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27 November 2013

Upcoming UCT event and interview opportunities

- **Biodiversity South Africa Conference:** A four-day conference focusing on the importance of the biological environment, featuring various experts in the different fields of biodiversity
- **World Aids Day:** Experts at UCT available for interviews on different areas relating to HIV and Aids

Date	Event	Highlights/Speakers	Contact
2 – 6 Dec	<p>Biodiversity South Africa Conference</p> <p>UCT's Department of Biological Sciences will host a four-day conference on biodiversity research in southern Africa. The conference will feature presentations on different aspects of southern African biodiversity.</p> <p>John Day Building, Upper Campus, UCT</p> <p>For more details, including a detailed conference programme, visit: http://www.biodiversitysa.uct.ac.za/.</p>	<p>There will be nine keynote addresses by leading experts such as:</p> <p>Professor Richard Cowling 3 Dec, 08h30-09h00 <i>On uintjies and alikreukels:</i> Climate stability, biodiversity and the evolution of modern humans on the Cape South Coast</p> <p>Professor Charles Griffiths 3 Dec, 11h00-11h30 Marine biodiversity in South Africa: Past, present and future</p> <p>Professor Norbert Jürgens 4 Dec, 11h00-11h30 Circles, rings, mounds and hollows, lines and bands – Biodiversity, ecosystem engineering and water storing ecosystems shape vegetation in southern African drylands</p> <p>Dr Jean-Paul Roux 4 Dec, 13h30-14h00 Fisheries management, ecosystem shifts and biodiversity conservation: The case of the northern Benguela ecosystem seabirds</p>	<p>Kemantha Govender Cell: 084 737 6522 Kemantha.govender@uct.ac.za</p>

		<p>Public lectures:</p> <p>3 Dec, 17h30-18h30 Dr Steve Goodman Madagascar’s biodiversity: Its origins, patterns and future</p> <p>5 Dec, 17h30-18h30 Professor Marcus Byrne: “Jika ne Langa” – Turn with the sun, like a dung beetle</p> <p>UCT experts available for interviews:</p> <p>Professor Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan: A palaeobiologist, head of UCT’s Department of Biological Sciences and one of the conference organisers, will present a paper on fungal attack in fossil bones from South Africa.</p> <p>Associate Professor David Jacobs: What, if anything, can variation in echolocation calls tell us about speciation in bats?</p> <p>Dr Dieter Oschadleus: Nest-building rates in colonial and single-male weaver colonies</p> <p>Dr Tali Hoffman: Mammal Map: A mammal monitoring initiative for improved wildlife conservation in Africa that bridges ecosystem, disciplinary and political divides</p>	
	<p>World Aids Day</p> <p>Commemorated on 1 December 2013, World Aids Day is an opportunity for people to present a global front in the fight against HIV/AIDS.</p>	<p>The following UCT academics are experts in different areas of managing HIV and are available for interviews:</p> <p>Dr Romy Parker: Senior Lecturer and Deputy Head of UCT’s Division of Physiotherapy</p> <p>Topic: Pain in HIV/AIDS and the use of exercise and education as treatment</p> <p>Dr Hetta Gouse: Senior neuropsychologist for the Groote Schuur Hospital-HIV Mental Health Group (GHMHG), UCT</p> <p>Topic: Dr Gouse provides</p>	<p>Kemantha Govender Cell: 084 737 6522 Kemantha.govender@uct.ac.za</p>

		<p>oversight on projects within the GHMHG. These projects specialise in cognitive and mental health disorders in HIV and the effects that HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders have on behaviour, functionality and adherence, as well as how this may affect performance and safety in the workplace.</p> <p>Associate Professor Crick Lund: Director of the Alan J Flisher Centre for Public Mental Health and an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health at UCT</p> <p>Topic: Associate Professor Lund leads a range of multi-country programmes in public mental health, involving research, policy, advocacy and capacity building. Many of these programmes consider the comorbidity of mental illness with other public health priorities such as HIV/AIDS and TB.</p> <p>Please note: Associate Professor Lund is travelling and will only be available for interviews via email.</p>	
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Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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