360 PERSPECTIVES MAGAZINE • ISSUE 1 • 2012/13

A year of UWC excellence in review
In reflecting on 2012 it is evident that the University of the Western Cape (UWC) continues to make positive strides in strengthening its position as a prominent university making a significant contribution to the intellectual, social and economic life of our nation.

Future reflections on 2012 will, however, also mark it as the year in which UWC and our democracy lost the critical voice of Professor Jakes Gerwel. UWC was honoured to host a memorial service in his honour, and at this occasion tribute after tribute confirmed his deep-rooted relationship with UWC. This eminent and loyal alumnus who, in his own words, spent most of his adult life at UWC, will be sorely missed and the University will carefully consider appropriate ways to honour his legacy as we go forward.

One of UWC’s primary concerns for the future is to give effect to its mandate as a public university in a manner that critically engages with the range of challenges facing our nation. We strive to conduct this ongoing engagement in a manner that continues to establish a sense of hope for the nation, while helping to build an equitable and dynamic society, equipped with the knowledge and skills to face the current and future challenges. As the year draws to a close, we are proud to introduce the first edition of an all-encompassing publication, 360 Perspectives, which speaks to a wide audience of alumni, current and prospective students and the general public. We showcase various elements of the University, from alumni impacting on society to the research our academics conduct and what it means for the country, the continent and all its people.

The contents of this publication tell the story of just how UWC made a difference this year. Among others, we are extensively involved in the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project with six research fellows and several SKA-funded postgraduate students from the University further developing the capacity in South Africa to be able to use the SKA.

In keeping with our quest to lead into the future, UWC triumphed at the inaugural African Green Campus awards by winning the National Green Campus of the Year award, setting the benchmark for other campuses to follow.

Furthermore, in line with our goal to strategically influence and develop the campus and surrounding areas, you will read in this publication about the first steps we have taken to integrate the campus with the broader surrounding community as some departments in the Faculty of Community and Health Sciences are set to move in to the Bellville CBD.

A dynamic future beckons as UWC strives to remain a vibrant institution of high repute, in pursuit of excellence in teaching, learning and research. We believe that our strength will come from the institution’s ability to provide a nurturing space for its staff and students to grow in hope and to create and share knowledge. But none of this will be possible without alumni, our many national and international partners in academia and the private sector standing behind us all the way.

Professor BP O’ Connell
Rector and Vice-Chancellor
UWC LEADS SKA RESEARCH
UWC has a team of researchers who are developing local technology for the SKA radio telescope, to be used as a deep probe into the universe.

UNCONTAINED
Through their art, mostly linocuts, artists express the effect apartheid had on themselves and their communities.

THE SA SKILLS SHORTAGE
Nearly half of the six million South Africans between the ages of 18 and 24 are not in education, training or employment.
Seeing transformation
I enjoyed reading the articles in the Three-Hundred and Sixt-e Degrees newsletters. UWC has certainly moved on from the days I attended.

From throwing stones to playing golf – what a transformation.

I graduated in 1988, which seems like ages ago, and reading through the articles I kept looking for names and faces of people who studied during my time.

The only name I recognised was Taswell Papier – has he not done well for himself? The rector was one of my lecturers back then. I must say, he has not aged at all.

Do keep up the good work.
Noel Southgate

Convocation - A tribute to Professor Gerwel
The Convocation of the University of the Western Cape (UWC) deeply mourns the premature passing of our former rector and vice-chancellor, Professor Jakes Gerwel, and sends condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

As a rising scholar, Jakes’ doctoral dissertation exposed racist stereotypes about “Hottentots” and “Kleurlinge” in Afrikaans literature prescribed for South African schools since 1910. This was an instrument to indoctrinate white schoolchildren in contempt for black South Africans, and to undermine Coloured children’s self-image.

When he was a young academic, the Afrikaner nationalists and Broederbonders then controlling the “Universiteit Kollege vir Kleurlinge” three times blocked Gerwel from getting tenure and promotion.

Once Prof Richard van der Ross became rector, he started the emancipation of the University from segregation and repression, and led its struggle for academic freedom. As his successor as rector, Jakes Gerwel urged the University of the Western Cape to become “an intellectual home for the left, “ with scholars committed to the historic liberation of South Africa.

The apartheid regime’s mass expulsion of the entire student enrolment of Fort Hare, Turfloop, and UniBop saw over three thousand student refugees arrive at UWC the following year. Staff, students and librarians alike had to improvise in overcrowded conditions akin to wartime, with police attacks on the campus.

Gerwel’s vice-chancellorship attracted many of the brightest scholars to UWC, some even leaving better-paid posts at other universities or even in other countries. The humanities flowered at UWC through the 1980s and early 1990s, with a huge increase in learned publications.

Gerwel’s non-violent resistance to apartheid included making UWC an open university in defiance of the racist laws, welcoming African students and academics. His leadership led to the established liberal “Open Universities” admitting UWC to their strategising meetings and joint legal actions. UWC gained international recognition for both resistance to apartheid and a scholarship of critical enquiry.

Jakes’ legacy lives on through the vibrant University of the Western Cape which owes him so much. South Africa is the poorer for his passing. We propose a Jakes Gerwel Commemoration Bursary in his honour.

Brian Williams
Convocation President
Keith Gottschalk
Convocation Vice-President

Alumni
To all the alumni and guests who attended the UWC Lead from where you are conversation around the challenges of leadership......THANK YOU.....What an awesome evening of discussions, opinions, lessons learnt and a great privilege to be able to teach on the Law of the inner circle......19 July at 22:33 near Cape Town

Denzel Pedro Smit

Please send your comments and opinions to: alumni@uwc.ac.za
Tel: +27 21 959 2143 | Fax: 021 959 9791 | www.uwc.ac.za/alumni
The University of the Western Cape (UWC) mourns the passing of one of its most eminent alumni, Professor Jakes Gerwel, on Wednesday, November 28, 2012.

Gerwel was associated with UWC for most of his adult life, and was instrumental in its transformation from an apartheid institution to a leading intellectual resource. He was an inspiring teacher, pioneering new approaches to his discipline of literary studies.

At a time when the slogan “Liberation before education” was widely heard, Vice-Chancellor Gerwel led UWC to articulating a confident vision of itself as an intellectual place hospitable to socio-political visions excluded from the South African mainstream of the time. His actions resonated through the South African higher education system, inspiring significant changes in other institutions.

When democracy triumphed, the respect for his leadership was evident in his appointment as Director General in the Office of President Mandela, a task he performed with distinction. Since then he has been a prominent public intellectual, contributing thoughtful articles to the press, speaking in a wide variety of forums and continuing to lead as Distinguished Professor of Humanities at UWC and as Chancellor of Rhodes University.

Gerwel became Rector and Vice-Chancellor of UWC in 1987. His seven years in that role saw an unambiguous alignment with the mass democratic movement and a new edge to the academic project. It also saw the growth of UWC as a community of staff and students active in the transformation project. Under the banner of “an intellectual home of the left”, space was created for curriculum renewal and for innovative research and outreach projects.

Under Gerwel’s leadership, UWC also pioneered ways of making university education more widely accessible. Early in his term as Vice-Chancellor, UWC defied government segregation policy and opened its doors to all races. A period of rapid growth followed, with students coming from all around the country: UWC had become a national university and President Nelson Mandela lauded
UWC for having transformed itself “from an apartheid ethnic institution to a proud national asset.”

Professor Brian O’Connell, Rector and Vice-Chancellor, said: “I’m saddened by this painful loss. Jakes and I studied and worked together for many years. He was not only my colleague but my friend. Our vibrant relationship dates back to the ’60s when we were both student leaders at the University College of the Western Cape (now known as the University of the Western Cape). We have lost a great intellectual at a time when our country sorely needs critical voices of reason and steadfast optimism like Jakes. Our heartfelt sympathy and condolences go out to his wife, Phoebe, his children and the extended Gerwel family.”

1. The late Professor Jakes Gerwel with Nelson Mandela. Gerwel served as Director General in the office of President Mandela.
2. The late Professor Jakes Gerwel with Bill Clinton and Nelson Mandela.

A tribute to Prof Jakes Gerwel

It is the 1980s which defines the Jakes we know.

In the long and proud history of resistance against apartheid in South Africa, at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), or ’Bush’ as we fondly know it, the name of Jakes Gerwel will shine as an enduring beacon for generations to come. We were immensely privileged as former student leaders to have worked closely with Jakes during the eighties. As the tributes poured in after his passing, it became evident that his various distinguished roles during the 1994 transition and the post-democratic era occupied centre stage.

As we mourn and celebrate his extraordinary life, it is important to reflect and acknowledge the pivotal role he played during a very different era in our history. For it was during the dark days of state repression after the declaration of the states of emergency in 1985 and 1986, that UWC assumed particular prominence as a leading and visible site of resistance at a time when most democratic formations were banned and the leaders either arrested or banned.

’Hek Toe!’ (March to the Gate) was the popular slogan at UWC to signal the start of the numerous student marches to Modderdam Road, to protest against the state of emergency, detentions without trial and police brutality. Jakes would personally join us on many of these protest marches, leading from the front, in full academic gown. The symbolism of this was significant, as there was for him absolute synergy in being a scholar and head of an academic institution and marching for social justice.

He inspired, and through his leadership enabled an entire generation of students to become actively involved in the struggle for democracy. The fact that he spent the past decade leading and building the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory speaks volumes as to what he considered to be the remaining challenges facing our society.

His unflinching material and institutional support to us personally, all other UWC detainees and our families during our detention at Victor Verster Prison over the 1985 and 1986 states of emergency will always be treasured. Our deepest condolences go to the entire Gerwel family. Hamba Kahle Jakes Gerwel.

This is an abbreviated version of a longer story that appeared in the City Press.

