



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD



2020

NEWSLETTER

UCT LEGACY  
SOCIETY

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## DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

I hope that this greeting finds you and those near and dear to you, well and in good spirits. The world finds itself in extraordinary times, and while we can acknowledge that the world is changing and that the future will not be easy, we can rest assured that we can also look forward to the opportunities it presents and take the lessons we have learned to emerge stronger.

As a valued member of the UCT community, I thought that you might appreciate a quick round-up of how we at UCT are weathering the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We began remote teaching back in April. Fortunately, we had already built up a wealth of web-based resources, including webinars that are available to staff to assist them in moving their courses and modules to digital platforms. COVID-19 has fast-tracked this process for academics who have now adapted their course material into fully online platforms. The academic calendar has been rearranged to ensure the completion of the academic year and support measures



put in place to facilitate this. These support measures include the provision of laptops and data to students who did not have access to these in their homes as well as learning materials to students in remote areas. We have also made available a wide range of support services via a dedicated online portal and Call Centre, to help students cope during this difficult period.

Much research is being undertaken at UCT that is relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes developing vaccine candidates and potential tests of immunity, epidemiology studies, drug trials, studies on pathogenesis and the immune response to the virus including in specific populations such as those co-infected with HIV and TB, and the development of low-cost personal protective equipment. UCT experts are advising the government at provincial and national level on a broad range of sectors including health, higher education, human settlements, science and technology, social development, small business development, and trade and industry, among others. UCT's Knowledge Translation Unit is working with the Department of Health and with

colleagues in Brazil to launch online training programmes to deal with COVID-19 in low-resources settings.

The University endowment has played a significant role in aiding us in these financially uncertain times, with the UCT Council setting aside R30 million to respond to the crisis. Many of you who generously contributed to the Distinguishing UCT Campaign and those who have left bequests to UCT via the Legacy Society are directly responsible for UCT being in the position to do this, and we are extremely grateful.

Over the years bequests to UCT have contributed to strengthening our physical infrastructure, student financial support, ongoing operational costs and supporting university priority projects. The value of this support cannot be emphasised enough and is crucial to our sustainability and is highlighted by the impact of COVID-19 and the resulting financial demands on UCT.

In addition we have established a COVID-19 Emergency Fund to assist in the fight against the virus and its impact on the University

community. We aim to raise at least R20 million towards the fund to address urgent priorities related to our staff and students during and after lockdown. One of the areas that we anticipate an increase in needing assistance is the area of fee debt. We anticipate that appeals from students with a fee debt are going to spike at the end of 2020 due to job and income loss from COVID-19 among student families. UCT is preparing itself to cope with this additional need by actively seeking funding from donors.

I am confident that UCT will negotiate its way through this crisis and will thrive, emerging better and stronger.

Stay well and I very much look forward to meeting you again when restrictions will again allow for face-to-face engagement.

**Sincerely**

Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng  
Vice-Chancellor | University of Cape Town

## DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

The following introduction to a notice to UCT staff appeared on my screen this morning:

*Individual academics, teams or departments are invited to apply for the University of Cape Town (UCT) Teaching Innovation Grant to fund initiatives aimed at making teaching at UCT more effective. This grant is available to support individuals or teams who are engaged in developing departmental, programme or faculty level innovations to curricula or courses aimed at improving student learning. This could include current work in designing curricula and materials for emergency remote teaching as well as exploring the use of open educational resources. Grants of up to R20 000 are available to support such projects.*

This note sums up for me the importance of continuous effort that UCT has made and is making to stay ahead of the pack, work that has made it possible for the University to deliver during COVID-19 lockdown: where UCT's VULA - an extraordinary (homegrown) virtual learning environment and learning management system - was ready to adapt and meet the challenges of keeping going during the COVID-19 lockdown (so graphically conveyed by the Afrikaans *grendeltyd*) and where the experience of new teaching initiatives of the past decade has made the transition possible and successful.

