

# Next Generation Professoriate Newsletter

#2 April 2018

## Welcome

Welcome to the second newsletter of the year and to the prospect of winter rain in Cape Town. We are waiting.

It is my happy duty to tell you about the growth of the Next Generation Professoriate. We have eight new members.

- Yumna Albertus (Exercise Science and Sports Medicine)
- Emese Bordy (Geological Sciences)
- Khosi Kubeka (Social Development)
- Nomonde Mbatani (Obstetrics and Gynaecology)
- Pragashni Padayachee (Centre for Educational Testing for Access and Placement (CETAP))
- Maureen Tanner (Information Systems)
- Afton Titus (Commercial Law)
- Mohohlo Tsoeu (Electrical Engineering)

In this newsletter you will find some biography, some travel, some fame and some athletics.



## NGP Lunch at the University Club

The cohort gathered for a quarterly lunch at the UCT club on 05 April. This is one of the occasions that brings members from UCT's widespread campus together for a good chinwag.

## Welcome to Khosi Kubeka

Welcome to Khosi Kubeka was born in Dlamini 1, a small, township in Soweto. This is where I obtained both my primary and secondary education. Both my schools are located within a walking distance from my house. This means that I could go home for lunch with my late mother who was a homemaker but not by choice. My schooling was turbulent to say the least. My primary school years were in the 1980s, an era of youth activism and uprisings. I got accustomed to witnessing clashes between police, who were deployed in the townships, and youth activists. These would often spill over into the schools causing a lot of disruption in the educational process. During this time I had little understanding of the tensions in South Africa. In 1990, my first year of high school, Mandela was released from prison. With this event, the atmosphere shifted in the township and so began my journey of education and understanding of the history of South Africa. It was during my secondary schooling years that I was introduced to Steve Biko, Malcolm X, Robert Sobukwe and Nelson Mandela. Gradually I began to get a full picture of the political history of South Africa and the plight of Black people. History was my favourite subject in high school. It was also during my secondary school years that I realised that the only way I could free myself from the bondage of poverty was through education. In Standard 8 (Grade 10) I made a conscious decision to pursue higher education. I matriculated in 1994 from IBhongo Secondary School in Soweto. In 1996 I was accepted into the Social Work programme at the University of Cape Town. It was in the third year of my Social Work training at UCT when my passion for research began. I took a research methods course in sociology as my minor. In my fourth year, my Social Work cohort was recruited by the S. A. Labour and Development Research Unit at UCT to participate in their national Integrated Household Survey project as fieldworkers. After completing my Social Work training in 1999, I enrolled for an MPhil in Social Research Methodology at Stellenbosch University, a programme led by Professor Johann Mouton. I undertook a qualitative study that examined the impact of exposure to violence in the home on the developmental wellbeing of black youth. I interviewed twenty two male and female youth from a township in Stellenbosch about their experiences and perceptions of violence in intimate relationships.



After graduating in 2003 I was awarded The J. William Fulbright Scholarship and the Delta Kappa Gamma International Fellowship to pursue a Masters and PhD in Sociology at The Ohio State University in the United States of America. I worked as a Graduate Research Associate in the School of Public Health in the Columbus Congregations for Healthy Youth (CoChy) project, a longitudinal study on religiosity and youth developmental wellbeing. From the summer of 2007 to spring 2008 I worked as a research assistant to Professor Korie Edwards from the sociology Department. I was also part a nationally representative survey data study on the quality of relationships among low-income and working-class married and cohabitating couples. For my PhD dissertation, I conducted qualitative interviews with forty African American and Black South African Youth. The goal was to examine the role of religious and racial socialisation on their sense of identity formation and developmental wellbeing. In 2010 I was awarded the AW Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship to work with Professor Vivienne Taylor at the Department of Social Development at UCT. In 2014 I was appointed as a lecturer in the department and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2017. One of my key roles is to develop and strengthen the research programme. I coordinate all research activities within the department from teaching research, supervising students' research projects and coordinating research projects. My areas of research interests are in Youth Developmental Wellbeing, with the special focus on outcomes that include Education, Health, Identity and Economic Participation.

## Welcome to Afton Titus



I am a senior lecturer in the Commercial Law Department. I graduated from UCT with Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws degrees. After completing my articles, I was admitted to the High

Court as an attorney, notary and conveyancer. I practiced as a tax attorney for a few years and completed a Master of Commerce degree in Taxation at UCT. I joined the Commercial Law Department in 2011. I teach at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. My research interest is in tax law.