Dr Llewellyn Mcmaster and Mr Leslie Maasdorp are UWC alumni and served as Presidents of the Student Representative Council (SRC) at the University in 1985 and 1986, respectively.
1. Former President THABO MBEKI delivers the UWC Annual Dullah Omar lecture.

2. American actor FOREST WHITAKER during his visit to meet with the UWC Convocation.

3. US Secretary of State HILLARY CLINTON delivered the Going Global: A US-South African Partnership lecture at the University of the Western Cape.

4. British Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the Right Honourable WILLIAM HAGUE, and UWC Rector and Vice-Chancellor, PROFESSOR BRIAN O'CONNELL, meet outside the new Life Sciences building before Hague's lecture on the 21st century British-South African relationship.

5. Health Minister Dr AARON MOTSOALEDI spoke at the University when he came to launch the First Things First HIV/AIDS awareness programme.
In May 2012, a significant scientific standoff between South Africa and Australia was finally resolved – and the field of radio astronomy was the winner. The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project is one of the largest and most expensive scientific endeavours the world has ever seen. It was divided up between the two countries (and their respective partners), although South Africa got the lion's share.

UWC’s Professor Roy Maartens holds the SKA/Department of Science and Technology (DST) chair in Astrophysics. He leads a team of researchers who are developing the capacity in South Africa to use the SKA as a deep probe of the universe and dark energy. He says that astronomers at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) are extensively involved in the SKA project. They already have a strong presence in the Large Survey Projects on South Africa’s MeerKAT array (short for Karoo Array Telescope, while the “Meer”, or more, indicates that it goes beyond the original KAT proposals), which will become part of the first phase of the SKA project. There are six SKA research fellows at the University, as well as several SKA-funded postgraduate students.

The SKA is a proposed radio telescope system, composed of thousands of smaller (but still massive) radio antennae linked by optic fibre cables. Together these antennae that will work together as a single, gigantic instrument, with a collecting area of approximately one square kilometre.

When completed in 2024 (although it will be partly operational from 2019), the SKA will be the world’s largest and most sensitive radio telescope, with 50 times the sensitivity and 10 000 times the survey speed of the best of the current telescopes. It will provide the highest resolution images in astronomy, and will generate incredible amounts of data – enough to fill 15 million 64GB iPods every day.

Radio telescopes are similar to regular telescopes in that they allow us to examine electro-magnetic waves from far away. But in this case they look at radio waves rather than visible light, with longer wavelengths and lower frequencies. One advantage over optical telescopes is that they are much more functional during the day, when the sun prevents optical astronomers doing their best work. Also, radio waves can pass through solid objects, like clouds, which block visible light.

What we can expect from the SKA project are answers to mysteries at the edge of the universe, and we can have a look...
Albie Sachs, constitutional court judge, freedom fighter and art collector, donated pieces of his personal Mozambican art collection to the University of the Western Cape (UWC) this year. The art is on display in the University library.

The donation took place during an open dialogue event, Dialogues on Mozambican History, hosted by the Centre for Humanities Research on Wednesday, August 15, 2012.

Justice Sachs went into exile during the 1980s, first in England and then Mozambique. During his stay in Mozambique, he developed a great love for the richness and warmth of the country’s culture.

"While I was in exile in England, I was unhappy even when I was happy. But while I lived in Mozambique I was happy even when I was unhappy," he said. He lost an arm and sight in one eye after a car bomb explosion while in Mozambique.

There were few things one could buy in Mozambique, he explained, but art was one of them. He bought a number of paintings that had captured his heart and the essence of the culture he had fallen in love with. Wanting to afford the UWC community the opportunity to experience this, he generously donated this ‘piece’ of his heart to the library.

Nicolette Dirk
UWC tops the green rankings

The University of the Western Cape was the most eco-friendly campus in South Africa in 2012 and has been acknowledged, nationally and internationally, for the number of efforts it has made to go green.

The University was presented with the national Green Campus of the Year award at the inaugural African Green Campus Initiative conference, held at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth.

Five awards for efforts and contribution to campus programmes were made to UWC. They included: recognition of student achievement (to Njabulo Maphumulo); the best institutional presentation; the most innovative programme (for using chipped branches and garden trimmings as mulch on campus flower beds); and for the best designed outfit made from recycled materials.

UWC made a longstanding commitment to sustainability at an international conference in France in 1990, when it signed the Talloires Declaration, a ten-point action plan to incorporate sustainability in education and research. The declaration has been signed by over 350 universities in 40 countries. It was the first official worldwide statement by university administrators to commit to environmental sustainability.

Universities are increasingly taking part in nationwide sustainability networks that emphasise knowledge sharing and collaboration within and among institutions. The African Green Campus Initiative is a strategic response to the challenges of climate change facing universities, colleges and communities. It is based on the notion that campuses that address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emission and integrate sustainability into their curriculum will better benefit the students and will help create a thriving, moral and civil society.

UWC is involved in various green campus initiatives. It is located within an international biodiversity hotspot, and is home to the 30-hectare Cape Flats Nature Reserve, which is rich in Fynbos vegetation. Students are actively involved in managing the reserve through eradicating alien vegetation and maintaining fire breaks.

The University’s recycling initiative has been a huge success, collecting an average of 70 tons of recyclables each month and creating employment for 120 previously unemployed people to sort the recycling materials. UWC is also able to benefit financially from this initiative by selling recycled materials to companies – and it is estimated that the University is able to reduce emissions by 840 tons of carbon dioxide annually.

Furthermore, the University promotes sustainable mobility by using solar powered golf carts instead of cars for travelling around campus and by...
promoting the use of lift clubs and public transport.

Having won the Greenest Campus of the Year award, UWC was approached by Korean organization, Daejayon, which engages with nearly 20,000 campuses globally, to submit a presentation of the environmental work taking place on campus. The UWC team was invited to present at an international conference held in Korea in August 2012, attended by ambassadors, dignitaries and university students from around the world.

UWC Green Team leader, Desleen Saffier, expressed her delight and pride at the team’s achievements. “We were overwhelmed by the recognition and awards we received and we hope we have set a benchmark for other campuses to follow in the coming years,” she said.

UWC’s efforts as a progressive, forward-thinking green institution have also earned it awards from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the World Conservation Congress.

UWC greening efforts include:

**RECYCLING**
Recycle bins are used across the campus.
- Green for recyclable items
- Yellow for non-recyclables
- White for paper

**INDIGENOUS PLANTS**
Indigenous plants are sought and taken out before construction starts on a site, and they are re-planted once construction has been completed.

**CHIPPER**
Waste plant material from the Cape Flats Nature Reserve is chipped and used as mulch in garden beds on campus.

**STUDENT ORGANISATIONS**
Students in Free Enterprise (Sife) and Green Campus Initiative (GCI) are student organisations that are consistently involved in greening initiatives on campus and in the community.

**GOLF CARTS**
Six electric golf carts are used as on-campus transport.

**JOB CREATION**
A hundred-and-twenty jobs have been created through recycling initiatives.

**FERAL CATS**
The feral cats on campus are cared for and are a natural means of pest control.

**COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS**
The Environmental Education and Resources Unit hosts training workshops for the community on the benefits of planting indigenous plants.

Luthando Tyhalibongo
South Africa has an unequal society, and in the face of such diversities as poverty, disease, persistent racial divides and new class polarisations, attention should be drawn to cultural resistance in contemporary times.

Uncontained: Opening the Community Arts Project at the Iziko South African National Gallery is an exhibition of prints, mostly linocuts, selected from the Community Arts Project (CAP) collection housed at the Centre for Humanities Research at UWC.

“The exhibition showcases a history with a message that is uncontainable,” says exhibition curator, Emile Maurice.

Most of the works in the exhibition were produced during the 1980s when the apartheid state had reached the zenith of its oppression. While many of the works raise awareness of the social effects of apartheid and give a cultural voice to the oppressed communities in the Cape, they are also works of personal expression.

The pieces, selected from an archive of almost 4 000 created during CAP’s existence up until 2009, are political as almost every individual act in South Africa during that time was political, Maurice says.

“In South Africa we gave up political art in 1994, because we thought everything would be hunky-dory. But it isn’t. The exhibition helps us to reconsider,” says Maurice. “Where is the political voice in contemporary society and why has it waned?”

The CAP collection was held in storage for a long time. “A somewhat neglected and marginalised collection. Not many people outside of CAP had seen it; mainstream culture was not looking towards community arts,” explains Maurice. “It had one showing here at Iziko in 1997 when CAP was trying to write its history.”

The title of the exhibition literally refers to the unpacking of the work from the cardboard boxes in which they arrived from UWC, and also to the releasing of its message. The exhibition will run at Iziko until April 2013.
Investing in the Future

The University of the Western Cape engaged in a number of exciting refurbishment and development projects this year.

Chemical Sciences building
The R226-million new Chemical Sciences building will be operational during the course of 2013. Comprising 8 600 square metres of research, teaching and learning space, the facility will house Applied Geology, the preeminent grouping within the Department of Earth and Water Sciences, and the Department of Chemistry.

Bellville Medical Centre
A project estimated to cost R200 million signals the start of the University integrating with its urban surrounds in the Bellville CBD. The old Jan S Marais Hospital building is set to be revamped and will be the new home for some departments of the Community and Health Sciences Faculty by 2014.

Residence Lifestyle Centre
The new Residence Lifestyle Centre, completed at the end of 2012. Overlooking the cricket oval, the centre houses a cafeteria, offices for residence administration and student leadership structures, and includes a courtyard.

Short-course swimming and water polo pool
The R4-million, FINA-approved new short-course swimming and water polo pool was launched at the end of October 2012.

Dentistry at Tygerberg Hospital
The dentistry building at the Tygerberg campus received a R24.2-million facelift in 2012.

Sport stadium upgrade
Read about this project in our article on page 62.

