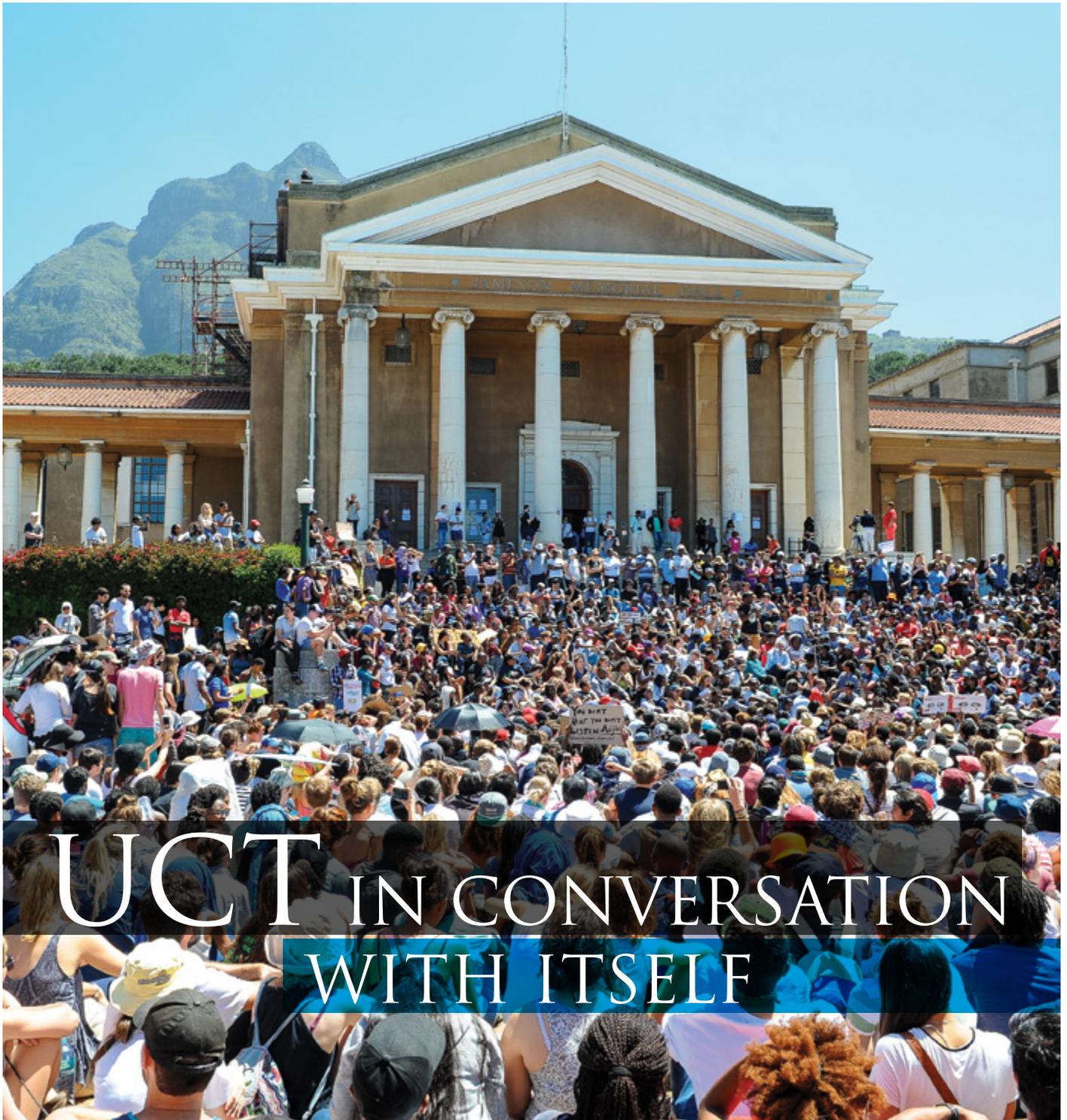


# ALUMNI NEWS

UCT HONOURS  
NEVILLE  
ALEXANDER

SPOTLIGHT ON THE  
GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF BUSINESS

NEW REGISTRAR:  
AMOORE PASSES  
THE BATON



UCT IN CONVERSATION  
WITH ITSELF



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

2015-2016

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## MISSION

UCT aspires to become a premier academic meeting point between South Africa, the rest of Africa and the world. Taking advantage of expanding global networks and our distinct vantage point in Africa, we are committed, through innovative research and scholarship, to grapple with the key issues of our natural and social worlds. We aim to produce graduates whose qualifications are internationally recognised and locally applicable, underpinned by values of engaged citizenship and social justice. UCT will promote diversity and transformation within our institution and beyond, including growing the next generation of academics.

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**Cover image:** Taken by photographer Roger Sedres during the impromptu university assembly during the UCT #FeesMustFall campaign, this photograph demonstrates the historic impact of the campaign.

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# FOREWORD FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

This edition of *UCT Alumni News* highlights the significant achievements of your *alma mater* over the past 18 months.

These months have been amongst the most tumultuous in UCT's history since the advent of democracy in 1994.



Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price

Many alumni are concerned about the meaning of the events of the past few months, particularly as they relate to UCT's position as the leading university on the continent and UCT's commitment to global excellence.

I hope that from the pages that follow you will not only be reassured that UCT continues to grow from strength to strength but that you will experience enormous pride in UCT's thoughtful leadership on many fronts. Scholarship, research and teaching at the highest level remain at the core of the institution's mission and UCT continues to produce graduates of the highest calibre, sought out in South Africa and in many other parts of the world.

A legitimate question many alumni ask is about how transformation impacts on UCT's standing in the world and its commitment to excellence. The answer to this question lies in what our understanding of transformation is.

This year UCT will be adopting a new strategic plan. This plan has been widely discussed amongst all of the university's constituencies, including the Alumni Advisory Board, and will in due course become a public document. In this plan, UCT proposes to integrate transformation into the very fabric of the core activities that made UCT a great university even in the darkest days of our apartheid past.

Transformation promotes excellence and enhances UCT's reputation through the unique added value that derives from substantial diversity of faculty and students, who bring different perspectives to their fields of study. That diversity of thought, culture, history, life experience and perspective gives our work, and the experience of studying at UCT something other global universities cannot offer.

It should not be necessary to say this, but I will state the obvious: that it is in no-one's interests, and certainly not in the interests of black or women academics, to drop any standards for appointments or promotions. That has never been proposed and we will not do that. And with regard to teaching and curricula, I challenge you to find any parent of a recent UCT student who was her/himself at UCT, who does not think that the standard of education and expectations of their children are higher than they were 30 years ago.

Central to the strategic plan is an interrogation of the values and assumptions that shaped UCT when it was a predominantly white university that excluded the majority of our citizens. Inevitably this will mean confronting cultural artefacts and symbols that have their origins in the colonial and apartheid legacies of the past. For however much UCT may have tried to oppose the worst excesses of our past, as a part of the broader society it was unavoidable that this past would also have influenced the values, curricula and cultural landscape of the university before our transition to democracy.

UCT thus has to strive to find the balance between building on what was the best about the university during that period while at the same not being afraid to embrace a future that is not about assimilating others into the historically dominant culture but about developing an inclusive identity that has changed in response to increased diversity.

I am confident that UCT will emerge a better and stronger university from this process and that our alumni - both old and new - will be as proud of their *alma mater* as were the many generations that went before. This magazine provides the evidence. ■



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In the midst of probably one of the most difficult periods in the university's history, UCT has recently launched its "Distinguishing UCT" campaign. The campaign is focused on growing UCT's endowment, writes **Dr Russell Ally**, Executive Director of the Development and Alumni Department.

The Distinguishing UCT campaign coincides with two significant milestones in the university's illustrious history:

2018: UCT's centenary as a dedicated degree-issuing university

2019: UCT's 190th birthday since its founding as the South African College.

Endowments are by their very nature indicative of a commitment to permanency.

Given the protest movement of last year, many alumni are asking whether they should still support their *alma mater*.

These questions seem to have been more urgently asked following the decision that UCT took to remove the statue of Cecil John Rhodes during March/April 2015. For some of our alumni this was interpreted as UCT wanting to "erase" its past and as the thin edge of the wedge to UCT's ultimate decline.

This was reinforced when protests at the university took a more violent form earlier this year and alumni saw those horrendous images of art works going up in flames.

In this edition of *UCT Alumni News* we have reproduced an article on Cecil John Rhodes that was written by Emeritus Professor Shula Marks, a UCT alumna and an internationally acclaimed historian.

In this article Professor Marks traces Rhodes's life and the role he played in Southern Africa.

There is no doubt that Rhodes remains a significant historical figure. UCT's removal of his statue will certainly not result in Rhodes being written out of history. Our decision to remove Rhodes's statue was based fundamentally on what this statue as a centrepiece of the architectural landscape of the university was saying about the values that UCT was subscribing to as an African university in a post-apartheid democratic society.

As to subsequent events at the university, management acted against violence, the destruction of property and arson. In addition to ongoing disciplinary processes, the sanction of the courts has also been sought in cases where the executive believed that this was necessary. Each generation is only the custodian of UCT for the generation to follow. Our duty is to hand over a university that is better and stronger.

Building the university's endowment shows a deep commitment to this enduring responsibility to expand academic excellence, invest in talent and work to realise transformation.

The Distinguishing UCT campaign asks our supporters to ensure that in the face

of declining state subsidy, UCT is able to upgrade its laboratories with the latest equipment, to attract the top researchers in spite of the weakened exchange rate, to grant scholarships to top PhD students who would otherwise not be able to study further, and to build another residence so that more students can benefit from the "res experience" with its academic support, stable secure environment, easy 24/7 access to the campus, libraries and labs, and the camaraderie that produces lifelong networks.

Many of our alumni have already stepped forward and to date have pledged about R100 million towards the campaign. UCT is deeply appreciative of this wonderful display of support, which inspires us to believe that we will be able to grow our undesignated endowment to R1 billion by the end of the campaign.

By becoming champions of the Distinguishing UCT campaign and by donating generously, our alumni will be securing UCT's premier position while forging an inclusive identity for future generations. ■

# NEWS FROM YOUR ALMA MATER

(for more on these and other stories, visit [www.uct.ac.za/dailynews](http://www.uct.ac.za/dailynews))

## UCT RESEARCH ON MAKING RUGBY SAFER CONTRIBUTES TO GLOBAL CHANGES IN THE SPORT

Few are able to say they have helped to change the way rugby is played around the world, but this is something University of Cape Town PhD graduate James Craig Brown can claim with confidence. Dr Brown's thesis evaluates the effectiveness of the BokSmart programme, a nationwide injury-prevention programme for rugby launched in 2009 by the South African Rugby Union (SARU). Ultimately, the programme aims to reduce the incidence of rugby-related catastrophic head and neck injuries in South Africa.

## UCT THREE GET ROYAL HONOURS

UCT student Patrice Madurai (22) together with alumni Nosipho Bele (25) and Emma Dicks (25) are recipients of the Queen's Young Leaders Award, which were handed to them by Queen Elizabeth II in June last year.

Nosipho, who currently works as a teacher in Cape Town, started a mentoring programme called Mentor Me to Success, which teams up matriculants from underprivileged communities with mentors from UCT.

Emma's initiative is called Code4CT and introduces high school girls to web building skills and exposes them to opportunities in the IT industry.

Patrice's Cupcake ReSolution, celebrates children's worth with a cupcake party, after which each child's records with Home Affairs (for instance whether their birth was registered) are checked and documents (birth certificates/IDs) are



Queen's winners: From left Patrice Madurai; the British consul general for Cape Town, Chris Trott; Nosipho Bele; and Emma Dicks.

applied for at a mobile home affairs office brought to their school by Patrice and her team.

The award acknowledges the work of exceptional people from the British Commonwealth aged 18-29, who are using their skills to transform lives. Awardees receive a combination of training, mentoring and networking, including a one-week residential programme at Cambridge University.

## LITERARY GIANT REMEMBERED

The late Honorary Professor André Brink was remembered as a writer whose "sympathy was always clearly with the downtrodden" at a memorial service held on Monday 2 March 2015, in the same hall in which Brink had delivered his inaugural lecture upon his appointment as a professor at UCT in 1990. Fellow writer Breyten Breytenbach was the keynote speaker at the service, which included tributes from Brink's wife, Karina Szczurek, his son Gustav Brink, Professor Martin Buysse of the Université Catholique de Louvain, filmmaker Euzahn Palty and Emeritus Professor Ian Glenn, who reminisced about Brink's career and

contribution on behalf of the university.

Buysse, who nominated Brink for his honorary degree from Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium, began his tribute with "Dear students", which he explained was how Brink began what would be his final address, when accepting the honorary doctorate in January. Brink passed away in transit back from Belgium.

"He started with the students because they are the ones who ask questions, the ones who look for answers ... moving into the shadows of uncertainty to say 'no' in the face of certitudes of power," Buysse said.

"Four days later, after meeting his

passionate readers for the final time in Brussels, he would board the final flight toward the land of his ancestors."

Buysse addressed the next part of his tribute to Brink: "Dear André: you were flying when you passed away next to your beloved wife Karina, with whom you spent the last decade of your life. You died in the sky, like the sun does; you died above borders, conflicts and limits."



Watch a video of the tribute on the University of Cape Town South Africa YouTube Channel

## AFRICAN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE LAUNCHED

Fifteen universities from eight African countries have launched an alliance of research universities at the African Higher Education Summit in Senegal's capital Dakar. The universities include Lagos, Ibadan and Obafemi Awolowo in Nigeria, the University of Ghana, Makerere University in Uganda, the University of Nairobi in Kenya, the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, the National University of Rwanda, Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Senegal, and in South Africa the universities of the Witwatersrand, Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Pretoria, KwaZulu-Natal and Rhodes. The focus of the group, with its first chair being UCT's Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price, will be to build African research excellence as a "vital precondition" for the continent to develop and exert control over its future.



Pictured from left to right: Prof. Adam Habib, Vice-Chancellor, WITS University; Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chair of the African Union; and UCT Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price, at the African Higher Education Summit in Dakar, Senegal.

## WHAT CAN BE DONE TO MAKE SURE THAT WIND ENERGY AND AFRICA'S VULTURES CO-EXIST?

Many people see wind energy as one of the key solutions to meeting Africa's growing energy demand and mitigating climate change. As a result, wind farms are already under construction or are being planned in many countries across sub-Saharan Africa. But wind farms can pose real threats to bird species, and they have the potential to jeopardise threatened bird populations.

So far, the biggest impact of inappropriately sited wind turbines has been on populations of large birds of prey, in particular eagles and vultures. In some extreme cases turbines have led to the death of hundreds of the birds as they collide with the turning blades.

Wind energy has the advantage of being an established energy source. But we also know from experiences in Europe and the US that inappropriately sited wind farms can have a devastating impact on the environment.

For example, hundreds of raptors are killed each year, including relatively large numbers of Golden Eagles at the wind farm at Altamont Pass, California. Turbines at the Smola Island wind farm in Norway have also had a terrible effect on the population of White-tailed Eagles.

Africa has the opportunity to benefit from lessons learned in Europe and North America. Experiences there can help ensure that wind farms are not placed in areas likely to conflict with vulnerable bird populations. They can also advance our knowledge on how wind farms can be constructed in a sustainable way without destroying the very species they hope to ultimately protect from the negative impacts of climate change.



Adult vulture flying with a transmitter. (Photo by Shane Elliott)

## STUDENTS FLUX THEIR ENTREPRENEURSHIP MUSCLES

Strategies for effective entrepreneurship were the name of the game at UCT's FLUX business challenge, which took place at the UCT Library Learning Lounge.

The FLUX challenge, based on a fast-paced business game, gives students a day-long introduction to entrepreneurship and a chance to propose solutions to real-world business problems with the help of business experts and employers.

The annual event is a collaboration between Careers Services and UCT Libraries.

Gwenda Thomas, executive director of UCT Libraries, said: "The event has demonstrated beyond doubt that the Library Learning Lounge is a great incubator for new forms of collaboration and entrepreneurial discovery."

"An essential function of the library has always been to facilitate the creation and transfer of knowledge. By partnering with



Winners of FLUX 2015 receive their prize of R9,000. Pictured from left are: Joshua Ojo-Aromokudu, Vogel Kayombo, Shingirayi Zimunhu, David Casey (director of UCT Careers Services), Ropafadzo Musvaire, Christabel Kunyongana and Michelle Chesa.

Careers Services, the Library Learning Lounge has brought together talented entrepreneurial students from across disciplines who normally would not have crossed each other's paths."

Business experts in human resources, finance, marketing and strategy as well as employers were on standby during the day to advise the almost 100 students, who were grouped into teams and presented with a social or business problem to solve.

In the second half of the day, students

presented their strategy and pitched their solution to a panel of these experts, who then chose the winning team from each stream. The audience had the deciding vote on who should be crowned the 2015 champions.

"Triple Bottomliners" took the top spot as FLUX champions and the first prize of R9 000. Their winning strategy entailed the use of containers to build low-cost houses, which would create employment and be more cost-effective than building standard houses.

"Feedback following the event has been overwhelmingly positive," said David Casey, director of UCT Careers Service, adding, "It is interesting to note that students who are not exposed to entrepreneurship as a curriculum offering asked for further exposure to it as a career option, and 98% of participants said they would recommend their FLUX experience to a friend."



Pauline Alexander (left) received a Vice-Chancellor's medal in bronze for her work in fundraising and alumni relations in the Faculty of Law.

## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MEDAL FOR PAULINE ALEXANDER

"Few conversations beat those in which you tell someone that their tuition fees are covered, and covered for the next five years," comments Pauline Alexander, recipient of a bronze Vice-Chancellor's Medal in recognition of her important contribution to developing a new model for alumni relationships and fundraising for UCT.

Alexander joined UCT in 2002 and served as Development and Marketing Manager in the Faculty of Law.

UCT Vice-Chancellor Dr

Max Price said Alexander had become an integral part of almost every aspect of life in the faculty, recognising her "dedicated and innovative work – specifically the way she has established and maintained a loyal community of alumni who continue to give back to the University year after year".

The Vice-Chancellor's Medal was instituted during the 1980s. It is awarded, at the Vice-Chancellor's discretion, to someone who has made an important contribution to the University.

## UCT IN TOP 10 IN WORLD SUBJECT RANKINGS

STORY BY CAROLYN NEWTON. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HAMMOND.

According to the latest QS World University Rankings by Subject 2016, UCT has ranked among the top 10 universities in the world in development studies for the second year in a row. Other South African and African universities also performed well in the rankings, particularly in this field.

The QS subject rankings use a combination of research citations and reputational surveys of academics and graduate employers worldwide. They are the largest of their kind, and this year they featured 42 disciplines. UCT scored in 31 of these – the most of any African university. South African universities achieved places in the top 100 in 21 subjects (12 of which were at UCT). This is six more than last year.

Development studies is the most competitive subject offered by South African universities. UCT was tied 9th in the world with Stanford University; the University of the Witwatersrand followed close behind in 14th position. Other African universities also performed strongly in this field – Makerere University in Uganda was 30th in the field, and the University of Nairobi ranked in the top 100.

UCT also performed strongly in geography, where it ranked in the top 50 in the world.

Other UCT subjects in the top 100 were education, medicine, archaeology, English language and literature, law, engineering (mineral and mining), architecture and the built environment, agriculture and forestry, anthropology, and politics and international studies.

Subject rankings give a more nuanced picture of university strengths than the overall university rankings. For instance, it is worth noting that while US universities occupy five of the top 10 places in the world rankings, only three reach the top 10 in development studies (of which Harvard University takes top place).

While UCT does not have a stand-alone department of development studies, its strong showing in the field is not surprising, given that it is reflected in many of the university's strongest interdisciplinary research areas, such as the African Centre for Cities, the African Climate and Development Initiative and the Poverty and Inequality Initiative. All of these contain academics that are



internationally recognised as leaders in their field.

Development studies is integrated into a large number of undergraduate and postgraduate courses at UCT, including gender studies, sociology, information systems, social development, computer science, energy, urban planning, political studies, economics, sustainable minerals development, film and media.

UCT regards international ranking systems with a measure of caution. The QS subject rankings, as with all the international rankings, are designed as a comparative measure, so they rank universities in relation to one another rather than against an objective measurement.

However, having universities that rank globally in any subject, and rank globally overall, benefits the country as a whole. It sends the message out to the world, including academics and business people who are contemplating studying or investing in South Africa, that the country's higher education system is

globally competitive. The university benefits directly because prospective students and staff use the rankings to decide where they wish to study and advance their academic careers. ■

UCT topped the Best universities in Africa 2016: Top 15 list due to its highly cited research, strong international outlook and ability to attract funds from industry. Six other South African universities were listed in the top 15, including the University of the Witwatersrand (second), Stellenbosch University (third), the University of KwaZulu-Natal (fifth) and the University of Pretoria (sixth). Phil Baty, the Times Higher Education rankings editor, said: "This snapshot ranking is based on the same criteria as the World University Rankings, but we are keen to develop a bespoke range of metrics, following a public consultation, for a full Africa University Ranking."

## AFRICA CAN EMULATE CHINA'S DEVELOPMENT

STORY BY HELEN SWINGLER. PHOTOS BY JE'NINE MAY.

"We think it is possible to effect change in a generation [in Africa]. China has done it. If we want to do it, we can do it," Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, chair of the African Union Commission, said at the opening of UCT's China-Africa Colloquium in May 2015.

However, emulating China's "remarkable progress," would take an investment in the continent's most valuable resource: its people, said Dlamini-Zuma.

She was delivering the opening address at the two-day colloquium, titled "Evolving Sino-African Relations, Prospects and Opportunities."

The colloquium was a partnership between UCT's Confucius Institute, the Centre for African Studies and the Institute for African Alternatives and was supported by the Hanban, the Confucius Institute headquarters in China.

Guest speakers at the opening included Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price; Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Francis Petersen; China's ambassador to South Africa, Tian Xuejun; and Professor Ben Turok, director of the Institute for African Alternatives. Former President Kgalema Motlanthe, chair of the Institute for African Alternatives Board, was part of the platform party and chaired the first session.

Dlamini-Zuma said that in the face of population growth ("We are the youngest continent and will remain so for the next decade"), the continent needed investment in water, sanitation, education, science and technology and in agriculture, which is still in the hands of women – still using hand-held hoes.

There are plans to rid Africa of these implements in the next 10 years and replace these with more technologically advanced tools.

"We need to free women to develop," she added. "Women and youth are key to the continent's development."

### LONG HISTORY

Africa and China have ties that date back to the 13th century when merchants travelled the Silk Road to trade with



Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, chair of the African Union Commission, delivers the opening address at the two-day China-Africa Colloquium, titled 'Evolving Sino-African Relations, Prospects and Opportunities'.



China's ambassador to South Africa, Tian Xuejun

Africa. In more recent times, China has been part of Africa's emancipation, helping to build post-independence infrastructure.

But the continent is changing, Dlamini-Zuma said. As such, the AU had developed a 15-year plan to address its underdevelopment, insecurity and poverty.

A priority is the beneficiation of natural resources and minerals.

"We are currently exporting the raw materials and when you export raw materials you are exporting the jobs with those raw materials...this is a contradiction that must be corrected."

### TWO UNDER-UTILISED RESOURCES

Africa's other great resources, its land mass – a united states of more than 30 million square kilometres – and exposure to two oceans had also not been exploited. With China's help, the AU plans to develop the continent's shipping capacity, vital to increased export and import.

This would be translated into greater physical connectedness on the continent, including road, rail and air links.

"We want the continent to be integrated. This is essential to development."

In the pipeline are plans to develop a centre of excellence on the continent

to develop this infrastructure and the physical resources needed, through research and development.

In addition, a memorandum of understanding had been signed with China to develop its networks and increase industrialisation. As this would require greater energy, the AU would work with China to ensure clean and renewable energy resources.

### WORLD PEACE PLAYER

As regards security, Dlamini-Zuma said that Africa welcomed China's support in its drive to secure a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

"We're not asking for a favour; we're asking for the correction of an historical injustice."