## Welcome to Maureen Tanner

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Information Systems. I have a Masters and PhD in Information Systems and a B.Eng(Hons) degree in Computer Science and Engineering. I am in charge of the Information Systems Honours programme and also teach systems analysis. My research interests lie in agile software development, ICT4D and social media. I come from Mauritius and have been living in Cape Town for the past 12 years. My mother (Rosemay) and brother (Gary) live in Mauritius and I often visit them on the island to catch up and enjoy a bit of sun and warm sea.



I am married. My husband and I don't have children but are avid animal and plant lovers. We have a cat named Gizmo, and tortoises (Fudge, Minerva & Hufflepuff). I am a runner. I only started running about a year ago but running has made me realize how much my body is capable of and has taught me patience and perseverance. I hope to complete my first full marathon in September. I look forward to many runs and maybe races with the NGP members!

## Welcome to Emese Bordy

I am a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Geological Sciences and a NRF-rated researcher (C1). I hold a PhD in Geology from Rhodes University, an MSc in Geology from Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest, Hungary) and an Honours degree in Higher Education from Rhodes University. Before joining UCT in 2011, I lectured at Rhodes University (6 years) and University of Fort Hare (1 year). I was also a postdoctoral research fellow at the Bernard Price Institute for Palaeontological Research (WITS). At UCT, I currently teach mostly sedimentology and lead an active research group, which comprises MSc and PhD students whom I supervise. We are involved in mostly field-based research that focuses on the quantification of sedimentation and biogeographic processes in the geological past of southern Africa.



I am looking forward to joining the NGP team. I hope to find camaraderie and collegiality and a safe, creative and stimulating environment for research writing, which I enjoy but struggle to find time for. I also hope that being part of NGP will help me find a better work-life balance and ways to nurture my social needs, which I tend to neglect. Rethinking my priorities in the company of like-minded academics will hopefully assist me not only to be a better UCT scholar, but also a better mother to my daughter, Lilla and spouse to her dad, Robert, the pilot. →



## Tolu Oni at the World Economic Forum, Davos

The Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum takes place in Davos, Switzerland every January. High in the Swiss alps, delegates from wide ranging sectors, policymakers, industry, academia, civil society, meet to debate and discuss approaches to improving the state of the world. My involvement with the WEF began in 2015, when I was one of the 40 selected worldwide to the WEF Young Scientist Community, and to attend the WEF Annual Meeting of New Champions in China. Since 2016, I have also been a Fellow of the WEF Global Future Council on health and healthcare. But this was my first invitation to the Davos meeting. I participated as a presenter in 4 sessions ranging from presentations on intersectoral approaches to infectious disease control and urban health; to sessions on ageing and governance of precision health. In my sessions, as well as others, I was struck by the wide range of participants and their interest in discussion on topics outside of their expertise; which resulted in lively debate and discussion. Outside of my sessions, I particularly enjoyed sessions that brought together the arts, humanities and sciences. One such session focused on the role of science fiction in sparking imagination and framing discussion on how society is perceived and perceives itself. Sitting in plenary discussions with world leaders, I was humbled by the scale of the challenge, and the modest role that science can play. Further, I couldn't help but think how much better the world would be if we took more time to listen to each other, and to act on our professed commitments to improving the state of the world for all.