New residences
The University partnered with Kovacs (Pty) Ltd for the construction of residential accommodation offering 1 600 beds to resident students, at a cost of R321 million, on the East campus. The first phase of the construction started in June 2011 and was completed in February 2012. The second phase is estimated to cost R52.8 million and was completed at the end of September 2012. The third phase is set to be completed at the end of 2013.

Cluster residence upgrades
This R40-million project, which was completed during 2012, consisted of mainly kitchen facilities being installed and bathroom facilities being upgraded in four of the cluster residences.

UWC thanks all donors who have contributed to the infrastructural upgrades.
The Lead from Where You Are programme, run by the University of the Western Cape’s alumni relations office and sponsored by PPS, sees alumni sharing their challenges as leaders.

The programme is a platform for discussing leadership challenges.

Everyone has the potential to lead successfully, irrespective of the position they hold and people need continuous support to deal with their challenges. The University wants to use this platform to continue investing in the leaders it produces.

Denzel Pedro Smit, a UWC graduate and John Maxwell-certified leadership and personal development coach, is the anchor facilitator for the programme.

The first leadership dialogue was in partnership with the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences and was held in July 2012. It focused on dealing with everyday leadership challenges in business. The guest speaker was Mr Taswell Papier, director of Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs.

This was followed by an event featuring the Dentistry Faculty, titled Leadership Challenges in Health Sciences, which was held in September. The discussion was led by Professor Jairam Reddy, a former dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at UWC, ex-rector of the University of Durban-Westville, currently a consultant for the establishment of a new dental faculty at University of KwaZulu-Natal and formerly a director to the United Nations University International Leadership Institute, Amman, Jordan, from 1994 to 2008. Dentists attending were eligible for four Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points as the event inculcated a CPD programme.

For details on upcoming events, contact the alumni relations office on 021 959 2143, alumni@uwc.ac.za or go to www.uwc.ac.za

For UWC alumnus, Vehona Joseph, 26, living in Miami is not about lazy days at the beach. The BCom Accounting graduate works at the accounting firm Grant Thornton LLP US, where he is in charge of the statutory audit.

Joseph was seconded by Grant Thornton International. “I grabbed the opportunity immediately,” he says. He joined the company at a very busy time at the end of 2011, and often had to work more than 12 hours a day to meet deadlines. He admires his American colleagues’ work ethic. “Their effort to achieve goals makes for a great work environment and their ability to work as a team is something South Africans sometimes lack. The competitive environment also helps steer productivity in the right direction,” says Joseph.

Meeting deadlines in a company with a R1.1-billion turnover is a far cry from Joseph’s carefree campus life, where free time was spent eating Gatsbys at The Barn. As a student his extra-curricular activities also included peer facilitation during the 2005/2006 orientation for the Economics and Management faculty. Although daunting at first, Joseph says he enjoyed helping first-year students get settled on campus.

Social events aside, Joseph was determined to fulfil his dream of becoming a chartered accountant. He had decided on this career while at school, at Fairmont High School in Durbanville, after three days’ job shadowing at an auditing firm.

Joseph’s UWC alumni parents inspired him to make a success of his studies. His father, Adam, is an LLB graduate and his mother, Vanessa, holds a Master’s degree in education. “My parents taught us that any goal can be achieved through hard work and dedication,” he says. 

Nicolette Dirk
Yvonne Muthien

a lifetime of leadership

After serving as chief executive of Group Services at Sanlam for three years and more than two decades experience in the corporate world, University of the Western Cape (UWC) alumna, Yvonne Muthien, 57, says she looked forward to her retirement at the end of September 2012.

She served as board chairman for the Sasol Inzalo Foundation, Sanlam Limited, Santam, Sanlam Investments and Sanlam Investment Management. She was vice president of public affairs and communications for Coca-Cola Africa in London, group executive corporate affairs for MTN, founding executive director of democracy and governance at the Human Sciences Research Council and public service commissioner in former president Nelson Mandela’s government.

She also served as a business strategy and scenarios consultant and worked on the Dinokeng Scenario project which involved 35 top South African leaders exploring the possible futures, risks and opportunities the country faces in the next stage of its fledging democracy. And in December 2002 she was awarded the Presidential Award as Grand Counsellor of the Order of Baobab by President Mbeki, for her contribution towards the development of a new national identity.

The eldest of eight children, Muthien grew up in Ravensmead. “My parents were poor and had little education. But my father was blessed with considerable intellect and taught himself to read and write. My mother instilled in us a love for reading,” she says.

When she matriculated from Elswood High School, Muthien studied towards a BA degree at UWC. “I was part of the 1976 generation and we prided ourselves in our intellectual and reasoning abilities,” she says.

After graduating cum laude from UWC, she completed a Master’s degree in political science at North Western University in Chicago as a Fulbright scholar, returned briefly to lecture at UWC and went on to complete a doctorate in Sociology at Christ Church College, Oxford, in 1989. On her return she joined Natal University, where she became an associate professor in Sociology in 1993.

Muthien says skills like diligence, rigour and tenacity contribute to her success - these are skills she acquired as a student at UWC.

“Students who want to be successful in the business world need to work hard to build a solid track record. Why be ordinary when you can excel and make a difference in what you do,” she says.

Nicolette Dirk
DEMOCRACY: a contested notion

Democracy and development are often conflated in poor urban areas, with residents measuring freedom in terms of access to resources rather than in terms of human and legal rights.

“It is an understandable measurement: when asked how they are experiencing democracy people don’t talk about elections, they talk about what material possessions they have and what facilities they have access to,” says Prof Lisa Thompson, director of the African Centre for Citizenship and Democracy (ACCEDE) at the University of the Western Cape’s (UWC) School of Government.

Access to resources and the delivery of services “seems to be how people are articulating an understanding of what democracy means to them,” says Thompson.

Her view is a result of ACCEDE having tracked issues around governance and democracy in selected urban areas and conducting surveys to find out what citizens in those areas understand by democracy.

Improving the material reality of people in poor areas through better housing and service delivery is what people see as democracy in effect. Consequently in areas where resource allocation is slow or non-existent, people are most disillusioned with the state.

“Though there is still a lot of trust in the ANC as the vanguard of the liberation struggle, particularly amongst African people (as in communities like Khayelitsha, which has a predominantly African population),” says Thompson, “there is still disillusionment with what democracy means in real terms.”

ACCEDE is conducting research to establish how strong the link is between access to resources and the tendency to think that democracy has failed. A 2011 survey shows that a vast majority of people living in poor rural areas were dissatisfied with the democratic state.

There is speculation that the extent to which people think democracy is failing is proportional to protest action, as people increasingly turn to lobbying for whatever it is they want or feel they need, as protest garners results faster than participation. And protests tend to quickly spill over into non-democratic violence as a means to gain attention.

The recent violence of the Marikana strike, “visually epitomised by panga-wielding miners on the one hand, and a fully armed police force on the other”, which culminated in 44 deaths, may, Thompson fears, spark a precedent both in the mining sector and across the rest of the country. The wave of strikes that have followed Marikana in mining and other sectors has raised concern about the stability of South Africa’s economic future.

There is, however, a good deal of evidence (collected by ACCEDE) to suggest that people would rather use democratic channels first and only protest if these methods do not address their problems. But those who attempt democratic channels first are the same people who engage in protests that often fast become undemocratic. However, protest generally only occurs when residents feel they are not being listened to and their actions have no effect.

The South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO), street communities and development forums are optimistic about the impact of participation as this is key to accessing resources. But surveys conducted in Khayelitsha and Langa revealed that the general population don’t have much to do with their local councillor, many not knowing who their councillor is. When attending public meetings they receive information but are not being heard. The conversation only flows one way.

Housing

In many ways poorly implemented forms of participation are worse than no
participation at all, as any participation perceived as partisan results in community groups being pitted against each other in a struggle for resources and opportunities.

For example, the Department of Housing uses housing beneficiary committees to ensure that housing allocation is conducted fairly. But housing contractors in many instances don’t do sufficient interrogation of the elected committee leadership and there is an overwhelming impression that operationally they aren’t as targeted or structured as they should be.

In these instances a sense of community becomes more a myth than a reality: resources, and how these resources are allocated, create divisions between who gets what, with a resultant erosion of social cohesion.

Youth
To date ACCEDE has not conducted much specific research into how different age groups engage with their citizenship. It is often wrongly assumed that there is great youth mobilisation. Thompson says it is striking to see how many young people, particularly young men – perhaps the young women had found domestic work, or were in their own homes – were hanging about on corners. “It is concerning that so many 18 to 24-year olds hang around with nothing to do.”

The concern is that these young people – who are neither engaging with their society, nor in employment – will fall into drugs, crime or gangs. There are many initiatives that try to engage young people in their communities, including church groups and sports initiatives.

There are low levels of political engagement amongst young people, other than becoming opportunistically involved in protests if they happen to be around when one is happening. Young people are rarely involved in the groups discussing necessary action. Parents and people of an older generation are involved on their behalf.

Children born from 1990 – the ‘born free’ generation who grew up outside the apartheid regime – are now coming of age and are increasingly frustrated with the pace of real, tangible transformation in their lives. Though they retain a loyalty to the ANC and see no practical alternative party, they may be more likely attracted to the dramatics of Julius Malema and the possible change that comes through violent protest, says Thompson.

Katie de Klee
Western Cape Provincial Parliament’s head of Legal Services, Romeo Maasdorp, says the fact that he learnt to be independent from a young age has contributed to his success in life.

The University of the Western Cape (UWC) alumnus, who is the eldest of seven children, fondly recalls his childhood and growing up in Port Elizabeth.

“My father worked at an insurance agency and my mother was a nurse. She had to leave for work early in the mornings, before we woke, and only returned home after 5pm. I remember how, getting home from West End Primary School, I had to collect the house key from the neighbour while my parents were still at work. In retrospect, being independent from such a young age is where my self-reliance stems from. We never realised our family was going through hardship,” says Maasdorp.