A fully developed Africa could contribute to world peace and security and take its rightful place in the world, she added. ■

### DID YOU KNOW?

UCT's Confucius centre offers short courses in Mandarin Chinese, which are open to alumni. For more information, visit [www.confucius.uct.ac.za/ci/coursesoffered/mandarinchinese](http://www.confucius.uct.ac.za/ci/coursesoffered/mandarinchinese).

# 2015 HONORARY DOCTORATES

Deputy Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court Dikgang Moseneke; Public Protector Advocate Thuli Madonsela; struggle stalwart and law pioneer Ahmed Kathrada; art critic, curator and scholar Okwui Enwezor; historian John Britten Wright; neoclassical welfare economist Johannes de Villiers Graaff; and legal scholar and former law commissioner Kenneth Reid were awarded honorary degrees in 2015. UCT is proud to welcome these outstanding individuals, chosen not only for their achievements and contributions, but for the values they espouse, into our global alumni community.



## AHMED KATHRADA

Ahmed Kathrada's oration was delivered by Dr Russell Ally, executive director of the Development and Alumni Department.

“Ahmed Mohammed Kathrada – Kathy, as he is more popularly and affectionately known – ... left in his final year of school to become a full-time political activist. He finished his matric through part-time study and, but for a brief spell at Wits University, did not return to formal tertiary study until he was on Robben Island. But education has always been a critically important part of his life. He teases that he was probably one of the earliest proponents of the misguided doctrine of ‘liberation before education’ for dropping out of his formal studies to become a full-time political activist. If there is one thing in his life that he would do differently if he had the chance, he often tells the youth, it would be to combine his activism with pursuing his studies. They are not mutually exclusive. If anything, they complement each other.”

To read the full citations, visit [www.uct.ac.za/about/honours/degrees](http://www.uct.ac.za/about/honours/degrees)



## THULI MADONSELA

Thuli Madonsela's oration was delivered by Professor Hugh Corder of the Faculty of Law.

“Ms Madonsela has unremittingly promoted the values of the Constitution through her work, and has not shrunk from pursuing accountability, even when venomously and unfairly attacked by leading figures within the political establishment. Her reports are characterised by the careful gathering of facts, critical analysis of the arguments, and clear findings and recommendations for remedial action, along with a flair for catchy titles and phrases. Despite intense attention and the stresses of office, she has at all times maintained a decorum and sense of perspective, which have helped her navigate many political minefields.”



## OKWUI ENWEZOR

Okwui Enwezor's oration was delivered by Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sandra Klopper

Okwui Enwezor, a renowned art critic, curator, publisher and scholar, has a special interest in modern and contemporary African art. A Nigerian scholar, Enwezor spoke of his efforts to ensure that Africa is recognised as a fully-fledged member of the global art world:

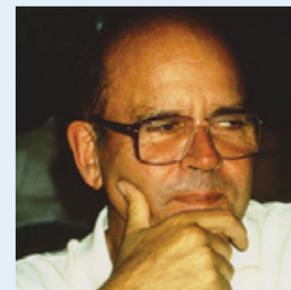
“For more than 25 years I, as critic and curator, have been preoccupied by how to bring modern and contemporary African art into greater intimacy with global currents of art.”

“Dikgang was one of the first students who enthusiastically declared that Robben Island Prison was now the ‘Makana University.’ Pushing a wheelbarrow with steel bands full of sand and stone, he was often heard going through Latin declensions; ‘mensa, mensa, mensam, mensae, mensae, mensa.’ Little [did the warders know] that Dikgang had taken the first steps to become a lawyer and later Deputy Chief Justice of South Africa.”



## DIKGANG MOSENEKE

Dikgang Moseneke's oration was delivered by UCT's Chair of Council, Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane.



## JOHANNES DE VILLIERS GRAAFF

Dr Johannes de Villiers Graaff was honoured posthumously for his contribution to economics – internationally and locally – which stretches over half a century. He was, during a career of engaged scholarship, able to show the links between the abstract

theory of classical welfare economics and the practical challenges of the real world.

The neoclassical South African welfare economist graduated with a PhD from the University of Cambridge in 1950, and attained greater eminence in academic economics than any other South African. His 1957 book on taxation, inequality and poverty, *Theoretical Welfare Economics*, is described in its preface by Nobel laureate Paul Samuelson as “a classic in its own time”.

## KENNETH REID

Professor Kenneth Reid, a pre-eminent jurist, has played a pivotal role over the past two decades in the promotion of private law scholarship at a local, regional and global level. He is a graduate of the Universities of Cambridge and Edinburgh, and holds the Chair in Scots Law at the latter.

Reid is also a leading scholar of mixed legal systems and his collaboration with South African scholars (many at UCT) since 1994 has led to a number of productive joint academic projects, including the volume on *Mixed Legal Systems in Comparative Perspective: Property and Obligations in Scotland and South Africa* (Oxford, 2004).



## JOHN BRITTEN WRIGHT

John Britten Wright's oration was delivered by Professor Nigel Worden.

“Like Enwezor, John Britten Wright was awarded an honorary doctorate in literature. Wright is best known for his contributions to the James Stuart Archive – a central source for the history of south-east Africa before 1910. With this honorary degree the university recognises “his extraordinary scholarship on the pre-colonial history of south-east Africa and his development of an archive that enables wider scholarship.”

# NEW SENIOR LEADERS HELP UCT USHER IN A BOLD FUTURE

**A**s Professor Murray Leibbrandt, pro vice-chancellor for poverty and inequality, says, Ingrid Woolard is “without a peer as a producer of survey data and a top-cited economic researcher.”

Woolard cut her teeth as a data manager on the country’s first national living standards measurement survey in 1994, which the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) produced with the World Bank at the request of the ANC.

“These data have been used by Ingrid and hundreds of other researchers to analyse South African well-being,” said Leibbrandt. Woolard was also a key team member in the second and third waves of the KwaZulu-Natal Income Dynamics Study (KIDS). KIDS was South Africa’s first socio-economic panel survey and it pioneered the analysis of poverty and inequality dynamics in South Africa. Based on this data, Woolard’s work showed how destitution has driven many urban-based unemployed people back into rural areas to survive off the pensions of parents and grandparents.

“As these unemployed people are moving away from labour markets, this is clearly a sub-optimal outcome. Only panel data in expert hands could have revealed this unfolding poverty trap. This paper, and others too, have been influential in unpacking how South Africa’s unemployed actually survive,” says Leibbrandt.

Woolard’s contributions have been internationally recognised. She was the only South African labour economist invited to membership of the labour market team within the Harvard Group that National

Treasury tasked with preparing a South African growth strategy. Woolard has been well served by the minutiae of managing the multiple arms and legs of big-bucks projects with clout. Her new role as dean of commerce will have her managing the university’s second-largest faculty using many of the same skills.

Fortunately, she’s a listener and gatherer. When Woolard was asked to produce a vision for the faculty, she was astounded by the idea that anyone could do so single handedly. The vision had to be produced with the input of the faculty community and a process built on listening, gathering, sifting and reflecting.

## BALANCE AND BLEND – THE NEW DEAN OF COMMERCE

STORY BY HELEN SWINGLER. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HAMMOND.



Dean of commerce, Ingrid Woolard

Though she recognises the significance of being the faculty’s first woman dean, Woolard is quick to point out that the idea of a “female leadership style” doesn’t resonate with her. The job needs hard and soft skills and everything in between to steer transformation in a faculty that is still too white.

“Transformation is going to be the biggest part of what I want to do in the next five years.”

“When I was doing my BA I knew I wanted to help people pursue their rights and justice, and with a law degree I

## NEW DEAN OF LAW BACK IN SA TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

STORY BY ABIGAIL CALATA. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HAMMOND.



Professor Penny Andrews, UCT’s new dean of law

could,” says Andrews, an activist in the global anti-apartheid movement. When asked why she moved back home after almost 30 years abroad, she mentions her “total dedication to South Africa and what happens here.”

“I also realised that I am really committed to mentoring the next generation of legal professionals, particularly black South African legal professionals,” she says. Originally from Kensington in Cape Town, Andrews says: “If you were born in South Africa during apartheid your life’s work is set out for you. For me the personal and professional is completely interlinked. “I feel that all the work I’ve done thus far has contributed towards this moment, which is a difficult moment, but the problems we face are not insurmountable. It just requires commitment and hard work, and I’m no stranger to either. I feel prepared.”

“In South Africa we are probably among the most fortunate of citizenry because we have a Constitution, which is such an important template for the values we need to reinforce in this society. Lawyers are best equipped to ensure that the Constitution becomes real – that the transformative vision of the Constitution actualises and makes a difference in people’s lives.”

Andrews enjoys her work immensely. As a young professor she couldn’t believe her luck in being paid to do what she loves. “Every year I had a new class of young, inquiring smart people with whom I engaged regularly. I could write about whatever I wanted to write and then there were the long holidays ... Now as dean I’m involved in something larger than myself – in institutional culture change, mentoring and development.”

## BONGANI MAYOSI: HEALING HEARTS, MAKING HISTORY

STORY BY BIËNNE HUISMAN. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HAMMOND.

**P**rofessor Bongani Mayosi, Head of the Department of Medicine, has been appointed the new dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences. He takes up his post on 1 September 2016, after completing a sabbatical at Harvard University from January to August 2016.

Young Bongani Mayosi's ambition to become a doctor was shaped in the back of a Land Rover, as the car bounced over the hills under the wide skies of the Amathole district in the Eastern Cape. It was the start of a journey that would eventually see him appointed as dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town.

Mayosi, who was born in Mthatha in 1967, moved to the village of Ngqamakhwe when he was a year old, with his father, George, the local district surgeon, and his mother, Nontle, a nurse. "My dad had Land Rovers, and would head out along these ragged, bumpy roads to see his patients," Mayosi recalls. "I always went with him, sitting in the back of the car with the medicine. We'd stop to see people. To me as a child, it was the most wonderful fun. Becoming a doctor myself one day was the obvious plan."

One of five children, Mayosi was home-schooled by his mother before he matriculated from St John's College in Mthatha. Over the years, his healthcare aspirations took him from rural roads to shiny academic corridors around the world, where he qualified as a cardiologist focusing on poor communities. "Poverty will break your heart," he tells us. Now a professor, Mayosi (48) has been promoted to dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town (UCT) – where he will supervise about 2 000 academic, administrative and technical staff, and 2 015 undergraduate and 1 928 postgraduate medical students.

Mayosi joined the university in 1992, and was appointed head of its department of medicine in 2006. In a speech shortly



after his appointment, he referenced 12th-century French philosopher Bernard of Chartres: "I do indeed stand upon the shoulders of giants." However, he has been outspoken about the historic transformation challenges facing the university, notably those of language inequality and patriarchy. We meet Mayosi at his office inside the Old Main Building at Groote Schuur, UCT's chief academic hospital. His office overlooks the hospital grounds and a building marked 'Outpatients, elabangalaliswayo, buitepasiënte', where people, some of whom are confined to wheelchairs, are waiting for hospital shuttles to take them back home.

The walls in his office are lined with certificates and trophies. Above his desk hangs a white notice board with a message from his daughter scrawled in koki pen: "Have an amazing day, Tata." It is signed "Gugu," with a heart.

"South Africa is very unique. Our country is a collision of four epidemics, where most countries only have one or two," he says. The four epidemics are mother and baby health risks; HIV/Aids and TB; chronic non-transmissible diseases such as diabetes and heart disease; and violence – especially domestic violence – and injury, he says. (South Africa's average homicide figures are five times the global average.) Mayosi also cites chronic healthcare fiscal budget cuts and the flight of experienced medical staff to the private sector and overseas as some of the country's challenges.

The new dean's credentials combine academic rigour with hands-on hospital experience. "My idea with this faculty is to train quality healthcare staff who can make a real difference to people... We need to create knowledge, but we have to get our hands dirty, too." His research focuses on three diseases that are rare in high-income countries, but common in Africa: rheumatic heart disease (potentially fatal, but treatable with penicillin), TB of the heart, and heart muscle disease.

Mayosi and his wife – equally respected Professor Nonhlanhla Khumalo, head of dermatology at UCT, who is well known for her research into African hair – live in Cape Town with their two daughters, Vuyi and Gugu. The pair met at the Durban campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), where they were enrolled as medical students in the early 1980s.

"Well, we sat next to each other on a bus on our way to the beach, during initiation. We started talking to each other, and just never stopped!" says Mayosi. At the time, their initiation was coordinated by Aaron Motsoaledi, who is now the health minister, and was then the president of UKZN's students' representative council.

Mayosi earned two medical degrees with distinction at UKZN, and worked as an intern at Livingstone Hospital in Port Elizabeth before joining UCT in 1992. He was admitted to the Fellowship of the College of Physicians of SA in 1995, and earned a doctoral degree at the University of Oxford in the UK in 2003.

Before leaving for the US, Mayosi plans to spend some time with family in Ngqamakhwe. "When people speak of how rural folk are disadvantaged – well, I can't relate to that," he says. "I had a magical youth, spent making cattle from clay and playing outside. I enjoy taking my daughters back there."

Mayosi has credited his parents, and especially his mother, for his love of learning. "My siblings and I owe a great debt to our parents for instilling in us a love of learning – and to our mother in particular, who suspended her own career as a nurse for 14 years to raise and almost single-handedly educate her brood of five children," he wrote in a speech delivered in 2006.

He might not be in the back of his father's Land Rover anymore; but hopefully, the Ngqamakhwe hills will inspire his daughters to dream even bigger.

*This piece originally appeared in the City Press.*

## WATER HIGH ON EBE DEAN'S AGENDA

STORY BY ANDREA WEISS. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HAMMOND.

**E**ngineering & the Built Environment Dean Professor Alison Lewis and her team have brought home an award from the Water Research Commission for a pioneering process to treat acid mine drainage – but this is only a hint of things to come in the year ahead when water will play an even greater role in the life of the faculty. Professor Alison Lewis has had water on her agenda ever since she did her masters on the mathematical modeling of a biological wastewater treatment system. When it came to a PhD, she was offered a bursary at Wits to study the way in which fires travel through mines.

But, it was to water she returned when her mentor Gerhard Marais, a former water-engineering professor at UCT, told her: "There's only one thing to do a PhD on, and that is water."

"He actually ran a course called 'low-cost sanitation' which was all about how to design pit latrines and the like. I thought the course was just going to be hell – but I think it was the best course I ever did," says Lewis from the dean's office in the New Engineering Building.

When it came to setting up a research group, Lewis was advised she would only get funding for work on precious metals. Nevertheless, her interest in water kept ticking over in the background, and in recent years more and more water research funding has become available.

No wonder then, that Lewis is excited that the EBE faculty has been given the thumb's up to host an inter-disciplinary Future Water Institute set to launch in 2016. The trans-disciplinary institute will focus on water security and solutions to the water crisis across the faculties.

One such solution is the work for which Lewis and her team recently won a special



Engineering & the Built Environment Dean Professor Alison Lewis and her winning team: (From left) Debbie Jooste, Senzo Mgbh, Jemittias Chivavava, Prof Alison Lewis and Cledwyn Mangunda

Knowledge Tree Award from the Water Research Commission for "new products and services for economic development."

Using a technique called eutectic freeze crystallization, Lewis's team has pioneered a way of turning contaminated mine water back into clean potable water and individual salts.

Described as a kind of modern-day 'alchemy,' this involves freezing out fresh water from the hyper-saline brine which makes up acid mine drainage before separating out the individual salts by freezing them at individual (eutectic) temperatures.

The outcome is water clean enough to return to the environment, and salts (the likes of gypsum used in building or sodium sulphate used in soaps, detergents and glassmaking) that can be recycled.

Explains Lewis: "Acid mine drainage is talked about as toxic waste but it's 98% water. The contaminants are miniscule. At the end of the day it's about turning waste into value."

The process has now advanced to the point where it is being commercialised – with a pilot plant at the Coaltech's Optimum Colliery near Middelburg in Mpumalanga and another in the pipeline for Eskom. There is also a demonstration device on campus.

"It's also about a mindset change," says Lewis. "Yes there is a water crisis and, yes, the next war will be fought about water. Water/energy/food – that is the critical nexus. But we have the solutions in our hands..."

With a new Future Water Institute on the cards, watch this space.



Visit <https://youtu.be/aDPPwJxjUL4> to listen to Prof Lewis participating in a BBC World Service's Forum programme called Modern Alchemy.

# YOUNG PEOPLE COME FIRST, SAYS INCOMING DVC

STORY BY HELEN SWINGLER. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HAMMOND.



Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng joins UCT on 1 July, 2016 and will take over from Professor Danie Visser as Deputy Vice-Chancellor for research and internationalisation, on 1 January 2017. Earlier this year she received the National Order of the Baobab (Silver) from President Jacob Zuma. Professor Phakeng maintains an active social media presence. Follow her on Twitter, @FabAcademic.

**H**aving started school under a tree in Marapyane village in Mpumalanga in 1972, Mamokgethi Phakeng never envisaged herself as a professor; there was no mentor to fire her imagination or kindle a desire.

It's not that she didn't have fine role models growing up, says UCT's incoming deputy Vice-Chancellor (research and internationalisation), a respected mathematics education scholar who joined the university on 1 July 2016 ahead of incumbent DVC Professor Danie Visser's retirement in December. Her mother, Wendy, went back to school (in uniform) to do grade 7 after she'd had three children. (Mamokgethi is the second.)

"I was encouraged by my late father, Frank Lentsoe Mmutlana, who was high-school educated and wanted my mother to continue her education. Education was a priority at home, mainly because of my dad. I was just so happy that she studied with us and helped me with my homework!" Phakeng excelled academically, majoring in mathematics at the University of Bophuthatswana (now part of North-West University). It was a language she understood and loved.

As a student sitting at a coffee shop or waiting for her next lecture, Phakeng would scribble theorem proofs on her denim jeans and backpack. "I was truly a boring chick – no parties and no boyfriends," she recalled. "I spent time in the library or playing sport. I was not date-able." But it wasn't all work; in that time Phakeng represented her university as a ballroom and Latin American dancer. ("If there's a good partner in the room I can still get to the floor.")

Her bachelor's degree led her to Wits for postgraduate study and a doctorate in 2002 when she became the first black African woman in South Africa with a PhD in mathematics education, "which tells you what the state of maths education was back then," says the 49-year-old mother, stepmother and adoptive mother of five.

In Sweden for a conference when the news of her UCT appointment was announced in January, Phakeng, currently Vice-Principal of Research and Innovation at UNISA, was upbeat about her new job. "Given what UCT is, my view is that the university should be the go-to place when it comes to relevant, responsive research that contributes to the growth and well-being of the country and continent.

"I hope to consolidate and sustain that [UCT's] performance while transforming the cohort of researchers to ensure we don't only lead when it comes to research productivity and influence, but also when it comes to researching transformation and transforming research." Phakeng will work alongside Visser for the first six months, to get to know the turf, "important because it will help me serve better."

The decision to move south and make her academic home at UCT was also made easier by timing. "My term at UNISA was coming to an end and I needed a different experience, a new challenge."

A National Research Foundation B2-rated researcher (with plenty of publications and citations in her area of research), Phakeng regards the rating as her best academic achievement to date. "It came only 10 years after my PhD." The achievement is set against a backdrop of several other important research and community work awards.

The big one is the 2011 National Science and Technology Forum award for innovative research on teaching and learning mathematics in multilingual classrooms. In 2013 CEO magazine called her the most influential woman in education and training in South Africa and in 2014 she was named the Most Influential Woman in Academia in Africa.

Those who have met Phakeng talk of her enthusiasm, energy and personal style. It's a particularly charismatic combination for young people and it's the youth with their teeming ideas and get-up-and-go attitude that inspire her.

"Young people come first for me; some remind me of myself many years ago and others give me hope. They are our future." ■

# NEW FINANCE E.D. UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

STORY BY YUSUF OMAR. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HAMMOND.

**W**hen Ashley Francis was announced as UCT's Executive Director: Finance Designate at the beginning of 2015, nobody could have foreseen the upheaval on the university and political landscape that would take place last year.

Already the university was facing massive cuts in state subsidies, and the unexpected zero percent increase in fees exacerbated the challenge. But having completed the handover from his predecessor, Professor Enrico Uliana, at the beginning of this year, he's got a few plans for the university to safely navigate these choppy waters.

Francis takes the reins at a particularly bumpy stretch of road for all South African universities, who face an uncertain fiscal future. But he is not intimidated by the complexity of the challenge. After all, he is accustomed to conquering uncharted territory, having cut his teeth in the hurly burly of the corporate world, where he was a key behind-the-scenes driver at the V&A Waterfront Group when it was being prepared for sale.

When he joined the Waterfront, its finance systems and corporate structures were in less than shiny condition, he says. After some deliberation, he restructured the staff corps and made some other major improvements, which ultimately facilitated its record sale.

In 2005, after leaving the Waterfront, Francis founded an alternative energy company. Biotech Fuels was a little ahead of its time – maybe too far ahead, he admits – and corporate funding and government support were tricky to secure. The financial meltdown of 2008/2009 made it impossible to continue, and Francis was forced to sell in 2011.

"What Sasol is today is what Biotech Fuels could have been in fifteen years with adequate but strategic government support."

His journey to the financial world was more complex than others, too. After matriculating from Zeekoevlei High School in Lotus River, he couldn't accept offers from UCT and UWC because his parents couldn't afford the fees. Francis instead worked and studied through UNISA, eventually passing his board exams.

So he's used to a little adversity.

"Can I do the job? Of course I can do the job. Is it going to be easy? No. It's not going to be easy. What has happened in higher education in the last three months has never happened in South Africa, ever.

"So this is not going to be business as usual. But I'm up for the challenge."

Where to for fees?

The zero percent increase was just the beginning; the push from



students is now for no fees at all, and Francis recognises the need for fresh thinking around funding.

The ideal would be a differential fee structure that takes account of what students could afford. Wealthier students and families would pay, while poor students would not pay.

"There needs to be a scaled tuition fee structure. That's a project I'm going to be starting very soon," explains Francis, adding that it could become a template for other universities.

"That would begin to assist us, not to have free education, but free education for the poor."

The university currently allocates in the region of R500 million to aid students who struggle to afford the fees; that number needs to double, says Francis, and this is where the university needs to work with alumni, corporates and the banks to explore ways to realise that figure.

The state is simply unable to fund higher education to the tune of zero fees for all students, he says. Traditionally, the ratio of government funding, student fees and third-stream funding has been 40:40:20. It's conceivable that this may change to 20:40:40, says Francis. So the university must find new ways of bringing in revenue.

Thinking out of the box is thus required. Francis sees the Jammie buses, buildings, the grounds and other iconic yet almost invisible landmarks as potentially viable sources of income.

Then there's the Protea Hotel in Mowbray, which UCT owns. Francis made some changes to the model last year and the university now takes a much bigger cut of its income. And more opportunities for UCT to sweat its assets are abundant if you know where to look, he says.

Francis reiterates that managing a university's finances is not for the faint-hearted, even though UCT is in a slightly safer position than most of its counterparts.

"This is not an accounting job. This is a financial management job and one needs to be creative and innovative," says Francis.

"You need to build a team, and build relationships and trust with the UCT community, the academic community; with the outside community."

"Cape Town, South Africa, and Africa is looking at UCT. The world is looking at UCT to pull through this period." ■

# NEW REGISTRAR: 'MORE THAN JUST A CHANNEL FOR BUREAUCRACY'

STORY BY YUSUF OMAR. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HAMMOND.

Royston Pillay, UCT's newly appointed registrar, wants to embed a culture of questioning assumptions and 'old ways of doing things' as the country's universities tread unpredictable waters.



Royston Pillay took over from long-serving registrar Hugh Amoore, who retired at the end of 2015.

**A**s if to demonstrate a 'typical' day in the new registrar's office, Royston Pillay apologised numerous times when pausing this writer's interview with him to urgently tend to constant knocks at his door and a bleeping cellphone. "It's the new normal," says Pillay, after emerging from a text conversation.

