Prof Evance Kalula in Kigali, Rwanda.

The deputy deans who hold the postgraduate studies and internationalisation portfolios in the Faculty of Law travelled to Kigali recently to meet with prospective students.

Earlier this year an exchange agreement between the Ministries of Education of the governments of South Africa and Rwanda paved the way for a group of 19 students to register for the LLM programme in the faculty.

The recent visit aimed at consolidating the exchange agreement, streamlining administrative processes and administering language proficiency tests to a second round of prospective students. The UCT delegation was hosted by the director of SFAR, Emmanuel Muvunyi.

During their brief visit Professor Evance Kalula and Associate Professor Elrena van der Spuy also attended the opening session of the Judicial Open Week, at which issues relating to justice sector

reform in Rwanda were discussed.

The Honourable Chief Justice spoke about far-reaching institutional reforms involving the modernisation of infrastructure, and the development of technological skills and human resource capacity within the justice sector.

The discussions also touched on the challenges confronting the reform of the judicial sector in post-conflict jurisdictions. The delegation paid a brief courtesy call to the Minister of Education. A visit to the Genocide Memorial Museum brought the visit to a fitting conclusion. "Fifteen years after the blood events of 1994, life in Kigali seems to have transformed itself," Van der Spuy said. "The city is situated on rolling green hills. The vegetation is lush. The streets are clean. More importantly, public perception reflects an absence of concerns about public safety - in sharp contrast to South Africa."

Among the students there was eagerness to explore the possibilities of exchange, she added.

"As a potential host institution, UCT also stands to benefit from the presence of a cadre of motivated postgraduate students who will bring their comparative experiences to bear on wider African conversations about law, justice and democratisation."

Volume 28.19
7 December 2009

Edu watch - Education news from Africa and the world

While the **University Of Benin** in Nigeria has named dean of education Prof Osayuki Godwin Oshodin as its new vice-chancellor - becoming the first Bini man to hold the position at the 39-year-old university - one of the other candidates, Professor Emmanuel Obaseki-Ebo, has urged the university's council to declare him the winner instead as due process had not been followed, he claims.

Kyambogo University's Prof Isaiah Ndiege.

Uganda's High Court has ordered the vice-chancellor of **Kyambogo University**, Prof Isaiah Ndiege, and a security officer to vacate their offices until a case filed against the university is settled.

Three university officials were among those recently interrogated by police over death threats directed at Ndiege, who hails from Kenya. The three officials are appealing the investigations against them.

Volume 28.19
7 December 2009
Drug discovery award for Chin'ombe



On the move: Dr Nyasha Chin'ombe.

It is high time that African scientists find African solutions for Africa, says postdoctoral research fellow Dr Nyasha Chin'ombe. Chin'ombe has been selected by the National Research Foundation to participate in the South Africa Drug Discovery programme in 2010.

The Drug Discovery programme is a collaboration between Emory University and South Africa and aims to build a high-calibre cadre of scientists who will play an important role in the development of vaccines and other biopharmaceuticals against HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases.

"We know that vaccines can save millions of lives and we need to start making our own vaccines here in Africa" said the scholar from the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences. Chin'ombe will spend the next 12 to 24 months in the US to learn cutting-edge research technologies in vaccine discovery. This stint will include a year at Emory University, starting in February next year, to learn about the broader aspects of drug-discovery-driven research.

"When I return to South Africa, I plan to work on vaccines that are badly needed in Africa".

Chin'ombe graduated from UCT with a PhD in medical virology in 2007. He is currently a postdoctoral research fellow under Professor Anna-Lise Williamson's SARChI chair for Vaccinology.

"I looking forward to taking up a new challenge."

Volume 28.20
14 December 2009

Edu Watch - Education news from Africa and the world

(Sources: Independent Online, Reuters, Times Higher Education)

In **Mogadishu** a suicide bomber disguised as a veiled woman killed at least 19 people at a medical graduation ceremony in a city hotel earlier this month, including three Somali government ministers. It was the worst attack in the lawless Horn of Africa nation since June, when hard-line al Shabaab insurgents killed the security minister and at least 30 others in a suicide bombing at a hotel in Baladwayne.

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Seeing into the country's future

Trailblazers: (From left) Marie Ravelson, Prof Colin Cook, Simon Yuh and Elvis Chipili.

Pathfinders on the road to community eye health

Three UCT students are blazing a hitherto-uncharted trail in the important field of community eye health. Elvis Chipili from Zambia, Simon Yuh from Cameroon, and Marie Ravelson from Madagascar will graduate this month after completing UCT's first-ever postgraduate diploma in community eye health.



The course is not only a first for UCT, but for South Africa itself. Indeed, only one other similar course exists in sub-Saharan Africa - at Tunaimi University in Moshi, Tanzania.

Course convener Professor Colin Cook, professor of ophthalmology at UCT's Department of Surgery, says the three had previously obtained certificates in the subject after completing a course in 2008, but this is the first time a diploma course has been offered.

UCT advertised for the course throughout sub-Saharan Africa, and the response was encouraging indeed. No fewer than 22 applicants have applied for next year's course, which can accommodate 20 students.

"The course is designed to develop capacity in the management of blindness-prevention programmes in Africa," Cook explains, adding that the main causes of blindness in Africa are cataracts, glaucoma, trachoma and diabetic retinopathy.

He says the three will make a valuable contribution towards the management of blindness-prevention programmes in the future, on a continent where there is an urgent need for such skills. "UCT wants to position itself as a truly African university, facing truly African challenges," says Cook. The community eye health course will play its part in furthering this objective.

The three students will take their newly-acquired expertise back to their native countries and, in Ravelson's case, she will be responsible for overseeing the co-ordination of a national blindness prevention programme affecting a population of 18 million people.

Cook, himself an alumnus of UCT, describes himself as an ophthalmologist with an interest in community eye health, and has been at UCT for the past three years.

He says UCT is an exciting place to work, particularly as it is committed to being a relevant African educational institution, facing often uniquely African challenges, and partnering other leading universities on the continent in this important pursuit.

He believes the first three community eye health graduates are harbingers of bigger things to come in this vital area of health care. No doubt future graduates will grow and strengthen this noble cause even further.

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Three more USHEPiA PhDs for Africa

The University Science Humanities & Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPiA) programme is celebrating the graduation of three more African academics who will receive PhD degrees this week through their Fellowships. The three Fellows currently celebrating their achievement are Christine Noe of the University of Dar es Salaam, Richard Okoth of the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology, and Samuel Majalija of Makerere University.



USHEPiA was set up to promote collaboration among established African researchers in the generation and dissemination of knowledge, and to build institutional and human capacity in African universities.

UCT's partner universities are Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology, Makerere University, (Uganda), University of Botswana, University of Dar es Salaam, University of Nairobi, University of Zambia, and the University of Zimbabwe.

Since the programme's inception, 64 full degree Fellowships have been in operation. The three PhDs that will be awarded this week bring the number of successful Fellowships to 48.

Noe's PhD is titled Bioregional planning in Southeast Africa: The creation and consequences of the Selous-Niassa Transfrontier Conservation Area. Okoth's PhD is on the development of transgenic drought-tolerant maize, while Majalija's thesis investigates the impact assessment of antibiotic use in livestock on human health in the pastoralist farming systems of south-western Uganda.

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SADC nations not on the same page



If the punchline of Laurie Nathan's doctoral thesis - that domestic stability is a necessary condition of a security community - would seem self-evident to many, it seems is not.

Much of the literature on security communities, Nathan explains, takes a different view. "The concept of security communities was developed principally by international-relations scholars who were more interested in relations between states, not relations within states," he says. "For them, a security community existed where there was no prospect whatsoever of a war between a group of states." (Think Australia and New Zealand, the US and Canada.) But things are a little different in the South African Development Community (SADC), an agreement between 15 Southern African states to boost economic, political and security co-operation. And in his thesis, Nathan explains what went wrong with the SADC. (Now a research associate at UCT and a visiting fellow at the Crisis States Research Centre at the London School of Economics, Nathan, then head of the UCT-based Centre for Conflict

Resolution, was part of the international teams that developed many SADC policies.)

Three things undermined the SADC's ambitions. One: the lack of common values. A mixed bag of democracies and authoritarian states, there was little agreement on some key issues, such as the civil war in Angola and the troubles in Zimbabwe.

Two: SADC states are economically and administratively weak. "Weak states necessarily set up weak organisations," says Nathan.

And, three: SADC states - in sharp contrast to those in the European Community, for example - do not want to relinquish sovereignty to the regional organisation. (Zimbabwe would just shrug off any SADC decisions with which it did not agree.)

It doesn't bode well for the organisation, then. But while one strong state - even South Africa - wouldn't have the clout to bring the others to heel, a small, strong partnership may, Nathan suggests.

A pity then, he adds, that the region's two potential powerhouses, South Africa - although still wary of the 'bully' label it earned during apartheid - and Zimbabwe, can't play that role.

Addendum B

Die Matie

■ Gedwonge integrasiebeleid veroorsaak rassekonflik by Universiteit van die Vrystaat

Kovsies worstel met koshuisintegrasiekrisis

JO WESSELS

Die UNIVERSITEIT van die Vrystaat (UV) bots "in kennis" Die insidings van Universteiteitsraad het op 8 Julie 'n beleid goedgekeur wat drastiese veranderinge vir koshuise inhoud. Hierdie beleid, algemeen bekend as gedwonge integrasie, sal verorsaak dat die bestaande aparte koshuise vir swart en wit studente versamende jaar getoëger word. Die afgelope maand is gekenmerk deur studentebetegings, omgekeerde debatte in kante en verspreiding van identiteit.