Maasdorp’s family inspired him to stay focused and maintain his drive for education and success. His parents used to say that only education could open doors in life.

“After 1994 young people had more freedom. However, I still remind my two daughters that while the world may be their playground, education can open doors for them,” he says.

Maasdorp matriculated from Bethelsdorp High School where he was deputy head boy. He became politically aware during his teenage years, and found a way to access underground political literature, often attending workshops held by senior activists.

“When I was in Standard 8, student uprisings were taking place all over the country. During these volatile times students took a militant stand not only against the regime but against the socio-political environment in South Africa,” he says.

In 1989, while he was in Standard 9, Maasdorp’s history teacher took him
and a few other SRC pupils to Cape Town during the June school holidays to meet with the SRC body at UWC.

“I was the vice-president of our school’s SRC and that visit made a great impact on my political perception. We met with the UWC students to mobilise and form a national student body,” says Maasdorp. All the Maasdorp siblings were active members in the school’s SRC.

When he had to decide on a place of study, Maasdorp had a choice between UWC and the University of Port Elizabeth (UPE). At the time non-whites had to apply for a special permit to study at UPE. His political sensitivity made him choose UWC instead.

He was 13-years-old when he decided he would one day study law and was inspired by a lawyer, a friend of his father’s, who could articulate his arguments.

In 1983, during his first year of studies towards a BA (Law) degree, Maasdorp became involved in UWC’s SRC. He handed out pamphlets on and off campus, and organised mass rallies in a bid to promote the council’s resistance to the former regime.

It was an exciting time with many young people taking responsibility for changing the country but it took a toll on Maasdorp’s academic studies.

“I did poorly in my first year and failed most of my subjects. My younger brother, Leslie, was in matric at the time and I felt my parents couldn’t afford to waste their money on me failing,” says Maasdorp. For this reason he opted to study part-time while working at the library full-time. This allowed him easy access to his study material. Working and studying at the same time, Maasdorp realised the importance of time. Between 1984 and 1994, his days consisted of work and classes at university, until 8.30pm. By the time he got home he was just in time for supper, which was followed by a study session.

After graduating, Maasdorp completed his articles at Ebrahims Incorporated and the Legal Aid Board before he started his own practice specialising in criminal defence litigation. Almost eight years later he moved on to head the Office of the Speaker and legal services at Western Province Provincial Parliament.

But the former political activist continues to fight the good fight, in office. “Fighting for what is right is not a hobby that loses its novelty. As an activist I think at a different level today and I can reflect on how the work I did allowed me to take the good fight further where I am today. The students at UWC have a lot of potential and need to seize the opportunities that others have fought for,” says Maasdorp. Nicolette Dirk
SEBASTIAO MATSINHE
UWC’s artistic phoenix

Love and tragedy have been Sebastiao Matsinhe’s artistic inspirations. He has created artwork that has been praised by presidents Jacob Zuma and Nelson Mandela, and one of his paintings, which embodies the struggle that Nelson Mandela went through, hangs in the home of the former president.

Matsinhe, 45, uses crutches as a walking aid but did not deter him from attaining his Masters in Arts at the UWC in March 2012. He funds his studies by selling his artwork at various exhibitions.

He recently completed a special work of art that will remain on campus for future generations to admire. He has transformed the bed that was in his residence room and which served as his workstation. It is on display at Cassinga Residence. “I came from Mozambique to UWC in 2001 with nothing but my ability. I could afford no other place to paint from, except my room,” says Matsinhe.

Besides shows at UWC, his work has been exhibited at the BMW Pavilion in the V&A Waterfront and at the Baxter Theatre, and abroad in Angola, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Swaziland and in his hometown in Mozambique.

With rich colours and imagination, his paintings reveal the turbulent emotions he experienced surviving the civil war in Mozambique.

He was a keen athlete at school, but in 1985, aged 17, tragedy toppled his athletic career. His suffered inexplicable paralysis while he was training. “I remember feeling tired during training. When I stopped, I fell and I never could stand unsupported again. I was taken to hospital and stayed for nearly a year. I was also taken to Lisbon, in Portugal, and to Durban for medical treatment,” says Matsinhe. To this day doctors do not know what caused the paralysis, although some suspect it could be Polio. It is still being investigated.

Although his circumstances were tragic, the long stays in hospital gave Matsinhe time to reflect about what he wanted from life. “Lying in that hospital bed made me realise two things: I can choose to come back and socialise with people as before, or I can choose to die. It made me realise how important life is and I have learnt to see life in a different light,” he says.

When he returned to school his teachers encouraged him to put all his energy into painting as they recognised his talent.

Three years after he became ill, Matsinhe experienced joy again when his first son was born. But because of his disability he was not allowed to marry the child’s mother. “It was not easy to accept.

However, my mother reminded me that I should thank God my disability came before marriage. She suggested that I focus on the future. This was the most helpful advice I have ever been given,” says Matsinhe.

He has overcome his illness emotionally by believing that everything happens for a reason. “If God allowed me to be like this, perhaps He wanted to use me as an ‘instrument’ for others to learn from. I have lived life as a so-called ‘normal’ person and today I live life as a so-called ‘disabled’ person. The experience has enriched my personality and my art,” he says.

Nicolette Dirk
Marriage came early in Vinoria Nyembezi’s life. She was just 13 and in Grade 5 when she was forced into marriage in 1984.

The odds against the girl from Willowvale in the Eastern Cape completing high school, never mind obtaining a tertiary qualification, seemed unlikely.

However, Nyembezi did not let the obstacles get her down. After giving birth to three children, she returned to school 12 years later, eventually matriculating from Simunye High School in Delft. After that she was accepted at UWC in 2007. And in 2012, at 41, she graduated with her nursing degree, majoring in psychiatry.

Nyembezi’s story exemplifies the fact that while boys and girls have identical educational opportunities on paper, in practice gender inequalities in the field of learning remain. Improving girls’ access to education, particularly among marginalised groups, has been one of the major goals of the research project Gender Equality, Education and Poverty (GEEP), examining gender equality, equity and education within the context of poverty in post-conflict South Africa and in Sudan.

Dean of the Education Faculty at UWC, Professor Zubeida Desai, says gender differences are essentially social constructs and “to achieve empowerment, girls must overcome discriminatory and oppressive social and cultural practices where beliefs that men are superior to women are imposed”.

It is often in the home domain where it becomes impossible to see the gender oppression that girls suffer, Desai says. A contrast exists between gender equality in the classrooms and in the homes, and thus in the realm of gender equity students need to become teachers.

Children must teach their parents about the importance of education, particularly for girls. And teachers, instead of the parents, are often the ones who must encourage students. Should girls be supported in the classroom, more women like Nyembezi can reclaim their education.

Katie de Klee
Research into violence against WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

Women with disabilities are doubly discriminated against and are often at higher risk of gender-based violence, sexual abuse, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation. But few of these cases ever make it to court.

The Community Law Centre (CLC) at UWC is conducting research into violence against women with disabilities, with particular focus on sexual assault, domestic violence and rape. The research is being carried out in the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, and is a first for South Africa.

In the Western Cape, the Cape Mental Health Society has been running a programme since the early 1990s, offering court preparations for persons with disabilities who have been assaulted. It is the only organisation in the Western Cape that offers this specialised service. Its programme, Sexual Abuse Victim Empowerment (SAVE), educates victims about their rights and teaches them how to cope with the after-effects of abuse.

The Cape Mental Health Society is unique in South Africa, and the CLC began their research with the aim of finding out what happens in provinces where this programme is not in place. Helene Combrinck, who is based at the CLC and is involved in the research project, says they found that few or no cases of violence against women with disabilities were successfully heard in court in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, indicating that without the programme “the cases don’t go anywhere”.

Many cases are not even reported and disabled women with psycho-social disabilities, including certain mental health problems, who were part of two focus groups (one each in the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal), said that if they were the victims of abuse they would not report it to the police. Combrinck says that previous encounters with the police influences a relationship with the law and how much trust women with psycho-social disorders would place in the police.

Early in 2013 the CLC will hold a series of workshops to review the findings of their research. They will likely recommend that programmes such as that of Cape Mental Health be expanded to other provinces as it significantly impacts on the rate of relief for victims.

Katie de Klee
While South Africa was the first country in the world to register midwives (in 1892), giving birth in a South African public hospital is more dangerous than sky diving, says Associate Professor in the University of the Western Cape’s (UWC) Faculty of Community and Health Sciences, Nomafrench Mbombo.

Many midwives in South Africa work alone and unsupported in a hostile, disabling environment and this means complications in birth can, and often do, lead to the unnecessary death of the child, the mother, or both. Local midwives are also poorly paid and are not regarded as possessing a scarce skill. As a result, South Africa is far behind many other countries in Africa in equipping midwives with evidence-based skills to manage obstetric emergencies.

According to the United Nations’ (UN) midwifery barometer, 172 out of 452 birth complications that occur in South Africa every day, occur in under-resourced, rural areas. Consider that 43.6% of South Africans live in rural areas and they are served by only 12% of our doctors and 19% of our nurses.

Midwives also have a critical role in providing family planning and preventing HIV transmission from mother to child. They are the cornerstone for the prevention of maternal deaths. The World Health Organization notes that midwives are a major contribution to attaining the millennium development goals (MDG) which aim to see a 75% reduction of the 1990 maternal death ratio by 2015. At the least, we need to achieve a 5.5 % yearly decline rate. South Africa is far from attaining this goal, says Mbombo.

UWC’s School of Nursing is working with international funding agencies, government and other academic institutions to

“THEY ARE THE CORNERSTONE FOR THE PREVENTION OF MATERNAL DEATHS”
train and improve midwives’ skills. In the area of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV, UWC is involved in a United States president’s emergency plan for AIDS relief (PEPFAR) and Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded project that has led to 611 nurse-midwives graduating and practicing at provincial health facilities.