UCT's new registrar is an educationalist to the core. He taught at Grassy Park High, working his way up to the deputy principal's seat. His first job at UCT was as the head of the student affairs secretariat, acting as a conduit between the student leadership and university management.

This was after graduating from UCT with arts, social sciences and education qualifications.

"So there was the initial exposure to UCT as a student, during my undergrad and early postgrad, and then my first job at UCT was in the student services."

That was followed by a stint in faculty administration when Pillay became the Faculty of Humanities' first faculty manager responsible for academic administration in 1999.

"Academic administration is a really important component of the job of registrar, so in terms of cutting my teeth and gaining exposure to the kind of work that forms part of the wider domain of the responsibilities of the registrar, my time in the faculty gave me valuable experience."

Two years later he became the director of student admissions. This required him to work closely with the registrar's office.

"So there's an alignment between what I was doing at admissions and the wider portfolio of the office of the registrar."

He held this position until 2004, when he moved to the Office of the Vice-Chancellor (OVC) to serve as its director. The view from the OVC, he says, gave him deep insights into the "belly of the beast" that is UCT and honed his understanding of the strategy considerations and "big picture issues" at the university.

"That really helped me to understand this institution and its complexity in ways that would not have been possible had I not worked in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for a sustained period of time, and with two VCs (Professor Njabulo Ndebele and Dr Max Price) and a number of different deputy vice-chancellors," he says.

## STEEPED IN EDUCATION

Pillay's journey has been an interesting form of orientation for the position of registrar. Having immersed himself in the world of education from the get-go, his earlier life and work experiences have influenced his own education. "I'm basically a person from the Cape Flats. I was born in District Six and lived in District Six for the first eight years of my life, before my family was moved to the Cape Flats, and still have some lingering memories of the evictions. So I grew up in District 6 and on the Cape Flats.

"That's defined me. I think I understand some of the challenges that we face because of that experience. I think I have good insight into the reality of school life in disadvantaged communities, and I think this will help me in terms of formulating an ongoing plan for the registrar's office but also for the University of Cape Town and how we go about our business."

Pillay speaks highly of his education at

South Peninsula High School.

"I had teachers that understood the importance of taking students way beyond the narrowness of a textbook. I had teachers who basically prepared me for life. I was very influenced in my young life by New Unity Movement politics and by teachers who shared that inclination."

The politicised face of the education 'business' that has been thrust into the public eye recently isn't new to him.

## THE 'NEW NORMAL'

With #FeesMustFall a major new player on the educational landscape, we have left an era where we can be comfortable in knowing what tomorrow will hold, says Pillay.

"The certainty that makes us comfortable has been disturbed. There is unpredictability. I think there's a much, much deeper level of complexity in terms of what we have to deal with, in terms of what we have to engage with as a society, as a sector, and as an individual tertiary institution."

It's the "new normal." It's a moment for everybody in higher education to take a step back and reflect on different ways to solve problems and engage challenges," he adds.

## VIEW FROM THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

Having said all that, what does a registrar do?

"It's a pretty big job," he says. "The registrar's office is a cradle on which so much else pivots in terms of academic administration across the university, in terms of legal and systems work, and in terms of governance support to statutory bodies like Senate, Council [and] Convocation."

It's a team effort. Pillay wants to coax the people around him to go beyond their limits, demonstrating that each staff

“It's the 'new normal.' It's a moment for everybody in higher education to take a step back and reflect on different ways to solve problems and engage challenges.”

-Royston Pillay, UCT registrar

member's institutional memory is valuable and can be harnessed. He believes that everyone has something to offer.

"One should always encourage people to be creative, to take chances. Just because something was done in a particular way for years, it doesn't necessarily mean that that continues to be the best way to do things.

"But sometimes the power and influence of how things had been done makes people reluctant to experiment, or even to ask the question."

He is keen to foster a culture of asking these questions more and more.

Pillay would also like to see the professional and support staff be increasingly recognised for the really important professional contribution that they make to this university.

"We have to celebrate that and encourage their contribution to the core business. And the core business is fundamentally in the interest of advancing our society, our country, continent and world."

He lays down a challenge for staff, particularly those in the registrar's department.

"See yourself as more than just a channel for bureaucracy. If we constrain ourselves in terms of how we see our roles, we limit our capacity to make an even bigger contribution." ■

# EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT - THE UCT GSB

As one of UCT's most highly ranked units, the Graduate School of Business continues to build its international profile, while making an impact on local business through its research and scholarship in the areas of social innovation and entrepreneurship, values-based leadership and emerging markets finance and trade. Here we recap some of the highlights from 2015 of this vibrant and pioneering school on the move, as it celebrates 50 years of excellence and achievement.



## ZUNGU TAKES TOP JOB ON GSB ADVISORY BOARD

Well-known South African businessman, entrepreneur and presidential advisor, Sandile Zungu was appointed as the new chair of the UCT Graduate School of Business Board of Advisors in early 2015.

Zungu graduated from the GSB in 1995 with an MBA which he has since put to good use – becoming one of the country's most respected businessmen. As a UCT council member he also served on the GSB Board of Advisors for many years. He credits his success to the support network he has developed over time, "Any success I've achieved," he said, "has not been

achieved alone. I've been fortunate to be mentored and coached throughout my journey. Without the continuous support of others, without their valuable input, I would not have been able to achieve a fraction of what I have. Strong principled partnerships – beginning with my wife – to those in business, are essential to achieving anything of substance. My role on the GSB Board of Advisors will give me the opportunity to reflect soulfully on my accomplishments and mentor and coach others in the same way in which I have been supported."

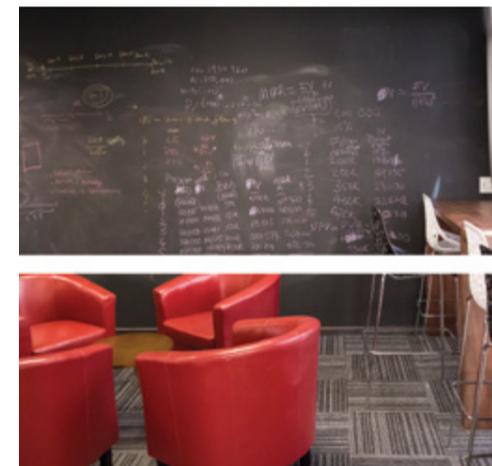
## GSB EXTENDS ITS FOOTPRINT WITHIN AFRICA

The GSB concluded several new deals with African business schools earlier this year as part of a strategy to pursue closer ties with other top schools on the continent.

The School signed memoranda of agreement (MOAs) with three other leading business schools: Lagos Business School in Nigeria, the HEM Business School in Morocco (Institut des Hautes Etudes de Management (Institute of Graduate Management Studies) and the American University in Cairo, Egypt. And in March, it joined a high-level consortium of top African business schools in Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria and Kenya to form the Academic Association of African Entrepreneurship (AAAE), which will focus on the promotion of mutual cooperation in the area of entrepreneurship in Africa.

According to Sarah-Anne Arnold, manager of the MTN Solution Space at the UCT GSB, who will represent the UCT GSB in the AAAE, promoting the exchange of ideas, experiences and skills is core to building up an entrepreneurship ecosystem on the continent.

"If we want to build our continent then we need to invest in building networks that are broader than any one single institution. The fuel to innovate is created when people with different experiences, realities, passions and ideas come together with the mandate and support structures to develop new possibilities," she said.



## GSB PARTNERS WITH MTN TO BOOST INNOVATION ON THE CONTINENT

The MTN Group and the UCT Graduate School of Business announced a major new partnership to boost sustainable innovation in Africa. MTN will invest R15 million over the next three years in the MTN Solution Space, an innovation hub on the GSB campus. The partnership is built on a solid platform of shared values of integrity, leadership, learning and a commitment to innovation with real-world impact.

"Each partner has complementary expertise and skills, so together, their impact on African innovation will be greater, and the solutions emerging as a result of their collaboration will reach further," said Professor Walter Baets. "We are delighted that MTN has decided to make a commitment of this kind. It is an investment in solutions for Africa, by Africa, in Africa."

## RINGING IN THE RANKINGS

The GSB received several accolades in 2015. In January, its full-time MBA programme was ranked by the prestigious Financial Times (FT) of London as the 52nd best in the world. More significantly perhaps, the ranking showed that the GSB offers the best value for money MBA in the world.

The GSB remains the only business school in Africa ranked in the FT MBA Top 100 for its full-time programme and this is the 11th consecutive year that it has been listed.

The school was also listed at 56th in the FT global ranking for Executive Education Customised Programmes. This prestigious annual ranking tracks top business schools in this category and presents a global benchmark for providers of executive education.

"It is very difficult to achieve a spot in these rankings," said Walter Baets, outgoing director of the GSB. "The FT rankings are highly selective and considering there are almost 13 000 business schools around the world, it is impressive that the GSB is consistently doing so well on this global platform."

Later in 2015, the GSB was recognised – for the eighth year in a row – as the top business school in Africa out of 74 schools

across the continent by Eduniversal. Eduniversal is a peer ranking system. The Eduniversal International Scientific Committee (ISC) nominates a selection of 1 000 business schools from 153 countries, across nine geographic zones based on a global mapping system made up of criteria such as universality and international reputation. From the selection, deans and directors of the business schools are asked to vote for the school they recommend most (not their own).

And in October the school made its debut in the Top 40 Corporate Knights Better World MBA Ranking 2015 – the only business school on the continent to be awarded a spot on this ranking. Corporate Knights is a media, research and financial information organisation based in Toronto, Canada that focuses on promoting an economic system with strong social development ties. The Better World MBA Ranking aims to identify which business schools teach MBAs that equip graduates best to change the world for the better – one of the GSB's core objectives.

## GSB DUO WIN INAUGURAL AABS/ EMERALD CASE WRITING COMPETITION



Dr Linda Ronnie (pictured, left), and Mariam Cassim, an alumna of the 2014 MBA class, have been awarded first prize in the 2015 Association of African Business Schools (AABS) Emerald Case Writing Competition.

The AABS and Emerald Group Publishing case study competition was launched in March this year in order to encourage and promote the development of high-quality teaching material that is African-specific. To meet the submission criteria, cases needed to focus on real-life situations in Africa. According to Ronnie, emerging market case studies are essential learning tools for postgraduate students at the GSB, but there is currently a dearth of suitable African-specific material from which to draw.

“We need more examples of how organisations function on our continent, what our unique management challenges are and how these might best be approached and solved,” she said. Their winning case study, *M-Pesa: An evolution in organisational strategy*, focused on Vodacom South Africa, which recently implemented a change in business strategy from typical mobile telecommunications to include financial services, a model that has seen great success in the last few years across the continent.



## GSB OFFERS NEW SPECIALISATION OPTIONS TO BOOST MANAGEMENT CAPACITY IN TWO KEY SECTORS

In response to market needs, the GSB has introduced two new streams of specialisation in Retail Management and Leadership in Healthcare on its Postgraduate Diploma in Management Practice (PGDip) programme.

In addition to the new streams in retail and health care management, students on the programme can now choose between five specialisation streams including social innovation and entrepreneurship, wine business management and business acumen.

Course convenor, Dr Elanca Shelley said there is a need for more specialised study options in South Africa because of the complexity of the challenges that different sectors face. “We know, for instance, that managers in health care in South Africa need to understand policy and regulation as well as how to operate with limited resources,” she said. “Different sectors have different challenges and we need to respond accordingly.”



## GSB TEAM WINS TOP INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION WITH SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION PROJECT

A team of MBA students from the GSB has won the 2015 Global Business Challenge - one of the world’s most prestigious graduate business case competitions - in Brisbane, Australia.

With more than R2 million in prize-money and judged by a panel of global CEOs and leaders from government and industry, the Global Business Challenge invites participants to design implementable and practical solutions to the world’s biggest challenges.

This year’s focus was on aiding the achievement of global food security through business ventures that seek to double food production by 2040.

The GSB team was made of four students from the 2014 and 2015 MBA full-time and modular classes: Ralph Thomas, Caryn Jeenes, Christopher Human, Robyn Fox, and was coached by senior lecturer Johannes Schüler.

The team presented a fresh-water aquaculture production system called

Fish4Africa that disrupts Africa’s current protein supply shortages by offering a sustainably produced, market-accepted catfish product based on a scale-efficient, replicable medium-scale model that requires low capital investment and can generally be located in close proximity to demand. It won out against 69 other universities from 27 countries. In the final round it competed against five other teams representing Canada, Australia, India, Australia, Poland and Indonesia.

## ONLINE DEBUT

The GSB has joined forces with Africa’s leading online education provider, GetSmarter, to develop three new online short courses that promise to empower business leaders and entrepreneurs with the knowledge and tools needed to achieve sustainable business success in a challenging economy.

The following GSB courses are now accessible online and part-time, via GetSmarter’s cutting-edge Virtual Learning Environment:

- Values-Based Leadership
- Business Innovation
- Entrepreneurship for Emerging Markets

According to Professor Baets, there are more courses scheduled to come online in the new year. Baets says that the move is critical for the survival of business schools today – especially those operating in fast changing emerging markets which are characterised by high degrees of complexity and inequality.

# FAREWELL TO WALTER BAETS, THE GREAT INSPIRER

Professor Walter Baets is in a reflective mood on the eve of his departure from the GSB.

**F**or the past seven years, Belgian-born Baets has headed up the GSB at the V&A Waterfront, building it into a vibrant place where innovation, inclusive business and the notion of “doing things differently” have taken root.

Baets is off to Aix-en-Provence in the south of France where he will head a new venture called The Camp.

Not a traditional business school, he describes his new venture as an “ecosystem” where business leaders and others will be able to come for residential sessions aimed at transforming their way of thinking about the challenges of the 21st century.

His new role?  
“My job title is The Great Inspirer, not Dean,” he says with a smile.

## A COUNTRY OF “INFINITE POSSIBILITIES”

Baets’ decision to relocate from France to Cape Town in 2009 was prompted by his wife’s suggestion that South Africa was the place to be.

“This to me is the continent of the future. It has everything – people, fertile ground,

raw materials – you just have to get it right. It’s a country and a continent of infinite possibilities,” he says.

After a visit to South Africa in 2007 at the invitation of the late Professor Paul Cilliers of Stellenbosch University, he first considered applying for the position of dean of Commerce at the University of the Witwatersrand, but then the directorship at the GSB came up.

It turned into his longest assignment ever – “I have never stayed anywhere that long.”

## “RELEVANT, PURPOSEFUL, MEANINGFUL”

Baets (with the help of his team, he is at pains to stress) leaves the GSB in excellent shape.

Among the highlights of his tenure are a spike in research output, the fact that the GSB enjoys international stature (it is one of just three schools in Africa to be triple-crown accredited) and has 100% black associate professors, which is well above the national average of 12%.

For the past ten years, the GSB has been listed by the Financial Times as one of the top 100 business schools for MBAs in the world, making it the only African institution to enjoy this status.

Along the way, Baets has overseen the creation of several innovative units – like the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the MTN Solution Space (which is now being extended into Philippi, one of the most economically deprived areas in Cape



*Professor Walter Baets is leaving the Graduate School of Business at UCT after a seven year tenure.*

Town) and the Allan Gray Centre for Values-based Leadership.

Business, in his view, should be employed as a tool for positive change in society. An example of this is that all MBA students at the GSB have to engage with the Social Innovation Lab, a mandatory course which requires them to work with real people to come up with real solutions to real problems.

“I believe that business and business thinking is the only way to create wealth and it is, *per se*, neutral. How you use that wealth – that’s a matter of choice, not a matter of nature. I am still convinced that business could be a fantastic engine to drive real economic development: creating jobs, creating pride – all those very human things.”

It is in this context that he reflects on his legacy: “I am most proud that we have been able to build a business school that really promotes that purposeful, meaningful way of doing business.”

## THE CHAOS PARADOX

A specialist in the topic of complexity theory, knowledge management and innovation, Baets is the author of several books, the most famous of which is titled in Dutch: *Wie orde zaait, zal chaos oogsten: een vertoog over de lerende mens* (He who sows order, will harvest chaos: an essay on the learning human).

It’s in this context that he reflects on issues of transformation that are confronting UCT. The key for substantive change, he suggests, is “fewer rules but relevant rules, fewer meetings but relevant meetings, a smaller Senate but a relevant Senate”.

“I would wish for UCT to really bring itself back to the question of what it is you want this university to do. And then decide, whatever fits that purpose, you are going to do that. If, for example, you want to contribute more to economic development or the alleviation of poverty, then maybe you have to stop teaching a number of courses and have to start creating a number of solution spaces.

“The problem of political correctness is you change nothing,” he adds, in characteristically outspoken fashion.

## BITTER SWEET

Baets leaves South Africa with mixed feelings.

On the one hand he will be saying goodbye to a comfortable lifestyle in a beautiful setting and he remains fully convinced of the country’s potential.

On the other, he is painfully aware that

the gap between the rich and the poor in Cape Town is among the highest in the world, which means that to live here you have to somehow “disconnect” from reality. This is something, he says, he will remember but not miss.

And he takes with him a renewed interest in photography – one of his many hobbies. He also plays flamenco guitar and rides a Harley Davidson, but he allowed his private pilot’s licence to lapse while here.

“What I like in photography is the story ... I feel you have more of those stories in Cape Town and South Africa – good and bad – as much as you have fantastic nature, which is also a story. The stories are much more telling here, I think, than they are in other places in the world. They come harder on you. They are more visible.”

# SAYING GOODBYE TO 'THE SOUL OF THE GSB'

Linda Fasham, long serving Alumni Relations Manager at the UCT Graduate School of Business retired in 2015. In her 27 years at the school, Linda was more than just the face of alumni relations. She was a mother, confidante, valued support network, trusted friend and living legend to thousands of students who went on to become successful businesspeople and powerful alumni of the school.



# T

here are not many people who can say they have been a part of the UCT Graduate School of Business for almost three decades – having known the school both when it was small and situated in Rondebosch with only MBA students on campus – to the hive of activity it is today, boasting multiple accreditations including a listing on the Financial Times Top 100 business schools in the world.

“I have seen the school go through incredible changes,” says recently retired alumni relations legend, Linda Fasham. “Back then the students used to come to class in suits and ties, in line with the thinking that you had to dress business-like if you wanted to think business-like. In the early years, there were no black people and very few women. All that has changed and it is wonderful to see that diversity at the school’s campus now.

“There was no email, when we sent out a notice it went out in bulk mail, I used to carry these bulk mails in envelopes to the post office!” she laughs, looking back to the early years. “Life was easier then, goodness, that makes me sound so old!”

In December 2014, Fasham retired as the GSB’s Alumni Relations Manager, a position she held both part-time and full-time for 27 years. News of her retirement shook many alumni who remember her

and networks were continued. She will be missed and remembered not only by present staff and faculty of the GSB but by thousands of people who studied and worked at this wonderful institution over the years.”

Linda Fasham came to the business school in 1981. With a background in computer programming and marketing her first role was in the executive education department. After a year-and-a-half, she

“...thousands of alumni will remember Linda’s warmth, friendliness and her helpfulness and passionate commitment to ensuring the close connection between them and the school continues over many decades.”

– Emeritus Professor Frank Horwitz, former director of the UCT GSB

kind and compassionate support during their student years and have come to associate her with the school’s alumni association. They say they cannot imagine the school without her.

“I knew Linda for 15 years when I worked at the GSB and she was outstanding, ethical, humorous and really represented the true soul of the GSB,” said Jon Foster-Pedley, former UCT GSB faculty member and now Dean and Director of Henley Business School, Africa, in a message of tribute.

Emeritus Professor Frank Horwitz, former director of the UCT GSB and Cranfield School of Management, UK, compiled this tribute to her, “In developing its alumni relations, thousands of alumni will remember Linda’s warmth, friendliness and her helpfulness and passionate commitment to ensuring the close connection between them and the school continues over many decades.

“I recall the 40th year reunion of the MBA class of ’66 and their very special bond and bonhomie which endured over the decades. Linda had so much to do with ensuring that these special relationships

left to have her daughter Nicole.

She laughingly recalls how former director, Professor Paul Sulcas, then called her to ask her help in setting up the alumni association. She said she told him she would do it only if she could have school holidays off, be involved in her daughter’s life, do lift clubs and school outings. He did not hesitate before replying, “Fine.”

The alumni association initially was a separate entity from the school and had chapters in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban with a national committee that met regularly. Over the years, a powerful and dynamic network of over 23 000 alumni has been built up in over 68 countries and it has been integrated as a department within the Business Development Unit on campus.

At one of the four farewell functions held for her in Somerset West towards the end of 2014, close friend and alumni chairperson Ian Reid said, “Linda enabled the alumni to become a significant force in the GSB. She has set up a platform on which we depend as a school and an alumni body. It is so effective that we are now the top business school in Africa and

one of the top 50 in the world.”

Few people know that Fasham has a serious heart condition that has affected many aspects of her life, which meant that she had to sometimes change her working conditions to look after her health. But in 2001 she came back to the job full-time. “I have always loved the job. I love the people, I love listening to them, talking to them and helping, watching them growing during their studies. It was an easy decision to carry on growing with the alumni association.”

Apart from the personal pleasure she took in looking after the students, there was a professional reason as well. “It is critical for students to have a happy experience at the UCT GSB as when they leave, they become alumni and ambassadors for the school,” she says.

“It has been a very interesting journey, a challenging one, at times very stressful, but really the enjoyment has been what has kept me going,” she says.

Highlights have been the class reunions and travels overseas, meeting up with alumni and colleagues. “I get such a thrill out of watching them network, it is amazing just to see them at a function engage with each other and network. To see how they have this common thread, that is the GSB. And they will talk about how the GSB changed their life.”

Linda has worked with four directors and was part of the recent restructuring of the school, and while she says change is good, she feels history is important too. “You can’t put 27 years of experience into a box and just hand it over to someone else.” Perhaps this is why the GSB has asked her to continue working with the business school part-time, helping to set up the Alumni Challenge Fund, which is part of the GSB endowment, proceeds from which are to be put towards scholarships and world-class faculty procurement. She will also be involved in collating a commemorative book to celebrate the UCT GSB’s half century in 2016. ■

## SMARTPHONE APP EMPOWERS SMALL-SCALE FISHERS

Small-scale fishers have a low carbon footprint and play an important role in the food security, economy and culture of coastal villages, yet they remain a marginalised group in South Africa – lacking rights, a say in the management of their resources, and empowerment in the market chain. Dr Serge Raemaekers is working with fishers and government to develop a smartphone application that will empower the fishers, and possibly completely change the power dynamics in their sector.



Dr Serge Raemaekers wants to narrow the gap between scientific knowledge and local fisher knowledge.

If you take a look at the menu of your average restaurant in just about any coastal town, you'll find more or less the same variety of fish: hake from an industrial fishery, calamari imported from places like Argentina, Mozambican or Asian prawns, and then linefish, possibly caught by small-scale fishers, but sourced through a series of middlemen. What you generally won't find, according to Raemaekers, a lecturer/researcher in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences, is high-quality, fresh linefish, sourced directly from local small-scale fishers.

This disempowerment and marginalisation suffered by small-scale

fishers began long before the apartheid days, says Raemaekers, and has continued into the democratic dispensation, as post-1994 deliberation regarding fisheries was strongly dominated by industry and organised labour. Both groups resisted the redistribution of resources to traditional, small-scale fishers – who at that time were not well organised – and the post-1994 fisheries policies reflected this bias.

In 2004, a group of small-scale fishers turned to the Equality Court to fight for their right to earn a living through fishing. The fishers were successful in the court battle; and in 2007, government embarked on a five-year participatory process, which culminated in the development of a small-scale fisheries policy focused as much on human rights and socio-

economic development as on fish stocks and sustainability.

"This policy is a radical paradigm shift," says Raemaekers, who served on the government-established National Task Team responsible for drafting the new small-scale fisheries policy. "The development of the policy was an intensive participatory project, but it doesn't stop there. The next challenge lies in implementation."