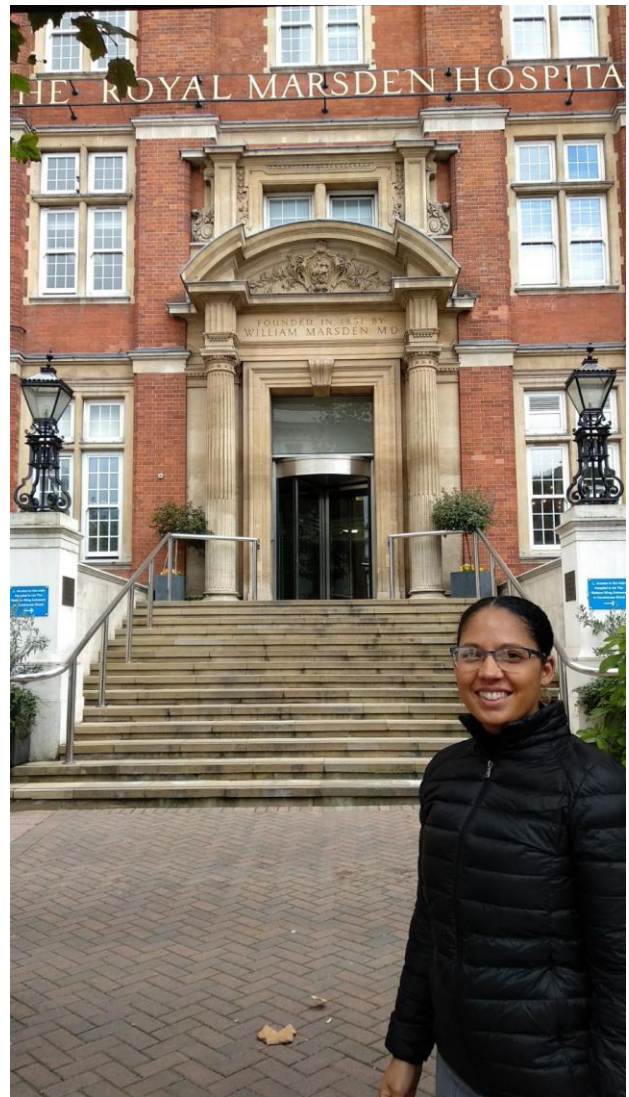


## Lydia Cairncross on sabbatical at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London

From July to December of 2017 I had the opportunity to work in the Sarcoma Unit of the Royal Marsden Hospital in London. This clinical attachment was motivated by a need to improve diagnostic and surgical skills in soft tissue sarcoma care. Our surgical unit, which also manages breast and endocrine disorders, sees only 20 or so new patients with soft tissue sarcomas every year. About half of these patients present with inoperable disease. Thus for us, sarcomas represent a low volume but high complexity challenge. In the Royal Marsden Sarcoma Unit, they see over 400 new sarcoma patients per year. This high volume of work made it possible to learn a tremendous amount in a relatively short space of time.

The NHS, while under pressure from underfunding, remains an inspiring system to work within. A collectively funded, free at the point of service, public health service is definitely the best way to deliver quality healthcare to majority of the population. Besides the high standard of care delivered by specialists and sub specialists, I found the quality of the training of specialist nurses very impressive. These specialist nurses provide the continuity of knowledge of institutional systems that make consistent quality service delivery possible. In a cash strapped health system like South Africa, I think we can learn something from the NHS about training and appropriate allocation of specialist nurses in various fields such as cardiology, anaesthesia, surgery and oncology.

I had the good fortune to be able to travel with my husband and two children aged 3 and 6 so we experienced the full spectrum of London life from the working commute on the underground and overland trains and buses, to the differences in schooling and child care. London is a busy, built up city which runs on public transport and has huge public green spaces. This is very different to suburban Cape Town which, by comparison, strikes one as a much more individualist and divided city. Travelling to work in another health system has benefits beyond the academic knowledge gained and surgical skills acquired.



Watching medical colleagues in a first world country struggling with the same issues of bed shortages, theatre lists and inadequate time for research and teaching, albeit on a different scale, was eye opening. Also, leaving your daily clinical routine and then coming back to it with fresh eyes, creates many opportunities for exploring new ways of approaching old problems.

I hope that my next clinical attachment/visit in a few years will be to health facilities in our neighbouring countries. Here we may be able to learn different lessons from clinical environments more closely matching our own, managing advanced clinical presentations with severe resource limitations in what I imagine are often creative and inspiring ways. Finally, I would like to thank Groote Schuur Hospital for granting me this sabbatical training time and to all my colleagues in the department of surgery who picked up the clinical workload in my absence!

## Zarina Patel wins Social Responsiveness Award

The value of my collaborations between municipalities and academics engaged in transdisciplinary research to address urban societal issues was recently acknowledged by the Faculty of Science. I was the first recipient of a new award that recognizes contributions in the area of engaged scholarship and social responsiveness research. The nomination recognized contributions that build sustained collaborations with non-academic partners whose knowledge and expertise of working in areas of urban policy have served to enhance scholarship and societal impact. My nomination comprised three related parts:

1. With the support of the Mistra Urban Futures (MUF) Programme hosted at the African Centre for Cities, I directed and participated in a research project - the **Knowledge Transfer Programme (KTP)** - between 2012 and 2015 in which City Officials were paired with UCT academics to co-produce academic articles on urban policy and practice for publication. As director of the Cape Town MUF platform, my engagement was at three levels: a) building international partnerships with the other Mistra Urban Futures cities including Manchester, Kisumu and Gothenburg b) establishing an engaged research partnership between the ACC and the City of Cape Town, and c) partnering with City Officials in co-authoring publications.

