



News Update

UCT News Update is a twice yearly publication of the UCT Fund that provides information about developments at the University of Cape Town to Alumni and Friends in the United States.

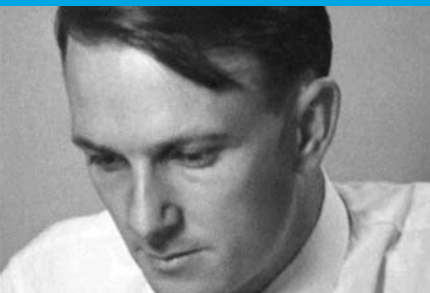
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UCT Hosts African Launch of “Speak Truth to Power”

UCT joined forces with the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial in August for the African launch of “Speak Truth to Power”, a program which galvanizes public support for international human rights.

Events at UCT included a forum with Kerry Kennedy, the founder of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial’s Center for Human Rights, and the South African launch of Kennedy’s book, *Speak Truth to Power*. The book profiles over fifty human rights advocates around the world, accompanied by portraits by Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Eddie Adams.

Kennedy was joined at the forum by Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Guillaume Ngefa Atondoko, founder of the African Association for the Defense of Human Rights in the DRC, Koigi wa Wamwere, one of Kenya’s most active political prisoners, Samuel Kofi Woods, Minister of Labor of the Republic of Liberia, and UCT graduate and Rivonia Treason Trialist, Denis Goldberg.

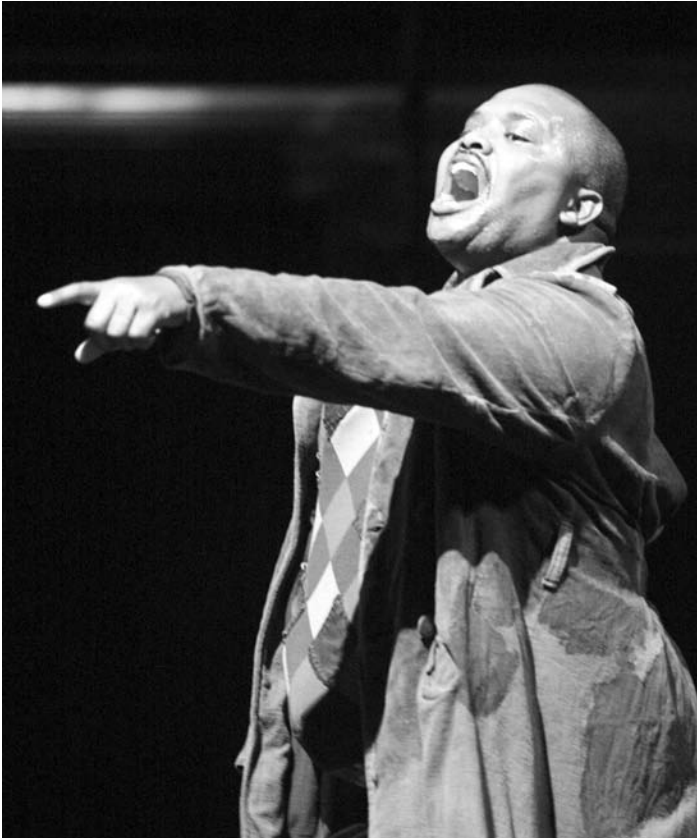
In welcoming Kerry Kennedy to UCT, Dean of Law Hugh Corder paid tribute to the groundbreaking speech by her father, Robert F. Kennedy, which he delivered in UCT’s Jameson Hall for the National Day of Affirmation of Academic Freedom in 1966.

The Cape Town launch also included a performance of the play *Voices from Beyond the Dark* by celebrated Chilean playwright Ariel Dorfman. The performance at UCT’s Little Theatre included students and staff of the Drama Department under the direction of Yvonne Banning. Special guest was U.S. actress, singer and AIDS activist, Gloria Reuben, whose roles include playing Jeanie Boulet in the hit TV series *ER*.



Kerry Kennedy at the “Speak Truth To Power” Launch in Cape Town

Adding a South African Voice to New York Opera



Fikile Mvinjelwa in the title role of Verdi's Rigoletto presented by Cape Town Opera-UCT Opera School, February 2008
Photo: Stuart Ralph

Renowned South African baritone Fikile Mvinjelwa will soon join the Metropolitan Opera in New York as the understudy for the title role in *Rigoletto*, which opens in January 2009.