Die UV het reeds in 1990 'n planningskema van progressief was in koshuise sou integreer, maar dit het destyds te veel konflik tussen swart en wit studente aangewek. 'n Middeweg is gesaai soval studente vryheid van assosiasie kon behou was betrek tot lusse. Dit het egter met die verspreiding van tyd geleidelik tot die toetskoning van "kultuurekhuise" wat of swart is.

Die nuwe beleid stel egter die vereiste dat 30% van eerstejaars in die insidings van koshuise volgende jaar swart studente moet wees. Dierelike geld vir swart koshuise was ook 30% van eerstejaars studente moet hanteer in 2008. Hierdie syfer word in 2009 op tweejaars van toepassing en in 2010 op driejaars. 'n Studente (nagrade) moet van volgende jaar af 'n 50/50 verhouding handhaaf tussen swart en wit studente.

Met die nuwe planningsbeleid behou koshuise die 30% van hulle eerstejaars te plaas, terwyl die universiteit se verpligtinge in beheer is van die res. Sodanige kan koshuise eenheids verantwoordelikhed neem vir hulle diversiteitskwa. Indien die koshuise nie verspreid die 30% vereiste behaal nie, sal die universiteit met die oorlyfende 70% die kwota beheer. Hoekom is dit nodig? Die Raad

Dit het egter met die verloop van tyd geleidelik tot die toetskoning van "kultuurekhuise" wat of swart is.

bestaan dat studente se identiteit en taal binne koshuise verlore sou gaan. Die SAOP het 'n verskeie gelyk waaier hul gepra het dat daar minstens een mans- en vroukoshuise behou word wat "op 'n uitgesproke Christelike karakter gestruk is".

Die Vryheidsfront Plus (VF+) is die grootste politieke organisasie by Kovsies, het op 25 Julie 'n opdrag gegee waar daar protes gemaak is teen die integrasiebeleid van die UV. Op 29 Oktober 2007 studente en ouers het op die Rooiplan versamel voor die universiteit se Hooftgebou. Afnemende Universteiteits Raad van die VF+, het die skare toegepreek en geëis om die UV hof toe te sleep. 'n Memorandum is ook aan die universiteit oorgeleë, waarin die VF+ stel dat hulle nie teen integrasie gekant is nie, maar wel teen die gedwonge manier waarop die UV dit toepas.

SASSCO, die opposisie van die VF+, het raspeur deur verlate week: 'n ontgong te reël ter ondersteuning van die UV se planne vir integrasie. Gegreter dertig studente het aan herte akademiese gestuurdheid, kleur en outerdoms gestrek.

Wat studente op Stellenbosch betref, is 43% van alle voorgemaakte bruin studente in 55% van swart studente in koshuise geplaas, wat 39% van voorgemaakte wit studente in koshuise is. In Tygerberg-koshuise word die volgende persentasies van studente in koshuise geplaas: Bruin 48%, swart 91% en wit 43%.



PROTES OP DIE ROOIPLEAN Studente betoeg voor Kovsies se Hooftgebou teen gedwonge integrasie in koshuise. Foto: VOORSIG

Hoe veel jy oor rasse-integrasie by US?

SMS "MTALK" en jou mening by 33090



HAVING THEIR CAKE Amadi Ahiamadu (centre), president of the Association of Nigerian Students in Stellenbosch University (ANSU), cuts a cake which resembles the Nigerian flag, during a recent celebration held in the Neelsie's Vrouvereniging Hall to commemorate Nigeria's independence. The association was also officially launched at the event. Foto: PETER FRANCIS THEON

Matie midde-in Kenia onluste

JACQUES DE VILLIERS

Die SITUASIE in Kenia is nie so erg soos wat die media dit voorstel nie. Dit is die mening van Jaco du Toit, BA (Waarde en Beleidsstudie) student, wat in die Desember-afskryf van 'n artikel by die VN-kantoor in Nairobi gedoen het.

Dit is gedurende hierdie tyd dat volkskale geweld tussen die Kikuyu en die Luas, die twee grootste etniese groepe in Kenia, losgebars het. Daar is reeds meer as 750 mense dood en 300 000 is verplaas. Dit kom nadat prof Mwai Kibaki herverkies is as Kenia se staatspresident. Aantygings van knoeryer deur mnr Raila Oding, die opposisieleier, en onderliggende spanning tussen die Kikuyu en die Luas het die geweld ontken.

Een van die mees grusame tonele wat hiers in die land afgespeel het, was toe 'n kerkt met tienjarige vroue en kinders tot op die grond afgebrand is.

Hierdie onluste word groterende deur werkloos, armes en gemarginaliseerde jeugdiges ontlok. Kenia het 'n werkloosheidsyfer van 40% en meer as die helfte van die 39 miljoen mense in Kenia leef onder die armoedegrens.

Du Toit het in totaal drie maande intenskap by die UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme) as deel van sy Waarde en Beleidsstudie-grad gedoen. Die projek behels die ophoë van armoede in die omringende area deur die ekologiese omgewing doelgerig te benut. Hy het 'n maand in Junie gewerk en twee in Desember en Januarie.

Volgens Du Toit is dit opvallend hoe die Keniese houding jenseits hul land verander het. Voor die verkiesing was almal baie positief oor die land se ontwikkeling en groei, maar nou is almal bang en niemand gaan meer werk loe nie. "Alles waarvoor die land die afgelope tien jaar so hard gewerk het, is binne twee weke vernietig," meen hy.

Kenia se vernaamste uitvoerprodukte sluit in koffie, tee, vis en sement. Mnr Amos Kimuyu, die vroeër gesê dat die geweld in Kenia die land tot soveel as \$1 miljard kan kos. Meeste toeriste het byvoorbeeld hul besoeke kortgeknip en het uit vrees die land verlaat.

Die VN het ook al sy interne werkers vroeg huis toe gestuur en Du Toit moet dus 'n bietjie vroeër as beplan na Suid-Afrika terugkeer. Hy het gesê dat Kenia 'n besonder mooi land is en dat hy graag weer soutoesal wil gaan. Dit maak die huidige situasie in die land vir hulle soveel erger.

Waarom ander kulture die taaldebate ignoreer

IN SY rubriek in *Die Burger* (6 Desember 2007), in die voetspore trap van soveel ander sogemaande multikulturele lande, waar minderheids-groep politiek en kultureel verweem word en een dominante kultuur en taal blaat afgetoëer word op die hele bevolking. O, ons kan getrou bly aan die rigting wat oudpresident Mandela in die neentigs aangewys het en onseel daarop besig is om Suid-Afrika in 'n volwaardige reënboognasie te omskep.

Afrikaans en Stellenbosch Univeriteit is sentraal tot hierdie kruispunt-dillemma, en ek wil amper so ver gaan as om te sê ons as Maties hou die lewels vas wat Suid-Afrika na die droom van 1994 kan draai. Dink net wat dit vir ons, die hele Afrikaanse gemeenskap en die res van die land sal beteken as ons dit reglym of transformasie by die universiteit te bewerkstellig sonder om Afrikaans as tersêre ondergraaf dood te wurg. In verbeel jou ons kry dit reg sonder om afbrek te doen aan die Matie-kultuur met al sy koshuise-tadissies soos wat ons en ons voorouers dit ken en lief het!

So 'n prestasie sou kragtige getuig van 'n volk wat sy deure oopgemaak het, nie net om ander etniese en onvoorwaardelik welkom te heet tot sy kultuur en taal nie, maar ook om self teogan te kry tot die lalle ander kulture en tale van ons land en die wêreld.

Dus gaan die geveg vir die behoud van Afrikaans aan Stellenbosch Univeriteit nie net oor die taal nie, maar ook – en eintlik meer belangrik – oor transformasie in en deur die taal. Kom ons skop hierdie jaar af met 'n oop en tegemoetkomende ingestelheid teenoor Maties van ander tale en kulture. Kom ons val gesdrifte bande, nie net met ons bruin broers en susters nie, maar ook met al ons ander mede-Afrikane, hetsy van Zhoes, Zulu, Sotho, of watter afkoms ook al. En kom ons breek die vermatte mure rondom ons pragtige taal, kultuur en universiteit af en bou 'n Stellenbosch waarheen mense van naby en ver sal wil kom om te sien hoe mense met die grootste verskeie bedagsaam saam kan leef, studeer, en ontspan in 'n ryk en kleurvolle Afrikaanse taal en kultuur.

Ons bevind onseel vandag in die perfekte posisie om nie net die morele hoe grond in hierdie land te beklee en 'n voorbeeld te stel vir die res van Suid-Afrika nie, maar ook om ons eie taal en kultuur te verryk en uit te brei soos nog nooit tevore nie. Suid-Afrika staan vandag by 'n kruispunt. Ons kan toelaat dat Suid-Afrika

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**NICO DE WET
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- Sluitingsdatum is 9 November 2007
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*'n Kopie van die aansoek vorm kan afgehaal word by die Kantoor vir Nagraadse Beurse, Admin A2069.