It was thinking about the challenges of policy implementation that led Raemaekers, together with Abongile Ngqongwa, a fishery manager from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and fisher and community worker, Nico Waldeck, to the idea of creating a smartphone application

(app) to be a one-stop shop for small-scale fishers to record their catches, engage with government at the co-management table, enhance their safety at sea, and explore different value-chain opportunities. The app is called 'Abalobi', the isiXhosa word for small-scale fishers, as referred to in the policy.

"There are two major problems with the small-scale fishing sector that spurred us on to working on the development of Abalobi," says Raemaekers. "The first is the big gap between scientific knowledge and local fisher knowledge. The very contextualised local knowledge does not make its way into fisheries management; but also, the scientific understanding of fish-stock models does not always gel with the local knowledge owned by fishers."

Part of what Raemaekers and his team hope to achieve through Abalobi is to build trust between the relevant role players, including government and scientists, creating relationships where groups can work together to complement different knowledges and local data, and to achieve greater understanding of fish resources and of how best to implement policy.

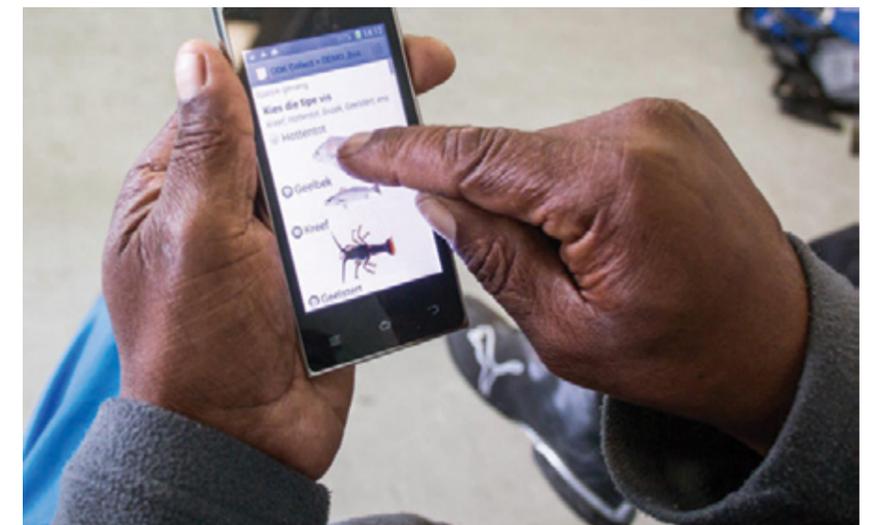
“This is not about a team of IT people developing yet another app. Abalobi is a project by the small-scale fishing community themselves, to own the process of implementing the policy they fought for.”

–Dr Serge Raemaekers

A second gripe for Raemaekers is that small-scale fishers are mostly 'price-takers', stuck in a system of servitude in which they are just working to pay back last year's loans. "These fishers don't often get a good price for their catch. Even though this is potentially the most sustainable and socially just fishing practice in our inshore waters, these small-scale fishers are not empowered in the value chain."

Simple information-sharing and communication between fishers could free them from this trap. As part of the Abalobi project, a chat integration (smartphone-based instant messaging) was developed that allows fishers – who had had no contact with each other previously – to communicate with one another.

Raemakers tells a story of a group of



The Abalobi app is a one-stop shop for small-scale fishers to record their catches, engage with government, enhance their safety at sea, and add value to their work.

fishers in Struisbaai, part of the pilot programme, who used this tool to set a minimum price for their linefish – before the first boat came into the harbour.

"It sounds so simple," he says, "but for these fishers, it was a total shift in the power dynamics. They all worked together, and got a better price." There are knock-on effects, too. As fishers from different parts of the coastline start communicating, they also begin sharing information and skills to help one another. These fishers may

embarking on a process of building trust, co-producing knowledge, and working together to ensure responsible governance of the sector."

Other modules include a focus on safety at sea, connecting fishers to markets and consumers, and building a knowledge hub for fishers to keep on top of the latest trends and regulations.

Raemaekers has been working closely with both the fisher community and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on Abalobi. The key for him is that this is not an academic exercise, but a community-owned and -led open source project. "This is a really trans-disciplinary endeavour," he says. "Abalobi not only brings together scientists, government, industry and community, but also encompasses natural sciences, social sciences and information technology.

"This is not about a team of IT people developing yet another app. Abalobi is a project by the small-scale fishing community themselves, to own the process of implementing the policy they fought for."

never have met, but they are in the same sector and working towards the same goal.

Abalobi, which is still in the pilot stage, has a number of planned modules. One of the core modules currently being pilot-tested is Mobile Catch Reporting, through which both fishers and government monitors capture data and access easy-to-understand dashboard analytics. At the moment these processes are separate: the fishers capture their information about a catch, and they own that data. They decide who can see it and how it is to be used. At the same time, government monitors are also capturing data. "The plan is to have regular workshops for engagement between government and fishers, to discuss the data – what the differences are, and why," explains Raemaekers. "We are

The Abalobi project ([www.abalobi.info](http://www.abalobi.info)) is currently funded through Raemaekers' NRF research grant and with DAFF's small-scale fisheries directorate support. The project will require dedicated funding to enable a full-scale roll-out.



Visit the Abalobi App YouTube channel.

# THE SKA WILL HELP US ANSWER QUESTIONS WE HAVE NOT EVEN ASKED YET

STORY BY BIRGIT OTTERMAN. PHOTO BY STEFF HUGHES.

**H**ow did the universe evolve? What is the nature of reality? What is the role of our presence in the universe? Are we alone? These are some of the questions the world's top astronomers are hoping to answer with the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), the world's biggest telescope, currently being built in the Northern Cape.

"Radio astronomers will use the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) to understand how stars and galaxies are formed, how they evolve over time and whether there is life elsewhere in the universe. It will answer questions we have not even asked yet," Professor Russ Taylor, UCT/University of the Western Cape SKA Chair, told an enthralled audience at UCT's first Café Scientifique talk for 2016.

## HITTING A TECHNOLOGICAL WALL

The SKA can do this in a way that no technology has been able to do before: "To explain to story of SKA," says Taylor, "I will have to start at the very beginning."

"Radio astronomy is still a young science. It first took off in the 1940s and we enjoyed a golden era of radio astronomy for the next few decades. There was an interplay of advances in technologies and new discoveries in science and many Nobel prizes were awarded. It was a very exciting time of discovering new things about the universe."

This wonderful era, however, came to an end around 1980, when astronomers ran into a technology wall. "This was around the time when I got my PhD. We couldn't build bigger telescopes and we couldn't build more sensitive electronics, because we simply didn't know how at the time," Taylor recalls.

"We realised that, despite all the discoveries and advances in astronomy, we actually still knew very little about the



Artist's impression of MeerKAT in the African Karoo region

universe. The light that we could see with our optical telescopes was in fact a very small fraction of what the universe is made of. The real mysteries of the nature of the universe were not in the places we would see light, but in the dark regions between the stars and the galaxies, the stuff we call 'dark matter'. It's like seeing the foam on top of the ocean or the tip of the iceberg. Most of the universe is not in the stars and galaxies. It's in what we can't see."

Taylor explained that astronomers at the time realised they would need a telescope that was at least a 100 times bigger than anything that existed at the time; to do that with the technology available at the time would have cost US\$100 billion dollars.

"So we had to figure out how to build new telescopes over very large areas, very cheaply, but still with high performance. We also had to harness the new advances in computing and digital technologies to allow us to make use of that big area to collect images all the way back to the beginning of time."

## MEGA SCIENCE PROJECT

What was the dream of a small group of astronomers in the early 1990s grew over

the next decade into a global project with 22 countries working at 122 institutions in the world, all trying to find solutions to the huge technological challenges for such an ambitious radio astronomy project.

Potential sites to build the SKA were explored and finally South Africa and Australia were identified as the sites to build the world's largest telescope with a total collecting area of approximately one square kilometre (or one million square metres).

In much the same way that you tune your radio to listen to your favourite station, radio astronomers can tune their telescopes to pick up the radio waves that come from distant galaxies.

Says Taylor: "With the SKA, we will have enough sensitivity to detect the kind of radiation we produce on planet Earth elsewhere in the galaxy. Within a year, SKA would be able to look over a large part of the galaxy for evidence of other civilisations than our own."

Taylor was on board from the start. He was the founding international SKA project scientist and co-authored the first SKA science case. He also served as the founding executive secretary of the International SKA Steering Committee,

the vice-chair of the International SKA Science and Engineering Committee and, before coming to South Africa, was a member of the international SKA project Board of Directors.

## CREATING A DATA MONSTER

However, Taylor is also helping to find solutions to a huge challenge that still remains: how to use the data received.

"We are creating a monster. SKA will be the biggest data producer in the world when it goes on. It will produce so much data that we will be completely overwhelmed if we don't figure out a way to process all that information. The answer to our biggest science questions will be in this data: life, the universe and everything."

Taylor explains that a huge amount of money is currently being invested in the development of new technologies in computing and systems and in the training of people who will be able to understand

Radio astronomers will use the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) to understand how stars and galaxies are formed, how they evolve over time and whether there is life elsewhere in the universe. It will answer questions we have not even asked yet."

- Professor Russ Taylor, UCT/University of the Western Cape SKA Chair

and process this big data.

"UCT has begun to work in partnership with the universities of the Western Cape and North-West to build a university collaboration around solving those problems and building the capacity in South Africa."

This Inter-University Institute for Data Intensive Astronomy (IDIA) partnership, launched in September 2015 with Taylor as its director, will develop crucial capacity for big data management and analysis.

So, when will all this be done? And when

will we know if there is other life out there?

According to Taylor, this could be in as little as 10 to 12 years. "MeerKAT, which is only 1% of the SKA, will be completed next year. The next 9% of SKA will be finished around 2023 or 2024. With 10% of the project completed, there is a good possibility to discover some form of life out there. If that doesn't do it, we will complete the final 90% of SKA by 2030 at the latest. Once we have the full SKA up and running, we will definitely have an answer." 



Icing on the cake: The launch of the new Inter-University Institute for Data-Intensive Astronomy (IDIA), was celebrated at a ceremonial cake cutting. Launched at the South African Astronomical Observatory, the IDIA is a partnership between UCT, the University of the Western Cape and the North-West University. In picture are (from left) Dr Bernie Fanaroff, Prof Tyrone Pretorius (UWC), Minister Naledi Pandor (Science and Technology), Prof Russ Taylor, Dr Max Price, and Prof Frik van Niekerk (NWU). This partnership between UCT, the University of the Western Cape and North-West University will develop crucial capacity for big data management and analysis, a spin-off of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project. The R50-million, five-year IDIA partnership will corral researchers in astronomy, computer science, statistics and eResearch technologies to create data science capacity for leadership in the MeerKAT SKA precursor projects, other precursor and pathfinder programmes and SKA key science.

# A healing stage

STORY BY SEAN O'TOOLE. PORTRAIT COURTESY OF ROLEX.

With more than 30 productions to her credit, **Lara Foot** was already an award-winning director in her native South Africa when she was selected by Sir Peter Hall as his protégée in the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative in 2004. Her theatrical productions had generated buzz among critics and widespread interest among her contemporaries. But as Sir Peter began working with her, he discovered that Lara Foot was not just a talented director, she was also a gifted playwright.



Lara Foot was named the Featured Artist at the 2016 National Arts Festival, leading the charge on the programme which was made up of 80% of work written, directed, curated or headlined by women. Three of her productions were showcased - the world premiere of her latest play *The Inconvenience of Wings* and the restaging of two of her previous multi-award-winning works *Karoo Moose* and *Tshepang*. Earlier this year her production *Fishers of Hope* scooped four awards at the Naledi Theatre Awards in Johannesburg, including the coveted Best Production of a Play accolade.

**S**ir Peter read her play, *Tshepang: The Third Testament* (2002), now widely acclaimed, which

explores a real-life incident of child rape. "Write more," he advised his protégée. "Playwrights are rarer, more precious than directors." So she did.

The mentorship came at an important time in her career, says Foot. She was still based in Johannesburg and directing plays at the Market Theatre, where she had been mentored by playwright Barney Simon until his death in 1995.

"It wasn't that I was going to quit theatre," she says. She was just frustrated. "The [Rolex] mentorship came at a point where I needed outside stimulation. I was desperate for somebody or something to focus more attention on my art, on my actual work and worth." Hall, an astute interpreter of texts, provided exactly this. He brought acute focus to bear on Foot's

writing: "The form of writing, how words affect one another, how they are placed side by side," she elaborates. "I took myself much more seriously as a writer after I saw how he valued text." Her "very experiential and formal" relationship with Hall, she says, was an entrée into a more worldly conversation about creativity. "You don't only learn what your mentor is doing at the time, you learn about international relations and the world of artists. You meet the other protégés and mentors, as well as a lot of international press."

Foot laughs when she recalls her initial impatience with the mentorship. "I felt frustrated that I wasn't directing, frustrated that I had to sit still all the time. But, at the same time, I felt deeply grateful that I did not have responsibilities. While you are in it, you have no idea what you are learning."

Her later writing demonstrated the benefit of Sir Peter's guidance. Critics and audiences now applaud Foot's nuanced understanding of the world of her characters and her redemptive storytelling, whether in *Karoo Moose* (2007), *Solomon and Marion* or most recently *Fishers of Hope* (2014) in which she magically explores our "core instinct" for hope beyond just the South African landscape and borders, setting it "somewhere in Africa." The play was enthusiastically received at its world



Philip Dikotla, Shaun Oelf, Mncedisi Shabangu in *Fishers of Hope*, pic by Oscar 'O Ryan



Mncedisi Shabangu, Nonceba Constance Didi in *Tshepang*, written and directed by Lara Foot, pic by Andrew Brown

première at South Africa's National Arts Festival in Grahamstown last year and also in June when it travelled to Austria for the Vienna Festival and on to the Mannheim National Theatre in Germany. Its "artistic and narrative clarity" was hailed by the *Mannheimer Morgen* newspaper, which

described the play as "powerful and moving."

"Lara's work is subtle insofar as it does not lay easy blame, or polarize gender, racial or other issues," says Yvette Hutchison, Associate Professor of Theatre and Performance at the University of Warwick in England. "She implicates all –

“In a society that will still for many years be grappling with the ripple effects of its history, Lara's work creates the opportunity for dialogue”

South Africans and non-South Africans – in situating themselves in relation to really tough issues, like child abuse, racial prejudice or the economic legacies of apartheid.”

Ismail Mahomed, director of the National Arts Festival, agrees. "In a society that will still for many years be grappling with the ripple effects of its history, Lara's work creates the opportunity for dialogue," he says. "It turns our theatres into dynamic spaces where we can all find personal healing." He also describes her as an "icon."

In 2009, Foot became the first female artistic director and CEO of the Baxter Theatre Centre in Cape Town. It is when she came to appreciate the full extent of her engagement with Hall. "His politics, especially in terms of the value of theatre in the world, motivated

me enormously,” she adds. His skilful juggling of creative and administrative duties came into sharper focus. “He was a brilliant politician of theatre and a person who made things happen, not only in the rehearsal room with artists. Peter made a difference nationally and internationally to how people managed theatres.”

Foot, whose direction of *Amadeus* (2006) and *Betrayal* (2006) was inspired, she says, by Sir Peter, has been translating his many lessons into practice. “I am very ambitious for the Baxter Theatre Centre,” she says. “It was seen as the little sister to the Market Theatre in days gone by. It is attached to the University of Cape Town and to this day still doesn’t receive government subsidy.” Her programming bears out her ambition. “Lara has undoubtedly brought in a wider range of audience, including Afrikaans-speakers, she has developed two new theatre spaces in the building, and she is building a



Janet Suzman and Khayaletu Anthony in *Solomon and Marion*, pic by Ruphin Coudyzer

“Drawing on lessons gleaned from Hall and Simon, Foot has positioned the Baxter as a dynamic place for a new generation of actors, directors and writers. The protégée is now the mentor.”

community of “township” actors, writers and directors, who are gaining increased exposure in a mainstream theatre,” says broadcaster Nigel Vermaas.

Foot’s vision also has a global reach. In 2012, the Baxter’s production of writer and director Yaël Farber’s *Mies Julie*, an adaptation of an August Strindberg play, was an enormous commercial success in Cape Town and was acclaimed by *The New York Times* when it played at St. Ann’s Warehouse in Brooklyn. Last year, Dame Janet Suzman and Khayaletu Anthony played in the U.S. première of *Solomon and Marion* (2011), Foot’s realist drama about race, conflict and generational misunderstanding, at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. This followed a “knockout” (*The Guardian*) run at the Edinburgh Festival in 2013. It later travelled to Birmingham and London.

The story of Foot’s successful stewardship of [UCT’s] Baxter Theatre Centre is also the story of South African theatre’s confident return to the national conversation as well as the international stage. During the dark years of apartheid, the Baxter was one of a handful of politically progressive venues. But, from 1994, when South Africa held its first democratic elections and the urgent social issues that once fed creativity appeared to



Chuma Sopotela in *Karoo Moose*

dissipate, local theatre somehow lost its status as a leading source of insight into the state of the nation. Cultural observers like Mahomed credit Foot’s creative force and business leadership at the Baxter for helping to catalyse a rebound. Her engagement with Cape Town’s dispersed community theatre groups is a key marker of the Baxter’s transformation. In 2011, Foot revived a development theatre project that had slipped into dormancy. Now in its fifth season, the Zabalaza Theatre Festival is Foot’s version of a mentorship programme. Drawing on

lessons gleaned from Hall and Simon, Foot has positioned the Baxter as a dynamic place for a new generation of actors, directors and writers. The protégée is now the mentor. Foot’s efforts have not gone unnoticed. Mahomed describes Zabalaza as one of the country’s “most progressive investments” in community theatre.

Collaborative theatre is also where Foot’s career in theatre was nurtured. “This is why I went into theatre in the first place, because of that feeling of belonging to a dream and to a truth,” said Foot at the opening of this year’s Zabalaza festival. The intensity of the 10-day programme mirrors a larger concentration of energy among ordinary South Africans on understanding the truth. South Africa is in great need of hope, says Foot, who has now directed over 40 professional productions, 29 of them new South African plays. “I believe in the effect of theatre.” It is a place where a community of interested minds willingly gather and plunge themselves into darkness in order to experience the light of hope and knowledge. “That’s really the power of theatre.”

Sean O’Toole is an arts journalist, editor and author based in Cape Town. This story first appeared in *Mentor & Protégé*, the magazine of the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative.

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## Tax benefits now available on donations to UCT from Europe

UCT alumni living in Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, The Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland can now make tax deductible donations to UCT via the Transnational Giving Europe (TGE) network and the University of Cape Town Trust, a UK registered charity.

Alumni who are taxpayers in these countries should please contact the organisations below for more details, mentioning that they wish to make a donation to The UCT Trust (UK Charity Registration Number 803042).

- Transnational Giving Europe (TGE) is a partnership of leading European foundations and associations that facilitates secure and tax-efficient cross-border giving within Europe.
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**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**  
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## DISCOMFORT NEEDN'T BE A BAD THING, SAYS TRANSFORMATION SPECIAL ADVISOR

STORY BY YUSUF OMAR. PHOTO BY JE'NINE MAY.

**Elelwani Ramugondo** was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor's special advisor on transformation, stepping into the post on 18 June 2015. Prior to this, Ramugondo was head of the Division of Occupational Therapy (OT) until 2013, and was recently appointed the chairperson of the dean's transformation committee in the Faculty of Health Sciences – this, after being the only student in her UCT OT undergraduate class that was a vernacular African first language speaker, and one of only two black students in the late 1980s. Assoc. Professor Ramugondo spoke with Yusuf Omar about the unavoidability – and value – of discomfort when it comes to transformation conversations.



**This is a newly created position - tell us what your first few weeks in the role were like.**

**ER:** The Vice-Chancellor immediately placed me into committees where major decisions are made, and put me in contact with key individuals responsible for some lines of accountability. This was useful, and perhaps signalled a healthy level of trust. I also took the opportunity to speak to people in this corridor (at the Bremner Building, the seat of the University's senior administration). I think it's a good way to read how the environment is either ready or not for this role. Speaking to those who clean offices, those who wash teacups, but others [too] who I'd never even known are in this building;

it's been good to touch base and also get a sense of how they see their own contribution towards transformation in this institution.

There are some misconceptions around my appointment that need to be dispelled. The first is about the nature of the appointment. Some people think it is a 'post' or a promotion; it's important to point out that this is neither about filling a post or a promotion but fulfilling a responsibility.

I've also picked up through conversations in the wider university community that some people feel that this appointment guarantees the end of protest action. As long as there are legitimate reasons for protests, those will happen, regardless of whether I'm here or not.

**What does the special advisor on transformation do?**

**ER:** I've accepted the responsibility to listen with- and, at times, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor when he is unable to be there himself or when he is chairing meetings, which I have noted he does a lot of. This responsibility is not only about listening, but also about hearing, in order to inform action. My long-held view is that when one becomes embedded in an institution like UCT, it becomes increasingly difficult to hear what one needs to hear and see what needs to be seen and acknowledged. We all need to take responsibility for failure to see what is patently obvious and act accordingly.

It's important that we understand that as a university community, we acknowledge long-standing patterns of exclusion. I really don't think we can leave this responsibility to fight for inclusion to one constituency.

For instance, listening to Rhodes Must Fall through direct engagement since March 2015, I became acutely aware of constituencies and ways of being that sit outside or on the margins of the academy at UCT. My involvement with TransformUCT or the Black Academic Caucus at UCT has brought me very close to the issue of long-standing exclusionary practices that leave black voices and experiences outside of our curricula and research.

As an institution, we need to face the fact that there are those who legitimately feel that they have been excluded over time. We need to confront this fact with honesty and courage and not rush back to 'business as usual'.

**Is transformation about individuals, and replacing one individual in a position with another?**

**ER:** It's never about individuals. It's about institutional culture, the content of curricula, and what that represents about what we want to know or wish to dismiss. It's about research that 'counts' and what doesn't, and what informs that; and a real cognisance of what happens outside the academic space – the lived realities, and a real commitment for there to be conversations between the spaces within UCT and outside realities.

If one understands the university as a space to explore meaning, it should be understood that that meaning is about lived realities. So who does the interpretation of that lived reality? Research gives us, as academics within the university, the tools with which we can state what we've understood about people's lived realities. There is immense power in this, which sometimes can work against communities, unless researchers are conscious about their own vantage points in relation to those they research, and mitigate against the risk of misinterpretation.

The fear to confront exclusionary patterns that continue to pervade our institution tells me that as post-apartheid South Africa we have a long way to go towards understanding what our society ought to look like and as a result, what the university community ought to reflect about that society. This fear also tells me that we are not spending enough time re-imagining what there is to gain from having a diversity of voices and experiences informing our deliberations in offices, within our curricula and in the research we do.

I would urge the university community to look with fresh eyes at who sits around our round tables, and reflect deeply about who is presently excluded and why. These are conversations I definitely wish to have as I visit every space around campus that has a story to tell.

**Is it possible to speak about transformation without causing some discomfort?**

**ER:** It's not possible to avoid discomfort [when speaking about transformation]. Because as we speak about what there is to gain, we are not going to be able to avoid talking about some losses and some compromise.

I shouldn't be misunderstood here to be saying that compromise relates to standards. I don't understand how diversity competes with standards. I think also foregrounding an African agenda gives us a global competitive edge. So the compromise is about comfort zones; it's about looking at what people might have easily taken for granted as 'well-deserved' spaces.

**What does a transformed or transforming university look like and do?**

**ER:** I think that question is one that is central to the conversations we ought to have. I can't have an answer to that on my own. As a university we have an opportunity now to step back and reflect deeply and have conversations rather than come in already with a view, especially if we currently sit on the side of historical privilege in this institution, to the exclusion of others.