Fikile enrolled at the UCT Opera School in 1994 and became a founder member of the Cape Town Opera Studio. Launched with a major donation from the Mellon Foundation, the Opera Studio Program showcases new and original South African opera productions.

Fikile's most recent success was with Cape Town Opera's internationally-acclaimed European tour of Gershwin's folk opera, *Porgy & Bess*, which played to sold-out houses at Deutsche Oper Berlin, and was the first full opera staged in Oslo's new opera house.

Recent U.S. appearances include his performance at the Spoleto USA Festival as Antonio in the epic opera, *Amistad*. In May-June 2009 Fikile returns to the U.S. to sing the role of Porgy in *Porgy & Bess* for Baltimore Opera.

News of...

Kayum Ahmed (LLB 2001), Teamleader in the International Relations Section of the SA Parliament, was awarded a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship. He will be based at the Washington College of Law and will complete an internship at the U.S. Congress.

The **Kaye Kerbel** family in Boston celebrated a proud moment in May when **Russell Kerbel** graduated from Tufts Medical School. Russell is the son of UCT Medical graduates **Brenda (Kaye) Kerbel** (1976) and **Richard Kerbel** (1975), a pediatrician



Three generations of practicing physicians: (left-right) Brenda (Kaye) Kerbel, Russell Kerbel, and Solly Kaye

at Tufts Medical School. Also present at the celebration was Russell's uncle, **Trevor Kaye** (MBChB 1973). Russell recently spent a week in South Africa with his grandfather, **Dr Solly Kaye** (MBChB 1946), who still practices as a GP in Cape Town.

Alan Richter (BA BSc 1971, MA 1974), President of QED Consulting in New York, recently launched the 2008 version of the award-winning Global Diversity Game. First created in 1991, the original U.S. Diversity Game won a Best New Training Product award from *Human Resource Executive* magazine.

Katherine Roussopoulos (2005) graduated Summa Cum Laude from a Masters degree program in Violin Performance at the College of Fine Arts, Boston University in 2008.

Jinny Sagorin (1986) performed at the opening night of the New England Light Opera Company's Summer Concert Series. Jinny works as a singer and artist in the Boston area. Her debut solo CD "It's For You" was launched to critical acclaim in 2005. She has an independent line of greeting cards, "jinzart", which are based on her watercolor paintings and photography. Jinny is married to Jeremy Schmahmann (1980).

Jeremy Schmahmann (1980) has been promoted to professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School. A neurologist at the Massachusetts General Hospital, he was awarded the Norman Geschwind award (American Academy of Neurology), the Distinguished Neurology Teacher award (American Neurological Association), and the Best Book in Medical Science 2006 award.

Graduate Students Head to Silicon Valley

A group of postgraduate students from UCT's Department of Information Systems won international recognition at the Microsoft Imagine Cup competition in Paris in July. The competition drew a pool of more than 200,000 students from over 100 countries.

Devin de Vries, Christopher King, Nabeel Nazeer and Nadeem Isaacs traveled to Paris with lecturer Mike Eccles. The theme of the competition was: "Imagine a world where technology enables a sustainable environment." South Africa's need for improved public transport gave the UCT Team a real-world problem requiring urgent resolution, especially in light of the upcoming World Cup 2010.

The UCT team developed an innovation to enhance the lives of bus commuters using text messaging technology. The team saw their idea as a way to lure middle- and high-income groups onto public transport by providing them with accurate information on bus arrival times.

As one of the six teams awarded The Imagine Cup Innovation Accelerator prize, the UCT students will travel to Silicon Valley for a rigorous two-week business and technology training program in February 2009.

For more information on the project see <http://www.whereismyshuttle.co.za>



From left to right: UCT students Nabeel Nazeer, Devin de Vries, Nadeem Isaacs and Christopher King, with senior lecturer Mike Eccles (front) after winning a prize in the Microsoft Corporation Imagine Cup in Paris

Learning Leadership, Contributing Globally



From left to right: Congressman Donald M. Payne with members of the SAWIP 2008 team, Thamsanqha Ledwaba, Rosalind Elphick, Udo Hellberg, Chéri-Leigh Erasmus, Congressman John Lewis, Christo van Wyk, and Thulani Madinginye

Four UCT students spent an intense five weeks in Washington D.C. this summer, as part of the second cohort of students on the South Africa Washington Intern Program (SAWIP).