Additionally, 50 postgraduates studying clinical specialization at Stellenbosch University and 27 nurse educators from Lilitha nursing college in the Eastern Cape have received PMTCT training while further training at nursing colleges in Mpumalanga and Limpopo is being planned. Instructional videos and PMTCT books are also being developed at UWC and a short course for qualified nurses and midwives is on offer.

In terms of furthering best practice in midwifery education in Africa, UWC is working with structures such as the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), the African Union (AU), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and others.

In recognition of UWC’s expertise in midwife training, members of the institution were invited to a ministerial meeting hosted by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to assist them in creating an interstate Central Africa university for midwifery and in the next three years UWC will be training midwifery postgraduate students from these central countries.

Locally, UWC is involved in a national study to analyse midwifery practices in South Africa and it has since 2007 also been represented on the national ministerial committee that audits causes of maternal deaths in South Africa, and co-authored SA Saving Mothers reports. The School of Nursing’s track record has led the UNFPA for East and Southern Africa to approach UWC to assist in up-scaling best practices on measuring maternal mortality in the eastern and southern countries.

And through Mbombo, UWC, as a member of the international initiative on maternal mortality and human rights, has been invited to speak on global platforms, including the UN Special Rapporteur on health and human rights in Geneva.

UWC School of Nursing’s achievements reveal international recognition as an institution that recognises the unique, professional role of midwives and is active in influencing policymakers to invest in midwifery.

“We do have the tools to invest in midwifery; we need a political will and financial resources to put the tools in use,” says Mbombo.

Steve Kretzmann

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Alumni Prof sees to smiles all round

Working with students and helping patients who cannot afford proper dental treatment is what motivates Professor Vivienne Wilson.

It is no secret that academia does not pay as well as private practice but the University of the Western Cape’s (UWC) head of the Restorative Dentistry Cluster is not motivated by money.

“I love working with students,” says Wilson, “the interaction can be challenging, but it is fulfilling.” She works with students in their third year onwards and enjoys seeing how they develop and mature.

She says giving back to the community is particularly satisfying and UWC’s Mitchell’s Plain and Tygerberg dentistry clinics see more than 120 000 patients a year. Dentistry students also treat patients at public facilities such as Groote Schuur Hospital and the Red Cross Children’s Hospital, and attend at various outreach projects.

Wilson further spearheaded UWC’s involvement in the Old Age Home Denture Project which provided dentures to pensioners. The pensioners’ denture project was started by members of the National Medical and Dental Association in the ‘90s, with members in private practices volunteering to provide services for old people. Members would do one or two free dentures a month for the aged.

But that initiative fizzled out and Wilson was central to the University picking it up. Through liaison with the Cape Peninsula Organisation for the Aged (CPOA) pensioners would be transported to the Mitchell’s Plain faculty where she was a lecturer. Wilson then liaised with the University administration to organise students who wanted to take part. They would get paid an hourly fee by the Desmond Tutu Fund and the payment would go toward their tuition fees.

It allowed students to get some money and extra skills, she says. They would work at the Mitchell’s Plain faculty after hours and at the Gugulethu clinic on Saturdays.

While UWC senior dentistry students did the clinical work, Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) dental technician students would as part of their volunteer effort, create the dentures in the laboratory. However, increasing logistical difficulties, such as UWC and CPUT students having examinations at different times, saw the initiative end in 2002.

Wilson is open to the idea of starting the project up again as, with dentures costing anything from R2 000 upwards, there is a need to provide for the elderly on state pension. “Reviving it is something the faculty must really look at,” she says.

Meanwhile, the dental faculty does still make dentures for the elderly but in a province with the highest indenture rate in the country, there is a waiting list about two years long.

The satisfaction Wilson gets from being involved in helping people and working with students is part of the reason she has been involved with UWC throughout her career, since graduating in 1983 and returning as a student to complete her Masters in 1990.

The early ’80s was when the University was a site of struggle against the apartheid regime but Wilson says the dentistry students weren’t really involved in the protests as their classes were predominantly off-campus, at the Tygerberg facility.

Although in residence, she would leave campus in the morning and return late in the day. Often they were prevented from getting back onto campus because of protests at the gate.

This lack of campus life for dentistry students is something she’d like to change as the students very rapidly become more like workers than students. Thus the current initiative to provide a more direct access corridor to the Tygerberg dentistry facility is one that has her full support.

Steve Kretzmann
FORWARD THINKERS

The University of the Western Cape (UWC) is the first university in the country to offer a new career path for young people who want to be involved in local economic development. The four-year B.Econ. (Development Economics) degree programme was launched in 2011, with just under 30 students in the January intake.

“It is a challenging initiative,” says Lindi Kamffer, the former Economics and Management Sciences Faculty manager. “You have to find 18-year olds who know they want to go out there and make a difference.” Students who graduate from the programme will be in a fantastic position to become competent and expert Local Economic Development practitioners.

The profession of Local Economic Development practitioner is a complex one that demands a diverse set of skills and competencies. Economic development should not be done through trial and error; it should be implemented by people who have been equipped with the specific knowledge the job requires, says Kamffer.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has realised that, to enhance this sphere of government, there needs to be changes made to the curriculum at universities. The DTI entered into a partnership with the University of Johannesburg in April 2010 to promote the placement of qualified people in the field of local and community development, and to have the profession recognised as distinct and self-governing. Members of the profession will then be better able to meet the challenges faced by local government.

The degree includes an in-service training component to ensure learners are able to show competence in certain necessary areas.

With this in mind the Economics and Management Sciences Faculty of UWC has created a new degree that will give the profession of Local Economic Development practitioner its own academic roots and increase the usefulness of the contribution the profession makes to economic development at a local level.

The new partnership between academic institutions and government is very important for the future of economic development, and to nurture those who will find solutions to economic challenges at a local level to create jobs and reduce poverty. The degree will form a baseline of what is considered the core body of knowledge for the job.

Katie de Klee
Much work needs to be done to ensure that coherent career and learning pathways between the world of work and further study are developed. In addition, there is minimal labour market intelligence data in South Africa to ensure accurate projections for skills demand in the economy, although the DHET is addressing this.

“The issue of skills supply and demand is a complex one,” says Joy Papier, director of UWC’s FETI. “Needs are not clearly defined or set out and the skills providers have constraints on what they can provide. The system is not well enough synchronised yet for the supply to meet the demand or the demand to properly inform supply.”
There are 900,000 students in the university system and 450,000 in the FET vocational sector and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET). This represents an inverted pyramid that is ill-equipped to provide large-scale education and training capable of addressing large-scale youth unemployment, says Papier.

PERCEPTIONS
Young people are frustrated as they feel they cannot access job opportunities. Yet that there are half as many students in the FET and TVET sectors than at university may be a result of “very negative perceptions regarding occupational training and blue-collar work, partly as a result of South Africa’s apartheid education legacy”, says Seamus Needham at FETI.

“Young people are sitting around, yet many are not prepared to learn a trade (and) there is a growing youth unemployment rate,” says Needham.

This despite formal figures showing a 27% unemployment rate in South Africa. The figure does not take into account the people who are not looking for employment. A significant number of young people are not actively seeking employment and including them would probably bring the unemployment figure up to about 46%.

As part of the FETI-CHET publication, the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit, based in the School of Economics at the University of Cape Town, reported on their longitudinal Cape Area Panel Study (CAPS), which shows the relationship between education and income potential, that the most unemployable people were those who had reached Grade 11. They were less employable than those who only had Grade 8 because of a perception that they were not capable of completing Matric.

Young people with Matric and post-matric qualifications had significantly improved incomes. Vocational programmes through which students see the possibility of employment are also more popular, such as tourism and hospitality, as there is a visible move towards a service economy.

Needham noted that safety and security training was also disproportionately high – not only in the police force but also among private security personnel. This was not necessarily a positive indication of larger societal cohesion, however. While industry is vocal about skills deficiencies, many companies have been resistant to providing workplace-training opportunities.

Needham says some companies prefer to draw on an international labour market that increases competition for local education and training interventions. It would take time for the provision of skills South Africa needs, say FETI staff.

South Africa’s education is historically underfunded and policies have only recently been changed and new ones implemented. The economy and education and training systems are slowly moving closer, but it is still an unfolding process.

Government is making vocational training more attractive through national student financial aid schemes that have been providing funding since 2009 to FET college students. However, there remains a perception within communities that vocational training is a dead end. People need to see that there are jobs and realistic salaries at the end of vocational studies, says Papier.

UWC’s FETI has a three-fold mandate: to develop professional teaching qualifications for FET college lecturers, academic and commissioned research in the FET college sector, and to conduct advocacy/capacity building projects within the FET college sector. FETI has worked closely with the Centre for Higher Education Transformation (CHET) on research publications funded by Ford Foundation that have focused on post-school youth.

Katie de Klee

UWC women’s beach volleyball triumphed at the inaugural Varsity Sports tournament held in Plettenberg Bay from November 22 to 24, and in Margate from November 29 to December 1. The UWC team consisted of first-year BA students Bejancke Della and Prudence Layters, and travelling reserve, BA Social Science Honours student, Kudzai Chireka. The team was a cut above the rest with a resounding 38-22 victory over the University of Johannesburg (UJ) to claim the Varsity Sports beach volleyball title in Margate.

Undefeated over the two legs of the tournament, the dynamic UWC duo had too much class and composure for their opponents. Their dominance was underlined by their convincing performance in the final. The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Madibaz took third place in a play-off against Tshwane University of Technology.

Katie de Klee
Access to EDUCATION

Recent statistics show that 480 000 children with disabilities are not in school, says Lorenzo Wakefield of the Community Law Centre at the University of the Western Cape (UWC). The statistic has increased by 70% in 2001 numbers.

The Department of Education is partially to blame as it does not prioritise the right to education for children with disabilities.

