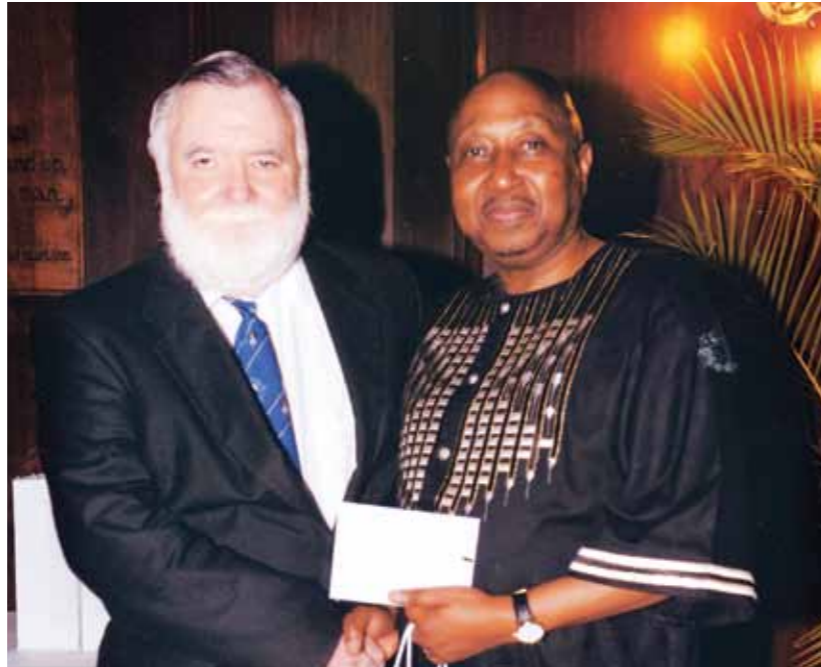


THE end OF AN era

After 40 years at the Fitztute, Professor Timothy Michael Crowe retired at the end of 2013.



Tim was born in Boston, Massachusetts, USA on 5 July 1948, and graduated *magna cum laude* with a BA Biology from the University of Massachusetts, Boston in 1970. It was then that he first encountered the Helmeted Guineafowl, during a third-year project on its behaviour. He went on to obtain an M.Sc. on the taxonomy of Helmeted Guineafowl from the University of Chicago in 1972 and, not satisfied with that, in 1973 he came to the Fitz as a Ph.D. student to study wild guinea fowl.

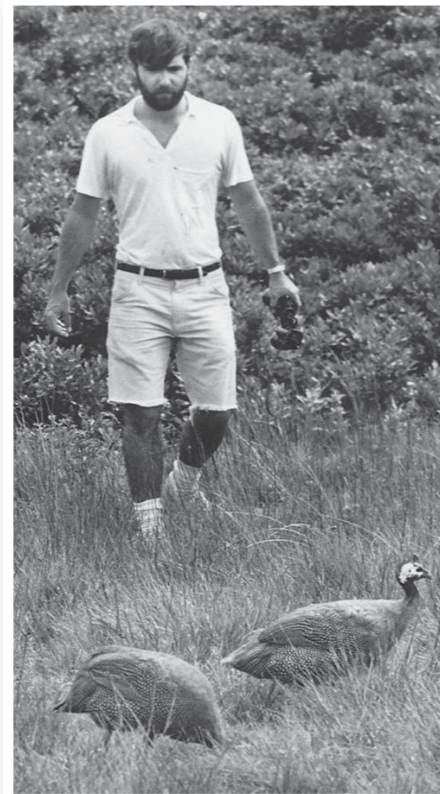
When Tim arrived in Cape Town, his supervisor, Professor Roy Siegfried, shipped him off to Kimberley, where he studied the demography, ecology, parasitology, ecophysiology and sustainable hunting of Helmeted Guineafowl at Rooipoort Nature Reserve. His doctoral dissertation was passed in 1978 without corrections. But even before this, in 1976, Tim joined the Fitztute's academic staff as a junior lecturer. In 1977, he married Anna Teichert and, in 1979, they were blessed with a daughter, Kimberley Ann. Tim also has two sons from his first marriage in the USA.

SYSTEMATICS

Tim's research career followed two main themes: the evolution of gamebirds and gamebird management. During 1981 and 1982, he took a sabbatical as a Chapman Fellow in the Department of Ornithology at the

American Museum of Natural History, New York, where he studied the evolution of francolins and spurfowls. While there, Tim was introduced to phylogenetics and biogeography, and these subjects became the focus of his research in the 1980s. This was recognised when he was elected a Fellow of the Willi Hennig Society of International Systematics in 1984. Tim's research on the systematics of African gamebirds, with Professor Paulette Bloomer and others, had a significant impact on their taxonomy, resulting in the split in the common names of the francolins and spurfowls and the refinement of their genera names.