UCT SRC President Thulani Madinginye, Law student Rosalind Elphick, Political Science major Vuyolwethu Goni, and graduate student Thamsanqha Ledwaba joined University of Stellenbosch students and their Irish and Northern Irish peers in the Washington-Ireland Program's internship and leadership curriculum.

Students gained invaluable practical experience through internships in the U.S. government and in media, business and non-profit organizations.

UCT graduate student Jean Scrimgeour, who is a 2007 SAWIP alumna and currently studying International Relations focusing on Peace and Conflict Studies, joined the group as Team Manager.

The SAWIP experience has helped me understand myself better, through the constant challenging questions we face about ourselves and South Africa. It has helped me map out how I want to bring about change in South Africa, and assisted me to pinpoint my role in South African society.

—Vuyo Goni

Got News? We Want to Hear From You

Send in your news, profiles, photographs or any other items of interest. Email Tina Barsby at uctfund@comcast.net

Weaving History and Memory to Honor an Icon



Photo: Baxter Theatre Center

Multiple award-winning playwright, director and scholar Nadia Davids' latest play, *Cissie*, ran at UCT's Baxter Theatre Center in July to critical acclaim.

Cissie explores the life of Cape Town activist Cissie Gool, founder of the National Liberation League, dedicated city councilor and the first black woman to receive a masters degree from UCT. The play traces Cissie's life from her childhood at the turn of the 20th century until her death in 1963, just prior to the District Six removals.

Davids, who was born at a time when the last houses in District Six were demolished, artfully weaves historical research, community stories and memory into her account of Cissie's life.

Over the past three years Davids has divided her time between Cape Town and New York City, while she completed her PhD in Theatre at UCT. She has lectured both at UCT and NYU, and she writes a bi-monthly column for the New York-based publication *The Brooklyn Rail*. She was recently selected as one of the ten women worldwide to participate in the 2008-2010 Playwrights Lab at the Women's Project Theatre in New York.

This play was born from a place of deep admiration and respect. Cissie Gool's life and her personal and political courage have enabled our country's political transformation, and for that she is owed the debt, not just of remembrance, but of gratitude.

— Nadia Davids

Schalkwyk Brings “Global Perspective” to the Folger

UCT English Department Professor David Schalkwyk will lead the Research Division of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington D.C. from mid-2009. The Folger is home to the world's largest collection of Shakespeare materials and other rare Renaissance books, manuscripts and works of art.

According to Folger Director Gail Kern Paster, “David is well-known among Shakespearians internationally as a scholar and as a critic with a deep understanding of Shakespeare's language. He brings to the Folger's research division a welcome global perspective.”

An A-rated researcher at UCT, David has published widely on topics ranging from Shakespeare and literary philosophy to South African prison writing. His work on Shakespeare highlights striking parallels between Shakespeare's life and times and contemporary South African society.

At the Folger David will oversee scholarly programs, including the Folger Institute, and will serve as Editor of *Shakespeare Quarterly*, the premier scholarly journal for Shakespeare studies.



Vanderbilt & UCT Astronomers Seek Southern Sky Planets

A special-purpose telescope, constructed by astronomers from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, will soon begin the search for earthlike planets circling other stars in the southern hemisphere.

The instrument, called the Kilodegree Extremely Little Telescope (KELT) was recently tested at Dyer Observatory outside Nashville. It was designed by Joshua Pepper, a Vanderbilt post-doctoral fellow, as a copy of a similar instrument (KELT-North) in Arizona. The KELT-South telescope will be located at the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) observing station near Sutherland in the Northern Cape, where it will join several other facilities, including the flagship of South African astronomy, the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT).