Universities the world over are having to deal with the short and long-term effects of the pandemic, and in many countries face financial ruin. I am confident that UCT will survive, as it did in the aftermath of the Great 'Flu of 1918. It will survive because of its innate strengths. These strengths are first its people - academic staff primarily, but also the support staff in all areas, and of course its undergraduate and post graduate students, post docs and other researchers. The fabric underpins this. So, too, does the endowment, small by the standards of North American Universities but nonetheless important.







That endowment has been and continues to be managed very well. The endowments are held by the UCT Foundation Trust, and comprises the general endowment and funds for purposes specified by donors and testators; each such fund holds units in the endowment, and benefits from Trust's investment returns, which aim to secure steady real income (for the purpose envisaged by the donor) while preserving the real value of the capital fund. An example of how well the Trust has done is the performance of the Baxter Endowment Fund. David Duncan Baxter left generous funds used to help fund the building while the balance was placed in an endowment to sustain the operations of the Theatre. This it has done.

This is where the Legacy Society is relevant. If the University is to maintain its strengths and be for future generations the crucible it has been for so many of us, UCT needs long-term

support (as well as every rand it can get to cope with immediate challenges). If COVID-19 has taught us anything it is the imperative of community and the obligation on those of us who have, to support those who have not. The Legacy Society's objective is thus to ensure that UCT will share in the estate of all UCT alumni and all friends of UCT: a sort of wealth tax if you like, but one that I hope we can all live - and die - with!

COVID-19 has also reminded every one of that we must have our affairs in order. That means many things, but it includes the need to update your will. In doing so, please consider a UCT bequest, for general endowment, or to support a particular activity or discipline.

**With every best wish**  
Hugh Amooore  
President | UCT Legacy Society

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Fahim will willingly help you if you would like assistance in drafting an entry for your will, or a codicil to an existing will. South African taxpayers should note that bequests to UCT qualify for estate duty exemption - the fiscus pays some of the wealth tax and it does so because of the public benefit that results from such bequests.

## MS RIVANIA NAIDOO THANKS THE DENYS HAROLD PENNY WILL TRUST



I would like to express my immense appreciation to the Denys Harold Penny Will Trust for funding my undergraduate medical degree. Their generosity has made a key contribution in my journey of becoming a medical doctor. I lack the words to express my gratitude to the Trust for playing a vital role in fuelling my ambitions and making this dream a reality.

Since the early years of primary school in King William's Town, I had hoped to one day be of service and take my interest in human biology further with a career in medicine. Through my personal experience of witnessing ill health in loved ones around me, I had hoped to play a significant role to alleviate suffering and improve the quality of life for others.

However, it is widely known that getting into medical school proves to be a difficult feat. Therefore, I had to work hard to not only achieve higher grades, but to also stand out to universities by participating in extra curricular activities. These included being a first aider for my school and job shadowing in hospitals, which further strengthened my desire to pursue medicine.

I was then given the incredible opportunity to pursue this calling at the prestigious University of Cape Town in 2017, although funding became a major obstacle - an obstacle faced by countless numbers of students. I then applied for funding and was later awarded an interview with members of the Trust. Three years later I am still marvelling at how miraculous this interview came at a great time of need and allowed me to reach the point of my studies I am in today.

Now in fourth year with two more years to go, I am enjoying my degree as it brings a sense of contentment and happiness. It not only expanded my knowledge of various aspects of medicine, but also allowed for immense personal growth. I am committed to my studies and to one day give back as a future health professional in South Africa, as a way to show my gratitude for being a recipient of the Trust.

Once again, thank you to the Denys Harold Penny Will Trust for giving me the opportunity to pursue my dream. I hope to one day repay this kind gesture by making a positive change in South Africa's health system, as well as providing the same opportunities for future students in pursuance of their dreams.