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- 26 October 2007 - All foreigners

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Conversations at Stellenbosch market sheds light on curio trade industry

African craft market a melting pot of cultures

SAVA CHIVIMBISO

WHETHER you are a tourist looking to purchase a piece of African art or a local looking to appreciate the land of your ancestry, there are numerous crafts and products to choose from – all in the heart of Stellenbosch, next to Die Brak.

Crafts range from masks, instruments, jewellery, beads and wood-carved animals to Batik – prints on silk, paper or cotton.

Not only does the market take you on a journey through the African continent, it is also filled with interesting individuals who rely on their income from the daily market for their survival.

The traders and artists are mostly from Malawi and Zambia and the South African are predominantly from the Eastern Cape. The international traders are mostly in South Africa temporarily – they come during the business seasons – and only a few are permanent residents.

Generally, it was discovered that all the traders enjoy living in Stellenbosch. Although most of them viewed this reporter with suspicion and were not willing to have someone else view into their personal lives, a general understanding of their existence was gained. For many of these traders, being part of the market is their way of making ends meet, as most of them are their families' sole breadwinners.

have ethnic and cultural significance attached to them. The fertility dolls, for instance, made by a Malawian artist called Dennis, are believed to help women get pregnant and also to aid the safe delivery of a baby.

The commercialisation of African art is evident here. Dennis was adamant that the fertility dolls come from Malawi, when in fact they are from Ghanaian and Nigerian ethnic societies. The origin and greater significance of anything you buy at such a market therefore comes into question. One wonders what will keep African art from losing its original cultural meaning in the future.

Nickson and George, two Malawian traders encountered at the market, are not artists themselves, but go to Malawi to buy art pieces. When asked what was uniquely Malawian art that he had found anywhere else in the market, they presented me with a carved doorknob – unique to Malawi, according to them. However, when moving through the market I encountered the same art at another stall. Which begs the question: Is there really art that is truly unique to a particular nation?

Regardless of what nation traders are from, they often sell the same goods. We are witnessing the mass commercialisation of African art. Another trouble coming with the African markets is the pricing of crafts. Consumers have been baffled by the way an artist's price can start at R400 and then go down to 150 after some bargaining. According to

the Malawian traders, it is simply a matter of where a buyer is from. "If you're a tourist, you have foreign currency and with the exchange rate they have plenty of money. At the end of the day we are going to charge a tourist a tourist's price and locals a nicer price," said Nickson.

One could never sell a replica of Leonardo Da Vinci as an original, so why is it that African art pieces are sold short? Most crafts do not have patents and therefore even a fake piece can be mass produced and

sent off as an original. It has become a matter of making ends meet and whatever significance these art pieces hold earlier is diminishing with the years.

However, while cringing through the market and encountering all types of characters, you are introduced to other ways of life and art. Among these characters were the hostile, irritated and secretive, the humble, telling stories of their journeys with art, and the funny ones who remain courteous at all times.



PRODUCTS FOR AFRICA One of the friendly traders (right) at the African crafts market in Stellenbosch. The products (left) often display a low degree of originality as most traders sell similar artefacts. Photo: JULIA WILHEM

Forum 13

DieMATTIE 23 April 2008

ZIM STUDENT WANTS PEACE

KWYTRAAK

Carline Jansen van Nieuwenhuizen

ISAAC NDLOVU

HE IS A well-known face in the English department of Stellenbosch University where he is finishing his doctoral thesis. He is friendly and consistently smiles during our interview. But when we started talking about his homeland Zimbabwe he got very emotional. "I can see what it can be, the potential in that country and what it is."

Isaac Ndlovu was born in Bulawayo in 1972, and moved to his grandparents' home in a rural area between the midlands and Matabeli North. After completing his primary and secondary education, he trained as a teacher at a Zimbabwean college and went on to teach high school English Literature.

Ndlovu embodies one of those characteristics that define Zimbabweans. They are hard-working people. He couldn't get into university because his marks were too low. "Back then there were fewer universities and admission was strict, so while I was teaching I studied until my marks were good enough to gain entrance." He then spent three years at the University of Zimbabwe where he obtained his Honours degree in English.

When the Zimbabwean civil war, which raged between 1982 and 1989, got very intense, Ndlovu's family had to flee the Matabeli lands. Supporters of the two opposing contenders for power, Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe, were fighting for leadership of the country. Mugabe's socialist, or Zinbawo, was a military war especially trained in North Korea to kill innocent people, but not armed dissidents (as Nkomo's followers were known). Their mission was to rule villages by means of a reign of terror, Ndlovu explains.

"I think it's unfair how the media have handled the Zimbabwe issue. Without the economic issue, Zimbabwe is a far better place to be than South Africa."



Isaac NDLOVU

up. In 1997, Zimbabwe became a one-party state. For a while there was no longer and things were looking good. But Mugabe's image was tarnished by the civil war. Things changed and started their decline to the current state of affairs.

Ndlovu says if it were not for the people of Zimbabwe, the economy would've collapsed a long time ago. "Zimbabweans are hard-working people. You see the Zimbabwean women here selling stuff on the street. They have houses in Zam. Selling stuff is a way of saying, 'I can't just sit and cry, I have to do something.' The few remaining things are being used as collateral. The few remaining things are being used as collateral. The few remaining things are being used as collateral."



Robo CYRIL PRINSLOO

will be out of power. Because there is no serious opposition, they get comfortable in their positions as rulers of the state." According to Ndlovu, Mugabe and his government have realised that the land is in ruins, but they can't change themselves anywhere else.

The recent shipment of weapons from China isn't a cause for concern, according to Ndlovu. "Zimbabwe has always been importing weapons. Mugabe has enough weapons to take over the land and the MDC (Movement for Democratic Change) have nothing. They don't have to import extra if they want to shoot everybody. They are not really available to people, like here in South Africa, and that's the other reason why the levels of violent crime are low [in Zimbabwe]."

Ndlovu says he experiences a certain hostility in South Africa. "I think it is because of the crime. And just this morning, I woke up and my bike was gone. So casually, my bike is gone. It's traumatic." With a huge smile on his face, Ndlovu tells me that he has a first-hand experience to return to Zimbabwe to the country's stability.

(Kwytraak@diemattie.sun.ac.za)

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Studente help xeno-slagoffers

NIELEN BOTTMOLY

DIE LAND is in Mei vanjaar deur talloos xenobesies aanvalle geteister. In die Kaap-omgewing het meer as 17 000 immigrante gevloeg van geweldige optrede, en hulle is tydelik in vlugtelingskampe geteuter.

Nadat 30 besprekings in Kayamandi aangeval is, het vlugtelings by die polisiekantoor bymekaargekom. Stellenbosch-Munisipaliteit het toe vir vlugtelings in "veelgahoue" langs die Stellenbosch-Durbanpad Informasie Sentrum geopen, en daar het tot 320 mense gebly.

Die universiteit het dadelik ingegryp met hulp vir die slagoffers. Verskeie plekke is afgeken vir studente om klere te skenk. Mike Leslie, SK-lid vir Gemeenskapsaangeleenskappe, se dat hulle om en by vyf kombi-organiseer vol klere-donasies en 40 ou matrasse aan Stellenbosch Munisipaliteit gestuur het.

Bare studente het ook gaan hulp verleen by die veelgahoue in Stellenbosch en Harmony Park in die Strand. Volgens Die Bosman van Huis Visser, wat vir 'n dag by Harmony Park in Strand gaan help het, was dit teleurstellend dat daar net twee Suid-Afrikaners in hul groep van agt mense was. Hy se wel dat dit vir baie mense moeilik was om fisies te gaan hulp verleen, omdat die aanvalle in die skedule gebeur het. Sy groep het hoofsaaklik toelooptogies gemaak en Klere-opsaamers.

Sonnyne kostuums het ook hul deel in insameling gehou om aan die slagoffers te skenk. So het Huis ten Bosch saam met BottomUp Community Project gewerk en klere, kos en babaprodukte aan areas soos De Noon



ONWETEND, ONSKULDIG Een van die kinders in die vlugtelingskamp soos met 'n tennisbal terwyl haar gesin vir befusung wag. Foto: NIELEN BOTTMOLY

te skenk. Irene het 'n fondseninsameling gehou en die geld aan die Kaapstadse rangbystandstoets gestuur.

Euse Kothuise, 3000 Huis Visser, het weer klere ingesamel en aan die universiteit gegee om te versprei. Cara Moutse, 16-jarige vrou, het ook hul deel in insameling gehou om aan die slagoffers te skenk. So het Huis ten Bosch saam met BottomUp Community Project gewerk en klere, kos en babaprodukte aan areas soos De Noon

Die beker van ongeluk loop oor

A(a)polities



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PERDESKOENE, haasopte, klawers met vier klare die eier. "En vir sommige selfs tuisvlytelinge onderbroke. Alles gelukbringers vir diegene wat kies om daarin te glo."

In Asië, byvoorbeeld, sal mense groot bedrae geld opoffer om die perfekte nommerplaat vir hul kar te kry of om in 'n huis te woon met 'n gelukskadere. Ongelukkig verstaan ek nie heeltemal hoe 'n spesifieke nommerplaat iemand sal help om 'n pap wiel te voorskyn te kom. Nêe! My gebrek aan prestasie in die afgelope eksamen kan ek ook bewestig dat gelukkige onderbroke (of enige ander "gelukkige" kledingstuk) nie regtig veel wend is nie. Dus glo ek nie veel in gelukkighede nie, maar ek is vasontersig daaraan dat sommige mense, nasies en volke bloot gelukkiger as ander is. Hulle is nasie.