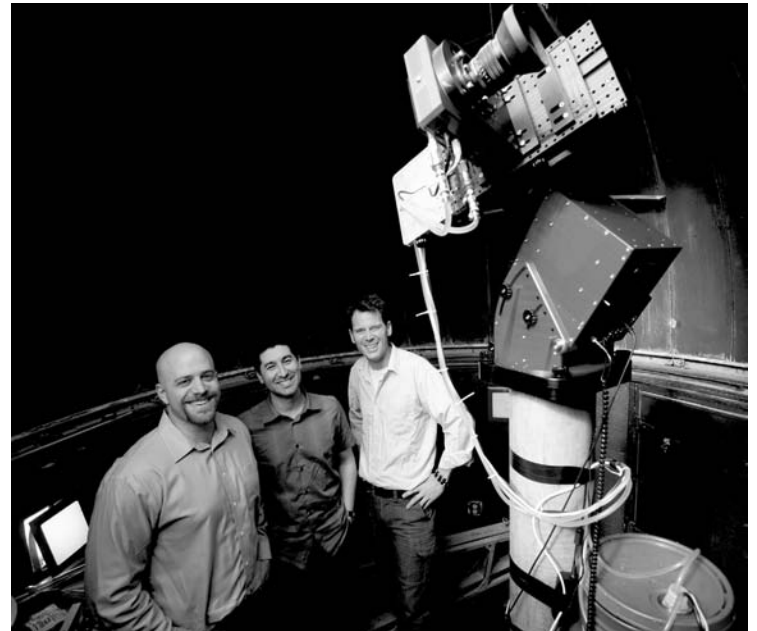
Staff at the SAAO will maintain the instrument, which will be the second dedicated planet-finder in the southern sky. Designed for remote operation, the telescope will be controlled by astronomers at Vanderbilt University and the SAAO.

The agreement to place the new telescope in South Africa was the result of Vanderbilt's choice of UCT as one of its four "international core partnerships". This collaborative effort is designed to enhance exchange opportunities for students, faculty and staff at Vanderbilt and UCT, and to grow a global network of researchers in several important disciplines.

The Vanderbilt-UCT partnership in astronomy, physics, and materials science seeks to draw upon Vanderbilt's existing program with Fisk University, Nashville's historically black university. The partnership will enhance international research training opportunities both for African-American students in the Fisk-Vanderbilt program and for African students in the South African National Astronomy and Space Science Program.

Track progress of the KELT South telescope Project at: <http://keltsouth.pbwiki.com>

Thanks to Vanderbilt University's News Service for this story.



The KELT South telescope with KELT team members (from left to right) Vanderbilt University Post-doctoral Fellow Joshua Pepper, Associate Professor Keivan Stassun and Research Assistant Professor David James. Photo: Daniel Dubois, Vanderbilt University

Kamal Khan to Lead UCT Opera



Photo: Cape Town Opera

American conductor and pianist Kamal Khan, who has been a regular visitor to Cape Town over the past decade, will succeed Professor Angelo Gobbato as head of the UCT Opera School at the end of this year.

Khan was the youngest ever assistant conductor at the Metropolitan Opera when he was hired by James Levine during his last year in college. He has appeared as guest conductor around the world, including the Jerusalem Symphony, Buenos Aires Philharmonic, Beijing Symphony and Sao Paulo Philharmonic. As a recitalist Khan has collaborated with many singers and appeared on stages in the U.S., Europe and Japan.

On his most recent visit to Cape Town in August, Khan conducted *Don Giovanni* in the joint Cape Town Opera-UCT Opera School production at the Baxter Theatre.



Celebrating UCT's Global Links in Washington D.C.

In May Washington D.C. area alumni met up with faculty and staff involved in UCT's international efforts. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Thandabantu Nhlapo and the South African Ambassador, Welile Nhlapo, co-hosted an event at the South African Embassy.

The reception was held to celebrate UCT's strategic partnerships around the world. Thandabantu Nhlapo welcomed alumni and UCT's educational partners in the U.S., and gave a brief update on developments on campus. UCT is currently home to over 4,320 international students (20% of the total student population) from 104 different countries. Over 700 students from abroad enroll each year as semester abroad students at UCT.

Growing UCT's global profile is a priority of Vice-Chancellor Max Price, who would like UCT to become the "university of choice" for international scholars who want to learn about Africa. Outlining his vision shortly after taking up his position as VC, Dr. Price said: "I see a UCT that has become the hub of the south... bringing our own distinctive perspective to intellectual partnerships and engagement".



Photos: Henri T. Marolen

Your Views Please!

Within his first month in office, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Max Price has identified regular interaction with alumni as a top priority. In a letter to all UCT graduates, Dr. Price acknowledges the critical role of alumni support in helping UCT maintain its standards of excellence.

He asks alumni to share their views on how UCT can continue to succeed as a pre-eminent institution, ways in which UCT could better meet their needs, and how UCT could benefit from increased alumni support.

To complete the survey online, go to:
<http://surveys.c-search.co.za/survey/UCTALUMNI.htm>

Thank you for participating in this process! We appreciate your feedback.

