



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD



2021

NEWSLETTER

UCT LEGACY
SOCIETY

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DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

This edition of the UCT Legacy Society newsletter comes to you at a historic moment for the University of Cape Town (UCT). The Table Mountain fire, fed by high winds, came onto our campus on 18 April. While we remain grateful that no student or staff member was injured or killed, several UCT buildings were damaged. These include the Fuller and Upper Campus residences, which I know are dear to many alumni. The loss that has hit us all hardest is the destruction of the Jagger Library Reading Room and many of the unique special collections it held. As I write this foreword, volunteers are working steadily to salvage the archives that were stored safely behind fire doors in the basement.

This loss, coming in the midst of COVID-19, has not broken us. UCT is committed not only to rebuilding, but to growing through this time. As early as 2018, UCT leadership recognised that the fourth industrial revolution was going to disrupt lives around the world in many ways. We realised that the best way to not be disrupted was to help lead the disruption. So, we are developing UCT's Vision 2030 to challenge ourselves and our

students to find new ways to approach the complex problems South Africa shares with the world. Our goal as an institution is to unleash human potential to create a fair and just society.

Here are just a few examples of UCT research that reflects our longstanding commitment to social responsiveness and inclusive growth.

Towards Resilient Futures examines how degraded mining land can be remediated to generate sustainable and inclusive economic growth. This research intersects economics, mineral law, chemical engineering, bioprocess engineering and social sciences.

UCT's Heritage Hub seeks solutions to present and future challenges from the cultural treasure trove of pre-colonial Afrika – harnessing ancient technologies from communities such as Great Zimbabwe and Mapungubwe. The hub incorporates the disciplines of art history, African studies, earth sciences, pharmacology, biological sciences and economics, among others.

Despite rapid urbanisation over recent decades, many African families still rely on income from agricultural activities, making them particularly vulnerable to climate change. Transforming Social Inequalities

through Inclusive Climate Action, or TSITICA, seeks ways to guide African societies on climate actions to improve sustainable livelihoods and reduce poverty and inequality.

UCT's Global Surgery Division aims to improve the quality of surgical care in Africa. By focusing on underserved populations and populations in crisis, these researchers strive to help create a world where all people have access to quality surgical care.

The Neurosciences Institute investigates locally relevant questions about the brain. Working closely with the Red Cross Children's Hospital, the institute has become a world leader in monitoring and treating traumatic brain injury and TB meningitis in children.

This is the focus of UCT's Vision 2030: to redefine and co-create a sustainable global future on our firm foundation of research excellence. To do so, we aim to unleash the potential of our students, graduates and staff members.

As we confront the combined challenges of the #UCTFire and COVID-19, I believe many lessons lie ahead of us as an institution. But as we embrace the challenge, we will be strengthened, as individuals and as a community, to release more of our potential

to serve South Africa and the world.

We are not alone in facing this challenge. We have received emails, calls and words of encouragement from students, parents, staff, alumni and friends in the local and international community who are standing beside UCT. We are grateful to all who have helped UCT through the fire and evacuations. We also remain grateful to the healthcare staff and other essential workers who have served us so faithfully since the beginning of the pandemic. This includes the staff across UCT who continue to ensure that the academic project will continue, and the generous donors who make it possible for us to do so. Your generous bequests to UCT allow us to stretch beyond the laboratory and classroom to create solutions to so many different needs.

UCT has always been a community of people who believe in the power of education and research to change our world. I invite you to join us in this new chapter as we seek not just to get past the current crisis, but to pursue Vision 2030: to unleash our potential to help create a fair and just society.

Sincerely

Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng
Vice-Chancellor | University of Cape Town

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

This may seem, and is, a difficult time to approach current and – we hope – future members of the UCT Legacy Society. South Africa is faced by a multitude of challenges and difficulties, and so, too, is the University that we hold so dear, and which has such an important role to play now and into the future, for present and future students, for the Country and for the Continent.

If the persistent inequalities in our society were not enough, we now must cope with the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic, now heading for the crest of a third wave, and the civil unrest, coupled with lawlessness that has erupted since the Court sentenced a former President to a jail term.

UCT, too, must cope with the necessary limitations imposed under the COVID-19 regulations, limitations that have affected all aspects of the University's work, and which will have, and are having, a serious impact on many now at school who will be seeking admission to UCT in 2022 and 2023. On top of that there was the fire damage to the old Jagger (the library material losses were important but reports that suggested a disaster akin to the loss of the great library

at Alexandria or the Wits fire of the 1930s were very far from the mark) to the Pearson (Botany) Building, and, though limited by the heroic intervention of a small number of students and the warden, the two upper campus residences.