**Recommended reading for people who want to familiarise themselves with the transformation debate?**

**ER:** [pauses]. There's an article by Njabulo Ndebele, titled '*Good morning, South Africa: Whose universities, whose standards?*' that was published in 1987. This article has proven to be prophetic of our present times on university campuses. Another article worth reading is by Helena Sheehan, called '*Contradictory transformations: observations on the intellectual dynamics of South African universities*,' which was published in 2009. Then there is *Protest Studies* by Tad Friend. All these articles and many others I could list, are illuminating about what it is that we are confronted with in our efforts to transform universities. ■

# 'RACE' IS AN INVENTION: PARTING WORDS FROM PROF CRAIN SOUDIEN



As engineering and health sciences graduands began their academic journeys on 11 June 2015, UCT bade farewell to one of its stalwart scholars.

Professor Crain Soudien, the outgoing deputy Vice-Chancellor, used his keynote speech at the graduation ceremony to urge the young academics to imagine what it means to be a society that has moved past not just race, but all markers of power imbalances and inequality. Here is the full text of his speech.

I would like to thank the university for doing me the honour of asking me to make this graduation address this afternoon. It is an honour to be standing here after having been associated with the university in one or other capacity for the better part of the last forty years. I spent, in this time, seven years here as an undergraduate and postgraduate student during the 1970s. Those seven years included some of the most tumultuous times this country has seen. The heavy hand of the apartheid government was everywhere – physically in our streets and encroachingly in our heads. It sought, through force and seduction, to

make us believe in the correctness of its racial ideology. In the height of this, the completely unexpected happened. On the 16th June, 1976, the students of Soweto took to the streets.

The entire experience, the might of the state, the will to act of the students, left many of us disorientated. We had questions and anxieties. They ranged, on the one side, from deep insecurities about whether we had futures to look forward to in the country, to concerns, on the other, about how we could become involved with the protests that were unfolding. Binding these concerns, concerns which came from very different places, was the inescapable image of young people with stones in hand standing defiantly across the roads of our country from heavily armed police. Pervading the whole environment – on all

sides – was a rage and an impatience which none of us had experienced before.

Why do I bring up this episode in our country's history? I do so because as a country, and at a much more local level, right here in the university with the student protests, we are now going through another moment of disorientation.

I raise this question of disorientation to emphasise for myself, and I hope for you too, how important this institution of the university and its project of education is in situations such as these.

I was extremely fortunate to be here at the University of Cape Town in the 1970s and to be a beneficiary of its best thinking. Despite having been admitted into the university on the sufferance of a ministerial permit, and despite the fact that I was not allowed access to university facilities

such as residences, I found here in and around the university a group of important interlocutors. Interlocutors are people who help you make sense of difficult questions. My interlocutors put things into perspective for me. It is important that you know who these interlocutors are because you will not find them in standard history texts. They were the cream of Cape Town's intellectual activists, some of them academics in the university, many of them teachers in important schools of Cape Town such as Harold Cressy, Livingstone and South Peninsula. Virtually all of them were graduates of UCT. Some came from organisations such as the Non-European Unity Movement, such as Ben Kies and Isaac Tabata, and others such as Dullah Omar became associated with the ANC. And yet others, such as Neville Alexander, worked in communities in and around Cape Town. Strikingly these people were involved in extraordinary debates with intellectuals inside of the university, like Mary Simons, Mike Legassick and Colin Bundy.

Together, with all their social, cultural and political differences, both within and outside of the university, these people created for young students like me an amazing environment. When a debate involving them took place on what we called Freedom Square, the space outside the Arts Block, young people like myself came to sit and listen in absolute awe. That was a golden moment in our history. It oriented me. It helped me think much more clearly about myself, about others and about the rage that was circulating around us.

It opened for all of us new ways of thinking, of thinking about ourselves, of our identities and our relationships and responsibilities to one another. One lesson that they taught was that all of us, every single one of us, were people of unconditional dignity and worth. They came to explain, right here in Cape Town, almost for the first time in the entire world, what the colonial and apartheid idea of 'race' was all about. They explained, drawing on the best thinking in biology and science, on one hand, and in sociology on the other, that the idea of 'race' was an invention, an invention to be used to keep people who did not look white in a state of permanent subjection. The colour of your skin said nothing about the content of your character, your intelligence or any of your capacities. Dark – or pale – as your skin was and curly or straight as your hair might be, you were genetically no different, and not inferior or superior to anybody else in the world.

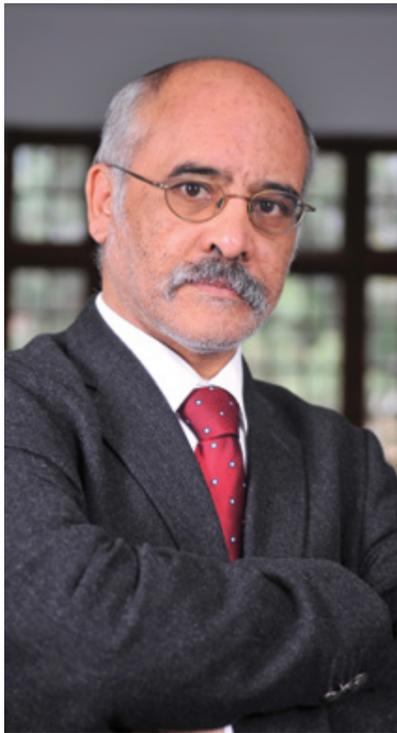
They called this idea non-racialism. The power of this non-racial idea was its usefulness at both a personal and a group level. At the personal level, it helped many of us come to the awareness that our dignity was unconditional. It did not depend on the identities that history sought to impose on us. We were human without qualification. At a group level, and this was a deeply important lesson, it made clear for many of us how problematic and morally objectionable the idea was that we owed greater loyalty to those who looked like us simply because of that – that they looked like us. I cannot emphasise enough to all of you how deeply significant this new way of thinking was. It came to liberate many of us. It freed us from the conceits of superiority and the anxieties of inferiority. No longer did we need to think with our skins.

The question for today, for those of you who are graduating and for your parents, and for the whole university community, is this: does UCT continue to provide the interlocutors, the sense-makers, to assist you in this current disorientation which we are experiencing as a country?

It is this question to which I would like to now turn because concern has been expressed that the university, and this university in particular, is insufficiently relevant. It needs to be renovated, remade and reconstituted at every level of its existence.

I would be foolish to trumpet the value of the university without acknowledging that universities in this country, and actually in most places around the world, are going through difficulties. Those difficulties have to do with funding and particularly with the ways in which market realities are forcing universities to be much more conscious of questions of efficiency. But they also have to do, as they always have, with the ways in which the dominant ideas of a society come to find expression inside the university. It is unacceptable, therefore, when the social character of a society, is unproblematically reproduced in the university, when, for example, class, racial, or gender privilege in society is accepted as being normal in a university.

These are issues with which we



Professor Crain Soudien left UCT to take up the directorship of the Human Sciences Research Council in September 2015.

“The colour of your skin said nothing about the content of your character, your intelligence or any of your capacities. Dark – or pale – as your skin was and curly or straight as your hair might be, you were genetically no different, and not inferior or superior to anybody else in the world.”

struggle here at UCT. But, and this is the point that I wish to leave with you, this university, as are, actually, many universities in the country, is in many facets and dimensions of itself deeply conscious of its interlocutory mission in the time and space in which it finds itself.

This university, without having fully articulated this for itself, is working out what it means to be a post-apartheid university, what it means to live in a society which will progress beyond not just ‘race’ but all the debilitating inequalities which surround us. It is, in many parts of itself, asking the hard question of how it plays the role of facilitating sense-making for itself and especially for its students.

It has many of the features of the South African society in which it finds itself, and so its sense-making capacity finds

itself constrained. But, and this is what is critical to understand, it bristles with ideas, with contestation and debate. In the midst of the incredible social, political and cultural confusion which surrounds us, the opportunism, corruption, greed, and disrespect for one another that this confusion generates, at both a global and a local level, it continues to have extraordinary people, and they come in all shapes, sizes and guises: men and women; Muslim, Buddhist, Jew, Christian and other religions; those with histories of privilege and those without; who are committed to putting the very best of their capacities to thinking about how they and the whole country makes itself anew. There is work that is being carried out in every faculty of this university which is seeking to help us understand, as those interlocutors did for me in the 1970s, what it means to be a human being in the year 2015, how to accord recognition to others unconditionally and how to live in a state of respect and regard for one another; how to manage oneself and one’s relationships with others. It is about the puzzles of identity, of femininities and masculinities,

it is about violence and want, it is about fracking, it is about sustainable energy, it is about spatial inequality, it is about drug discovery and about the rights of ordinary people living under the aegis of traditional law. Some of this work is reflected in the theses and projects of the

graduands being honoured here today.

Of course, even the producers of this work need to try harder. They need to come to see where their blind-spots are. And there is always more that could and should be done.

With this, even with its blind-spots and gaps, I would like to suggest that this university is as relevant as it ever was. It provides all of us and particularly our students the privilege of thinking through what it means to be a new South African; and indeed a new African; and a new citizen of this world. In this, it offers itself as a resource to the country. Its legitimacy is in this commitment to relevance. It is this that we all must continue to struggle to uphold.

Thank you. 

## WHY THE FURORE ABOUT A STATUE? A historical perspective on Cecil John Rhodes.

TEXT BY EMERITUS PROFESSOR SHULA MARKS.

IMAGES COURTESY OF THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AT UCT’S JAGGER LIBRARY.

In response to the events on campus in March and April 2015, the Vice-Chancellor invited Emeritus Professor Shula Marks to talk as an historian about “Cecil Rhodes: his achievements, faults and crimes” at an alumni meeting in the UK. What follows is an excerpt of the text she delivered.



RHODES AND KITCHENER LEAVING OXFORD AFTER RECEIVING THE HONORARY DEGREE OF D.C.L. JUNE 1899.

**P**aul Maylam, in a splendid book published ten years ago and appropriately entitled, *The Cult of Rhodes*, asked ‘Why all the fuss about Rhodes? In many respects he is an unlikely figure for cult status. True, in his lifetime he enjoyed enormous popularity in Britain where he was the ‘darling of the press’ and gained ‘much influence among the English upper class.’ As ‘the supreme imperialist in the great age of empire,’ he was also venerated by white colonists in southern Africa. Nevertheless, Maylam argues, since the mid-1950s Rhodes seems to have been largely forgotten, not least in the Cape where he spent so much of his life, and ‘despite the fact that no southern African historical figure has been more written about by historians and novelists and poets, playwrights and screenwriters in the twentieth century.’

Insofar as he has been remembered by the general public, it has been largely as a result of the establishment of the Rhodes Scholarships by the Rhodes Trust (or, in South Africa since 2002, the separate Rhodes-Mandela Scholarships - clearly Mandela did not demur at the coupling of their names) which are renowned in universities around the world.

Yet the events in March and April 2015 suggest another, rather different, sense of history and view of Cecil Rhodes among black students at the universities of Cape Town and Rhodes, both of which have witnessed major student protests over his continued presence on their campuses. At UCT, the demand for the removal of the bronze statue of Rhodes created by Marion Walgate and located at the foot of the stairs on upper campus, provided a lightning rod for wider dissatisfactions in the student body.

With Maylam’s caveat about the ‘forgotten’ Rhodes in mind, I begin my talk with a brief outline of his life, with apologies to those familiar with it.



**THE SIEGE SOUP KITCHEN inaugurated**  
The Hon. Mrs. Rochfort Maguire is standing second from the left with Rhodes sitting on her left.

Cecil John Rhodes was born in 1852, and spent his childhood in the vicarage in Bishop's Stortford (in Hertfordshire). In 1870, at the age of 17 he was sent to his brother's sugar plantation in Natal, fortuitously arriving in South Africa at the birth of its mineral revolution, a period of turbulent economic and political change. Late in 1871 the young Cecil followed his brother to the Kimberly diamond fields, where he was able to earn sufficient money from the sale of his diamonds to return to Britain in 1873. While there he enrolled as a student at Oriel College, Oxford, but stayed for only one term. It took him eight years to graduate with his first (but not first-class) degree in 1881. It may have been Oxford, with its debates about imperial expansion and social Darwinist thinking at their height, that led him to write his 1877 'Confession of Faith,' in which he set out his (somewhat naïve) political philosophy embodying his ambitions for British world expansion.

On the diamond fields Rhodes's progress was swifter and more spectacular than it had been in Oxford: by 1880 his mine at de Beers was the biggest in Kimberley and by 1888 he had bought out his rivals and monopolized the diamond industry. He was by then an extremely wealthy man, and a leading member of the Cape parliament, which he used to get legislation favouring the diamond industry. His stake in southern Africa's mineral wealth, and his ardent belief in Britain's imperial role, led him to intervene increasingly in politics beyond the frontiers of the Cape:



*69 Rhodes as a boy*

in Lesotho and Botswana in the first half of the 1880s, by the end of the decade in Zimbabwe and Zambia. When, on the 1st of July 1890, the Pioneer Column of some 200 men, crossed the Shashi River and made their way to the Shona country in the north-east, tensions rose. And when, not finding gold in Mashonaland, the intruders began to prospect for gold in Matabeleland, contrary to their agreement with Lobengula, war erupted.

On 17 July 1890 Rhodes became prime minister of the Cape Colony with the backing of both the Afrikaner Bond, and liberal members of the Legislative Assembly. On the face of it, this is both contradictory and surprising. The Cape liberals differed fundamentally with the views of Rhodes and his Afrikaner Bond followers over the place of Africans in Cape society, and had more fastidious standards of public life. Despite their misgivings, however, the three most prominent liberal parliamentarians agreed to join Rhodes's 1890 ministry. By 1893, they had all resigned over Rhodes's failure to expel a fellow minister from the cabinet, whom they accused of corruption. For Rhodes, the alliance with the Bond was far more important than his association with the liberals, and he nurtured it from the mid-1880s. Both as an MP and as premier, he had no scruples about introducing legislation demanded by the Bond, such as the 'Strop' - or Flogging - Bill (which failed to get a majority), and to disenfranchise Cape Africans. During his first premiership, says Robert Rotberg, 'It is not wholly unfair to suggest that Rhodes's legislative victories ... proved essential precursors to apartheid. ...'

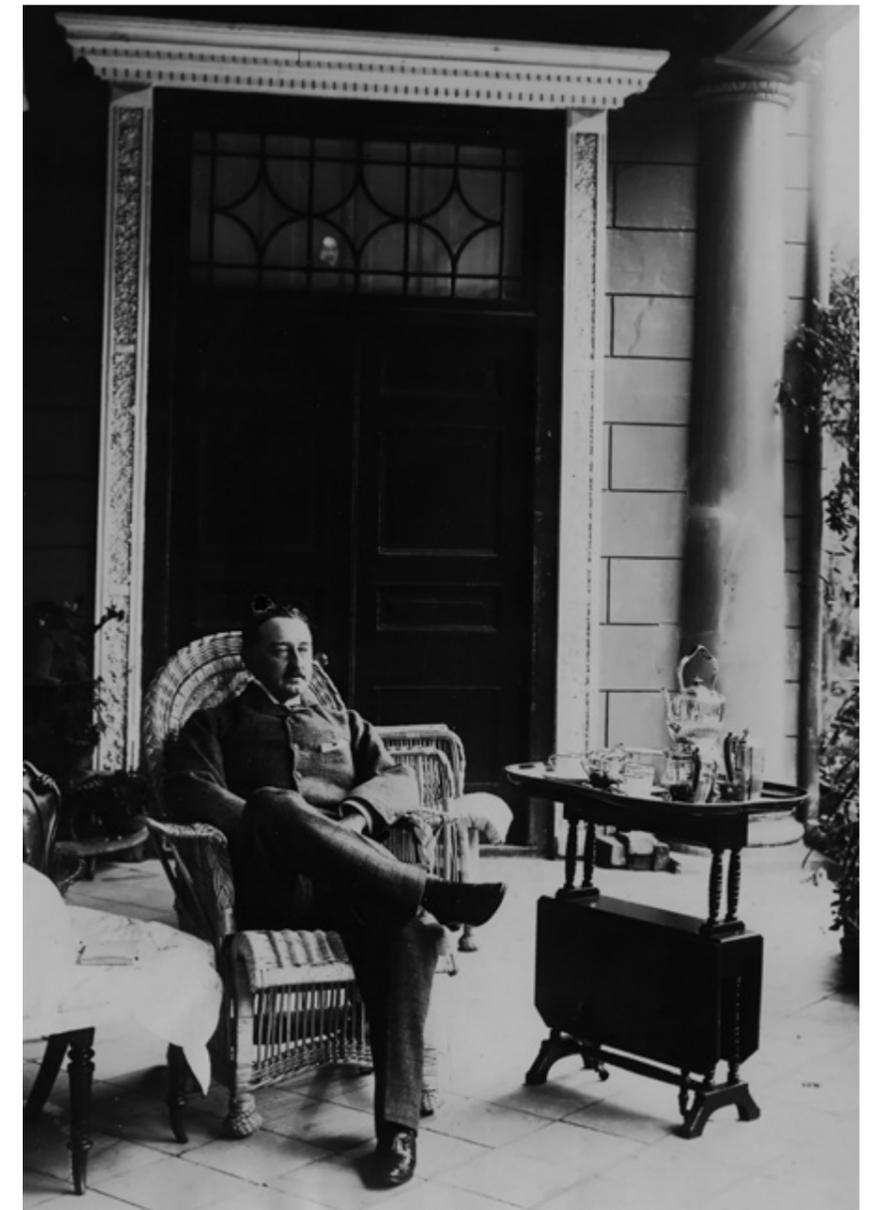
Rhodes was also careful to avoid antagonizing the Bond's pro-Transvaal sensitivities. This was easier by the late 1880s when the competing interests of Cape and Transvaal farmers led Bondsmen to veer away from their earlier uncritical support for the republic. Until the mid-1890s Rhodes envisaged the peaceful achievement of South African unification through gradual economic integration - which he believed would be furthered by the building of railways. Ironically, it was in part the construction of a railway between the Cape and the Transvaal that brought him into direct confrontation with Kruger, who was anxious to retain the republic's autonomy by building a railway to Delagoa Bay and raising tariffs on Cape produce. Kruger's actions led to the threat of war which was only averted when the President backed down in the face of an imperial ultimatum in November 1895. Through all of this Rhodes continued to enjoy the support of Cape Afrikaners, and had an international reputation; he was also one of the richest men in the world. In the words of two of his admirers, journalist W.T. Stead and novelist Rider Haggard, he was 'at the zenith of his power' in 1894-5.

Yet at the end of 1895 it began to unravel, the result of the extraordinary scheme to topple Kruger and seize control of the Transvaal, concocted by Rhodes

and Jameson - and several other notables, including Joseph Chamberlain, then Secretary of State for the Colonies. This resulted in the fiasco that became known as the Jameson Raid. Nevertheless, Rhodes was able to redeem himself, despite two commissions of enquiry (in London and Cape Town), thanks to the intervention of Chamberlain and the strange disappearance of the relevant telegrams implicating members of the British cabinet and the aristocracy in the conspiracy. The role he played in ending the war with the Ndebele in 1896 also helped restore his reputation. To the despair of the Cape liberals, he still had 'a profound influence' in the Cape Parliament, mostly among English-speakers but even among some members of the Afrikaner Bond. However when Rhodes finally went to Oxford to receive an honorary Oxford degree (initially announced in 1892), the award became a matter of fierce contention. By then his international reputation had also been tarnished as a result of his financial and moral (if that is an appropriate word under the circumstances!) support for the increasingly jingoistic pro-war faction in South Africa.

The outbreak of the South African War in October 1899 found Rhodes in Kimberley, and he remained there for the first four months of the siege (14 October 1899 to 15 February 1900), hoping to ensure its rapid lifting and, by his presence, to raise morale. During the siege, he quarrelled with and threatened, the military commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Kekewich, and schemed to get him dismissed. His sojourns in Cape Town in the two years before his death were brief. The war meant that he was no longer at the centre of affairs, and his health was deteriorating. He died on 26 March 1902 in his cottage in Muizenberg, surrounded by some of his closest associates, and a younger brother. At his own request, he was buried amid the grandeur of the Matopos in Southern Rhodesia on 10 April 1902.

Cecil John Rhodes has always been the subject of intense controversy. Even in his lifetime he was revered by his intimates, who regarded him as a towering Colossus, and reviled by those who saw him as an unprincipled and unscrupulous adventurer. In an age of expanding empire and speculative mining capital, Rhodes was able to give effect to a vast ambition to acquire wealth and power, and to justify this ambition in terms of a vision of Anglo-Saxon world domination.



Sitting in a wicker armchair on the stoep at Groot Schuur before it was burnt down (15 December 1896). Full-face, he has his right foot on his left knee, hands in lap. On his left is a small table with a tray of tea things, on his right an open map lies on a chair.

For many of his early biographers, though not all of his countrymen, his life expressed the patriotic aspirations of an imperial age. Later biographers and historians who - like the indignant students who demanded the removal of his statue from the UCT campus - have not shared his imperialism or his racist views, have been more critical of his methods. They have shown how, for most of the peoples of southern Africa, his ventures hastened the pace of colonialism, capitalist development, and political reconstruction and were often accompanied by brutal conquest, ruthless

exploitation, sharp business practice, and the insidious corruption of public life. While in his lifetime Rhodes's use of power was often tempered by his ability to engage imaginatively with those who were subject to his control and to bestow largess upon them, whether fellow mining magnates, Cape Afrikaners, or even, on rare occasions, African notables and their subjects, there can be little doubt about his malignant impact. Under the circumstances, the decision to remove his brooding presence from its prime site on the UCT campus was surely overdue. ■

# Tribute to Neville Alexander – towards one Azania, one Nation

BY DR LYDIA CAIRNCROSS. PHOTOS BY JE'NINE MAY AND MICHAEL HAMMOND.

An address delivered on the occasion of the renaming of the Humanities Postgraduate Studies Building after the late Neville Alexander.

**G**ood evening and thank you to everyone present and particularly to Karen Press (Neville's partner), Neville's family members and the University of Cape Town for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Neville Alexander was a theoretician, academic, writer and teacher but also, and this will be the focus of my input, a socialist and a revolutionary. A revolutionary in the sense of both engaging with the world we live in, and, more importantly trying to change it.

The last time I saw Neville was about a week before he died and a few days after the Marikana massacre which still looms large on our political landscape. He was already very ill and struggled to talk for long periods of time but even then remained interested in understanding this event, what it may mean for South Africa/Azania and how significant it may be changing our reality, our world.

And Neville certainly tried to change

the world, from the time of his early youth when he left Cradock, the town of his birth and moved to Cape Town to study at UCT. By building and often leading a range of organisations from the Teachers' League of South Africa (TLSA), the Society of Young Africa (SOYA), the Cape Peninsula Student' Union (CPSU) the Non-European Unity Movement (NEUM), the Yu Chi Chan club, the National Liberation Front, South African College for Higher Education (SACHED), Khanya College, the Cape Action League (CAL) and the National Forum (NF), the Workers Organisation for Socialist Action, the Worker's List Party, Project for Alternative Education in South Africa, the Langa Youth Reading Group, the Truth Movement.

He tried to change the world in many ways... by analysing, reading and writing; by being the key theoretician at important national and international political meetings; by engaging in guerrilla warfare; but also by sitting through endless campaign meetings to plan the minutia of transport, food, agendas, minutes for conferences; by interacting with sometimes conservative and myopic bureaucrats when trying to change policy; by helping to paint placards and banners for demonstrations; by reading to young children on a Saturday morning; by patiently and sometimes not so patiently listening to endless circular arguments of comrades and friends and knowing

that this is also part of the struggle. This person who integrated socialist theory and revolutionary action is the one I would like us to remember, even as we celebrate his rich writings and insightful analyses.

I met Neville when I joined the Workers Organisation for Socialist Action in 1990. Neville was its first chairperson. From that time until his death in 2012, Neville was, for myself, and many others a key leader of the socialist movement nationally and internationally, even though he would constantly resist such accolades. One of my earliest memories of Neville is going on a door to door campaign in Elsies River, collecting the 10 000 signatures required for us to participate in the 1994 elections. Side by side with many others, I sat with Neville through countless meetings: planning meetings, boring meetings, inspiring meetings, Sunday koeksister meetings. Distributed many pamphlets, painted many banners and had many arguments! So I did not know him only, as many of you may, as the university academic, writer, linguist but also as an activist who was experimenting with implementing social change now... and talked about making revolution soon.