Recognize UCT's Alumni Leaders

Each year UCT awards the President of Convocation Medal to a UCT graduate who has brought credit to the university through outstanding community service. Recipients include Dr Stuart Saunders, Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu, and Judge Dennis Davis.

To nominate candidates, please submit a motivation of 100 words or less to Monde Mjebeza, Development & Alumni Department, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700; or via Email: Monde.Mjebeza@uct.ac.za

U.S. Launch of Allan Cormack Biography

UCT Professor Kit Vaughan was in Boston recently to launch his new book, *Imagining the Elephant*, a biography of Allan MacLeod Cormack. A UCT-trained physicist, Cormack was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1979 for his contributions to the development of the computer-assisted tomography (CAT) scanner.

The book launch was held in the Tisch Library of Tufts University, where Allan Cormack was a Professor in the Department of Physics from 1957-1994. Tufts University President Lawrence S. Bacow welcomed a wide range of guests, including Allan's children, Jean and Robert Cormack and other family members, Tufts faculty, and Alumni & Friends.

In his talk Professor Vaughan outlined how Cormack's work revolutionized the future of imaging, allowing clinicians to identify objects normally hidden in a traditional 2D X-ray. It also inspired a new generation of medical scientists such as Vaughan, who now heads the MRC/UCT Medical Imaging Research Unit.

Imagining the Elephant is available from World Scientific Publishing Co. (www.wspc.com). Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the Allan Cormack Book Fund at UCT, which helps students buy physics and mathematics books.



Upcoming Events of Interest

A Look Behind the Gowns and Gavels

UCT Alumni and Friends in New York and Boston are invited to screenings of *Courting Justice*, a thought-provoking new documentary on the lives of South African women judges, directed by Jane Lipman.

Courting Justice highlights the judiciary's engagement in South Africa's transformation to democracy and the importance of women in the judiciary. The film features interviews with Constitutional Court Justices Yvonne Mokgoro and Bess Nkabinde, Supreme Court of Appeal Justice Mandisa Maya, Cape High Court Deputy Judge President Jeanette Traverso and Cape High Court Judges Patricia Goliath and Tazwanda Ndita.



New York City

The Africa Affairs Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and the Vance Center for International Justice Initiatives is sponsoring the New York premiere of *Courting Justice*.

Date: Thursday, September 18, 2008
Time: 6:00pm
Venue: NYC Bar Association, 42 West 44th Street, New York, NY

Boston

Special guests at this Harvard University screening include Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, South African Constitutional Court Justice, Pius Langa, and Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court.

Date: Saturday, October 18, 2008
Venue: Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

KwaZulu-Natal Ebandla

If you lived, studied or worked in KwaZulu-Natal, you're invited to a reunion in New York hosted by Premier S'bu Ndebele, who plans to update KZN alumni on developments in the Province. Even if you can't attend, please spread the word to anyone who might be interested. For more information about Ebandla, see <http://www.ebandla.co.za>, or Email: Kim Foxon at kfoxon@icon.co.za

Date: Thursday, 2 October, 2008
Time: 7:00pm
Venue: Harvard Club of New York City, 35 West 44th Street, New York, NY



Celebrating 150 Years of Law at UCT

Over the next few months, the Law Faculty will celebrate the 150th anniversary of law teaching at UCT.

The Gala 150 Dinner will take place over Reunion Weekend at UCT (October 17-18, 2008). All law graduates are invited but sizeable cohorts are expected from the Reunion years of 1958, 1968, 1978, 1983 and 1988. Guest speakers include Reg Austin (1958) on his work with nations in transition and the UN, Laurie Nathan (1983) on his work in Darfur, and Lewis Gordon Pugh (1994) on "From the North Pole to Capitol Hill".

The Faculty has planned a series of events for alumni who are not able to get back to Cape Town in October.

Hugh Corder and Dennis Davis will hold a series of meetings in New York City from 23-25 September, hosted by UCT Alumni and Friends. Discussions will focus on the Law Faculty's Campaign, "Building Sustainable Justice", and on efforts by the Faculty to produce graduates ready to play an influential role in South Africa and further afield.

For more information, contact Tina Barsby at the UCT Fund, Tel: 413-658-5675;
Email: uctfund@comcast.net



"Alma Mater" by sculptor Bruce Amott, outside the Kramer Law Building, UCT