**Rivania Naidoo**

## UK BEQUESTS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

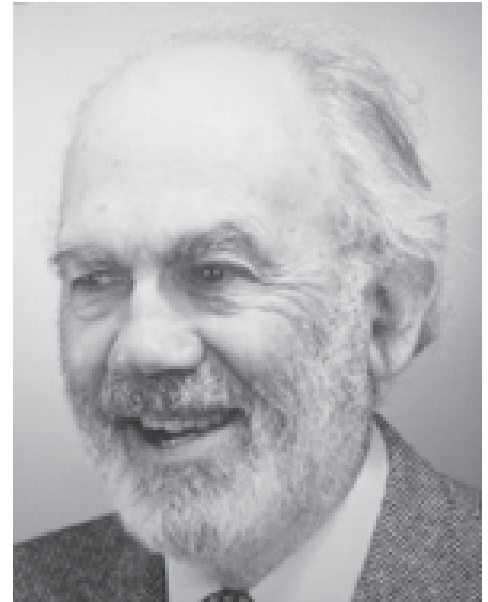
When **Professor Colin Kaplan** passed away in 2012, he left an undesignated legacy to UCT via the UK based UCT Trust (UK registered charity number 803042). Following discussions with his family, the funds were invested in the UK and are now funding an annual prize of R1 500 in perpetuity at the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The Colin Kaplan Award celebrates the life and work of Professor Kaplan, who co-founded the *Journal of Virology* and pioneered a programme to accelerate the production of freeze dried smallpox vaccine. He became head of the virus vaccine department at the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine and, as a member of the WHO scientific committee on smallpox, oversaw the global eradication of the disease in 1977.

The Colin Kaplan Award recognises leadership and excellence and is presented to the student or young researcher whose research in the field of medical virology shows the highest impact.

Dr Gama Bandawe received the inaugural award in 2014, at the end of his PhD studies which investigated the interplay between HIV-1 diversity, humoral immune responses and viral fitness. In accepting the Award, Dr Bandawe professed himself inspired by the life and work of Professor Kaplan: “I strive to emulate his achievements in whatever small way I can and this Award is a source of great cheer and encouragement towards that end”. Dr Bandawe returned to his home country of Malawi where he is pursuing a career in public health.

During the following years, the Colin Kaplan Award was presented to PhD students and post-docs, including Dr Lindi Masson [2016] who received the Award for her contribution to her work in developing a test to identify women with asymptomatic STIs who are at high risk of HIV acquisition, and Dr Anne-Ursel Happel [2017] who was selected as a recipient in recognition of her work on probiotic use in immunocompromised and HIV positive individuals.



*Prof Colin Kaplan 1920-2012*





Sir Clive Elliott 1945-2018

Rose-Adams [2019] received the Award as a result of the work she is undertaking to understand the greatest barrier to a cure for HIV through characterising the ‘dormant’ viruses that reside in the body when people are on treatment. In Melissa’s words: “As a young girl from a disadvantaged background, I did not see myself attaining this level of education, much less in the field of medical science, and certainly never dreamed of obtaining an award named in honour of one who made such an incredible contribution to the science of infectious disease.” Melissa is using the Award money to set up a programme to “teach young minds to think critically about the pathogens that impact on public health in our local context and the social impact and challenges that result”.

A more recent legacy was received at the UCT Trust from **Sir Clive Elliott** who, after graduating with a degree in Zoology from the University of Oxford in the late 1960s, travelled to South Africa to take up the opportunity to study the Cape Weaver at UCT’s Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology. Dubbed “an English gentleman ornithologist whose heart lay in Africa”, he became the Institute’s third PhD on graduating in 1973 and was the first Ringing

Officer for the newly created National Bird Ringing Unit which later morphed into SAFRING (The South African Bird Ringing Unit). On leaving South Africa in 1975, Sir Clive worked for the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, first in Africa and then at their HQ in Rome. His work involved research and control measures on the Red-billed Quelea, a species which causes extensive damage to cereal crops throughout the semi-arid zones of sub-Saharan Africa.