## ON SOCIALISM:

So, Neville was a socialist. Not a social democrat, not a liberal educationist but a socialist who believed in the fundamental and radical transformation of society. Believed that this transformation was essential to ensure "that every child and human being has more than an outside chance of fulfilling their full human potential."

Idealists and socialists are somewhat unpopular and hard to come by these days. As a society, we have become immune to the depth of suffering and deprivation which surrounds our beautiful cities. Innoculated from a young age to ignore the injustices of this wealthy nation that cannot feed and house its people. Where a rampant consumerist and individualistic capitalism is the norm. For many, the violent brutality that holds together this impossible mix of wealth and poverty is only seen through the acts of crime which spill into the quiet leafy suburbs we privileged few inhabit. To believe in a socialist, just, equal world today seems rather other worldly but as Neville said in his essay *No god hypothesis required* "...if you can believe in heaven and other notions of a life of perfect harmony after death, it ought not to be difficult to conceive of the possibility of a raceless or a



Dr Lydia Cairncross, a contemporary of Dr Neville Alexander since 1990, delivered the keynote address at the inauguration of the Neville Alexander Building at UCT on 28 August 2015.

classless society here on Earth."

And at the same time Neville would often couch the core of the socialist philosophy in the simplest biblical terms, quoting his great friend and renowned socialist Ernest Mandel "...the most urgent need in our country today is the need to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, house the homeless and care for the sick."

The impetus, driving force, inspiration for Neville's socialism was a deeply felt compassion, respect and warmth for all people.

## ON REVOLUTION AND REVOLUTIONARIES:

I've mentioned the terms "revolution" and "revolutionary." Because one of the defining features of the Left movement of which Neville was a part and which informed all of his work whether in the education or linguistic arena, was that we did not, and do not, see a gradual transition from the current system of capitalism to a new social, political and economic order. After completing his PhD in Germany, Neville Alexander returned to South Africa and started teaching at Livingstone High School. He was profoundly affected by Sharpeville, writing:

"from the Defiance Campaign to Sharpeville, to Soweto a red line of blood and suffering gave continuity to our

struggle through its many valleys and over its few but memorable peaks..." He understood that the Apartheid South African state could not be transformed without armed struggle. He therefore began building a guerrilla warfare movement forming the Yu Chi Chan Club and subsequently the National Liberation Front (NLF). As a result of this pursuit, Neville Alexander was imprisoned on Robben Island from 1964 to 1974. Despite the severity of the incarceration, Neville along with other political inmates turned the maximum security prison into the 'University of Robben Island.' While banned and confined to house arrest for 5 years, in 1979, Neville Alexander published *One Azania, One Nation: The National Question in South Africa* under the pen name No Sizwe.

In his Strini Moodley lecture in 2010 entitled "South Africa, an unfinished revolution" Neville speaks to the fact that few thinking South Africans are not shocked and concerned about where South Africa is today and "...that most South Africans, certainly most oppressed and exploited South Africans, feel that they have been, if not betrayed, then certainly misled."

And we know this. We live in a South Africa with a widening gap between rich and poor, a nation where our education system cannot teach our children to read,

write and add, where quality health care is primarily the prerogative of the rich and where the painful continuities of privilege and skin colour are inescapable. Yes, we have the vote, but the other dreams of a bright new nation seen so clearly in the heady days of the 1994 elections have been stillborn. The negotiated settlement drafted in the secret back rooms and the corridors of CODESA from 1990 to 1993 while the rest of the country was ravaged by state sponsored political violence, ensured that the economic and social fabric of the capitalist South Africa would remain unchanged. A political revolution, an isolated changing of the guard, has been orchestrated, simultaneously raising and dashing, the hopes of millions.

Of course, Neville was aware of the terribly uncomfortable position many well-meaning and genuine ANC leaders find themselves in where, to quote from *An Ordinary Country* (2002) page 60/61:

“Today there are few people in the leadership of the ANC who do not realise that taking office is not the same thing as taking power. When they complain, as they so often do, that they are being

“ We need to act locally to create a tangible improvement in the lives of our people, whether this is by volunteering at local clinics, running reading groups, building cooperatives, enabling food gardens or transforming schools.”

stymied and betrayed by the bureaucracy which they have inherited from the apartheid state, they are in their own naïve way merely confirming the continuity of the capitalist state in South Africa.

Whether or not it is fashionable to quote the founders of the modern socialist movement, there is no doubt that the view put forward consistently by men and women such as Marx, Engels, Lenin, Rosa Luxembourg and others that a revolution requires the smashing of the machinery of the old state and the reconstruction of society in the interests of the new ruling class has been completely vindicated in the case of the new South Africa.”

And, in *South Africa, the Unfinished Revolution* he says:

“The final disillusionment will come, of course, when the repressive apparatuses of the state, instead of supporting the exploited classes and other oppressed strata, turn their weapons on the masses to protect the interests of the capitalist class.”

This chillingly accurate prediction saw light of day on 16 August 2012 in the events that unfolded on a small but now infamous koppie called Marikana.

### ON RACE AND RACISM:

Neville Alexander was known for his bold and uncompromising stance on race and racism. As far back as 1979, when most liberation movements and most of the scientific community still took the existence of race as axiomatic, in *One Azania, One Nation: the national question in South Africa*, Neville wrote that “...to speak of the ‘irrelevance’ of ‘race’ still assumes the reality of ‘race’ as a biological entity. It is necessary to stress that my position, backed by a growing scientific tradition, leads to an interpretation of ‘non-racial’ as meaning the denial of the reality of ‘race.’”

One of the most diabolical features of the new South Africa is how the categories created by Verwoerd 65 years ago and others over the last 400 hundred years have been embraced and promoted unchallenged as appropriate forms of social dialogue and scientific study. That this new country, born out of centuries of violent racial oppression, makes no attempt to build an anti-racism movement based on the premise that we belong to one race, the human race, is testimony to the

sad fact that societies very seldom learn from history.

The ongoing requirement at all levels of government bureaucracy for people to categorise themselves has more than erased the brief period in our struggle history in the 1970s and 1980s where people, supported by among others, the liberatory philosophies of the black consciousness movement, genuinely questioned and rejected their classification into the four race groups we have inherited from Apartheid.

Today the ongoing use of these categories is promoted as a way to ensure redress. But, to quote Neville: “Fighting race with race is bad social science and even worse practical politics.” Taken on face value, using race to promote redress is an extremely short sighted and dangerous policy which, as we have already seen, can very easily erupt into violent racial conflicts. Taken more critically, it can be seen as an attempt to disguise the fact that genuine, fundamental, change has not taken place. While a small layer of the black middle class may benefit from

these policies and serve to make the surface appearance of corporations and professional bodies more palatable, the fact is that the majority of black South Africans remain trapped in the poverty cycle, unable to find decent education or work while the struggle heroes of yesteryear occupy plush corporate boardrooms.

With a slight of hand, the struggle is made to still be about race when it is in fact about class, “finish and klaar,” to use some of what Neville called good South African.

For a university such as UCT, the issue of race is critical at many levels. At a social level, it relates to how students on the campus are integrated and at a political level it is important as it relates to admissions policies and other attempts at social redress. It can be argued that as academics and intellectuals we are constrained by societal rules and broader issues when it comes to these two areas. The same cannot be said when it comes to the issue of race in science and race in research. Like an enormous elephant in the room, this issue is pointedly ignored by our institutions. The minutia of every scientific category in research studies is examined for accuracy, reproducibility, measurability etc, and then race is just thrown in, unquestioned, unchallenged. Even when race is not part of the study question, it is added in as an almost knee jerk “demographic.”

The fact that the last objective quantification of Black, Coloured, Indian and White was done by the Verwoerdian population census takers with the aid of hair pencils is just not seen, thought about or discussed. Researchers who question the use of race are seen as difficult, overly sensitive and obstructive.

As an institution of higher learning, what contribution can we make to ameliorating the social devastation being caused by racial prejudice and race based thinking? We, as scientists, as academics can make clear that while race may be a real social construct and racial prejudice is without a doubt a powerful social force, race as a biological category is non-existent. That we can no longer use the “short hand” of race to describe social class, education status, language group or any of the other categories that have been used to justify this. The time for this dangerous short hand is over. Let us do the proper work. If we need to examine the role of diet and economic status on health, lets evaluate those things, if we want to look at the role of language and or culture on health seeking behaviour and adherence, lets ask those questions.

Using race as a lazy social category in our research bolsters it’s social currency as a rational, justifiable and biological category in a country and world that is tearing itself apart with racial division. It is time to stop creating and recreating race-based thinking in our work. This is within our power and would be a fitting legacy and tribute to the Neville Alexander we are honouring tonight.

So, as we gather here today, renaming this building after Neville Alexander, how do we rethink our broader responsibility as intellectuals as agents for social change?

It is easy to become seeped in pessimism and throw our hands up in despair at the mammoth task of building a new country and indeed a new world. Despite many decades of struggle, many moments of triumph and disaster, brilliance and error of both himself and the political left; even though there was no socialist revolution in his lifetime nor any immediate hope of radical change, in his last book, Neville Alexander shows an unbridled optimism and encourages us to

“take a step back and try to get perspective on what has actually been happening since 1990, when the new South Africa began. Even more optimistically, I hope that such a rethink will inspire the reader to find a point of engagement, with a view to initiating or becoming part of trajectories that can lead to that other country most of us had in mind...”

In the discourse and writings of the last few years of his life, Neville talked to a move towards new forms of political organisation. Forms that were more open, more responsive and used a new, less rhetorical language, including music, dance, poetry and all forms of culture. To build organisations that recognised that there are many terrains of struggle, organised labour being one but also education, health, language and the environment. In the conclusion of his last book Neville calls on us to:

“...rebuild our communities and our neighbourhoods by means of establishing as far as possible on a voluntary basis, all manner of community projects that bring visible short-term benefit to the people and that initiate at the same time the trajectories of fundamental social transformation to which I have been referring.”

When I read this quote, I remember Neville in his 70 s, this giant of an intellectual, sitting and reading to pre school children in Langa at the Vulindlela reading group and then dancing to



The late Neville Alexander

Brenda Fassie’s catchy tune by that same title. Vulindlela, open the way... This particular community project spoke to his tremendous love of children, of music and of course of reading too.

So this part is clear: We need to act locally to create a tangible improvement in the lives of our people, whether this is by volunteering at local clinics, running reading groups, building cooperatives, enabling food gardens or transforming schools.

But we also need to look at the global picture and the more fundamental change needed. Perhaps taking Neville’s work forward, not as a ‘frozen in time’ set of truths but rather a series of questions that still need to be answered, can be a beginning.

Perhaps we can take the collective answering of these questions, together with local community work as part of the struggle towards revolutionary change. And what are those questions?: What do we mean by nation building; what is race and what is its role in the new South Africa; what is democracy: electoral and participatory democracy; how do we

hold the state accountable but also be our own liberators by fixing that street light and cleaning the local park; how do we develop a value system for a new society while crushed by the brutality of the current one? And then out of this, what organisational forms speak to this work and how can they become places where empathy and humanitarianism flourish in the now while we build our vision of a different world for tomorrow.

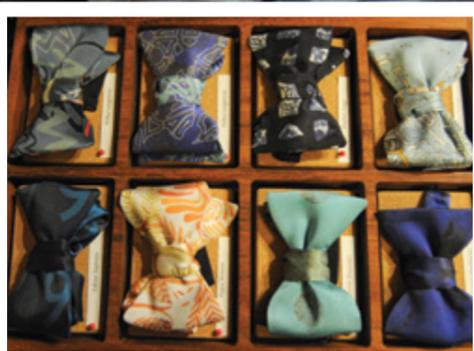
Jonathan Jansen is quoted as saying that Neville was “The last of the true revolutionaries...” I hope that in this one instance he is wrong and that some of those beautiful ones are not yet born and yet others live among us. I hope that Neville’s name on this building will encourage those who learn within it to live as he did, with courage and integrity, to always ask the difficult questions and to be so bold as to try to change the world.

Thank you. 

# AMOORE BOWS OUT ON A HIGH NOTE

STORY BY ANDREA WEISS. PHOTOS BY ROGER SEDRES.

Familiar faces associated with UCT, past and present, gathered to say goodbye to outgoing registrar Hugh Amoore (himself a UCT alumnus) at Smuts Hall on Saturday 12 December 2015.



*The Eighth Day Collection: Bowties symbolising the seven days Hugh Amoore has contributed to the creation of UCT, and the eighth day in which he will make his beginning as registrar emeritus. These neckties were made by members of the art department at Michaelis.*

**D**ecked in news posters, the walls of the dining hall at Smuts were a tongue-in-cheek acknowledgement of a difficult year past: “Hugh outsourced at last”; “UCT registrar answers all the questions you should have asked”; “Registrar weighs in on Banting diet”; “UCT to shorten student numbers to 78 digits,” and “Hugh must go back to work,” some read.

A retirement party, but by no means an ordinary retirement party. Among the guests was Amoore’s family, including 102-year-old mother Mary, who had come to honour a remarkable career, along with present and past VCs, colleagues, members of the academic community, and outside guests.

Master of ceremonies, physicist Professor Andy Buffler, said the gathering was not only a tribute to Amoore but also a “fabulous cross-section of those of us who love UCT and care about her future.”

First in a line-up of mystery speakers was Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price, who noted that Amoore’s personal commitment spanned 42 years of service under five VCs, 27 of these as registrar.

Under his watch, UCT had grown from 13 000 to 27 000 students and the international student body had increased fourfold. He had attended

over 300 council meetings and countless senate meetings and signed around 127 000 graduation certificates.

## A WISE HEAD

Amoore had provided him with “comfort and reassurance” as a trusted advisor, Price said. He knew he could always knock on his door unannounced and draw on his experience and knowledge, trusting in his discretion and “huge loyalty” to the institution.

Price also paid tribute to Amoore’s wife Kate Brown, whom he said must have wondered at times “whether Hugh was married to her or UCT.” (The registrar was known for working late and over weekends, and hardly ever taking leave, except perhaps to attend a philately conference, he added.)

“His legacy at UCT will continue to impact on all of us – in the finely crafted rules and policies and conventions, in agreements and contracts, in buildings and artworks, in disciplinary codes and a very sound retirement fund which he has shepherded, and in the standard of administrative excellence he has set for others at UCT and across the country to follow,” Price said.

“Hugh, we are deeply grateful for what

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- Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price

you have given to UCT, in a sense for having given your life to UCT. Thank you so much.”

## A SHEPHERD AND CALLIGRAPHER

Professor Alison Lewis, dean of the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment, proposed a toast in which she likened Amoore to a shepherd who had spent his professional life “metaphorically shepherding the institution to areas of good forage and keeping a watchful eye out for predators and poisonous plants.”

Former Vice-Chancellor Stuart Saunders, who described Hugh Amoore as his “secret weapon” during his tenure as VC, said: “I never took a decision of any importance without consulting Hugh. He gave me superb advice based upon a profound knowledge of a subject and its history. He never let me down.”

Professor Pippa Skotnes presented Amoore with a special gift made by members of the art department at Michaelis in the form of eight bowties, entitled The Eighth Day Collection, housed in a handcrafted wooden box.

She said this marked the symbolic seven days he had contributed to the creation of UCT, and the eighth day in which he would make his beginning as registrar emeritus.

Senior lecturer Peter Anderson from the English Department was called on to give a humorous critique of Amoore’s famous calligraphic handwriting by imaginary third parties – evoking much laughter. He ended with this flourish: “We are convinced that this hand belongs to no-one in the Gadarene sties of today’s universities. It is too Platonian, too scholarly, too independent, too clear-headed, too calm, too selfless, too original and too wise.”

## A COLLEAGUE, FRIEND AND FATHER

Former Smuts warden and UCT employee, Jon File, now executive director of the Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies in the Netherlands, spoke about his experience of working with Amoore in the early days of academic planning.



*Passing the baton: Outgoing registrar Hugh Amoore with incoming registrar Royston Pillay, who took office on 1 January 2016.*

stick her head through the window of his downstairs office at Bremner to say: “It’s time to come home now, Dad!”

“I’d just like to say good luck to those who are still going to be here and the families who are still going to be here. We are all very glad he will be at home now, and perhaps supper can start earlier,” she said.

## A MARATHON WELL RUN

In his reply to the speakers, Amoore likened the 42 years of his time at UCT to the 42km of a standard marathon, and outlined the many highlights and challenges since he was first appointed as registrar in 1987.

Of the last stretch, he said: “I really have felt that in the last 14 years, it’s like that last third of a marathon when I’ve been able to find fresh legs.”

And, typically, he took the long view. “Marathons are not relay races, but the baton will pass,” he concluded. “As UCT reinvents itself and looks towards the centenary of university status in 2018 and, in only 14 years’ time, to the bicentennial, the challenges will reappear and they will appear daunting.

“But perhaps actually not more so than the challenges of 1918 after the Great Flu, the challenges in the early 1930s during the Great Depression, the challenges in the late 1940s when UCT had to assimilate the ex-servicemen who came to UCT, the challenges we faced in 1980/81, the challenges we faced in 1991.

“I have had the pleasure and the privilege of working for and with wonderful people – yes, often difficult people too – only some are here tonight. Thank you for that privilege.”

Final speaker was his daughter Ruth who shared with the audience how the family would lure him home by getting her to

## PHINDI SITHOLE-SPONG - POSITIVELY POSITIVE

Having been born HIV positive, alumna **Phindile Sithole-Spong** (BA, 2011) discovered her HIV status at 19 years of age, just a few months before starting her tertiary career at UCT. She decided to found Rebranding HIV ([www.rbhiv.co.za](http://www.rbhiv.co.za)), a non-profit organization dedicated to giving a human face to the experience of living with HIV and AIDS, and to spreading the message of an HIV aware generation. She caught up with *UCT Alumni News* editor, Elle Williams.



**EW:** You graduated from UCT in 2011 – tell me about your time here.

**PS:** I was in such a different place compared to my peers at university I think, because I had just found out my HIV status a few months before coming to UCT.”

My first year was difficult because I was still dealing with knowing my status, but after I “came out” in second year, I started to feel like a real student, like I could develop real friendships built on an authentic reality, where I was able to say things like “I can’t go out, I’m not feeling well” and have people understand that. I was lucky that the people I told when I first got my results were so supportive, and so willing to learn with me – because at the time I didn’t know much about HIV. My mom, my boyfriend at the time, my best friend – they were all so supportive and fought so hard for me, and I definitely think that was a major factor in me being able to accept my status.

**EW:** At the point when you found out about your HIV status, you had a T-cell count of 2. It’s a miracle you’re still alive. Had you not had any health scares before then - any clues that you may have been HIV positive?

**PS:** I got shingles at 16 and I think looking back that was a big clue, because typically only small children, the elderly and HIV positive people get shingles. But my doctor didn’t draw the connection, or think to do an HIV test, because I wasn’t sexually active. We didn’t have enough of my family history at that point, to know that I could have contracted HIV at birth.

My parents both died when I was very young, but, for instance in my mom’s case, it was recorded that she died of respiratory illness. Of course now we realize it was a respiratory illness caused by HIV. But at that time, we didn’t know that, and the doctors certainly didn’t think to give me an HIV test as a sickly child.

When I was 19 I got thrush in my mouth and even then, we didn’t think of HIV because I’d only had one sexual partner and we’d used condoms. But the doctor suggested a white blood cell count test and when that came back abnormal, we then did an HIV test and that’s how I found out.

**EW:** So how did you come to the point of starting up Rebranding HIV?

**PS:** I always knew I wanted to tell stories. I didn’t know I’d be telling my own story – that came later on. When I found out

about my status I realized the more I told people about it, that people were really interested. Partly because of the way I told it and my personality, and partly because I knew I was disrupting the typical idea of what someone with HIV “should” be like.

A lot of the obvious misconceptions about HIV positive people, I feel don’t apply to me. For example, I’m curvy. Also, I’m comfortable in my HIV status. I’m open about my journey and I share a lot – sometimes too much – with the world, but that’s because I really think people should hear the realities, all the ups and downs and the beauty of our complex HIV journeys.”

So when I founded Rebranding HIV, the objective was to reach a point where people began to see HIV within themselves. I actually got the idea for the “Rebranding HIV” name at a seminar I attended at UCT with Timothy Morris Webster, who made the point that a successful brand resonates with you in a way you can relate to and identify with. And at the time when I found out I was HIV positive, I thought – we really don’t have that for HIV, so that’s what I set out to create.

**EW:** A lot of people think that when you have HIV it means an end to your relationship life. But you’ve

been quite open about dating with HIV. What have your learnings been, on that journey?

**PS:** I think whether you’re HIV positive or not, it’s important to have a deep relationship with yourself before you think about dating. In terms of my own experiences, I believe there’s a shared responsibility in any relationship. I can explain that I have HIV, that this is how you could get it (for instance if we were in a car accident together), this is how CD4 counts work, etc. But I think there’s also a shared responsibility on the part of those trying to have a relationship with an HIV positive person, to understand what this virus is, and what having it really means.

One thing that the HIV pandemic has shown us is how in Africa we’re still not OK with our sexual identities. And I think that because of the way that HIV is spread it really forces us to look at our sexual identities – individually and as a society. Because even though we know it’s a sexually transmitted disease, we still haven’t come to terms with the “sexual” part.

So I’m interested in studying sexual anthropology, especially in the African context, to apply it to why HIV is still so prevalent here, while it’s declining in the rest of the world.

**EW:** And why do you think that is?

**PS:** I really do think that it has a lot to do with our relationship to our sexuality and the fact that it’s still largely taboo in African society to talk openly about sex. I realize that the language of the “dream of the HIV-free generation” just isn’t resonating here. The global trajectory of a decline in infection rates is counter to what is happening in Africa, which remains the epicentre of the pandemic. And I think we can adjust that through greater representation of the African youth context and encounter of HIV at UNAIDS level, so that they can better target the global treatment and prevention strategy to the African case. We need to put African youth who are on the front lines in terms of risk, in positions to speak, and to inform decisions.

**EW:** What do we think they would say? What do the decision makers need to hear about HIV in South Africa?

**PS:** People need to realize that for young people in South Africa, sex is demonized. It’s not something that can be spoken about, or they’re introduced to sex via porn, so there’s never a natural opportunity to learn that condom use should be the norm, because sex is not something they

can just discuss or treat as normal. I also think that we live in a society where men still feel a sense of ownership over women’s bodies. Some of that relates to the ways in which we raise our sons to feel that they should be served and catered to by women. And when they grow older, I think that translates into the idea that women’s bodies are here to serve them.

**EW:** And yet, despite the fact that HIV infection rates remain relatively high in SA, I’m seeing less and less HIV prevention messaging in the public domain. Do you think we’ve become complacent about HIV?

**PS:** I think there’s a degree of HIV-fatigue. Like, “yeah whatever there’s this thing called HIV, lots of people have it and if you get it you take a pill a day and you’re fine.” Then on the other hand there’s the other extreme - the stereotype of the “dirty virus.” I don’t think either one is useful. The point is to humanize the virus – not by glamorizing it into “oh don’t worry, just take your pill a day” but by talking about the complexity.

**EW:** And this is the essence of what you’ve been working to communicate through Rebranding HIV. What are the tools you use to get that message across?

**PS:** When I first founded Rebranding HIV I was so excited to share my story and my experience of HIV, particularly with those in the corporate space, the working environment, because I recognized that that's where a lot of my peers were situated. And of course, because we spend so much time at work, our colleagues become our second families. Yet there wasn't much conversation in the workplace about HIV, outside of the stereotypes. There wasn't that link between the virus and the humans. So a lot of the conversation during my workshops and talks, was about making people see and connect with HIV at a personal level.