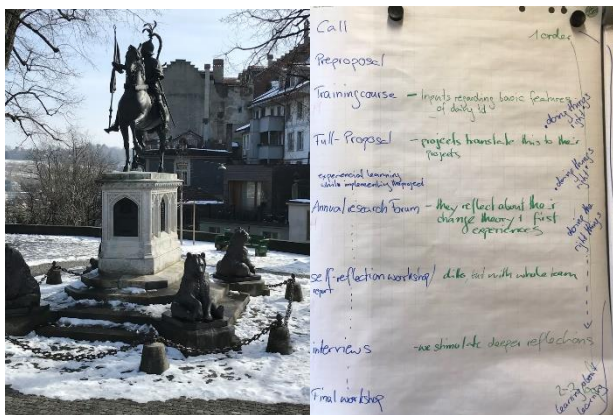


Photo credits: Z Patel

2. The success of the established research partnership at the international level through MUF, and at the local level with the City of Cape Town - led to Cape Town being included in a **pilot study testing the feasibility of Sustainable Development Goal 11** (on cities) in 2015. The research team built on the partnerships established through the KTP, whilst including other non-academic partners. This work, together with the findings from the other four international pilot cities resulted in revisions to the UN indicators and targets before being ratified by the United Nations in September 2015.
3. Based on the credibility built up by the KTP with respect to the value of knowledge co-production between academics and policy practitioners, the Knowledge Transfer Programme was further leveraged by the international journal *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability*. The journal was seeking to increase its accessibility to practitioners. As a member of the editorial advisory board, I conducted a survey amongst the KTP practitioners and academics who produced co-authored publications in Cape Town, to get a better **understanding of the publishing requirements of practitioners**. This study resulted in the revision of the: Aims, Scope, and Peer Review Statements for journal submissions to attract more practitioner and engaged scholarship contributions.

My award reflected some of the work I undertook on sabbatical in 2017. During March, I travelled to snowy Switzerland and Sweden. In **Bern**, two colleagues and myself worked on developing a Learning Framework, as part of a study that aims to learn from the application of transdisciplinary approaches for sustainable urban development in African cities. The study draws on the Leading Integrated Research for Agenda 2030 in Africa (LIRA 2030), which is a unique funding programme that seeks to support sustainable urban development through transdisciplinary research configurations in Africa.



## Two Oceans Marathon, 31 March 2018

The cohort was well represented in this year's races. Freedom Gumedze tackled the Ultra and Kate le Roux conquered the Trail run. Five cohort members completed the half marathon - Salona Lutchman, Frank Matose, Robert Morrell, Corrinne Shaw and Maureen Tanner.



Freedom Gumedze on his way to his Ultra Marathon Blue Number (10 races completed). Brilliant achievement, Freedom!



Father and son complete the 2 Oceans Half Marathon: Frank and Munya Matose.

## Writing the Self - Practice Diaries and Finding a Voice

The Practice Diaries Workshop was held in March 2018. This vocational development process was facilitated by organisational psychologist Dr Linda Price. Participants explored how their work is unfolding through creative writing exercises, poetry and collaborative conversations.



The workshop was informed by narrative ideas that view people as social beings who live their lives according to the stories they tell themselves and the stories others tell about them. An exploration into how personal history shapes current working life illuminated the values, beliefs and intentions that give rise to thought and action. These reflections lead to an appreciation of aspects of working life that participants wish to shift or expand upon - and how their identity and actions can be leveraged to manifest these intentions.

One participant described the workshop “a safe space that allowed the group to share their ‘issues’ honestly from the word-go. Importantly I felt more bonded to the group than previously.”

Participants shared personal histories and the meaning that attached to their roles as teachers and researchers. They considered the alignment between personal and university objectives in relation to the broader South African landscape.

On completion of the workshop, participants commented on valuing the opportunity to reflect on ‘the why’ instead of ‘the what’ of working life and as a result felt more in touch with their purpose and future orientation. In the words of another participant “...a psychological perspective to work with, and around, obstacles in our lives, and to plot a positive way forward from our past and present situations. It was very cathartic for me, and has inspired me to keep going but in a more upbeat/positive way, regardless of circumstances.”

A second Practice Diaries process will be held in September 2018. The emphasis will be on how leaders need to engage meaningfully with diversity. This workshop will explore how relations of power shape our experiences of people who are different to ourselves and how we can begin to build and restore human relations based on dignity and respect.

## News Briefs

Luck, apparently, comes in threes. Ask Ed February. For the third time in a year or so, Ed took a tumble off his mountain bike and broke his collar bone. Eina! Get better soon, Ed.

This newsletter is intended to encourage NGP members to share their news, especially triumphs and feats but there is place for struggle too. In this vein I give you unexpected but very happy news. Karen Barnes (Professor of Clinical Pharmacology at UCT) agreed to be my wife. She has little idea what she is letting herself in for.

Robert Morrell (Editor)