Kyk net na die Joodse volk. Eens was hulle slaawe in Egipte en die enigste pad wat hulle uit daardie land kon vind was "die 40-jaarlangte roete deur die woestyn. Eindig die storie daar? Nêe! Vir die volgende 2000 jaar het en vervolg omtrent almal op die planete hulle. Al daardie haat bou

op tot 'n klimaks in die Tweede Wêreldoorlog, toe die Duitsers besluit om hulle by die miljoene te vernoo.

Tog eindig die storie nie eers daar nie. Ná al hierdie ongeluk besluit hulle om terug te trek na die beloofde land Israel om hul eie staat te stig. Dit sal viriger wees om lewiers nie hier enige opinie te lewer oor die kontroversiële Israeliese staat nie, maar dit is genoeg om te se dat Israel nie bekend is as 'n plek waar jy jou kinders wil grootmaak nie. Die storie van die Joodse volk, soos jy sekerlik nou kan sien, is een van baie bad

Sommige ... nasies ... is bloot gelukkiger as ander. Hulle is net.

luc

Die mense van ons eie kontinent het net so 'n geskiedenis van teenop-od. Klimaatverandering, wat grootdeels deur die onwettelike wêreld geskied, veroorsaak gevrees hier by ons. Onlangse navorsing het ook gedring dat dieselfde geskied wat Afrikaner gedeeltek ten malana beskem, hulle ook meer vatbaar maak vir MIW/VIGS. Die navorsers beskou dit as die rede agter die vinrige verspreiding van VIGS in Afrika.

'n Mens lees natuurlik gereed van tragiese gebeurtenisse in Afrika, soos droogtes en oorloë,

en telkens kan 'n mens net nie anders nie as om gefrustreerd jou hande in die lug te gooi. Hoerel teensoos kan 'n enkele kontinent hê? Die mense van hierdie kontinent het 'n catch-22 op 'n genetiese vlak! Evolusie het gedink hy help Afrika deur 'n waardevolle immunitet op te bou, maar toe daag die altyd-sleutiger meji Vigs op net sodat dinge interessant bly.

Die wet van gemiddeldes vereis natuurlik dat sulke ongelukke die een of ander tyd hulself moet uitbalanseer, maar dit wil al hoe meer voorkom asof Murphy en sy lastige wet aan Afrika klou om lewe en dood. Ons kan net hoop dat die Afrika-Renaissance binnkort sy gesig sal wys en daarmee 'n duisend generasies se bad luck van die tafel af ve.

Miskien is geluk, of dan nou bad luck, net my eie pseudo-wenskaplike benadering tot die probleme van Afrika. Almal ken reeds die ander toesae wat die toestand van Afrika veel beter verklaar: Geskiedkundige en geografiese faktore, kolonialisme, swak ekonomiese beleid, politieke onstabielheid na onafhanklikwording, ensovoorts.

Die argumente daa natuurlik meer waarde as my eie "bad luck-teorie". Wanneer ons egter al daardie goed probeer uitsorteer om Afrika 'n beter plek te maak, sal dit ons definitief geen skade aandoen om die geluk ook aan ons kant te hê nie. Ons het lank genoeg daarsonder gelewe. Die wet van gemiddeldes skuld ons 'n fortuin en met die hie rekteoekers maak dit net sin dat hy so vinrig moontlik sy skuld moet verleen.

Universities must face transformation

A UNIVERSITY of Cape Town symposium held last week concluded that transformation and globalisation are some of the biggest problems facing South African universities. The symposium was one of a number of events planned to mark the appointment of new UCT Vice-Chancellor Max Price. Speakers, including former UCT vice-chancellor Mamphele Ramphela, addressed the role of universities in society. Aklagga Sawyer, law professor at the University of Ghana who until recently held the position of the Association of African Universities' secretary-general, suggested that UCT address transformation for the sake of expansion. It should accomplish

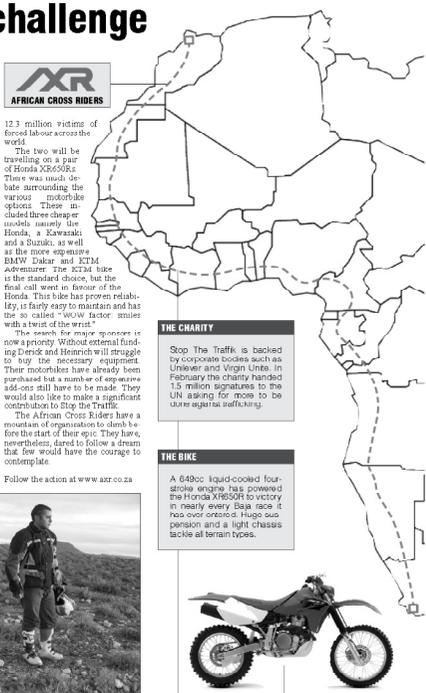
this by rethinking its access programme, which has at times been criticized for excluding intelligent but underprivileged students. Sawyer said that if it was not done, universities ran the risk of becoming "confirmers of privilege". Ramphela, who described UCT as an institution aspiring to be a "world-class African university," argued that this could never be achieved until it could match the likes of overseas Ivy League institutions. She added that such an undertaking required transformative leadership, that the era of "Madiba magic" was over and it was time to face the reality of unfulfilled promises and substantial economic gaps.

Rock vir Zimbabwe

DIS EENVOUDIG: Suid-Afrika se top-bands, 'n lekker venue, baie mense en die winste gaan vir 'n goeie doel. Zimfest 2008 is om die draai en vanjaar kom maak dié fees vir die eerste keer 'n Suid-Afrikaanse draai. Dit vind op 6 September by die Tafelberg Tavern in Kaapstad plaas en met bands soos Freshlyground, The Rudimentals, Shy Guy en The Dirty Skirts gaan hierdie fees werklik 'n genotvolle ervaring wees. Wat Zimfest eger onderskei van ander musiekfeeste is die doel wat daaraan gekoppel word. Die idee is om geld in te samel vir die inwoners van Zimbabwe en om ook soende bewusheid te kweek onder die Suid-Afrikaanse publiek. Daarom gaan al die opbrengte wat uit die kaartjieverkope verkry word aan humanitiese pogings in dié land. Feeselikhede skop reeds 10:00 af en daar sal natuurlik tot laat die aand nog gekuier word met die laaste band wat eers 22:05 die verhoog betree. Besoek www.zimfest.co.za vir meer inligting. - *Dag & Nag-redaksie*

'Cross Riders' plan daring African challenge

Jonathan Reader speaks to Heinrich Snyman and Derick le Roux about their dream to cross Africa on two wheels.



AFRICAN CROSS RIDERS

12.3 million victims of forced labour across the world. The two will be travelling on a pair of Honda XR600s. There was much debate surrounding the various motorcycle options. These included three cheaper models namely the Honda, a Kawasaki and a Suzuki, as well as the more expensive BMW Dakar and KTM Adventurer. The KTM bike is the standard choice, but the final call went in favour of the Honda. This bike has proven reliability, is fairly easy to maintain and has the so-called 'wow' factor - smiles with a twist of the wrist.

The search for major sponsors is now a priority. Without external funding Derick and Heinrich will struggle to buy the necessary equipment. Their motorcycles have already been purchased but a number of expensive add-ons still have to be made. They would also like to make a significant contribution to Stop the Traffic.

The African Cross Riders have a mountain of equipment to stow before the start of their epic. They have, nevertheless, dared to follow a dream that few would have the courage to contemplate.

Follow the action at www.aacr.co.za

PHOTO: SUPPLIER

THE CHARITY: Stop the Traffic is backed by corporate bodies such as Unilever and Virgin Unite. In February the charity handed 1.5 million signatures to the UN asking for more to be done against trafficking.

THE BIKE: A 649cc liquid-cooled four-stroke engine has powered the Honda XR600R to victory in nearly every Baja race it has ever entered. Huge suspension and a light chassis make it a serious performer.

Heinrich and Derick in Angola

PHOTO: SUPPLIER

SUID-AFRIKAANSE NUUS

Rassehaat in Reitz
Chaos het uitgebreek op die Universiteit van die Vrystaat (UV) se kampus nadat twee swart studente afgekom het op 'n video waarin wit manustudente die skooftmakers van hul koshuise, Reitz-kamerwoning, 'n brousel laat drink wat vermoedelik onder meer urine bevat het. Swart studente het hierop gereageer met geweldige optogte, doodsdreigemente en vandalisme. Dié voorval het internasionaal opslae gemaak en die minister van onderwys, me Naledi Pandor, het 'n ministeriële komitee byeengeroep om transformasie en diskriminasie by tersiêre instellings te ondersoek.

Thabo Mbeki tree uit
Suid-Afrika se tweede demokraties-verkose president sedert 1994, Thabo Mbeki, het bedank nadat die Nasionale Uitvoerende Komitee (NUK) van die ANC hom versoek het om die amp as staatshoof neer te lê. Dié versoek het na vermoede gevolg op die Zuma-hotuisspraak deur regter Chris Nicholson, waarin beweringe dat Mbeki heel moontlik betrokke was by die aanklagte teen die ANC-president, Jacob Zuma, geloofwaardigheid verky het.



