



NEWS Update

For UCT Alumni living in Europe

2007

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The News Update is published by the UCT Trust to provide news of UCT for alumni and friends. Please contact us with any news you would like to share with fellow Alumni.

Cities in Africa : UK funding helps to launch new signature theme at UCT



Cities in Africa has been designated as a new signature research theme at UCT. The launch of this inter-disciplinary research centre, based in the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment (EBE) but linking urban-related work across the university, was kick started with funding from the UK based Ove Arup Foundation.

The three year Ove Arup Fellowship programme was launched at the Centre in 2006 and will see up to 25 Fellows complete a Masters in Urban Infrastructure Design and Management. This course is aimed at building capacity amongst those in government and the private sector who are committed to the future of African cities.

The Fellowship programme has proved an enormous success, and has in turn attracted further funding which has enabled the Centre to become formally established.

Research at the Centre will draw together work from departments across the EBE (such as waste management, transport, city planning and design) and from the faculties of science (climate change and food security), health sciences (promoting "healthy cities") and humanities (urban society and culture). Urban infrastructure and planning, the environment, governance, and space and culture will form initial research foci. *"As an independent think-tank and lobby group, the theme will provide a new 'voice' from the global South on urban issues,"* said Professor Vanessa Watson.

Equity Development Fellowships funded by UK Foundations

FUNDING FOR the Equity Development Fellowships (EDF) programmes in Chemistry and Commerce Faculty at UCT has been received from various UK foundations. The aim of the EDF programmes is to develop the next generation of academic faculty, increasing the proportion of women and people of colour in UCT's future cohort of academics. This helps to draw on all of South Africa's talent pool. It will specifically address social exclusion due to race, gender and ethnicity and aims to produce an academic profile which should be closer to the nation's demography.

The Vodafone Group Foundation (UK) made a R2.9-million award to UCT to fund a four year EDF programme in the Commerce Department. This programme began in 2005 and has been an enormous success so far in attracting and developing future faculty members.

Two other UK charitable trusts - The Leverhulme Trust and The Nuffield Foundation - are funding three year EDF programmes in the Chemistry department, in recognition of the key role Chemistry plays in science-based

degrees at UCT and beyond in South Africa. These programmes have begun this year with each Trust supporting five Honours, Masters or Doctoral students. The Masters and PhD incumbents will spend part of their studies at UK universities. These Fellowships are part of the wider programme being spear-headed by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Cheryl de la Rey. Similar programmes are being funded by the Carnegie Corporation and the Mellon Foundation, among others, in other faculties at UCT.

George Ellis elected Fellow of Royal Society in the UK

George Ellis, Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Complex Systems, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, the UK's national academy of sciences and the world's oldest national scientific society. Founded in 1660, some of the Society's early members included Sir Christopher Wren and Sir Isaac Newton, and more recently, UCT alumnus, Sir Aaron Klug.

Alumnus Receives Prestigious Award



Sir Frank Berman (right) with Dr Hans Winkler, State Secretary Austrian Federal Ministry of Foreign & European Affairs, Vienna.

SIR FRANK BERMAN, UCT law alumnus and Rhodes Scholar, has been conferred with the Grand Decoration of Honour in Gold with Star, by the Republic of Austria. He has been, since it was founded in 2001, the Chairman of the Claims Committee

of the General Settlement Fund of the Republic of Austria for the Compensation of Victims of Nazi Persecution. He was appointed to the position by the Governments of Austria and the USA.

The Fund, based in Vienna, was set up by Austrian legislation, to acknowledge moral responsibility for the losses suffered through Nazi persecution in Austria. The Fund is open to all groups who suffered persecution on religious, racial, national and similar grounds. The Fund has received several hundred thousand claims, from claimants in over 70 countries. To cope with this enormous mass of material, the accent from the start has been on simplicity and efficiency which has led to the development of new and original approaches, not seen before in mass claims procedures.

Opening of Golda Selzer Community Health Centre



Prof Golda Selzer: SHAWCO pioneer

JUST OVER two years after the fund-raising campaign was launched, the Golda Selzer Community Health Centre was officially opened in November 2006 by

Sir Frank Berman, Trustee of the UCT Trust, whose tireless efforts were instrumental in making the campaign successful.