But I realized I really didn't enjoy being in the corporate space, so I took a six month sabbatical and went to Paris to see a friend, and that's when Keep a Child Alive contacted me and invited me to speak at their "Black Ball" fundraiser in New York. And I think that was a defining moment in terms of where my work would go. I started to realize that I really wanted to reconnect with young people, through institutions and organizations that work with them. Keep a Child Alive was my entryway because it's located in the entertainment industry, which of course is a really important vehicle for reaching the youth.

That experience of speaking at the Black Ball showed me that this could be much

bigger, that I needed to grow out of the corporate space and into the arts space, so I'm now working on projects with designers, artists, photographers, which are more focused on creating cultural, artistic representations of the virus and the epidemic, because I think art is a way of healing too.

**EW:** What's the balance between prevention and normalization in your messaging?

**PS:** It's a mix of the two but has been primarily a message of "it's OK," just to create a situation where people are comfortable and they can breathe a sigh of relief.

So I'm saying: HIV is not something bad to have, but it's definitely not easy to live with. You're more prone to illness than others, you have to take better care of yourself – so I like to reveal that side of it to humanize it. You have to think differently about your body and yourself.

**EW:** And after you take over the arts world, what's next for you?

**PS:** I don't want to be the voice of HIV positivity forever. I want to bow out of the space in a couple of years. It's exhausting, it's soul-crushing, it's not easy work. And I won't be relevant to young people forever. Sometimes it takes everything out of you just to get out of bed each day.

**EW:** I can understand, that it takes a lot out of one to represent such a major cause. Has it been rewarding? Has this work given you something back?

**PS:** The fact that people have been so accepting of me, despite my status, has made me more tolerant in terms of what I am willing to accept from others. I also think it's made me a better person – more humble, more appreciative of what I have in life, and more human. I know so many people who, after finding out that they were HIV positive, started to look at themselves differently and to really want to be better. So I still think it's a really beautiful virus. It's so deeply complex. Because as much as it's taken so many lives, it can also give life. And that is beautiful.

**EW:** As you are beautiful, Phindi. Thank you for sharing your story with us.

**PS:** Thanks so much Elle. 📷

WANT TO MEET MORE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI? visit [www.uct.ac.za/dad/news](http://www.uct.ac.za/dad/news) for more alumni news and interviews

## 100 year old skydiver is speaker at Fuller Hall reunion luncheon

'Inspired to live' is the name of a series of public talks 100-year-old alumna Georgina Harwood is planning to deliver; and with a résumé like hers, it's little wonder.

**H**arwood, née Mitchell, graduated with a BA from UCT in 1934, but it's her more recent escapades that have grabbed headlines. If you imagined her 100th birthday party would involve much sitting, and perhaps a spot of tea ... perish the thought.

Instead, Harwood jumped out of a plane (yes, it was flying – thousands of feet above *terra firma*). It wasn't her first time, either.

The centenarian is gaining quite a reputation as a skydiver, having first taken the plunge at a spritely 92, and then again at 97. Harwood's latest jump was in aid of the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI), and she's opened an activist page on the website [www.givengain.com](http://www.givengain.com), where people can donate money to buy life-jackets for NSRI volunteers.

Skydiving was just the beginning of the birthday bash. Harwood went shark-cage diving in Gansbaai on 16 March, and took the cable car up and down Table Mountain on 10 March (her actual birthday) – this before spending the evening with 140 guests at a centenary dinner, says her daughter Sue Homer.

All of which begs the question: where does she get the energy?

Homer laughs. "I'm amazed. One thing my mom has always said is that she's blessed with energy. But a lot of that energy is her positive thoughts. Even today – she found Sudoku in a magazine, and she didn't know how to do it; so she asked her grandchildren to help her learn to do Sudoku."



Above: Alumna Georgina Harwood (centre) pictured with current "Fullerites" at the Fuller Hall reunion luncheon in 2015. Below: Mrs Harwood cuts the reunion cake with Fuller Hall warden, Dr Chao Mulenga.

Her mom is "always learning," says Homer, adding that one of her mom's life mottoes was that when one found oneself in a community, one should integrate and be of service to that community.

Harwood demonstrated this by co-founding the UCT Mountain Club (which exists today as the UCT Mountain and Ski Club), to curb the high number of deaths and injuries on Table Mountain at the time. This feat is perhaps even more impressive considering she joined UCT on the cusp of her 16th birthday in 1931, and graduated within four years.

Harwood was one of UCT's roughly 600 students at the time, and completed nine subjects for her BA degree. She particularly enjoyed zoology, says Homer, and earned a first-class pass in second-year zoology.

This was a UCT sans Jameson Hall, and Harwood lived in the newly built Fuller House residence. Fuller invited her back to plant a tree as the oldest living resident a few years ago, and by then the landscape had changed almost beyond recognition.

A fleet of 'new' buildings and a much bigger student population has by now changed the face of upper campus; but Harwood's indomitable spirit and lust for life remain constant.

It's no surprise then, that Harwood was an apt choice of guest speaker at a special



luncheon hosted recently at Fuller Hall to mark its 87-year legacy.

The gathering, on 8 August, saw past and present 'Fullerites' enjoying a meal together while sharing their experiences and reminiscing about the past.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Sandra Klopper encouraged to achieve greatness in academia and other spheres of life, while Harwood reminisced about her time as an undergraduate.

She also shared her secret to longevity with her fellow Fullerites. Her recipe? "Don't smoke, and stay away from sugar." Sage advice from a legendary lady. 📷

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## UCT ALUMNUS “HUMANITARIAN HERO OF THE YEAR”

Sean Casey, who has an MPhil in HIV/AIDS and Society from UCT, has worked in the public health sector in over 30 countries. Late last year, thousands of his peers in the humanitarian aid and development sector voted him AIDEX Humanitarian Hero of the Year.



Sean Casey was voted Humanitarian Hero of the Year in 2015 by his peers in the humanitarian aid and development sector. Here he is pictured in Liberia.

American-born Casey was a first responder during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and after the earthquake in Nepal (2015). He has also worked in the Ukraine (2014), the Philippines (2013/2014), Mali (2013), South Sudan (2012) and Haiti (2011/2012).

In addition to this, he has supported survivors of torture in Iraq, helped with child soldier reintegration in Sri Lanka and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and has been involved in sexual minority protection initiatives in Syria, Nigeria and Pakistan.

Casey is based in Bangkok, Thailand, where he currently holds the position of senior global operations advisor for International Medical Corps.

### CAPE TOWN CALLING

His relationship with UCT developed out of an exchange agreement with the American University of Paris where he was an undergraduate. He decided to spend a semester abroad in Cape Town during his third year of study.

While at UCT, he volunteered with SHAWCO in Khayelitsha and travelled extensively in southern Africa. This led to him enrolling for an MPhil in HIV/AIDS at UCT – he graduated in 2006.

“Collectively, these experiences and opportunities put me on my career trajectory, giving me the skills and training to do my work, as well as exposure to many different cultures and ways of thinking,” he said in a

recent interview.

Casey said he grew up in a family that was “very service-oriented” and both he and his sister (a nurse) ended up working in “helping” professions.

“I suppose I’m most driven in my work by the principle that we can and must do better for people, for each other. We should have a sense of collective responsibility to reduce suffering and increase opportunities, and that’s what inspires my work in this field,” he said in an interview with Humanities News. 

Read the full interview at [www.humanities.uct.ac.za/news/humanitarian-award-uct-alumnus](http://www.humanities.uct.ac.za/news/humanitarian-award-uct-alumnus)

## GROOMED BY THE GREEN MILE FOR THE GREEN AND GOLD

STORY BY YUSUF OMAR. PHOTO BY LIAM HAMER-NEL / ALLIANCEPHOTO.COM

With new Springbok coach Allister Coetzee calling up Nic Groom and Sikhumbuze Notshe to his squad for the recent Test series against Ireland, the list of former UCT rugby rock stars in the sport’s top tier has swelled to nigh unprecedented numbers.

And they are not the only new Test call-ups who once stomped around the Ikey Tiger dressing room. Groom and Notshe’s teammate at the Stormers, Huw Jones, has been summoned to the Scotland national team for their summer tour of Japan. The Edinburgh-born centre scored the opening try in UCT’s legendary 2014 Varsity Cup final victory.

Former UCT flanker Don Armand is also poised to make his Test bow this summer (by northern hemisphere standards). Armand was called up for England after an excellent season with Premiership club Exeter. Armand followed up a nomination for the Premiership’s Player of the Season award by winning his club’s Supporters’ Player of the Season award for 2015/2016.

Groom, Notshe, Jones and Armand are just the latest in a stream of former Ikey Tigers to make the step up to rugby’s major leagues.

Ginormous Springbok lock Eben Etzebeth is a veteran of UCT’s Varsity Cup-winning 2011 side. That side was coached by Kevin Foote, who now coaches the defence at Super Rugby’s the Western Force in Perth. Foote’s colleague at the Force, Dave Wessels, also once coached at UCT.

One player Foote mentors at the Force is backline star Marcel Brache, whom he also coached to Varsity Cup victory at UCT. Former UCT players Chris Heiberg and Frans van Wyk also ply their trade for the Force.

Huw Jones and former Ikey star Dillyn Leyds are coached by former Ikey backline boss Robbie Fleck at the Stormers, while UCT’s first team is now coached by former Springbok hooker Hanyani Shimange.

Jones’ centre partner at the Stormers, Damian de Allende, also made his name in the Varsity Cup with UCT and, after a sterling debut season in Super Rugby, has become a mainstay for the Springboks.

### THE LIST IS LONG

Indeed, the list of current pro rugby players with UCT connections is a long one. From Khanyo Ngcukana, Tim



Scrumhalf Nic Groom, here about to offload in a ruck against Maties in 2014, is one of several former UCT rugby players that have been called up to their national squads for the upcoming round of Test series.

Whitehead, Kyle Whyte, Sti Sithole (on loan at the Southern Kings), Chad Solomon, Cullen Collopy and Luke Stringer at Western Province, to Stormers stars Nizaam Carr, Siya Kolisi, Scarra Ntubeni, Sikhumbuzo Notshe, Michael Willemsse, Oliver Kebble and Nic Groom. You may now breathe.

Around Mzansi, veteran loose forward Hilton Lobberts plays for the Cheetahs; Vince Jobo for the Valke; Shaun McDonald for Boland; Martin Muller, Ricky Schroeder and Jarryd Sage for the Lions; Neil Rautenbach for the Cheetahs and Griffons; and Marcelle Sampson for the Lions.

Champion fly half Demetri Catrakilis was lost to South African rugby but continues to represent with aplomb at French outfit Montpellier, while Michael Passaportis plays for ROC La Voulte-Valence.

North of the English Channel, Warren Seals plays for Division 1 side Mowden Park. He plays against the prodigiously talented Nick Koster, who runs out for

Bristol in the same league, and Nick Fenton-Wells at Bedford, whose boot drew much applause on the Green Mile.

UCT has not been shy about supplying Sevens players, either. The brilliant Mpho Mbiyozo now coaches the Boland U20 team, with raging loose forward Kyle Brown replacing him as Blitzbokke captain, where he plays alongside Dylan Sage.

On the less muddy side of the touchline, former UCT director of rugby John Dobson coaches Western Province in the Currie Cup, Alan Solomons coaches Edinburgh in the Scotland Pro 12, Matt Turner coaches the Sri Lanka 7s, and Gareth Wright coaches at the Western Province Rugby Institute as well as with the province’s U19 and U21 teams.

Dylan Rogers, Dayne Jans, Tiger Bax, Liam Slatem, Matt Rosslee and Nick Holton are all playing rugby in Hong Kong – some on professional and some on semi-professional contracts. Richard Stewart, who also scored in that final, and Mike Botha earn their keep playing professional rugby in Spain. 

## CONVOCATION MEDAL TO MTHATHA LAW DOYEN

Retired Mthatha attorney Mda Mda, who enrolled for a law degree at UCT in 1944, is this year's recipient of the President of Convocation Medal, awarded annually to an alumnus who has contributed to the common good.

STORY BY HELEN SWINGLER. PHOTO BY LULAMILE FENI.

### AT 92, MDA MDA HAS A MEMORY LIKE AN ELEPHANT.

He remembers the upset over Mussolini's 1935 invasion of Abyssinia, Africa's last 'free country,' as the year is still pegged in his mind.

He was a grade 7 pupil at Lovedale College (whose famous alumni include Steve Biko, ZK Matthews, Govan Mbeki, Tiyo Soga, Charles Nqakula and King Sobhuza II) and about to embark on the last phase of his schooling.

He'd had "the very good fortune" of being born to Simeon and Leah (nee Mzimba) in the rural village of Ncambedlana, near Mthatha – both good scholars and from whom he no doubt inherited his attentive and enquiring mind.

Mda matriculated from Lovedale in 1940 and recalls those formative years keenly, particularly a young English teacher who infused a love of history in the young Mda. He was deeply disappointed when she returned to Britain because of the war. "History was my special delight," he says.

In 1941 Mda signed up for a BA with majors in history and native administration at Fort Hare. The formality of university life surprised him; here he was called "Mr Mda," academic excellence was "number one," a residence curfew of 8pm was strictly enforced, and there was no intoxicating drink allowed. Neither was

there any politics on campus.

"I left Fort Hare politically illiterate," he says. But by the time Mda graduated in 1943, he had been afforded another gift: the discovery of books and the thrill of "delving deeply" into the library.

"I was particularly interested in imperialist and colonial laws."

### LEGAL ROUTES

However, the young Mda, who practised as an attorney for some 49 years, almost missed out on a legal career.

After graduating from Fort Hare he completed a diploma in education to become a teacher. But his father persuaded him to take up law instead.

To do so he travelled south to UCT and enrolled in the law faculty for an LLB degree in 1944.

But because of the length and structure of the degree and personal circumstances, he was unable to complete this qualification at UCT.

He was living in Langa at the time and classes were held at the old Union House in Queen Victoria Street in town. Travelling via tram and train had become a burden and he was also acutely aware of being a drain on his father's resources.

He later moved to student lodgings in District Six, hoping to study part-time while teaching in Langa.

"It was not easy," he says. "I had to write



home frequently for money. I felt it was selfish to take another degree."

And while he later persuaded a Fort Hare lecturer to allow him to do non-degree law courses through that institution, he realised his dream of becoming an advocate was vanishing.

Nonetheless, two years later Mda persuaded local Mthatha firm Gush Muggleston & Heathcore to take him on as an articled clerk. It was an unsatisfactory experience. He shared the 'native office' with an interpreter and a messenger.

"I had no access to the library and I was not taught anything."

But he did manage to pass articles. And so after six years Mda left the firm to start practising as an attorney in Mqanduli, a small town nearby.

If his route to law had been complicated, starting a practice was unnerving.

"I'd never been given a single case. I'd never been in a court, I'd never seen a Supreme Court summons and I had to pass the attorney's admission exams. I resorted to the library. And because of what I'd learnt in my time at UCT, I was able to pass that easily."

In his personal life things were changing

too. In 1954 Mda married Dorothy, a teacher in Mthatha, and they had five daughters and a son, the last-born.

### EARLY POLITICAL ALLIANCE

Although Mda had come out of Fort Hare politically illiterate, one of the pivotal events in the early years of his career was his involvement in 1944 in the Non-European Unity Movement (NEUM). The development was to shape his thinking,

the notion of different human races and African 'inferiority' propounded under apartheid. The movement was also committed to non-collaboration with the apartheid government.

In fact, NEUM's ten-point programme preceded the ANC's Freedom Charter by 12 years.

"Many believed the Freedom Charter was an imitation of the ten-point programme," said Mda.

“I'd like our youth to be more serious. There is so much that needs to be done in South Africa because of the legacy of the past. It behoves us to do a lot of cleaning up of the Augean Stables of apartheid.”

political beliefs and actions.

Chroniclers of South African history have perhaps consigned the NEUM, which had been launched in 1943, to a dusty shelf in the annals. Made up of members who were teachers, writers, and intellectuals, the NEUM made a significant, if not forgotten, contribution to the country's liberation struggle.

It was the first organisation in South Africa to adopt non-racialism, rejecting

The movement had put out a declaration after the first Nationalist government was voted in: "It was something like: 'We, the people of Transkei reject the nefarious policy of apartheid,'" he says. "There were no dissensions. We spoke with one voice.

"We had decided that the government must be told that we in the Transkei rejected this policy. We sent delegates to Pretoria as representatives of the Native Representative Council. Pretoria was

shocked at these tame and compliant natives of the Transkei delivering this ultimatum."

But the ultimatum had other consequences. It was the start, says Mda, of a "new breed of civil servants" – information officers appointed to be part of the propaganda machine.

### LIFE AFTER LAW

Mda's long legal career was centred on criminal and native law. He practised as an attorney until his retirement in 2001. But even at 92, he remains active in the law fraternity as an advisor and mentor and a well-respected member of his community.

"I've become an armchair theorist and critic," he quips, preferring instead the rewards of keeping cattle and growing vegetables at the home he shares with his daughter near Mthatha.

"This Xhosa boy likes cattle and the garden," he says, lamenting the scarcity of rain in the Eastern Cape. This morning, the heat has driven him indoors.

Given his many years, Mda is philosophical: "The heart wants to do these things, but where is the strength?"

Now in his mid-nineties, love of books ("With my books, I never experienced solitude") has accompanied him tenderly into his latter years, "though I received so many on my 90th birthday, I'm still trying to get through them all!"

At the time of our interview he was looking forward to returning to UCT during the December 2015 graduation and reviving old memories, during graduation season (truncated after the rescheduling of exams following a gritty period of student protest) a time of victory and celebration.

But Mda has a message for the students. "I'd like our youth to be more serious. There is so much that needs to be done in South Africa because of the legacy of the past. It behoves us to do a lot of cleaning up of the Augean Stables of apartheid.

"And there is much to be done to recover the lost years. It's a heavy burden for this generation."

He pauses to reflect.

"Everything is upside down." ■

### DID YOU KNOW?

UCT's current President of Convocation is Professor Barney Pityana. Professor Pityana succeeded Ms Mary Burton, who served in the role from 2011 to the end of 2014.



David Barnes has donated R25 million to the Neurosciences Institute at UCT and Groote Schuur Hospital

## THE GIFT OF MODERN NEUROSURGERY

When UCT alumnus David Barnes first lost his sense of smell, he had little idea of the life journey on which it would take him – culminating in his R25-million donation to the Neurosciences Initiative at UCT and Groote Schuur Hospital.

Barnes first realised he had lost his sense of smell when he went to buy perfume for his wife, Ursel. It took much encouragement from his wife and a few more worrying symptoms, such as hearing loss, before he went to visit a doctor. He was referred to an ear, nose and throat specialist who sent him to a neurologist.

Brain scans revealed that Barnes had a tumour, about the size of a small cricket ball, in the front of his brain. After researching various treatment options, the family opted for minimally invasive brain surgery. With the aid of an endoscope, the tumour was removed through a small incision in his eyebrow that required two sutures and four days in hospital – a triumph of modern neurosurgery.

Brain tumours are not the only neurological threat facing humankind. According to the World Health Organisation, 150-million people worldwide suffer from depression; 90 million are affected by alcohol abuse; 50 million suffer from epilepsy and a growing number are affected by diseases of aging and neurological degenerative disorders.

It was in recognition of this, and out

of gratitude for getting his life back, that Barnes donated R25 million to the Neurosciences Institute at UCT and Groote Schuur Hospital, the first in Africa.

The Neurosciences Institute was launched on 23 March 2015 and will bring together clinicians and researchers from a wide range of specialities to foster collaboration in the treatment of a number of neurological disorders, including strokes, central nervous system infections and trauma, among others.

“Up to now,” says UCT’s Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price, “the vast majority of research into the brain and the neurological system has focused on the Western world: populations that are largely educated, industrialised, democratic and with the economic resources to seek diagnosis and treatment of neurological disorders. Yet the majority of people who suffer from common mental and neurological disorders live in low- and middle-income countries. This points

to a critical shortfall in research that is relevant to these populations: more than 95% of research publications in the area of psychiatry, for example, are from high-income countries.”

The Neurosciences Institute is intended to make great strides towards remedying this. “It will focus both on increased access to care and treatment as well as transforming research and teaching in the neurosciences in Africa,” says Professor Graham Fieggen, head of neurosurgery and project leader of the Neurosciences Institute.

“It will draw together an array of expertise in neurosurgery, neurology, neuropsychology, neuropsychiatry and neuroimaging. It will also partner with other disciplines such as engineering, the arts and disability studies, creating a facility where patients can access the highest quality of care and the most cutting-edge treatment options.”

The launch of the Neurosciences Institute coincided with a visit by the University of Oxford – fortuitously, given that one of the strongest collaborations already taking place within the field of neurosciences is with researchers at the University of Oxford. Professor of neuroscience and co-director of the Oxford Centre for Neuromuscular Science Matthew Wood is not just an honorary professor at UCT, but also a UCT alumnus – and will be working with Prof Graham Fieggen to strengthen existing and develop new collaborations between the two universities in the neurosciences.

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ORGANISATIONS THAT HAVE MADE GIFTS TO UCT TOTALLING BETWEEN R1 MILLION AND RIO MILLION.