INTERNASIONALE NUUS

Aardbewing in China
'n Kragtige aardbewing, van 7.8 op die Richterskaal, het in Mei vanjaar die lewens van 8 500 mense in China geëis. Die impak van die aardbewing was so groot dat dit selfs in Vietnam en Thailand gevoel kon word. 'n Tweede aardbewing met 'n omvang van 6.1 het ook later in Augustus gevolg. Sowat 180 000 huise is daardeur vernietig en tussen 20 en 30 lewens is geëis.

Olimpiese Spele
Die nege-en-twintigste moderne Olimpiese Spele is vanjaar in Beijing, China, gehou. Van die hoogtepunte op die spele sluit in die Amerikaanse swemmer, Michael Phelps, wat 'n rekord agt goue medaljes verower en sewe rekords verbreek het. Usain Bolt van Jamaica het ook nuwe wereldrekords opgestel met die wen van die 100m- sowel as 200m-sneloef. Suid-Afrika se span van 200 watersporters het 'n silwermedalje opgelewer danksy Khotso Mokoena se prestasie in die verpersing finale.

2009

Guest Writer: PENI DODO

International students receive warm university welcome

IN THE week from 19 to 23 January approximately 330 international students arrived in Stellenbosch, some to study here for a semester as part of a university exchange programme, some for longer periods and some for full degrees. The students represent a wide array of countries, hailing from, amongst others, our African neighbours, the USA, the UK, France, Germany and even Chile.

In order to introduce them to Stellenbosch, South Africa and the university, the International Office (IO) held an orientation week for all international students. Day one of the programme, Wednesday 21 March, saw the international students meeting the SRC, getting some exposure to Isixhosa and Afrikaans as well as a discussion on HIV/Aids. Safety and security on campus was another important topic that was featured. In the afternoon they were taken on a campus and town tour.

The whole orientation process relies quite heavily on the "souIMatie"

team, a group of 24 South African Stellenbosch students who stuck with the international students throughout the week. The "souIMaties" led the campus and town tours and are an invaluable source of information and assistance.

On the Thursday the international students' academic, accommodation and financial issues were addressed. The concepts of "culture shock" and South African identities were also dealt with. The day ended with a comprehensive tour of the library.

The highlight of the programme was, however, definitely the weekend activities. On Friday night the international students celebrated South African culture with a drumming session held on the library steps. Once they got the hang of the instruments, listening

to the whole group play together was a fantastic treat. The drumming was followed by a delicious spit braai and the evening was rounded off by the DJ who kept the dancing going late into the night.

On Saturday and Sunday the students were taken on a tour of Cape Town courtesy of Leka-Leka tours and, staying true to their name, a lekker time was had by all. The international students got a chance to see and experience The Company Gardens and Parliament, Signal Hill, Camps Bay and the V&A Waterfront. On Saturday the Adventure Center sponsored a social evening for the students where a traditional braai was enjoyed by all.

The orientation programme served as an introduction to living and studying in Stellenbosch and was packed with information to assist students to adjust to our culture. Next time you hear an unfamiliar accent in your class, make sure you make these international students feel at home on our campus.

[T]he DJ ... kept the dancing going late into the night

USBD sê studente moenie self geleentheid vir misdaad skep nie

Misdaad op kampus wek kommer

MIA SMIT

'N ONLANGSE vlag van misdaad op kampus het studente hul veiligheid laat bevraagteken. In die mees onlangse voorval is 'n manlike student deur 'n man voorgereker wat om geld gevra het. Die student het genoem dat hy nie geld het nie, maar die man het aangehou en die student het hom R5 gegee. Die man het eger gesê dat daar nog R30 in die student se borsie was en het ook daarop aangedring. Die student het toe 'n nabygeleë winkel gemaak en die USBD ontbied. Die man het in Pick 'n Pay se

rigting weggehardloop, maar is deur beamptes van die USBD en 'n ADT-beampte by die hoofingang van Pick 'n Pay aangekeer. Nog 'n student, Christelze Kemp, was in 'n soortgelyke voorval betrokke. Omstreeks 01:00 op 8 Februarie is Kemp voor die Enderslaan in Victoriastraat deur twee mans aangeval.

Volgens Kemp is sy "aangeval en met 'n mes aangehou vir ongeveer 10 minute waarin daar geen USBD-beamptes in sig was om my te help nie." Na bewering het een van die mans

vir Kemp gesê: "As jy skree, maak ek jou vrek". Kemp het daarin geslaag om die mans weg te stemp. "Ek voel dit is my plig om dit te rapporteer, aangesien dit onaanvaarbaar is dat sulke insidente op die Groenroete plaasvind," sê sy.

In 'n afsonderlike voorval verlede maand is 'n internasionale student in die Botaniese Tuin herooft en onsedelik aangerand. Die student het op 27 Januarie 'n boek in die Botaniese Tuin geles, toe sy omstreeks 18:00 wou huis toe gaan, maar besef dat sy

hekke reeds gesluit is. Daar was nog 'n man saam met haar toegesluit. Hy het vir haar gevra om iemand te bel om die hek te kom opmaak. Toe sy dit doen het hy vir haar gesê dat hy 'n mes by hom het en haar seël wil lê. Die man het ook deur haar sak gegaan en haar kamera en geld gevat. Hy het vir haar gesê om na die muur toe te stap en om te draai en het haar toe onsedelik aangerand. Mike Leslie, ook 'n internasionale student en voormalige SR-lid vir Omgewingsake en Gemeenskapsinteraksie, sê dit is vir hom duidelik dat veiligheid op kampus 'n verhoegde area van kommer vir beide studente en personeelle is. –vervolg op p2

...veiligheid op kampus [is] 'n verhoegde area van kommer vir beide studente en personeelle

Breytenpolitiek

KWYTRAAK
Pieter-Francois Theon

PROF WILLIE BREYTENBACH

Ek vra Breytenbach 'n bietjie uit oor die grondwet en die bedrigings wat dit ervas. Hy behoort te weet, by het dit immers help skryf. "Ek dink die grondwet het toe dusver die toets goed gestaan. Of dit die uiteindelik toets van die sal die toets sal 'n mens maar moet sien. Daar is niks wat hul sêms opvat dat die ANC met die grondwetings van die grondwet gaan probeer toring."

Hy meen eger dat die werklike gevaar nie in wysings aan die grondwet is nie. "Die onlangse skrywing van die Sieronieme is gesien deur gewone wetsgewings wat net 'n gewone meerderheid vereis," verduidelik hy. "Die grondwet het nie net soveel spesifieke bepalinge wat gewysig kan word nie."

"Selfs al die verkieping van Zuma sal dit nie wysings aan die grondwet verp om hom bewaard te hou indien sy hofsaak voortduur nie. Die grondwet swyg oor 'n klooflike beginsel." Breytenbach meen dat gewone wetsgewings meer verkeerdelike gevolge kan hê as wysings aan die grondwet. Tog waarsku hy teen oke wysings: "In Zimbabwe was daar 19 grates [wysings]. In Suid-Afrika was daar toe dusver meestal net klein veranderinge hier en daar aan bewording."

Een van die grootste veranderinge ten opsigte van ons politieke stelsel sal volgens Breytenbach die omdraai van 'n "hêrelike kiesstelsel" wees. "En dit is moontlik deur eenvoudige wetsgewings, aangesien die grondwet slegs bepaal dat die "meeste stemme" 'n hêrelike kiesstelsel wees. "En dit is moontlik deur eenvoudige wetsgewings, aangesien die grondwet slegs bepaal dat die "meeste stemme" 'n hêrelike kiesstelsel wees."



Foto: THEO CHARL KEEK

deurheid." Hy sê dat die regerende party sal sê dat dit nie is nie. "Ek dink ook Mugabe het dit op die korreter manier reggelei om vir Tsempo nie te oortel. Die MDC bedel hom by die res van die wêreld gelyk, want hulle het die gelowbaarigheid, en Mugabe het die voordeel," dink Breytenbach. Hy wys na die onlangse aankoop van matoers vir die 71-nuwe minister van Harare ingelyf is.

Na aansigding van die verjaeding van ons almal se gasteledeleer, Bob "Die Harer" Mugabe, gesels ons 'n bietjie oor Zimbabwe. "Mugabe gryp an stroothalms!" Breytenbach vrees na die 85-jarige se onlangse uitlyding by sy verjaardagsviering. Mugabe het verklaar dat plaasvallende stede sal voortgaan ondanks die instel van 'n onlangse regering van minimele eenheid in Harare. "Ek dink die grootpans is santomptiese 'n ou wat weet sy tyd word korter."

Maar hoe gaan dit eindig? Breytenbach voorsien 'n moontlike scenario waar Mugabe aiel ley in 'n naburige land (Suid-Afrika) om hom sodende aan te moedig om sy mag af te gee.

"Ek dink dit was baie teagraduul die instel van die MDC om tydens die verkiesingsveldtoer vir Mugabe met die ICC (Internasionale Kriminale Hof in Den Haag) te dreig," sê Breytenbach.

"Om te sê op die Zuma-reis nie. Daar is 'n klomp digte hie wat my ontstel en om moet verhoed daarop pakt. Maar om moenie meedoen was nie."

"Bergating ely" gebruik word om te versterk dat hulle hulle eie wêreld sien.

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Alhoewel hy al telkens oorees was, en binnekom (daarom is hy genot) na die Mide-Ooste op pad in, maar Breytenbach steeds dat Suid-Afrika die "hoofstede plek is om te by".