UCT alumni throughout the world have generously contributed to the Golda Selzer Memorial Fund, a SHAWCO initiative spearheaded by Dr Stuart Saunders, former Vice Chancellor of UCT and also a Trustee of the UCT Trust. More than £24,000 was donated to the Golda Selzer Memorial Fund in the UK via the UCT Trust. The Trustees extend their thanks to all alumni and friends whose generous donations have made this initiative possible.

UCT to host African component of major International Research Centre

IN MAY 2007, it was officially announced in Rome that UCT's Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM) at UCT is to host the third component of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB).

The ICGEB is a major, international research Centre established in 1987 and dedicated to advanced research and training in molecular biology and biotechnology, with special regard to the needs of the developing world. It has its headquarters in Trieste, Italy and another component laboratory in New Delhi, India.

The third ICGEB component based at UCT will develop its research and training activities on subjects of major impact for the African continent, focussing primarily on infectious diseases (HIV-AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, hepatitis), but also on chronic (cardiovascular and cancer-related) and genetic diseases. Plant biotechnology research aimed at improving the staple crops essential for the African population will also

be pursued. It is expected that the research projects implemented in the ICGEB laboratories will lead to important breakthroughs in fields of health, nutrition, agriculture and environmental protection which would be made available to African industrial partners for relevant development and eventual distribution.

IIDMM director Professor Greg Hussey said: "The IIDMM 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."

UK benefactors were instrumental in the establishment of the IIDMM enabling it to add the new Wolfson Pavilion, the heart of the IIDMM, and refurbish the laboratories in the Wernher & Beit Buildings. The notable gifts came from the Wolfson Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, Parthenon Trust, Welton Foundation, Sir Sigmund Warburg Settlement.

GSB's MBA soars up FT ratings



Prof. Frank Horwitz, Director of UCT Graduate School of Business

THE UCT Graduate School of Business (GSB) full-time MBA programme has, for the second year in succession, made a double digit leap up the *Financial Times* Global Top 100 MBA Rankings which were released earlier this year. It is judged to be the fifth best value-for-money MBA in the world.

The GSB is ranked 52 in the 2007 survey, up 14 places from its 66th slot in 2006, and it remains the only African MBA to be ranked in the prestigious top 100.

Other good news from the Business School sees GSB Director, Professor Frank Horwitz, being elected the South African representative to the five member governing body of the Association of African Business Schools (AABS). The AABS promotes excellence in business and management education in Africa by supporting graduate business schools through capacity building, collaboration and quality improvement.

UK Alumnus supports Opera star



FIFTH YEAR opera student and bursary recipient, Pretty

Yende, recently landed the role of Musica for the special birthday performance of Monteverdi's opera *L'Orfeo* in Mantua, Italy. Pretty performed the role on 24 February, 400 years to the day after its opening in 1607, having auditioned for the honour against 59 other contenders - of which, at 21, she was the youngest.

Pretty's story is one of phenomenal talent and success. She came to UCT to study opera in 2003, having won the Pirisano National Schools Eisteddfod as a young soprano. However, she was in need of financial aid to pursue her studies, and for two years Derek Raphael, a generous UK based UCT alumnus, supported her with a bursary, until she was able to finance her studies through other sponsorship as her spectacular talents became known.

Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, eminent UCT Alumnus, dies



SIR RAYMOND "Bill" Hoffenberg, the gifted UCT endocrinologist, medical scientist and political activist who was banned by the South African government in 1967,

died in April aged 84, at his home in Oxford. He had served on the Board of Trustees for the UCT Trust since 1997.

The five year banning order made it impossible

for this eminent UCT Fellow and alumnus to continue his duties at Groote Schuur Hospital or as a senior lecturer at the medical school. He was forced into exile and left to live in the UK where he was soon appointed William Withering Professor and head of the Department of Medicine at the University of Birmingham, one of the most prestigious chairs in England.