Anyone visiting the campuses at this time will however not fail to be impressed with the signs of progress and commitment to meeting future challenges: there are cranes in several places for new buildings: for the design centre, for the rebuilding of the NSLT (“new” in 1949), for the expanding research needs of faculty of health sciences, and for additional campus residence. These are tangible signs of a University positioning itself for the future.

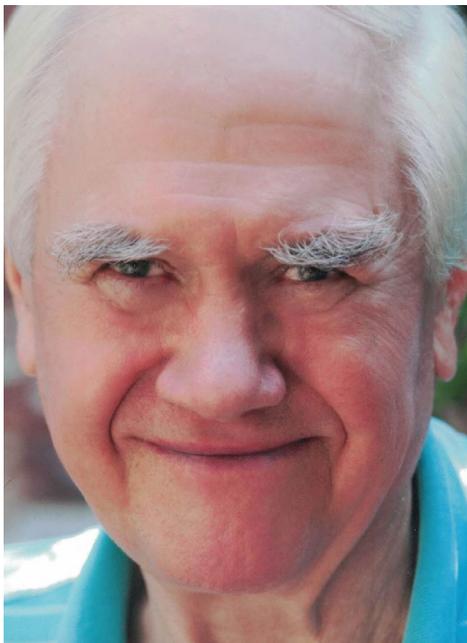
It is in this context that UCT this week is holding virtual graduation ceremonies, the necessary formal process by which students are admitted to degrees. The results students have obtained are impressive, the research topics of the doctoral candidates reflecting some of the reasons why UCT continues to hold its own among the universities of the continent and of the world.



And it is in this context that I commend UCT's needs to members of the Legacy Society, confident as I am in the importance of each and every bequest to UCT.

With every best wish

Hugh Amooré
President | UCT Legacy Society



REMEMBERING DR. JOHN M GRAHAM

John Malcolm Graham MD B.Com (1959); M.B. Ch.B (1965) passed away at his New York home on January 5, 2021.

Although a “mature student”, having returned to UCT Medical School after working for a few years, John immersed himself in student activities and one of his proudest achievements was captaining the UCT Cricket Club between 1960 and 1964. He excelled academically and served on the Medical Student Senate between 1963 and 1965. In 1965 he received the Forman Award for the Outstanding All-Round Student in his graduating class.

Along with his keen sense of service, he also found people endlessly interesting, and this sparked his interest in studying psychiatry.

John moved to New York City in 1968 to do psychiatry at Bellevue.

According to his widow, Barbara Kurka, John was forever grateful to UCT for the excellent education he received and established three scholarships — one in honour of his parents, one in memory of his sister and one in his name — to support deserving students. He enjoyed meeting some of the recipients of these scholarships on his visits to UCT. In 2014 he became a member of the Chancellor’s Circle and participated in the Class of 1970 Golden Graduation Virtual Event in 2020.

To honour his legacy at UCT John’s widow has pledged a US\$10,000 donation towards the John M Graham Scholarship.



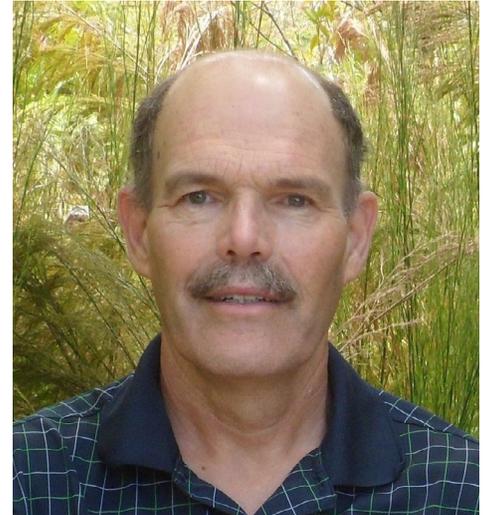
REMEMBERING DR KENNETH BEEN

Dr Kenneth Been who completed a BSc in Civil Engineering at UCT passed away on Vancouver Island in 2017. We were very appreciative to receive a generous bequest in Ken's name to support postgraduate bursaries in Civil Engineering.