Sir Clive left a legacy to the SAFRING project at UCT in honour of his lifelong passions – ornithology and Africa. The funds he bequeathed will help supply rings, ringing equipment and services to volunteer and professional ringers, as well as helping to curate the South African ringing records at the Institute. The legacy was a huge boost to the work of SAFRING which performs a critical function for bird research in Southern Africa and throughout the rest of Africa.

*Bequests left to UCT via the UCT Trust are exempt from UK Inheritance Tax and therefore reduce the value of the Estate which is subject to UK taxation.*

## SPOTLIGHT ON UCT SUMMER SCHOOL

Now located in the Development and Alumni Department, the Centre for Extra-Mural Studies (EMS), responded to the lockdown that began in March by conceiving online offerings that have ranged from COVID-19 related webinars to the 1918 flu epidemic to diary writing. Massive numbers of alumni, members of staff, Summer School participants and the general public from all corners of the globe joined to listen to webinars and enrolled for online courses. We found that we were able to reach far beyond the walls of the university in a way we had not anticipated. It has delighted us to discover that the new online environment has the brought the UCT diaspora together and made global conversations and virtual homecomings possible during a time that has brought much hardship, anxiety and grief.

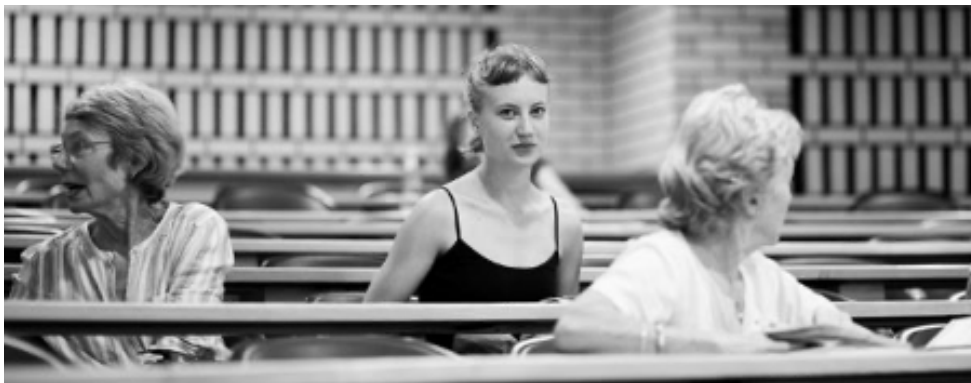
EMS will continue to reach beyond the walls of the university in the online environment for the rest of the year through offering webinars and online courses, and for the first time ever the annual Summer School will be presented online - a landmark



*Lectures tend to set off discussions*



*Personal interaction with lecturers is appreciated*



*Summer School attracts both young and old*



*Getting a chance to be a student again is a huge motivation*



*A masterclass in songwriting gets going with Josh Hawkes*

moment and testimony to the longevity of a public education programme first started seventy years ago as a university extension learning programme post World War II for returning service men. Whilst we will miss the richness of the interaction with the Summer School participants in the Kramer Building on campus we look forward to offering participants a wide-ranging stimulating programme of courses and lectures which will include practical art, language and writing courses. Whilst participants will not be able to meet over coffee and browse at the bookshops, they will still be able to participate in the annual festival of learning which makes the resources of the university available to its publics. We look forward to our online integration with you for the duration of 2020 and at Summer School in January next year.

Summer School participants now have an opportunity to bequeath money directly to the Summer School programme, something that has not been possible until now. Leaving a bequest to the seventy year old Summer School programme will contribute to ensuring that this unique festival of learning can continue to offer courses and to grow and expand to meet the requirements of the time we find ourselves living in.



## 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

To access special rates please email Legacy Manager, Fahim Docrat at [fahim.docrat@uct.ac.za](mailto: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