This year, with the Limpopo textbook crisis and the lack of teachers in the Eastern Cape in the spotlight, disability took a back seat. The fact that the Athlone School for the Blind received a delivery of books that were not in Braille completely escaped public attention, Wakefield says.

Article 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities guarantees the right to accessibility. It is a form of discrimination not to accommodate disabled students, says Helene Combrinck, a senior researcher at the UWC Community Law Centre.

“Doors need to be wide enough for wheelchair access and school buses need to be wide enough to admit wheelchairs. Composite rights need to be taken into consideration,” she says.

“Transport is a real issue,” says Wakefield. Working class communities are not able to provide transport for their disabled family members, “so the children can’t access any schools, let alone one that can support their special needs”, he says.

In 2001 a programme outlined in the Education White Paper 6 launched a 20-year project to ensure all public schools were equipped to accommodate learners with disabilities. The initial aims were to have 500 full-service schools and 380 special schools or resource centres by 2021. But by 2011, only 94 full-service schools had been created.

Meanwhile, there is ongoing debate on whether all children with disabilities should be in special schools. “Ideally all schools would have wheelchair access and teachers and students who can sign,” says Wakefield, although the deaf sector believe deaf children are better off in a special school that offers a dedicated environment.

Katie de Klee
The School Governing Body (SGB) system in South African schools, as it stands, is intensifying the disparities between well-resourced and poor schools.

This is according to a study by Wynand Louw, of the University of the Western Cape’s (UWC) Institute for Social Development, that looked at the effectiveness of SGBs in underperforming schools.

The study was commissioned by the Presidency to collect information that can be used in educational policymaking. It was conducted among a sample of 85 schools in the Western Cape, in schools with a matric pass rate of less than 60 percent.

The research report, titled *School Governing Bodies at Underperforming Schools: How effective are they really?*, is one of several that focused on a variety of education issues.

The report says that the relative contribution of the SGB to the governance of a school depends largely on the demographics and socio-economic context of the school. Schools in the more affluent areas have a greater pool of resources (financial and social) parents can draw on.

Parents in impoverished areas “were not interested to serve on the SGB simply because they were too busy struggling to survive economically and socially.”

“The situation clearly depicts an anomalous situation (of) schools that are less dependent on contributions and assistance from SGBs typically having well-functioning governing bodies, while schools that are in dire need of institutional and financial support are often faced with highly ineffectual SGBs,” the report reads.

Forming SGBs in the mid-1990s was a way to change the authoritative school governance system of the apartheid regime and to introduce an inclusive style of school.

School-related issues were dealt with by government and by the schools themselves. Subsequently, when SGBs were introduced, “very little, if any, experience was accumulated by parents in governing and managing some of the affairs of school”. The situation has not changed and contributes to compromised SGBs.

The situation is even worse in rural areas as parents do not necessarily live near the schools their children attend. Many of the children attending these schools are from farmworkers’ families. Parents might live on farms that are far from the schools.

“This makes it almost impossible for parents, who usually work long hours and have no easy access to transport, to attend SGB meetings or any other school events,” the report says.

But the long distances do not only affect parents’ participation in school activities. SGB members from these schools said because of the long distances children had to travel to get to and from school, the schools had high levels of absenteeism among pupils.

The situation also renders it near impossible for children from these schools to take part in extra-mural activities like sports or even extra classes. Here senior pupils are particularly disempowered, as they are not able to attend additional evening academic programmes that could help them achieve better marks.

“SGBs in their current form appear to be fundamentally flawed and not working in the context of underperforming schools, the report says and recommends that regardless of the resources available to them, the policy that SGBs operate under should be revisited and the training programmes for SGB members, which currently don’t bear the desired results, be remodelled.

“Both principals and educators indicated that SGBs contributed only marginally to the functioning of these schools because parents typically lack organisational, managerial and technical capacity, which prevents them from supporting school management and their (teachers) in critical areas like drafting the annual school budget, fund-raising and effective implementation of disciplinary procedures.

“A possible route to strengthen the capacity of the SGBs is through the targeted nominations of highly skilled individuals from civil society, private sector companies and academia,” the report says.

*West Cape News*
JABAAR MOHAMED

giving the world an earful of hope

Being born deaf has never deterred BCom graduate Jabaar Mohamed, 30, from getting the job done.

This University of the Western Cape (UWC) alumnus uses his role as director of the Deaf Federation of South Africa (DeafSA) in the Western Cape to promote education in the deaf community. Besides working as director at DeafSA, he is also involved in several leadership workshops for the young deaf community.

Five days after he graduated in 2008, Mohamed was offered a job at Kha Ri Gude, a mass literacy campaign that aims to teach 4.7 million adults one of the eleven official South African languages. He thrived in his role as co-ordinator for three provinces. When he was appointed as director at DeafSA later that year, he still made time for the Kha Ri Gude campaign and monitored nine provinces on a voluntary basis. In April this year he received an award for best performance in the disability sector from Kha Ri Gude.

Ever since he started his formal schooling at the Dominican School for the Deaf, Mohamed has been breaking barriers. In his matric year he was headboy and a student council representative. Sadly his father did not get to see him matriculate as he passed away that year. But Mohamed's sisters, Kusma and Hajiera, remained his rock of support during this trying time and encouraged him to study further at the Cape College.

Being the only deaf student in his Business Studies class was one of the most challenging experiences Mohamed has faced.

“I almost gave up that year. I felt that because I was deaf people did not expect much from me. But my sisters stood by my side through everything and went with me to the lecturers to discuss my situation,” says Mohamed.

From then on things improved and when he completed his certificate at the college, he applied to study BCom (Public Management) at UWC in 2004.

The five years he spent at UWC was one the best experiences of his life, he says. Lecturers and classmates showed great understanding and tolerance towards his disability. After each class his lecturers would email him the lessons to ensure he kept up with the rest of the class.

Because of his passion for education, he enrolled to tutor pupils at his former high school, and while he was a student at UWC he was also an orientation co-ordinator for the first-year students.

Despite his achievements, Mohamed knows that charity begins at home. He has become a role model to his six nieces and nephews and encourages them to read and do well at school. He has also inspired his nephew Safwaan Mohamed to study further. Safwaan is a first year BCom (General) student at UWC.

“My ambition is to become the first deaf lecturer at UWC or the second deaf Member of Parliament. I want to make sure more youngsters in the deaf community get the professional jobs they want,” Mohamed says.

Nicolette Dirk
An upgrade to the University of the Western Cape (UWC) sports stadium indicates more than a simple facelift to a part of the structure in need of maintenance.

The development of the stadium, which will be completed in 2013, is also indicative of the University’s aspiration to, as institutional planner Larry Pokpas explains, “be part of a conversation” with the Western Cape Provincial Government, the City of Cape Town and other academic institutions in Tygerberg about creating a sports development zone linked to the Department of Sports and Recreation.

Since the stadium was built in the ‘80s it has been extensively used by communities and schools as a place for sporting activities and political and civil society rallies. The rallies, in particular, resulted in the flat roof being used as a gallery – not something it was originally designed for – with the result that its structural soundness has come into question.

Structural and waterproofing issues are to be addressed and the current roof will become the first floor of a bigger gym and new office space. A new improved entrance to the stadium is also on the cards.

This creation of new space is essentially the concrete opening line of the conversation with Province, the City and other academic institutions about creating a sports development zone. One of the ideas mooted is to link the UWC facility to the existing indoor sports centre a stone’s throw to the south of the stadium. The indoor sports centre, after all, was part of the City of Cape Town’s bid in 1997 to host the 2004 Olympic Games.

The link makes sense in that South Africa’s success in swimming has put a focus on water sport. The indoor sports centre’s Olympic size swimming pool has just been upgraded and a water polo pool that meets the requirements of international governing body of swimming, FINA, has recently been added.

The other sports by UWC prioritised are rugby, athletics and soccer, with the University currently also being a top achiever in cricket. The aim is to create levels of excellence so that surrounding communities...
can aspire to higher levels of performance in these sporting codes.

This is in line with UWC’s aim to be an ‘engaged’ university. It also means UWC can attract students who are top athletes. And as part of a proposed regional sporting development zone, levels of coaching, refereeing and training would be improved.

To this end the appointment of former Springbok coach Peter de Villiers as the institution’s director for rugby and sports development is a great advancement.

De Villiers, or ‘Div’ as he is affectionately known by South African rugby fans, did not simply emerge as Springbok coach from nowhere. He has decades of knowledge relating to rugby and other sports.

“He will motivate students and staff alike and his impact on the entire sports programme will be immense,” said UWC Rector, Professor Brian O’Connell.

But as is standard for UWC, there is an overt agenda in place. De Villiers’ extensive expertise will not just be confined to improving the level of UWC sportsmen and women’s performance.

Being an engaged university means his brief is also to, as O’Connell states, “establish a UWC-based resource centre that will create a new generation of coaches, players, referees and administrators from local clubs and schools, and from UWC”.

De Villiers himself is on record as saying, “This is my dream job.” He said the question of how he can follow up on coaching the national side at an international level in a sport which is a defining national pastime, is “by giving back and transforming sport at grassroots level – and through this position at UWC, I get to do this and fulfil a lifelong ambition”.

Steve Kretzmann

The University of the Western Cape (UWC) ensured Saki Zamxaka, CEO of the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA), was in an environment where he could be himself. He holds a BCom Honours degree in Economics and the father of two is in charge of a company that transports more than 2.6 million passengers a year by bus and 2.2 million passengers by rail.

Zamxaka grew up in the Eastern Cape but decided to study in another province, outside his comfort zone.

“At the time UWC was known for accommodating students from previously disadvantaged backgrounds and offered an environment where progressive thought was encouraged,” says Zamxaka.

As a student he earned a scholarship to study for a diploma in international education at Bard College, New York. That was Zamxaka’s first visit to America and he admits it was intimidating at first. “Studying abroad gives you the confidence to know you can compete at any level. It was one of my most valuable experiences,” he says.