"Tshabe vir die genot, dink ek nie sal jy sommer 'n loderder pldkry nie. Om is verskier die top deureweldweld!"

Hy het al soet oorees om self in die politiek in te gaan.

"'nêel Ghid nie!" verduidelik hy 'n lag. "Ek is hooplose te sinies daarvoor." Maar by te sinies oor politiek, nie demokrasie nie. En die infintie nie oor Suid-Afrika nie.

"Om te sê op die Zuma-reis nie. Daar is 'n klomp digte hie wat my ontstel en om moet verhoed daarop pakt. Maar om moenie meedoen was nie."

US gaan teen 2015 anders lyk

Watter soort Universiteit gaan die US in die tweede dekad van die 21ste eeu wees? Met sy inhouding in 2007 het prof Russel Botman, Rektor en Visekanselier, al ver wys 'n "n nuwe posisionering as 'n universiteit van uitnemendheid in die 21ste eeu. Na vier en twee jaar van besinning en konsultasie met die breë universiteitsgemeenskap het hie die wêreld van 'n "pedagoge van hoop" vorm gely in die Owerarching Strategic Plan (OSP) en kan hierdie planne nou in die praktyk begin uitrol.

"Ons studente sal saamstem dat die US hom in 'n snelveranderende wêreld bevind. As ons ons leierskapsposisie wil behou en uitbou, moet ons beduidend beter word in ons akademiese uitnemendheid en beduidend anders in ons relevansie en die rol wat ons nasionaal en internasionaal speel. Die OSP is ons voertuig om ons by hierdie belangrike doelwitte uit te bring," sê prof Russel Botman.

Teen 2015 moet die verskillende stappe van die OSP-lykkaart 'n universiteit gebou het wat internasionaal erken word as 'n uitnemende akademiese instansie vir navorsing en vir die hoogste gehalte van sy dosente, studente en navorsers. Die US moet die voorkeur-irriging vir verdere studie onder Suid-Afrikaners en internasionale studente wees. Deur sy akademiese ansien en navorsingstatus wil die universiteit 'n deurlopende rol speel in die oplos van sosiale en omgewingsprobleme in Suid-Afrika en op die vasteland. Sy studente moet nog meer gesog wees onder werkgewers in Suid-Afrika en elders in die wêreld.



Prof. Russel Botman met sy "EK's vir US" T-shirt.

What will Stellenbosch be like by 2015?

What kind of institution will Stellenbosch University be by the second decade of the 21st century? Already at his installation in 2007 Prof Russel Botman, Rector and Vice-Chancellor for a university of excellence in the 21st century. After two years of planning and consultation within the broad university community his vision for a pedagogy of hope started to take on form in the Overarching Strategic Plan (OSP) and the university is now ready to start rolling out these plans.

"Our students will agree that Stellenbosch finds itself in a rapidly changing world. If we are to retain and expand our position of leadership, we will have to perform significantly better in our academic excellence and look significantly different in terms of our relevance and the role we hope to play locally and internationally. The OSP is the vehicle that will take us to this important destination," Prof Botman said.

By 2015 the individual pieces of the OSP puzzle should have constructed a university that is recognised internationally as an excellent academic institution for research and for its outstanding lecturers, students and researchers. Stellenbosch should be the preferred institution for further study among South African and international students. Through its academic prestige and research stature, the university wants to play a leading role in the solution of social and environmental problems in South Africa and on the continent. Its students should be even more sought after among employers in South Africa and elsewhere in the world.



Prof. Russel Botman with his "EK's vir US" T-shirt.

PERSPEKTIEWE

Nie eers Ray McCauley kan nie



STULTUS

Die meeste mense dink 'n ongelooflike skande beteken. Hoe, wonder almal, kan ons regering so onbegryp wees? Hoe kon hulle ons streng-gepresdende so makke – in blante ontgryps – wees teen 'n buitelandse as gevolg van 'n sportwedstryd, terwyl analitiese mense tydens apartheid so 'n sensitiewe onderwerp was?

Alles goed en wel, maar almal het hulle hulle-lyk na om 'n wêreldbehangter vraag te vra. Gaan die Dalu Luma 'n wêreldlike verskrikte maak, 'n verdedkondensie wat bes moontlik in die geval nie 'n verskrikte aan die wêreld gaan maak moes?

Daar is 'n dik atmosfeer van politieke korrektheid wat ons die situasie hang. Wat die oerf van die Dalu Luma te hou. Wie die die pous, het ons alreik in 'n ander denktiensening. Dan son dit waerheid, nie 'n alreikende skande wees nie, maar hie 'n vlygtige amsberg of twee op die landand man. Sonnegeer mense son dalk, wêreld mense die 'n verdedkondensie in Suid-Afrika by te woen. Houten die regering dit 'n probleem te woen, het met die Bon verdunding dat by amsberg in die Dalu Luma te dreig," sê Breytenbach.

"Om te sê op die Zuma-reis nie. Daar is 'n klomp digte hie wat my ontstel en om moet verhoed daarop pakt. Maar om moenie meedoen was nie."

Die Dalu Luma se onlangse 'n vlygtige gewer om 'n verdedkondensie in Suid-Afrika by te woen. Houten die regering dit 'n probleem te woen, het met die Bon verdunding dat by amsberg in die Dalu Luma te dreig," sê Breytenbach.

"Om te sê op die Zuma-reis nie. Daar is 'n klomp digte hie wat my ontstel en om moet verhoed daarop pakt. Maar om moenie meedoen was nie."

Wat die oerf van die Dalu Luma te hou. Wie die die pous, het ons alreik in 'n ander denktiensening. Dan son dit waerheid, nie 'n alreikende skande wees nie, maar hie 'n vlygtige amsberg of twee op die landand man. Sonnegeer mense son dalk, wêreld mense die 'n verdedkondensie in Suid-Afrika by te woen. Houten die regering dit 'n probleem te woen, het met die Bon verdunding dat by amsberg in die Dalu Luma te dreig," sê Breytenbach.

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4 | 15.04.09

STEM

Afrika bly stiefkind in wêreldpolitiek

JACQUES DE VILLIERS

AFRIKA is in baie opsigte 'n stappie agter die res van die wêreld. Ongelukkig lyk dit asof dit in politiek weliswaar die geval is. Slegs in Suid-Afrika, die bastion van hoop vir demokrasie in Afrika, is daar kwessies soos groot-skaalse bedrog, xenofobiese aanvalle en 'n getrekkige MIV/Vigsplan wat dringend aangespreek moet word.

ZIMBABWE

President Robert Mugabe het eie-handig Zimbabwe van 'n vooruitstrewende, suksesvolle Afrika-land in 'n brandstert, agterlike land verander. 'n Brandstert, agterlike land verander. 'n Brandstert, agterlike land verander. 'n Brandstert, agterlike land verander.

Tien die laet 1990's is die land egter in 'n ekonomiese krisis gedomp. In 2000 kondig Mugabe aan dat wat boere se plase aan landloos swart Zimbabweërs gegee kan word. Sodende word honderde plase deur plakkers beset. Tien Junie 2002 gee Mugabe opdat dat 3 000 wit boere 45 dae het om hul plase te ontgin.

Herde probeer het Zimbabwe se reus gelyksydde landbouersleutel so te uitgewis. Die land beleef 'n reus-tektort aan voedsel, lopende water en sanitasie. Daar het vyfde jaar 'n cholera-pandemie uitgebreek en meer as 3 000 mense is daaraan dood. In Desember is verlei te jaer 201 miljoen persent gemeet, voordat die plakkies gedebiteerd gestrap is.

Die lande het geweer om enige van 'n Zimbabwe uit te voer, en die versgoelikes was op die land gefokus skappe is gesluit.

In Maart vanjaar het die internasionale Kriminele Hof 'n bevel uitgereik om die Soedanese president, Omar al-Bashir, in hegtenis te neem vir humanêre misdade.



DARFOER, SOEDAN

Soedan, die grootste land in Afrika, voer al vir meer as 30 jaar lank oorlog. Nê die burgeroorlog van meer as 20 jaar het reëlgevoer in 2003 aanvalle op repressie-installesies in Darfoer geleids en geel soere akte word afgeleer.

Sedertdien is inwoners aangeval deur regeringstrope, nomaaliese leiers na volgevoer. Meer as 300 000 mense is reeds in die konflik dood en daar word geraam dat meer as 2,7 miljoen mense van hul huise ontwortel is.

Pogings is in 2006 aangewend om vrede te bewerkstellig, maar dit het misluk. Die hulpvoere soos die VN, is reeds na Darfoer gestuur, maar die Soedanese regering het vroeër vanjaar 15 buitelandse hulpvoere verban en drie plakkies hulpvoere skappe is gesluit.

GAZA-STROOK, PALESTINE

Die Gaza-strook in Palestina is al vir dekades 'n brandpunt onder politieke godsdienstige leiers. In 2007 het Hamas (die Islamitiese Nasionale Beweging) beheer oor die strook verkry toe hulle die demokratiese verkiesing in Palestina gewen het.

Op 27 Desember 2008 het hulle 'n reeks heersaamde op die Gaza-strook geïnisieer en versprei. Christe is gedreig en aangeval en Hamas het vyfvoere op die grens na Israel getoon. Volgens Israel is daar tussen Junie 2007 en einde Januarie 2008 bykans 700 vyfvoere en meer as 800 martiroesname vanuit die Gaza-strook gevorm.