He developed a group that became established as one of the leaders worldwide in thyroid research. From 1983 to 1989 he was president of the Royal College of Physicians where he sought a wider participation in medical audit,

greater awareness of medical fraud and misconduct, and more stringent relations between physicians and pharmaceutical companies. He was president of Wolfson College, Oxford from 1985 until 1993 when he moved to Australia, where his sons had already settled. He was appointed professor of medical ethics in the University of Queensland, continuing in a formal manner the interest that had formed such an important part of his professional life. He was awarded a knighthood in 1984 for his contributions to medicine in the UK, and in 1993 UCT conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Science in Medicine *honoris causa*.

Major New Prize endowed by UK Alumnus

MAY 2007 saw the inauguration of a major new prize in the Faculty of Health Sciences at UCT – the Professor Mary Robertson Prize for Excellence. This is awarded annually to the female MBChB who graduates with the highest marks, and the first recipient was Dr Debbie Rencken.

Professor Mary Robertson is a UCT alumnus (MBChB 1971) who lives in London. An 11th generation South African, and the 4th generation of her family to have graduated from UCT, she spent time during the 1970s as a ship's doctor on a square rigged sailing ship, as well as working in a hospital in Borneo, and canoeing deep into the Indonesian jungle where she stayed in a remote Iban settlement – according to her hosts, she was only the second "non-Iban" woman to visit and stay with them.

Eventually settling in the UK in 1978, she continued her medical studies, and specialised in neuropsychiatry. Her doctoral thesis was on "Depression in Patients with Epilepsy" and she has become a world authority on the Gilles de la Tourette Syndrome. In 2006 she was awarded a Doctor of Science in Medicine (DSc Med) by UCT in the speciality of Neuropsychiatry, the most senior doctorate in the Faculty of Health Sciences. It is awarded rarely, and only to persons of exceptional academic merit, on the basis of original published work which is regarded as seminal. She was the first woman to be awarded degree at UCT and only the ninth recipient. Hobbies include photography and poetry – and she has had work in both fields published. It is in recognition of the DSc award and her family's enduring relationship with UCT that she has endowed the Professor Mary Robertson Prize for Excellence. She has also bestowed *The Professor Mary Robertson Scholarship* which will be awarded to a financially needy woman medical student from 2008.



Prof Mary Robinson with Dr Debbie Rencken.

Two new Trustees for UCT Trust

TWO NEW Trustees have recently been appointed to the Board of the UCT Trust.

Jennifer Ward Oppenheimer originally from the USA, studied at Harvard University and Harvard Law School, before gaining an MSc at the London School of Economics in Development Studies. She actively partici-

pates in the governance of a range of civil society organizations in South Africa.

Baroness Chalker became a British MP in 1974 and a life peer in 1992. She was Minister of State for Africa & the Commonwealth at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 1986 until 1997, and International Development Minister for the UK from 1989 until 1997.

Alumnus Function held at the National Theatre

ON MARCH 20th, 75 UK-based UCT alumni braved the freezing temperatures and attended the Royal National Theatre sited on the banks of the River Thames to see the outstanding Baxter Theatre production of "Sizwe Banzi is Dead".

At the post-show reception in a private room at the theatre, some 45 alumni enjoyed a glass of South African wine, with John Kani, Mannie Manim, Director of the Baxter Theatre, and Aubrey Sekhabi, the Director of the production.



From left to right: Kerry Deane, Ian Caldwell, Jennifer Johnston, Ntsiki Dinga, Paul Galatis, Robyn Evans.



From left to right: Mannie Manim, Director of Baxter Theatre, cast member John Kani, Angela Ross, UCT-UK Alumni Co-ordinator.

Make a Donation to UCT through the UCT Trust

Help build UCT's endowment and provide bursaries to enable those from disadvantage to live and learn at UCT

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For details of how to make your donation via methods No: 3 or 4, please contact UCT Trust Tel: 01372 477116 Email: uct-trust@tecres.net

Please forward your donations with this completed form and enclosures (cheques made payable to UCT Trust) to:

The University of Cape Town Trust, 83A High Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 9QA, UK

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT

UK Alumni Benefactors to the UCT Trust

We would like to thank the following UK Alumni for their generous support of UCT during 2005 - 2007
We do try to be accurate in our listings, but if any corrections are needed, please contact the UCT Trust

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