Since graduating he has worked as an economic analyst at the Ministry of Transport, an economic advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, general manager at the LandBank, CEO of Autopax-Translux and City to City, and now CEO of PRASA Technical.

Zamxaka says servicing the FIFA World Cup was an exciting challenge. “Transport played a big role in the event’s success. It’s an experience you won’t get often,” he says. He adds that transporting people is about providing a service. Feedback is immediate on whether passengers enjoyed the travel experience. “You have to improve every day. It is demanding – with many variables to manage and with the most challenging being people,” he says.

Although his experience at UWC partially equipped him to deal with career challenges, Zamxaka advises graduates to be prepared to put in hard work at the workplace. “UWC has contributed extensively in training professionals from previously disadvantaged backgrounds. A university degree only prepares you to a certain point. It is what you do when you are in the job that matters,” he says.

Nicolette Dirk

Steve Kretzmann is a freelance journalist who covers sport and education. His work has been published in Madibaz Magazine, The Daily Sun, University of the Western Cape News and 360 Perspectives.
University is where young people grow into adulthood and find their identity, says Director of the Gender and Equity Unit at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), Mary Hames.

“For many young people it is their first time away from home. You feel that what you do there is separate from what you do or who you are at home,” she says.

But for many students, becoming aware of and establishing who they are can lead to difficult circumstances regarding the affirmation of their sexuality. “If we take an old calculation and 10 percent of people are lesbian or gay, then of the 20 000 students (at UWC), at least 2 000 are lesbian, gay, transgender or transsexual,” says Hames. But many of them do not feel comfortable letting the world know they are gay for fear of prejudice and stigmatisation.

There is no formula for how to ‘come out’. But what the Gender and Equities Unit at UWC promises is that at UWC there will always be a safe space with them. “You can come here,” says Hames, “and we will not allow any discrimination; not from fellow students, not from staff, not from the University, not from anybody.”

Letting the world know you are gay is different for each person. There is no blueprint, no formula. The classroom can also feel like a hostile environment. “You don’t know who might laugh at you or scorn something you say. You don’t know if someone sitting there might be a perpetrator of violence,” Hames says.

Homophobia is not the right word to describe people who discriminate against homosexuality. Phobia is an irrational fear, but violence against people who are seen as different stems more from prejudice than phobia. “People who commit atrocious crimes are heterosexual.” Yet the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Intersex, Asexual and Queer (LGBTIAQ) community face daily prejudice, discrimination and even violence.

“Sexism should have the same response as racism. If someone whistles at you when you walk in the street, it should be as unacceptable as someone saying something racist. They are all prejudices.”

An effective way to protest is to fill certain spaces, “as other social movements are doing: Occupy Wall Street saw people occupy space”, says Hames. As a result, physical spaces become conceptual spaces.

“So we hoist the South African gay flag next to the University one. Sometimes it is not necessary to do things in a big way, but these forms of insurgence, transgressing spaces, that is how we reclaim space and freedom. They are sort of guerilla tactics,” she says.

Katie de Klee
This is My Land
Edited by: Meg Vandermerwe, Antjie Krog and Sindiwe Magona

The University of the Western Cape's (UWC) CREATES writing initiative launched their book *This is my Land*, on August 7, 2012. The multilingual (English, isiXhosa and Afrikaans) book aims to encourage the upcoming generation to be conscious of the significance of our mother tongues as they are part of our identity.

UWC CREATES is a unique creative writing initiative in South African higher education that offers student writers and lecturers a rare opportunity to write and dialogue across languages and literary traditions. Started at UWC in 2009, the programme has grown at an astonishing pace.

UWC creative writing teachers Sindiwe Magona (an accomplished motivational speaker, author, poet and playwright) and Meg Vandermerwe (a graduate of the MA Course in creative writing at the University of East Anglia and an accomplished author) worked together with writer (and former Director of the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation) Antjie Krog to compile the book.

**Becoming UWC: Reflections, pathways and unmaking apartheid’s legacy**

*Edited by: Premesh Lalu and Noeleen Murray*

Becoming UWC asks what it means to think our way out of the legacies of apartheid. It offers ways to think about the ideas that defined UWC, about its design, architectures and its textures, and about its creativity. It also invites readers to revisit (with a critical mind) some of the foundational narratives that guided the University through South Africa’s turbulent 1970s and 1980s.

The book weaves together a history and poetics of the institution and opens the space of the institution to an ongoing search for what knowledge means in the aftermath of a violent and destructive past. But mostly, this book invites readers to think ahead, beyond the constraints of apartheid, towards an elaboration of a concept of deracialised knowledge that has consequences for the very idea of the university in our world.

**Shaping The Future of SA Youth: Rethinking post-school education and skills**

*Edited by: Helene Period, Nico Cloete and Joy Papier*

The book was launched at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) on June 5, 2012. It was written by 17 authors giving a concise overview of the different facets of post-school provision in South Africa.

UWC’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Ramesh Bharuthram said that the book came at the right time, and that it underlines the type of graduates a university should produce.

Member of Further Education and Training Institute (FETI) of the University of UWC, Dr Joy Papier, discussed the overview of the book. She said there are more students outside education than in higher education. “These students are everywhere, they do not know where to go and how to get into higher education,” she said.
Papier said Further Education and Training (FET) colleges play a major role in trying to close the gaps between students who are not at schools or in higher education. FETs are still in need of funding to sustain their existence.

“What are the policy enablers and prohibitions for students to get in higher education?” The questions that are asked by many with regards to problems in the education sector are answered in this book.

**Labour Law into the Future: Essays in honour of D’Arcy du Toit**

*Edited by: Kitty Malherbe and Julia Sloth-Nielsen*

The book is a tribute to Professor D’Arcy du Toit’s distinguished career as a labour lawyer and as a significant contributor to peer-reviewed labour law books. It reflects on the academic and intellectual contribution that Du Toit has made in a celebrated career as an activist, commentator and thinker in his field of expertise - labour law.

He served a full term as Dean of Law during a difficult transitional period of the University, providing the direction under which the Social Law Project thrived for more than a decade.

In addition, Labour Law into the Future: Essays in honour of D’Arcy du Toit offers the latest contributions on some hotly debated issues in labour law, such as unfair discrimination, outsourcing and labour brokers.

The book also highlights the immense contribution Du Toit made in the broader University policy environment, assisting over the years with numerous policies and provisions of advice, and giving service on high-level structures and committees.

**Uncontained**

*Edited by: Heidi Gunebaum and Emile Maurice*

The art exhibition, Uncontained: Opening the Community Arts Project (CAP) archive is accompanied by a book of the same title. The book is the outcome of a writing project involving 31 authors, mainly academics, but also creative writers and intellectuals from cultural organisations and NGOs.

Each author was invited to contribute a thought-piece on a particular theme, as represented in the CAP print collection. The texts offer a variety of fresh perspectives on and insights into a rich body of work, so opening up new directions for thinking about aesthetics, politics, society and human relations in the world.

Through the book, the Centre for Humanities Research at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) hopes to demonstrate the significance of the arts for the exploration of the human, and to recover aspects of our cultural and aesthetic history. It also hopes to prompt new ways of considering the human condition in the aftermath of apartheid, a predicament out of which we all have to yet emerge.

UWC claimed the Varsity Sports Sevens Plate with a nailbiting 19-17 win over Cape rivals UCT in Margate on Saturday December 1, 2012. Both teams scored three tries but a missed conversion from UCT in extra time meant UWC were victorious. The Ikeys took control early on in the game but UWC wasted little time in responding, despite muddy conditions making handling difficult.
Serving the student community for more than two decades has been both rewarding and a struggle for the University of the Western Cape’s (UWC) favourite fruit seller, Rashied Gaibie.

Gaibie started trading on campus in 1989 without having the necessary permit. But customers like former Justice Minister the late Dullah Omar, the late Professor Kader Asmal, Judge Albie Sachs and the late Professor Jakes Gerwel became regulars. From steak burgers to samosas and curry roties, Gaibie’s menu catered for everyone’s taste and pocket. Asmal would say that Gaibie’s food reminded him of home-cooked meals.

Three months after he started trading, University authorities found that he was operating illegally and Gaibie had to negotiate to keep his business going. “The negotiations took nine months but Prof Gerwel supported my plea, saying that I was providing a valuable service to students and staff,” says Gaibie.

Once he was allocated a site in the B-block, he opened a café where he sold cooldrink, chips, samosas and sausage rolls. “I couldn’t sell cooked food anymore as they said the smell would pass into the lecture rooms. That is when I started selling the pie and Jive cooldrink special to attract students,” says Gaibie.

In 2005 the B-block was renovated and again he had to shut shop and wait to be assigned a new site. But that never materialised and Gaibie was forced to trade outside the student centre. “It was difficult to trade outside because of the weather. But within a year Prof O’ Connell arranged that I was allocated space inside the student centre again,” says Gaibie.

Every day at 5am, while the rest of us are enjoying the last moments of sleep, he and his wife, Farieda, are at Epping’s fruit market collecting fresh produce. The R8 special of mixed fruit is especially popular during exam time when most students opt for healthier brain food. Gaibie says he will always be recognised by graduates when he is out and about. “At hospitals, whenever I am seen by a nurse that graduated from UWC, I get special treatment,” he says.

“I believe a degree is a tool for your future. I speak sternly with many of the students when I see them wasting time. Once they have graduated, many of them thank me for having talked to them.

“A degree is better than money because it can never be lost or stolen,” he says. Gaibie’s daughter, Rashieda, has completed her law degree at UWC. She is studying towards her Master’s degree.

Nicolette Dirk
Snoek is one of the best-known varieties of South African fish and is the foundation of the line fisheries in the Western Cape. But a significant amount of “snoek” on the South African market is not caught locally. It is flown in, frozen, from New Zealand. The New Zealand barracouta, from the same species as snoek, is caught in trawl nets dragged behind boats on the ocean floor.