Israel het metenings toegesien, maar al-Bashir, in hegtenis te neem vir humanêre misdade.

MADAGASKAR

Die Malagasy politieke krisis in Madagaskar is vroeër vanjaar as 'n reeks antiregeringsopstande ontbreek. Die opstande, wat gewelddadig gestap het, is gelei op die regering van president Marc Ravalomanana en die generaal Andry Rajoelina, die opposisielier en burgemeester van die hoofstad Antananarivo, aangevoer. Sedert die opstande begin het, is meer as 130 mense dood.

Op 16 Maart het militêre troepe een van Ravalomanana se polisie bestam en vervoer. Alhoewel Ravalomanana nie daar was nie, het Rajoelina homself as president aangestel. Op 21 Maart is hy amptelik ingewei. Voer 'n sake van meer as 40 000.

GHANA

Tog is daar hier en daar 'n sprankel hoop op die donker kontinent. Een so 'n voorbeeld is Ghana. Die land het vroeër vanjaar hul verkiesing gehou en dit het, te midde van 'n sterk militêre teenwoordigheid in Wes-Afrika, vlot verloop. Die laer van die opposisiespartij, John Atta Mills, het die verkiesing met minder as 41 000 stemme gewen en die leiers van John Kufuor oorgeneem.

Ghana is deur verskeie leiers geprys vir die voorbeeld wat hulle vir Afrika en die wêreld getoon het, insluitende mrn Ben Krimson, VN Sekretaris-Generaal, asook president Kgalema Motlale.

BOONNE: VOA News.com; BRENTERS: AlorNet; Wêreldpisa

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Obama's policy towards the continent

Must he carry the weight of Africa?

MIA SMIT

BARACK Obama is the first African American to be elected president of the United States of America.

He was born in Hawaii in 1961 to Ann Dunham from Kansas and Barack Obama sr. from Kenya. They separated when he was two years old. His father returned to Kenya and only saw his son once more before he died in a car accident in 1982.

Obama's mother married an Indonesian student after her divorce and they later moved to Indonesia. Obama later moved back to Hawaii to stay with his maternal grandparents.

Although there is a lot of excitement about what Obama's African heritage can mean for Africa, a lot of Africans might be disappointed as he focuses much more on the Middle East.

According to Barack Obama's website, www.barackobama.com, there are four main focus points with respect to Obama's foreign policy towards Africa. These include his past record, the genocide in Darfur, fighting poverty and increasing wealth in Africa.

WHAT HE HAS ALREADY DONE
Obama's past performance in the first focus of his Foreign Policy in relation to Africa. Barack Obama was a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In the course of that he worked hard to swift America's attention to the murder of the innocent in Africa. These include: stopping the genocide in Darfur, passing legislation to promote stability in the Congo and bringing war criminals to justice in Liberia, mobilising international pressure for a just government in Zimbabwe, demanding honesty on HIV/AIDS in South Africa, developing a coherent strategy for stabilizing Somalia and travelling across the continent raising awareness of these critical issues.

There is also a visible enhancement in America's focus on the continent.

long-standing hurdles of education, poverty, ill-health, inadequate democratic institutions and stimulating sustainable financial growth in Africa.

GENOCIDE IN DARFUR
The most important point in Obama's policy would probably be to stop the genocide in Darfur. Now that Obama is president, he plans to take immediate steps to bring the genocide in Darfur to an end. More pressure will be put on the Sudanese government to bring the killing to an end and to stop impeding the deployment of a strong international force.

The government in Khartoum will be held responsible by Obama and Joe Biden, vice president of the USA, for

Africa in general is likely to be a minor area of focus in [the transition team's] research process

standing by its commitments under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended the 30 year conflict between the north and south. Obama worked with Senator Sam Brownback to pass the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act in 2006.

HALVING POVERTY BY 2015
Obama's third aim is to fight poverty. He and Biden will double the annual investment by the United States in foreign assistance from \$25 billion in 2008 to \$50 billion by the end of his first term and make the Millennium Development Goals, which aim to cut extreme poverty in half by 2015, America's goal.

They will fully fund debt cancellation for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries in order to provide sustainable debt relief and invest at least \$50 billion by 2015 in the global fight against HIV/AIDS.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

Obama's fourth aim now goes hand in hand with decreasing poverty, increasing wealth, Obama and Biden plan to do this by starting an Africa to Agriculture Initiative. According to obamawatch.worldof.com, they will create financial support which will give seed capital and technical assistance to small and medium projects, and reconstituted the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. In order to ensure that African countries have right of entry to low carbon energy technology and can profit from participating in the new global carbon market, they will launch the Global Energy and Environment Initiative. The African Growth and Opportunity Act will also be reinforced to ensure that African manufacturers have free access to the US market. More American companies will also be encouraged to invest in Africa.

In an article on www.pambazuka.org, Horace Campbell, professor of African American Studies at Syracuse University in New York State, criticises Obama's stance on Africa. His article, 'Obama and US policy towards Africa' criticises the Obama administration with regard to the realities of Africa and the continuing global financial crisis. Campbell argues that 'capitalism should not be reconstituted and rebuilt on the backs

and bodies of Africans.' According to Campbell, 'a clear reading of five major areas with international relations components in the transition team process indicates that Africa in general is likely to be a minor area of focus in their research process. These areas are: State Department and Foreign Policy; International Economic Health/Human Services; National Security and Energy.'

In his inauguration speech, Obama said, 'And so, to all other people and governments who are watching today, from the grandest capitals to the small village where my father was born: know that America is a friend of each nation and every man, woman and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and we are ready to lead once more.'

Campbell notes that 'Africa as a whole can only come through organization. After all, it was Senator Obama who campaigned on a pledge: 'I don't want to just mind the world; I want entry this year. I want to end the market that just us into us.' Campbell notes that 'Africa as a whole and around must make a new mandate so that all of the differing agencies, foundations and academic institutions in the USA can move to a new vision of relating to Africans as full humans being.'

AKTUEEL

6 Mei 2009 **DIE MATHIE** 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS UPDATE

SWINE FLU OUTBREAK

A vaccination against the deadly swine-flu pandemic has been developed, with a couple of months.

The World Health Organization has, however, warned that it puts stress on investment and has advised the all-in-one vaccine should be used only in a emergency situation.

In Egypt, a vaccine trial of more than 100 people has been launched as a precautionary health measure against the virus, which has caused the devastating effects of swine flu.

DUTCH ROYAL ATTACKER DIES

A Dutch man suspected of an attempted attack on the Dutch royal family has died in a hospital.

The prince accused was signed four years ago by the Dutch royal court northern government in the north of Thailand.

LEMAN SHIPPERS DENIAL

Shippers have denied the report that they were involved in the seizure of a container ship.

There is also the possibility of a 2009 devaluation and the possibility of a referendum in 2011 to determine whether or not the union should be granted autonomy.

FORMER PRISONS

Several prisons are in control of an estimated 17,000 prisoners.

The latest reported attack was against a Greek vessel, the Arctis, and its Ukrainian crew.

This attack, combined with an earlier seizure of explosives suggests that pirates are making money in the Indian Ocean.

Gemeenskapsinteraksie: Delf dieper en maak 'n verskil

MAUREEN MALAN

ELKE student droom daarvan om eendag die wêreld te verander. Ons wil 'n verskil maak, dit 'n beter plek maak en ons ligte helder laat skyn in 'n donker Afrika. Wat as jy nie hoef te wag vir eendag nie, en sommer danklik, op jou eie kampus kan begin om 'n verskil te maak?

Die gemeenskapsinteraksiekomitee maak dit moontlik om hier op Tygerberg toegang te kry tot projekte waar jy jou vaardighede en kennis kan gebruik om die gemeenskap om jou op te leef en dit 'n beter plek kan maak.

Volgens Vanessa Malherbe, TSU-afdelingshoof, is hulle vanjaar deel van Matie Gemeenskapsontwikkelings (MGD) One-Stop-Shop. Die One-Stop-Shop bied enige Stellenbosch-studente die geleentheid om by enige van die gemeenskapsinteraksieprojekte by die US betrokke te raak.

Daar bestaan ook 'n unieke wêreld wat gebruik kan word waar alle studenteprojekte van 'n gemeenskapsinteraksie naard toe gereël kan word. Dit is 'n meganisme wat ingestel is om studente toegang te verleen tot moontlike befondsing van hul projekte. Die program voorkom ook moontlike duplisering van projekte en is dit 'n meer strategie benadering tot die verdeling van hulpbronne en maksimum impak in die gemeenskap.

Twee van die projekte wat deur



hierdie komitee verwesenlik is, is die Delf-projek en die Buiteland-projek. Albei hierdie projekte is op One-Stop-Shop geregistreer en het voldoende fondse verkry van MGD.

Die Delf-projek het verskillende fasette. Een van die elemente van die projek was 'n besoek aan Delf deur die outeurs van Huis Francie van Zyl en Hippokraties getemde die ontvoeringstryd. Daar was ook 'n Delf-kliniek en -heilprojek.

Balandra is 'n dag- en nag sorgsentrum wat skoolkinde bied vir verlore, HIV-positiewe en fasette of verstandelik getemde kinders in Kayetisha. Vrywilligers bied Care Givee Lessons aan voor hulle leers aan die kinders verskaf. Die leers bevat onnavolgende inligting oor hulle

gesondheid en ontwikkeling. Hulle spel ook musiek vir die kinders en gee vir hulle kere.

