

## NEWS FROM:

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## UCT researchers awarded fellowships by L'Oréal-UNESCO

Two researchers at the University of Cape Town have received fellowships of US\$20 000 (about R140 000) each towards the completion of their PhD research projects, through the 2011 L'Oréal UNESCO Regional Fellowships For Women in Science in Sub-Saharan Africa programme.

Rachel Muigai, from Kenya, is examining design and construction solutions for environmentally sustainable concrete infrastructure at UCT. Her study seeks to ensure that future concrete structures will have the lowest possible carbon footprint, emissions, energy use and impact on the environment and society. The study involves replacing current design practice and providing a foundation for future research in concrete sustainability in South Africa.

Olutayo Kehinde Boyinbode, from Nigeria, is seeking to design and implement adaptive, personalised software to support learners with a variety of disabilities – a need that is rarely addressed in developing countries in Africa. Her research at UCT implements Ubiquitous Learning middleware to support disabled learners in higher education. Computing devices such as sensors, actuators, radio-frequency identification tags, mobile phones, palmtop computers and iPads will be incorporated into the learning middleware.

The L'Oréal Corporate Foundation developed the For Women in Science partnership with UNESCO in 1998. Since then, more than 900 women scientists have been distinguished by the awards or supported through the various fellowship programmes. Information on the For Women in Science community is available at [www.forwomeninscience.com](http://www.forwomeninscience.com). For more information on the L'Oréal UNESCO fellowships or for photographs of the awards ceremony, please contact Sara-Lea van Eeden at Taryn Fritz Public Relations: telephone [087 625 0310](tel:0876250310) or [083 446 6109](tel:0834466109).

**ENDS**

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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