In 1988, Tim was elected to the Pan-African Ornithological Congress Committee. In 1990, he founded the Evolutionary Discussion Group and edited *ORIGIN*, its newsletter. In 1996, he convened the 15th Willi Hennig Society meeting at UCT and was an associate editor of its journal *Cladistics*, from 1997 to 2001. He also was on the editorial board of *Systematic Biology*, the journal of the Society of Systematic Biologists, from 1999 to 2003. This led to the creation of the Southern African Society for Systematic Biology, with Tim serving as president for 2002/03. He was elected life member of the Committee of the International Ornithological Congress, was vice-chairperson of its Scientific Programme Committee in 1994, and was elected president of the Wildlife



NINA PEARLMUTTER

above Tim first encountered Helmeted Guineafowls on Nantucket Island in 1969.

top Tim at his UCT retirement dinner on 8 October 2013 with acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo.

Management Association of Southern Africa from 1996 to 1998.

From 1999 to 2002 Tim was a member of the Council of the Southern Flagship Institution to transform and develop Cape Town-based museums. In 2003, he gave an address honouring the retirement of Dr Phillip Clancey, former director of the Durban Museum and Art Gallery. During 2004/05, Tim was elected chairperson of the South African Biosystematics Initiative, and served on its steering committee until 2007. In 2004, Tim was involved in the successful application to the National Research Foundation and the Department of Science and Technology for the Fitztute to become a national Centre of Excellence (CoE). In 2011, the Southern African Society for Systematic Biology presented Tim with a lifetime achievement award for his 'extraordinary contributions to systematics in southern Africa'.

CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

In 1988, Tim helped to create the African Gamebird Research, Education and Development Trust to support the study of African gamebirds. The first project was a Ph.D. study of the Grey-winged Francolin by Rob Little (former Director of Conservation at WWF South Africa and currently manager at the Fitztute's DST/NRF CoE). Other student projects were conducted on the Helmeted Guineafowl by Charles Ratcliffe, Lionel Pero and Luthando Maphasa, the Red-winged Francolin and Swainson's Spurfowl by Raymond Jansen, the Egyptian Goose by Michael Mangnall, and on the ecology, reproduction and behaviour of Namaqua Sandgrouse by Penn Lloyd, who went on to become the first manager of the Fitztute CoE. All this research stimulated the wing-shooting industry in South Africa, introduced new standards for the management and sustainable hunting of gamebirds, and culminated in the publication of the monograph, *Gamebirds of Southern Africa*.

At the end of the 1980s, Tim worked with Ian Macdonald to develop the curriculum for a one-year, modular M.Sc. programme in conservation biology (CB). In 1992, Tim welcomed

the first nine CB students. After the success of the first year, the Science Faculty agreed to create a lecturer's post to coordinate this programme, which was filled by Peter Ryan. In 1994, Tim was requested by the then Dean of Science, Professor Cliff Moran, to write a proposal for an endowed chair in conservation biology. The proposal was successful and the Pola Pasvolsky Chair in Conservation Biology is now occupied by Graeme Cumming.

During his tenure, Tim advanced through the academic ranks, being promoted to lecturer in 1978, senior lecturer in 1979, associate professor in 1988, full professor in 2003, and was elected a Fellow of UCT in 2007. He published over 350 articles, 240 in peer-reviewed journals, and presented scientific papers at more than 80 conferences.

But Tim regards the measure of a scientist (what he calls academic Darwinian fitness) as more than simply the quantity and quality



PHIL HOCKEY

Tim with some of his graduated gamebird students.

of their students and publications. Additional criteria are the number of philosophical papers published, service to discipline, and the performance and employment success of graduate students. He graduated 33 M.Sc. and 15 Ph.D. students, many of whom have gone on to have successful careers in biology and conservation. Tim has a high academic fitness; many of his former students address him as 'dad', and we wish him well for his retirement years.



For more information, contact:
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E-mail fitz@uct.ac.za, tel. +27 (0)21 650 3291 or visit www.fitzpatrick.uct.ac.za



AFRICAN SNIFE PETER RYAN

GORDON SPRIGG

Scholarships in Ornithology at the University of Cape Town

GORDON SPRIGG SCHOLARSHIPS are available to allow students to pursue postgraduate degrees in Ornithology (M.Sc. or Ph.D.) at UCT.

ELIGIBILITY Graduate students of any South African university who are in need of financial assistance.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications must be made in writing to: The Director, Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701.

Applications must include a full Curriculum Vitae, incorporating a publication list, certified academic transcripts and the names and contact details of three referees. A copy of the research proposal, a letter of support from the University of Cape Town research supervisor and a detailed statement of financial need must also be submitted. Scholarships will be awarded for one or two years.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:
31 MARCH 2014.