More than half of the line fish landed in the Western Cape is snoek, says Dr Moenieba Isaacs, a senior lecturer at the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) at the University of the Western Cape (UWC).

“It is sold within the communities where it is caught, contributing greatly to food security.” The fish is also sold off the back of bakkies, in fish shops and in supermarkets. Prices range from R30 to R70 a fish, depending on the size and season. One fish can feed a family of four for two days.

Although snoek is considered by many to be an inferior fish, it plays an important part not only in livelihoods but also in the culture of communities in the greater Cape Town area.

Isaacs conducted a survey in Ocean View, near Kommetjie, among 300 people. “Compared to other fishing nations, South Africans are not big fish eaters,” observes Isaacs. “With fish products being perishable, sales depend on an expensive infrastructure over which the larger companies for all intents and purposes have a monopoly. This means that fishermen are obliged to sell most of their catch to these large companies. Snoek is an exception as there is a substantial informal market for it, particularly in Cape Town,” she says.

Some retailers also sell imported barracouta labelled as snoek, arguing that this supply chain allows them to be sure of the quality of the product, traceability and sufficient stock. Many local fish and chips outlets and specialised shops are also importing fish from New Zealand and selling it as Cape snoek.

“An informant fish worker from (trawling and fish wholesale company) Viking Fishing said they import barracouta from New Zealand, and sell it as snoek along the west coast of South Africa. The fish worker, a former line fisher who targeted snoek, says he stopped snoek fishing because of the decreased profitability,” says Isaacs.

The local consumer market goes to local outlet, Snoekies, for the authentic West Coast snoek and is unaware that it is imported from New Zealand, says Isaacs.

“We need to have a label for local snoek and that label should be promoted so that one can use the name only if the fish comes from here, just as Champagne and Port must come from their respective regions. All other products should be sold and labeled as barracouta.

“Conservation NGOs like WWF and the Marine Stewardship Council working closely with retailers on the sustainable harvesting of fish should advocate and support the ethical labelling and certification of small-scale fisheries and should encourage formalising the local markets,” argues Isaacs.

Isaacs believes snoek is an ideal species to give to the small-scale fisheries sector.

Co-operatives should be formed within communities. At the moment, rights are allocated individually: one person holds rights and one family benefits. But that fisherman stays outside the market chain of the fish. “If you had a collective of local fishermen, the co-operative would engage with the market by entering into agreement with established companies and will be able to get the best price. They are a better voice for the community,” Isaacs says.

“Some form of policy should be put in place to restrict trawlers harvesting snoek,” she says.

West Cape News
DURING APARTHEID, FISHING WAS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF LIVELIHOOD FOR POOR BLACK POPULATIONS

Fishing rights and wrongs

South Africa has 21 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that have been established to combine conservation and the development of tourism. MPAs should promote sustainable harvesting and sustainable conservation measures, argues Dr Moenieba Isaacs, a senior lecturer at the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), whose research focus is small-scale fisheries.

During apartheid, fishing was an important source of livelihood for poor black populations. Inshore resources were open access and although they were not legally allowed to sell their catches, informal community markets existed. After the fall of apartheid there was great hope in the fishing community that their means of existence and access to marine resources would be formalised. But the Marine Living Resources Act 18 of 1998 allocated quotas to either commercial or subsistence fisheries and did not recognise artisanal fishers. To obtain quotas under these new conditions, fisher organisations (welfare-based, unions and co-operatives) were pressured to commercialise their activities and many poor, marginalised fishers lost out on the formal rights allocations process.

In 2004, Artisanal Fishers Association, Masifundise, and the Legal Resources Centre, with support from academics, took legal action against the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism in the case Kenneth George and Others vs. the Minister. In April 2007 there was an out-of-court settlement and the new policy moved towards collective allocations to communities, but communities were not organised and were responding with individual applications.

The challenge to the policy is to create the organisations at local level to manage and to have clear species allocation to the small-scale fisheries.

A new Small Scale Fisheries Policy was Gazetted on 20 June 2012. This policy aims to provide recognition to the rights of the small-scale fisher communities in South Africa, who were previously discriminated against through exclusionary laws. The benefits of the new policy include formal recognition of artisanal fishing communities; away from individual quota systems to collective fishing rights; demarcation of exclusive fishing zones for small scale fishers that are out of bounds for big commercial companies; and improved marine resource co-management.
BERNICE BOYD’S
lifetime of learning

Bernice Boyd is testament that higher education is not limited to any particular age group. The University of the Western Cape (UWC) graduate and mother of three passed away on Sunday, August 12, 2012, at 88, a week after her beloved husband, Ronald.

In 1984, at the age of 60, Boyd, a former teacher, started studying at UWC towards a BA degree and went on to complete a diploma in education in 1987. In 2004, at the age of 80, she attained her Master’s degree in Religion and Theology.

Boyd’s husband took her to class at night and faithfully waited for her with his flask of coffee until she was done. Her sons, Thurston and Wilmer, her daughter, Juanita and her sister-in-law, Enid Newman, attended Boyd’s graduation.

“My mother was held up outside the Great Hall by journalists from newspapers and radio stations. Despite the hustle and bustle she managed to remain calm throughout the evening. What really had an impact on me that night was when the audience gave her a standing ovation,” says Juanita.

Boyd left school when she was in Grade 10 (the old Standard 8) but her love for reading and education spurred her on to study for her teacher’s diploma at a teachers’ training college in Parow. Originally from Port Elizabeth, she moved to Cape Town to further her studies and this is where she met her husband, who was originally from District Six.

Boyd was planning on completing her PhD but because of ill-health, caused by diabetes, she could not fulfil this dream. Boyd’s passion for education made a deep impact on Juanita who followed in her mother’s footsteps. She was a teacher at Spark Estate High School in Mayville and retired in 2010.

Her grandson, Renaldo, a student at UWC, grew up respecting his grandmother’s passion for higher education. “She was very proud of her qualifications and spoke fondly of the University. She had a firm belief in education. In her final days she was suffering a lot but as usual her mind was still as sharp as ever,” says Renaldo.

Nicolette Dirk

Pictured, from the left, Ronald Boyd (husband), Fiona Boyd (daughter-in-law), Enid Newman (sister-in-law), Bernice Boyd, Juanita Captain (daughter), Wilmer Boyd (son). At the back is Neville Captain (son-in-law).
UWC graduates 4,280 students in 2012

The University of the Western Cape (UWC) graduated 4,280 students at its March and September graduation ceremonies in 2012. This included 77 PhD and 296 Master’s graduates. Honorary Doctoral Degrees were presented to Professor Rhoda Elizabeth Reddock, Professor Aubrey Sheiham, Judge Essa Moosa, Advocate Bience Gawanas and the late Hal Shaper.

JUDGE ESSA MOOSA
Judge Essa Moosa served the civic community as president of the Surrey Estate, Primrose Park, Greenhaven and Portavue civic associations. He served, among other capacities, as a founder executive member of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers, chair of the Western Cape Constitutional Community, member of the Constitutional Committee of the African National Congress, and as member of the Ministry of Justice Co-ordinating Committee that spearheaded community participation as lay assessors in the magistrate’s courts.

HAL SHAPER
Hal Shaper was a respected figure in modern music, known for his lyrics and his distinctive approach to promoting and publicising others’ work. His compositions were sung and recorded by some of the biggest names in show business, including Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Elton John, Barbra Streisand, Shirley Bassey and Dusty Springfield. Later he started a publishing business, Sparta Music. More than 80 of his compositions were used in some of the best-known films of the later 20th century. Furthermore, Shaper was key in locating the grave of Enoch Santonga, the composer of Nkosi Sikelel’iAfrika. In posthumously conferring the degree of Doctor Philosophae (honoris causa) on Shaper, UWC recognises the diversity and richness of our heritage, and we express our pride in the achievements of our fellow countryman.

ADVOCATE BIENCE GAWANAS
Advocate Bience Gawanas was founder and executive secretary of the revitalised African Ombudsman Association where she helped to develop its first constitution and strategic plan. She also served a three-year term as commissioner on the Namibian Law Reform Commission, advancing policies and laws on human rights, development and governance and gender issues. She was instrumental in drafting and enacting laws to guarantee gender equality in Namibia.

PROF RHODA ELIZABETH REDDOCK
Prof Rhoda Elizabeth Reddock is a national of Trinidad and Tobago and is a professor of Gender, Social Change and Development and former head of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine campus. She is deputy principal of the campus. She has served as consultant to a number of regional and international agencies, including the Caribbean Community Secretariat, the European Union, Food and Agriculture Organisation, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the Association for Women’s Rights in Development and the government of Trinidad and Tobago.

DOCTOR AUBREY SHEIHAM
Doctor Aubrey Sheiham has received a number of honours: the Gold Medal, Spanish Sociedad Estomatologi Preventiva y Community, the Distinguished Senior Researcher Award, Behavioural Sciences and Health Services Research Association for Dental Research IADR, Distinguished Scientists Award Behavioural Sciences and Health, International Association of Dental Research, Honorary Member of the Finnish Dental Society Apollonia, an honorary doctorate from the University of Athens, American Association of Public Health Special Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Dentistry - International, and Life Membership of the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry. Sheiham has been a consultant to the British Dental Association; the WHO; the Commission on Classification and Statistics for Oral Conditions; the Commission on Oral Health, Research and Epidemiology of the FDI; advisor to the Ministry of Health, Basque Autonomy, Spain; and consultant in Dental Public Health to the UK Health Education Authority.
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Alumni Relations Office • Department for Institutional Advancement
University of the Western Cape • Tel: +27 21 959 2143 • Fax: +27 21 959 9791
Email: alumni@uwc.ac.za • Web: www.uwc.ac.za