After Ken graduated from UCT he proceeded to Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship. Over the years he became renowned for his innovation in geotechnical engineering, and his leadership work in understanding the fundamentals of soil behaviour and his development of the state parameter, which

is used today throughout the world. The impact of his work is highly significant, timely and relevant to academia, the state-of-practice and state-of-the-art. The Canadian Geotechnical Society published **an article** about the impact Ken had on the industry, as his career took him across Canada, the USA, UK and Europe.

We send our condolences to his wife Fiona, and sons Daniel and Steven, and extend our thanks for this fitting gift from a man who clearly saw the importance of postgraduate study and the need for its support.



MS GANEEFAH SCHLOSS THANKS THE DR VASAN GOVIND LEGACY FOUNDATION TRUST

I would like to express immense gratitude to the Dr Vasan Govind Legacy Foundation Trust for awarding me the Devjee Purshotam Kessow Scholarship during my second and fourth year of study. This generosity allowed me to continue pursuing my dream of one day becoming a medical doctor. The scholarship has given me the opportunity to continue my education and for me to gain the necessary skills and knowledge needed when one day serving the people of South Africa.

My life-long goal was to become a medical doctor, and after doing the necessary research and gaining a keen interest in human biology and physiology, this goal was made more concrete, and was something I actively worked towards. The result of my hard work during high school, along with attaining first aid qualifications and doing various job shadowing of medical doctors, was my acceptance to my dream university, with an opportunity to pursue my passion in medicine.

The second year of study was not easy, with a challenging workload and my first time

being exposed to the different fields within medicine. A major obstacle I was facing was that of funding, one which constantly weighed on my mind. I was lucky enough to be awarded the scholarship during my second year and was able to progress even further in my studies, now being a fourth-year student.

It was wonderful to hear recently that the Trust has decided to fund me again this year.

I now have just two more years remaining as I work towards being a qualified medical doctor, a dream I have worked towards for so many years. Interacting with patients and other health professionals brings me much joy, and has made me certain that this field is where I wish to be. I am continuously working towards being more knowledgeable, reflective and empathetic, skills I believe to be beneficial as a future health professional in this country.

Thank you again to the Dr Vasan Govind Legacy Foundation Trust for awarding me this scholarship. The generosity of the Trust



has allowed me to focus on my learning and progress even further in attaining my dream goal. I hope to one day show my gratitude and repay this gesture by being the best health professional I can be, inspiring others and positively impacting our country's healthcare system.



JOIN THE LEGACY SOCIETY

If you have not already joined the Legacy Society, please consider completing the bequest form and supporting your alma mater.

You can contact the Legacy Society Manager, **Fahim Docrat** on **0815713164** or **fahim.docrat@uct.ac.za** for more information and assistance.

DISCOUNTS FOR LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS



The UCT Legacy Society has since the mid '90s been a great source of support for the University of Cape Town. Through this bequest programme millions of Rands have been donated to UCT ensuring the university's sustainability. We would like to thank all our members for committing their support in such a personal way.

We are happy to report that the following entities have chosen to offer Legacy Society members preferential rates and discounts.

You may now access these special rates with the following entities:

- La Vita Spa 20% discount
- Protea Hotel Mowbray preferential rate
- Protea Hotel Breakwater Lodge preferential rate
- Hastens Beds SA 15% discount
- Swarovski Lighting SA 15% discount
- Aura Interiors 20% discount
- Summer School 10% discount

To access special rates please email Legacy Manager, Fahim Docrat at fahim.docrat@uct.ac.za or phone on 0815713164. Terms and conditions apply.

Your support is much appreciated.

UCT Legacy Society

FORM OF INTENT

BEQUESTS

Title Name

Surname

Address

Postal Code

Tel Cell

Email address

Year of Graduation and Degree

• I intend to leave a bequest to the University of Cape Town when I next update my Will.

Please send me further information.

• I have already included the University of Cape Town in my Will, and wish to be included into the UCT Legacy Society.

My bequest should be used for the following purposes:

Field of study (if applicable):

- Should you want to make a once off donation please make contact with our office.
- Donations and Bequests are tax deductible in terms of the Income Tax Laws of South Africa. For more information in this regard or any other queries please contact:

FOR UCT LEGACY SOCIETY:

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Mobile: +27 (0) 81 571 3164

For recognition purposes, may we recognise you publicly

or whether you wish to remain anonymous.

Signature

Date

Place