Op 14 Mei is daar 'n simposium wat op Tygerberg gehou word wat 'n poging is om 'n brug te bou tussen die TSU en die FGW se gemeenskapsinteraksieprojekte en op 16 Mei sal daar weer 'n Delf-kliniek.

Malherbe se visie vir vanjaar is dat daar 'n platform geskep word waar projekte geregistreer kan word en dat daar 'n kultuur van gemeenskapsinteraksie onder lede van die TSU geskep kan word. Sy wil ook hê dat hierdie kultuur een sal wees waar die studente hul vaardighede oordra aan die gemeenskap en dit dit houbaar sal wees.

STUDENTELEWE

12 Augustus 2009 DieMATTIE | 7

Matie tells of heart-warming experience

An African adventure

ALEXA DU PLESSIS

"ALEXA speaking, hello." I try to be calm and collected in the face of one of my first Malawian phone calls: this could be a big deal. It was.

An hour later two Brits pick me up from the pavement next to the Hollywood Chicken Shop. Four hours later, after a whirlwind discussion, I'm signed up to manage a volunteer centre and supervise the construction, planning and maintenance of the "Volunteer Village".

I arrived in Malawi with no job, few contacts and little money, yet magically, I was given three months to spend volunteering at the Krizvaka Project in Blantyre, which turned out to be some of the most challenging and rewarding of the eight months I spent in Southern and Eastern Africa.

Let me point out that the six countries I travelled through – Mozambique, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya – have some pretty big attractions when it comes to African tourism. I did it all: the turquoise coast of Mozambique; swimming with whale sharks and diving in the "biggest coral reef search of long yellow pipe fish and manta rays; snorkelling and kayaking the

biggest and most beautiful lakes in Africa; the romantic beaches and fresh seafood of Zanzibar; dancing till dawnbreak in Kampala, and grade 5 rafting on the White Nile in Uganda. I did it ALL. It is certainly so that with the adventure and excitement the African tourism sector holds, volunteering is still considered a favourite experience amongst tourists.

I arrived in Malawi with no job, few contacts and little money...

Volunteering in Malawi meant long days of learning, with challenges such as the confusion of working with two or more cultures and languages and different sets of expectations.

My managing director and the chairman-cum-sponsor of the project were two Brits. Their tight schedules, expectations of staff, lack of attention to detail, and thick accents often caused confusion and bewilderment amongst the Malawian staff, many of whom were the first in their families to work in an office with computers as opposed to in the field with hoes. Malawi, as you would constantly be

reminded, is considered to be the warm heart of Africa. Malawians are therefore known as the friendliest people in Africa. This meant that no matter how many times I, or my British managers, confused them with strange orders and odd expectations, they continued to smile.

They took each time they saw me as an opportunity to teach me how to pronounce the president of Malawi's title in Checheva. They introduced me to mielie-mielie pap (Nsima) and attempted to get me to like it as much as they do (a passion I never could quite master). As the only white person in the village, I also became somewhat of a celebrity and was followed by a chorus of "How are you, Mzungu?" wherever I went, until I taught enough people my name.

This chance to make new friends in a different country, to experience the warmth of human love, compassion and appreciation is a blessing. I can now say that I can supervise planning and building, buy goats, hunt hyenas, go to market, and manage fussy volunteers. Though I don't like Nsima and can't pronounce the president's name in Checheva, I can say that I have friends in Malawi whom I care for and who know how to say "How are you, Alexa?", which is what makes it all worth while.

Wat dink jy?

Verlaggewer: ELMARI FOTOFIETER

Integrat: JOHANN SWART

OPINIES OOR ZUMA SE EERSTE 100 DAE AS PRESIDENT

“

"A president must set an example and shouldn't be seen doing. That said, he has done a good job so far. I had low expectations of him, so it did not take much to impress me. He is not a miracle worker."
Lauren Woldeman, BComm Hons (Risk & Insurance)



"Ten opsigte van veld opties, is hy die president as een moet hanteer dan vore respekter. Ek dink hy doen sowaar okay."
Heike Klein, BComm Hons (Risk & Insurance)



"Dit is 'n belangrike vraag: deur wat Zuma sowaar vering het, ten opsigte van die abstraksie wat met die aanvang van sy termyn gebring het. Skillinge was hy gemaklik met om te sien dat hy gaan sê dat 200 000 werke geskep gaan word? gaan na vangs gebel nie, maar is wel bang om in werking te tree. Hy is charismaties en dit versker publieke ondersteuning vir bekostigings- en behoud. Ons die skerm is die positief om te sien tot dusver."
WP van Schalkvok, BA (Bestuurswetenskap en Waardes)



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Katharina de Villiers, BA (Vreemde Kulture)



"By die tyd dat ons verhoor het ek gevoel dat sy my verband is aan so sê, by skillinge is Ek wil nie so 'n president te sien, want ek voel dat die president reëlmatige respekter moet word in reël moet verdien."
Joanna Swerman, BA (Taal en Kulture)



Students shine because SUN gives them light



CROSSING BORDERS
Faniwa Tamirapi

STELLENBOSCH University (SU) is the SUN where cultures not only meet, but where their uniqueness is celebrated and differences are embraced. As I was applying to come and study here, seeing that I come from neighbouring Zimbabwe, I was highly impressed by the efficiency and promptness with which the university communicated with me. From that, I got the sense of order, sensitivity and commitment to international student affairs.

Although I also come with an uneasy feeling of being in an environment which is predominantly white, my perceptions about people in the university have greatly changed. What I appreciated most was the sensitivity, humanity and humility I experienced from the staff of the Faculty of Theology. The safe space created for me and the encouragement I got made it easy for me to shine as a Matie.

What really inspired me about SU is the student support systems which I have found to be tailor made for the different needs of the students: from counselling to academic support to writing support at the Writing Laboratory. At the Writing Laboratory, where I am a part-time consultant, I have learned tremendously by meeting people from different countries like Germany and Korea. It is unfortunate that most students at the university are not aware of the support they can get from these centres.

I think there is a need for international students to be more involved in campus life to create a more vibrant community. I decided to visit the Office for Institutional HIV Coordination to get acquainted with their HIV programme for the university. I ended

up assisting as one of the counsellors during the March 2009 HIV, Grow Up and Get Tested campaign. As I work with people from different cultures and backgrounds, I experience a sense of worthiness.

No greatest challenge has been finances. Although I try to stick to a very tight budget, generally life around Stellenbosch is expensive. I came totally unprepared for that and the adjustment has not been easy. The part-time jobs are a relief but it still is a struggle. This will not discourage me, because my eyes are fixed on a goal. I think there is a need for the university somehow to assist their students financially. Not only by offering them funding, but by creating employment opportunities for them within the university or through liaising with companies or organisations outside the university.

However, SU is giving me a new lease on life and hopefully at the end of the year (I pay off my account, I will have my first graduation with a Cum Laude and with many thanks to all who have supported me on my first journey at SU. I will take with me rich wisdom on how to remain human, as well as an understanding of people no matter what their colour or creed. Besides, there is no colour to a human soul.

Tamirapi is a postgraduate student in theology and is from Zimbabwe.

Die menings in hierdie rubriek is nie noodwendig dié van die koördinerer, die redakteur of enige lid van die redaksie nie. Die opinies uitgedruk in hierdie kolom is nie noodwendig dié van die koördinerer, die redakteur of enige lid van die redaksie nie.

UNASA reaches out to Zimbabwe in November

LIZE SWARTZ

THE STELLENBOSCH University (SU) chapter of the United Nations Association of South Africa (UNASA) will be travelling to Chinoyi in Zimbabwe in November to provide relief to Zimbabweans in need.

Twenty UNASA members will be travelling to Chinoyi, situated 100km north of Harare, where UNASA will partner with New Growth Ministries, a Christian organisation supporting 200 orphaned children.

The principal goal of the trip to Zimbabwe is to deliver an estimated 10 to 14 tonnes of maize as food aid to Zimbabweans in need, as well as to distribute 500 water filters and mosquito nets.

The water filters, called Lifestraws, can filter up to 18 000 litres of water. This will be enough to provide a single family with clean water for three years. The provision of filters is directly linked to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG) of "reducing the proportion of people without sustainable drinking water" by 2015.

Providing maize is linked to MDG goals one and eight, which respectively aim to "eradicate extreme poverty and hunger" and to

"develop a global partnership for development".

In addition, vegetable gardens will be developed and a local school in Chinoyi will be painted.

Jonathan Reader, chair, UNASA Stellenbosch, says that UNASA "[has] made a concerted effort to ensure that the benefits of the project are as sustainable as possible".

Reader adds that the project was decided on because "there is a far greater immediate need in Zimbabwe". Though UNASA is aware of potential security risks, the organisation "[has] a lot of contact with people in Zimbabwe who will smooth the way," Reader says.

UNASA members expect to be shocked by conditions in Zimbabwe and expect that the experience could therefore be emotionally draining, says Reader.

He hopes, however, that "the Zimbabwe trip will be one of those life-enriching experiences" in which valuable experience of the precarious situation in Zimbabwe can be gained.

The trip to Zimbabwe is funded by donations and an extensive fundraising campaign by UNASA will ensure that enough funds are raised to undertake the trip. UNASA Stellenbosch can be contacted at unasa@sun.ac.za.