The A & M Pevsner Charitable Trust • The Aaron Beare Foundation • Abax Foundation • Abe Bailey Trust • Actuarial Society Development Trust • Actuarial Society of South Africa • AECI Ltd • Allan Gray Orbis Foundation • Anglo American Platinum Ltd • Anglo American South Africa Ltd • Anglo Operations Ltd - Anglo Corporate Division • AngloGold Ashanti Fund • AngloGold Ashanti Ltd • The Atlantic Philanthropies (Ireland) Limited • Attorneys Fidelity Fund • Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd • The Beit Trust • BHP Billiton Development Trust • BirdLife South Africa • BM Raff Will Trust • BoE Corporate, Cape Town • Boehringer Ingelheim (Pty) Ltd • Bokomo Foods • The Boston Consulting Group (Pty) Ltd • BP Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd • The Breadsticks Foundation • British American Tobacco South Africa • British Council, Cape Town • Cape Gate (Pty) Ltd, Cape Town • Cape Gate (Pty) Ltd, Vanderbijlpark • Capebridge Trust Company (Pty) Ltd • The Carl and Emily Fuchs Foundation • Charles Stewart Mott Foundation • The Children's Hospital Trust • CHK Charities Ltd • The Chris Barnard Trust Fund • The Coca-Cola Foundation, Inc • Daimler Fonds - Deutsches Stiftungs-Zentrum • Daphne Cockwell Family • The Davis Foundation • De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd • De Beers Fund Educational Trust • Department for International Development (DFID), Southern Africa • Department of Economic Development and Tourism • Department of Health (Western Cape) • The Desmond Tutu Educational Trust • Die Rupert-Musiekstigting • Discovery Fund • The Doris Crossley Foundation • Dow Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd • Dr Stanley Batchelor Bursary Trust • Dr. Leopold und Carmen Ellinger Stiftung • Edgars Consolidated Stores Ltd • Edwards Lifesciences (Pty) Ltd • E.J. Lombardi Trust • Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung • Elsevier Foundation • Embassy of People's Republic of China • Eranda Foundation • Ernest E and Brendalyn Stempel Foundation • Eskom, Brackenfell • Eskom, George • Fetzer Institute • FirstRand Bank Limited • The FirstRand Foundation • The Foschini Group CSI • The Foschini Group Ltd • The Gabriel Foundation • Garden Cities Inc • The Gatsby Charitable Foundation • Gensec Bank Ltd • GlaxoSmithKline plc • Gold Fields Foundation • Goldman Sachs Charitable Fund • Goldman Sachs Foundation • Government of Flanders • Guy Elliott Medical Research Trust • Haw & Inglis (Pty) Ltd • HBD Business Holdings • HCI Foundation • The Hermann Ohlthaver Trust • Hope for Depression Research Foundation • HR Hill Residuary Trust • HSBC Investment Services Africa (Pty) Ltd • Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation • The IFAC-Handa Endowment Fund • Impala Community Development Trust (ICDT) • International Bank for Reconstruction and Development • International Bar Association Charitable Trust • International Development Research Centre • Investec Limited • Janssen Pharmaceutica (Pty) Ltd • Joan St Leger Lindbergh Charitable Trust • The John D & Catherine T MacArthur Foundation • The John Davidson Educational Trust • The John Ellerman Foundation • Johnson & Johnson (USA) • Johnson Matthey plc • The Joint Primary Health Care Programme • JPMorgan Chase South African Trust Foundation • JRS Biodiversity Foundation • Julian Baring Scholarship Fund • The Justin and Elsa Schaffer Family

UCT Scholarship Trust • Kangra Group (Pty) Ltd • Kaplan Kushlick Educational Foundation • Karl Storz GmbH & Co KG • KPMG, Johannesburg • The Leanore Zara Kaplan Will Trust • LEGO Foundation • The Leverhulme Trust • The Lewis Foundation • Life Healthcare Foundation • Lily & Ernst Hausmann Research Trust • Linbury Trust • Link-SA Fund • The Little Tew Charitable Trust • Lonmin Management Services • The MAC AIDS Fund • Macsteel Service Centres SA (Pty) Ltd • Mai Family Foundation • The Maize Trust • MariaMarina Foundation • Mary Slack & Daughters Foundation • The Maurice Hatter Foundation • Medical Education for South African Blacks • Medicor Foundation • Medtronic Foundation • The Merck Company Foundation • Millennium Trust • Misys Charitable Foundation • Mota Engil Construction South Africa (Pty) Ltd • MTU South Africa • National Arts Council of South Africa • National Bioproducts Institute • Nedbank Foundation • Nestlé (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd • New Settlers Foundation • NM Rothschild & Sons Ltd • Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation • Novo Nordisk (Pty) Ltd • The Nuffield Foundation • Old Mutual Foundation (South Africa) • Old Mutual South Africa • Open Society Foundation for South Africa • Open Society Institute (OSI) • The Oppenheimer Memorial Trust • The Ove Arup Foundation • PA Don Scholarship Trust • Pearson Plc • Percy Fox Foundation • PF Charitable Trust • The Philip Schock Charitable & Educational Foundation • Public Accountants' & Auditors' Board • Radda Barnen • The Rand Merchant Bank Fund • Rand Merchant Bank Holdings Ltd • Rangoonwala Foundation • Retina South Africa • Rio Tinto Plc • Robert Bosch Stiftung • Roche Products (Pty) Ltd • Roche Products (Pty) Ltd - Diagnostics • Roche Products Limited, UK • Rockefeller Brothers Fund • The Rolf-Stephan Nussbaum Foundation • Rosalie van der Gucht Will Trust • Royal Norwegian Embassy • Ruth and Anita Wise Charitable and Educational Trust • SABMiller, Africa and Asia • Sanlam Ltd • Sasol Ltd • The Sasol Social and Community Trust • Saville Educational Foundation • The Saville Foundation • The Schroder Foundation • SCHWAB Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship • Sir Siegmund Warburg's Voluntary Settlement • South African Institute of Chartered Accountants • South African Norway Tertiary Education Development Programme • South African Penguins • South African Responsible Gambling Foundation • Southern African Music Rights Organisation • The Starr Foundation • The Stella & Paul Loewenstein Educational and Charitable Trust • Stevenson Family Charitable Trust • Swiss-South African Co-Operation Initiative • Telkom SA Ltd • Thabo Mbeki Education Trust • Tides Foundation • Tshemba Charitable Foundation NPC • Tullow Oil South Africa (Pty) Ltd • UCT Fund Inc (New York) • United Therapeutics Corporation • Upstream Training Trust • Vodacom (Pty) Ltd • The Vodafone Group Foundation • Wallace Global Fund • Welton Foundation • Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Inc • Western Platinum Ltd • The Wilfred Cooper Trust • William Henry Cockwell Family • Wyeth SA (Pty) Ltd • Xstrata South Africa (Pty) Ltd • The Zamani African Cultural Heritage Sites and Landscapes Foundation

## ••• *Friends of UCT – organisations* •••

2382 ORGANISATIONS THAT HAVE MADE GIFTS TO UCT, TOTALLING UNDER R1 MILLION.

## INDIVIDUALS

## ••• *Chancellor's Circle* •••

INDIVIDUALS WHOSE GIFTS TO UCT OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD HAVE AMOUNTED TO OVER R500,000

Bruce and Serena Ackerman • Oludolapo Akinkugbe CON • Justin Baring • David and Ursel Barnes • Klaus-Jürgen Bathe • American author, T. Lee Baumann • Franklin Berman KCMG QC • Anthony H Bloom • Roelof Botha • Nick Boydell • Johan and Monika Brink • Malcolm and Marjorie Brown • Charles Edward Carter • Nick Criticos • Elgin and Rosemary Curry • Theophilus Danjuma GCON • Mick and Barbara Davis • Kevin Dillon • George Ellis • Georgina Enthoven • Ian and Gillian Falconer • Jill Farrant • Meyer Feldberg • John and Anne Field • Bill Frankel OBE • Ernest Fullagar • Bill Gild • Richard and Kara Gnodde • John Graham • John Grieve • Pauline Groves • Philipp Gutsche • Selwyn Haas • Raymond Haas • Charlotte Heber-Percy • Hugh Herman • Neville Isdell • Elizabeth and Rod Jack • William and Yvonne Jacobson • Christopher and Jeanne Jennings • Johannes Jordaan • Alasdair

Jonathan Kemsley-Pein • Robert Knutzen • Paul Kumleben • Brett and Jo Lankester • Gary Lubner • Peter Maggs • Vincent Mai • Charles McGregor • Noel McIntosh and family • Jim and Marilyn McNamara • Tim and Marilyn Noakes • Trevor Norwitz • Jennifer and Jonathan Oppenheimer • Kate Owen • Simon Palley • Shafik Parker • Alasdair and Eve Pein • David and Elaine Potter CBE • Max Price and Debora Posel • Patrick Quirk • Ben Rabinowitz • Derek and Inks Raphael • Trevor Reid • Mary May Robertson • Simon Robertson • Patrik Sandin • Duncan Saville • Guy Shutt • James Simmons • Brendalyn Stempel • Georgina Stevens • Hugh & Lady Stevenson • Alan Stewart • Grant and Sarah Stubbs • Ben Surdud • Sibylla and Bruce Tindale • Blaine John Tomlinson • Stephen and Chantry Westwell • Christo Wiese • Russel Zimmerman

## ••• *Vice-Chancellor's Circle* •••

INDIVIDUALS WHOSE GIFTS TO UCT OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD HAVE AMOUNTED TO BETWEEN R250,000 AND R500,000

Helmut Amos • Brian Anziska • Robin Barnett-Harris • Sean Baumann • Helen Beach • Charlyn Belluzo • Robert Berman • Henry and Marcia Blumberg • Marthinus Botha • Charles Carter • Stewart Cohen • Louis De Waal • Janette Deacon • Keertan Dheda • Alan Drabkin • Colin Dutkiewicz • Judith Favish • Sheila Frater • David Gibson • John Gurney • Eric Hassall • Michael Hayden • Peter Hope • Craig Howie • Sir Chips Keswick • Bruce and Suzie Kovner • Michael Levett • Michael Levy • Donald MacRobert • Clive McIntyre • Irene Menell • Jan Minners • Craig Mullett and

family • Simon Nicks • Keith Oates • Nicholas Oppenheimer • Hawa Patel • Flora Pedler • Anthony Rademeyer • Mamphele Ramphela • Mark Raphaely • Adam Raphaely • Liam and Penny Ratcliffe • Delise Reich • Katharine Robertson • David Rockefeller Jr. • Nick Roditi • Werner and Violanta Rüedy-Werren • Alistair Ruiters • Kier Schuringa • Shirley and Hymie Shwiel • Aristides Sitas • Mugsy Spiegel • Margaret Stanford • Clare Stannard • Colin Tebbutt • Les Underhill • Johannes van Zyl • David Watson • Tiger Wessels • Ian Yudelman

## ••• *Dean's Circle* •••

INDIVIDUALS WHOSE GIFTS TO UCT OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD HAVE AMOUNTED TO BETWEEN R100,000 AND R250,000

Bruce Keith Adams • Beverley Adriaans • Mark and Lynette Alexander • Michael and Agnes Alexander Family • Hugh Amoore • Bob Bishop • Marcus Bowman • Neil Braude • Walter Braude • Stanley Braude • Donald Jamieson Buchanan • Geoff Burton • Yasmin Carrim • Francois Cilliers • Ian Clark • Beric Croome • Michael Darlison • Ezra Davids • Jim Davidson • Bryan Davies • Rodney Dawson • Elmarie de Bruin • Marion Dixon • Prashila Dullabh • Sakhi Dumakude • Martin Epstein • Ian Farlam • Arthur Forman • Robert Forman • Christoph Fröhlich • Isabel Goodman • Siamon Gordon • Suzanne Mary Hall • Nigel and Lila Harvey • Ruth

Horner-Mibashan • Georgina Jaffee • Kenneth Downton Jones • Geoffrey Kaye • William J Kentridge • Rochelle Le Roux • Thomas Leiden • Hugh Livingstone • Timothy Mathews • Mary Mattholie • Malcolm McCallum • William Michell • Mutle Mogase • Nicolene Nel • David Nurek • Gerald Norman Nurick • Lyn Phelps • Bruce Royan • Hannah-Reeve Sanders • Steve Schach • Christoph and Renate Schmocker • Mark Shuttleworth • Crain Soudien • Sara Spiegel • David Strong • Jenny Thomson • Martin Tooke • Stephen Townsend • Karen Van Heerden • Michael Westwood • Jacob Daniel Wiese • Paul Willcox • Rob Williams • Derek Yach

## ••• Friends of UCT – individuals •••

2850 INDIVIDUALS WHOSE GIFTS TO UCT OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD HAVE AMOUNTED TO UNDER R100,000

## ••• Estates Late •••

INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEQUEATHED A LEGACY GIFT TO UCT IN THEIR WILLS OVER LAST 10 YEARS

Niel Ackerman • PA Ackerman Will Trust • Harry Allschwang • Linda Doreen Beckett • Anne Alida Bomford • Simon Bor • CLF Borckenhagen • AM Botha • DI Chilton • Phillip Alexander Clancey • David Graham Cunningham • Joyce Irene Ivy Cupido • Ilse Margaret Dall • EIGT Danziger • Pauline de la Motte Hall • MBM Denny • CW Eglin • M Eilenberg Trust • Elsabe Carmen Einhorn • Derek Stuart Franklin • Sybil Elizabeth Laura Gauntlett • Pamela Marcia Glass • Victor Glasstone • BA Goldman • BJN Greig • RB Grosse • GN Hayward • Alfred Harold Honikman • ML Hutt • Carolina Rebeca Iljon • Vera Jaffe • Colin Kaplan • John E. Karlin • Miriam Kluk • Ann Kreitzer • Elias Bertrand Levenstein • Myer Levy • J Melrose • Walter Middelmann • IM Monk • RM Moss • Margaret Alice Nash • Elizabeth Ethel Barbara Parker • RC Pead • AH Peires • Esme Wedderburn Quilley • Jacob Wolf Rabkin Trust • Kevin Rochford • Hajee Sulaiman ShahMahomed • BG Shapiro • Ian Trevor Berry Smith • Rolf Richard Spiegel • RM Stegen • AM Stephen • Clifford Herbert Stroude Trust

THE LEGACY SOCIETY INCLUDES A FURTHER 287 INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE PROMISED TO BEQUEATH A GIFT TO UCT IN THEIR WILLS.

## ••• Thank You •••

As of January 2015, the levels of individual donors' giving circles have changed as follows: Chancellor's circle: formerly R250 000+, now R500 000+; Vice-Chancellor's Circle: formerly R100 000 – R250 000, now R250 000 – R500 000; Dean's circle: formerly R60 000 – R100 000, now R100 000 – R250 000; Friends of UCT: formerly <R60,000, now <R100,000. Please note that these changes only affect donations received after 1 January 2015. All donors who were members of particular circles prior to January 2015, will continue to be recognised in their original circles, until the rolling five-year giving period has elapsed.

We apologize for any omissions or errors. If you would like to query your donations totals, circle membership, or any other matter related to your gifts to UCT, please email [giving@uct.ac.za](mailto:giving@uct.ac.za). A full list of UCT donors is also available at [www.uct.ac.za/dad/giving/donor\\_recognition](http://www.uct.ac.za/dad/giving/donor_recognition).

## A NEW TRADITION - CELEBRATING OUR "GOLDEN GRADS"

In 2014 UCT piloted the "Golden Graduation" programme, where all members of the class celebrating the 50 year anniversary of their graduation are invited to participate as honoured guests during the University's December graduation program. The success of the 2014 and 2015 Golden Graduations has enabled us to make this an annual event. Participants join in the academic procession, wearing academic gowns and "golden grad" scarves, before being seated on the podium for the duration of the ceremony. Following this, golden graduates join the Vice-Chancellor and the Deans of the faculties for lunch, before going on a campus tour.

Here are some of the comments from those who have attended previous Golden Graduations:

"I have to say that the UCT organisers went out of their way to make the day special for us and we were feted by them at many stages of the day's events – I certainly felt honoured and very privileged to be there."

"Our Golden Graduation was very nostalgic and never to be forgotten. We were all made to feel welcome and important, and I thank the Vice-Chancellor and all concerned."

"We both thoroughly enjoyed it and it was inspiring to be back in Jameson Hall 'graduating again' and also to participate in the modernized proceedings which were appropriately celebratory."

"We really appreciated Dr Price squeezing in a personal visit to each luncheon table for a brief but insightful chat, which in our case included the reason for not featuring the traditional *Gaudeamus Igitur*



The class of 1965 celebrating their Golden Graduation in December 2015 – commemorating 50 years since they graduated from UCT.

at the end of proceedings. I will do my best to continue to support EBE as long as they feel that I can make a meaningful contribution."

"Thank you for arranging such a memorable Golden Graduation. A very special experience, and thank you again"

"We were particularly impressed by the kindness and consideration in the manner in which they conducted themselves. A special thanks to Dr. Ally for going out of his way to drive us back to our car.

This year, to celebrate the 50 year anniversary of the class of 1966, Golden Graduation will take place on Monday, 19 December 2016. To indicate your interest in attending the 2016 Golden Graduation, please email [alumni@uct.ac.za](mailto:alumni@uct.ac.za).

## MESSAGE FROM UCT LEGACY SOCIETY PRESIDENT:



In June 2016, UCT conferred an honorary doctorate on Emeritus Professor Francis Wilson at the Faculty of Commerce's graduation ceremony where he delivered a powerful address on South Africa's economic history and future. Visit [www.uct.ac.za/dailynews/?id=9795](http://www.uct.ac.za/dailynews/?id=9795) for more.

The South African College out of which UCT grew was founded in 1829 before slavery was abolished in the Cape; a generation before the discovery of diamonds. University status was conferred on the SAC as the University of Cape Town in 1918, the year in which Nelson Mandela was born.

Round the corner, in 2018, comes the university's centenary; a few years after that the bi-centenary of its original founding as an institution of higher learning. Through these long turbulent years UCT has been part of the emerging fabric society of South Africa, transforming itself radically over time whilst always being home for many great teachers, scholars and students drawn from all over the sub-continent and the wider world. Like other great universities UCT is simultaneously strong and fragile. It needs all possible support from alumni, its family who grew up on its campus, as it moves forward into an increasingly complex world. The Legacy Society has been founded recently to strengthen that support through enrolling alumni who are committed to writing into their Wills the promise of part of the assets they leave behind. In recent years some R40 million has been promised in this way. Please join me in leaving a legacy gift that will ensure that your hard-earned assets will continue to benefit society for many decades to come.

**Emeritus Professor  
Francis Wilson**

# NOTES FROM OUR ALUMNI CHAPTERS

## TRANSFORMATION IN THE TIME OF RHODES MUST FALL

*A reflection by the UCT Association of Black Alumni's Western Cape Chapter. Written by Sabelo Mcinziba, Provincial Secretary, UCTABA Western Cape*

The University of Cape Town Association of Black Alumni (UCTABA) Western Cape Chapter reflects back on 2015 as an iconic year. This reflection is undoubtedly marked by the anniversary of the Rhodes Must Fall movement.

To think back to our own history as an organization, UCTABA started out of a recognition of the need for continuous work in advancing change at UCT in a number of areas: curricula, staff and student demographics, and financial and emotional support in navigating the institutional culture at UCT, which can be alienating to black students.

Having gone through similar struggles (in one way or another) during our time at UCT - we are moved with a great sense of pride

that RMF marks an era in student activism at UCT that sharply raised awareness of these issues, and in so doing, gained irreversible ground.

For its part, UCTABA continues to seek ways to best support black students in our growing programs such as the UCTABA Bursary Fund (which has supported black students since 2010), and the emerging Mentorship Programme to ease young graduates into the pressures of being a black professional in the working world.

We look to grow these programs to better support black students and recent graduates from UCT.

If you would like to receive communication from the UCTABA Western Cape Chapter, please indicate this by emailing [sabelo.mcinziba@gmail.com](mailto:sabelo.mcinziba@gmail.com).



UCT currently has alumni chapters in the following regions:

Cape Town  
Johannesburg  
Port Elizabeth  
Botswana  
New Zealand  
Zurich, Switzerland

and will shortly be launching a chapter in Durban.

Don't see a chapter in your region yet? Why not start one?

Email Lungile Jacobs, Head of Alumni Relations, at [lungile.jacobs@uct.ac.za](mailto:lungile.jacobs@uct.ac.za) to find out more.



## STATEMENT FROM THE UCT ZÜRICH ALUMNI CHAPTER

"We have been closely following the events at UCT and on South African university campuses in general over the past few weeks, both with a mixture of alarm at the extent of the protests and great deal of concern over the potential for further disruptions or violence, particularly during the exam period. However, the general feeling has been a sense of awe at the extent of UCT Leadership's energy and its ability to contain and defuse potentially

volatile situations with a broad range of groups. I think we speak with one voice in saying that protests, discussions and debates about the future of UCT cannot take place in a climate where there are any sort of threats, intimidation or violence and that it is heartening to see [a culture of open debate] blossoming at UCT in the face of provocation by a small minority. We also feel that while the student protests have highlighted the dire need for extensive reform

of the student funding situation, less has been said about the magnificent efforts UCT has already achieved in meeting the needs of poorer students while facing unprecedented levels of financial stress and threats to university autonomy. To this purpose we hope to keep up the ambassadorial work and send you warm greetings from Zürich."

**Rolf Kuhn, on behalf of the UCT Zürich Alumni Chapter**

## BOTSWANA ALUMNI CHAPTER

The Botswana Alumni Chapter for the University of Cape Town, is a volunteer society organized by young Botswana alumni, actively involved in an array of activities aimed at uniting and creating a platform for alumni in Botswana to network, share their UCT pride and forge long lasting business and personal relationships.

The Botswana alumni Chapter's agenda is to utilize the skills and expertise of alumni old and new to grow, enhance and maintain UCT presence in Botswana. The Botswana Chapter consists of an executive committee whose vision is "To be a progressive Alumni Chapter that empowers, elevates and leads Botswana to a better tomorrow"

The picture that accompanies this piece was taken at the 2015 AGM which was hosted by the South African High Commission in Gaborone, Botswana amongst other sponsors like Botswana Life Insurance and Kgalagadi Breweries Ltd, to name a few. This event acted as a catalyst for the incoming committee to show off their vision for the chapter. There was a distinct feeling at the AGM, a sense that it was definitely



2015 - 2017 Committee: (Left to right) Nametso Maikano (President), Boyang Mufahothe (Events Coordinator), Lungile Jacobs (UCT Alumni Head), Kamogelo Merafhe (Treasurer), Karabo Mathole (Vice President), Malebogo Rangel (Marketing Coordinator), Moyombuya Ngubula (Exec. Sec. Legal), Fredrick Webb (P.R.O), Lilebo Tibone (Records Officer), Eddie Babuseng (Advisor), Refilwe Modisi (Executive Secretary).

the start of something big, a testament that the Botswana UCT Chapter was led by a passionate young group of people who were driven by the previous committees theme for the year of "Being a change agent in society."

The chapter intends to organize an array of events which include:

- 5 min elevator pitch
- Social Outreach campaigns – Adopt a School, etc
- Recruitment summit
- Sponsorship Gala

In keeping to old and familiar UCT traditions, the Chapter has also started a networking evening simply termed "Lifestart Thursdays" which is an informal networking and socializing event held every Thursday at

the Falcon Crest Gaborone, where members enjoy discounted drinks but also get a chance to network and share.

The Botswana Alumni Chapter is at the forefront to bring together alumni of years past, together with recent and incoming alumni. This society is bound to create some major moves in representing and being the central liaison for UCT in Botswana; this Chapter is raising the UCT flag high and running with it.

Botswana alumni chapter contact details:  
e: [bacuctalumni@gmail.com](mailto:bacuctalumni@gmail.com),  
t: +267 310 4612/4560,  
P.R.O. Cell: +267 71 511 416

## NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand Chapter of the UCT Alumni Association has held two functions in Auckland since the last report about the Chapter appeared in the UCT Alumni News 2014/15.

In Dec 2014 UCT Alumni Prof Paddy Miller spoke to the 39 attendees about "Innovation as Usual" a subject he has become world-renowned for. He is currently Professor at the IESE Business School at its campuses in both Barcelona, Spain and Shanghai, China. The NZ Chapter also held its 2014 AGM during this function.

In Oct 2015 Prof Leyland Pitt, who lectured at UCT's GSB from 1989 to 2000 spoke to the 24 attendees at the NZ Chapter's function, bringing all up to date with "Wearable Technology Applications." This was based on research he is undertaking at the Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada where he is currently Professor of Marketing. He was visiting New Zealand to lecture at Canterbury University in Christchurch. The NZ Chapter also held its 2015 AGM during this function.

The NZ Chapter tries to be informed about significant happenings at UCT. The committee uses email, telephone and meetings to keep its members informed and to discuss issues. It directs UCT alumni



Pictured, from left: Linda Phillips (NZ Alumni Chapter Vice Chair), Judy Earles, Boschi Wang, Leyland Pitt, Geaff Brooke, Mike Courtney, Liz Sykes (NZ Alumni Chapter Secretary - Catering), Jan Evans.

living in New Zealand to the UCT website for information as well as using its own "University of Cape Town(UCT) Alumni in New Zealand" Facebook page for this purpose.

Concern was raised by alumni about the removal of the statue of Cecil Rhodes from the UCT main campus, and the actions of the student protesters and UCT's management during this time. They were concerned that the reputation of UCT as a leading university with high academic standards and research and with its values in upholding democracy and free speech was affected. They were also concerned that UCT's unique character and traditions as a Cape Town located university in the Western Cape was being damaged. There was greater

support by alumni for the student protests about the academic fees increase proposed for 2016, but not the violent action taken by some students against UCT Management when the protest should have been directed at the South African central government's funding of universities.

As Chair of the NZ Chapter I represented UCT along with fellow alumna Judy Eagleton, at alumnus Bob Molloy's Life Celebration on 5th June 2015 in Kerikeri, NZ, recounting that among his many achievements was the founding of the NZ Chapter of the UCT Alumni Association in the late 1980's, soon after he had moved to NZ. He had been a leading journalist at the Cape Times and had been the ghost writer of alumnus Prof. Chris Barnard's biography.



Members of the UCT Alumni Advisory Board. Back row, from left: Paki Zandile, Nametso Maikano, and Renfrew Christie. Front row: Lorna Houston and Dianna Yach (chair).

## A CALL TO ACTION - MESSAGE FROM THE UCT ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

Over the past few months the UCT Alumni Advisory Board has been meeting in unprecedented times of change. We believe that our students have given us a real opportunity to rethink UCT's purpose in this challenging environment. Students have awakened all of us to the need to rethink who we are, what we want to be and how we can move social justice from the margins to the mainstream of our mission.

In these turbulent times, the Vice Chancellor Dr Max Price and his leadership team have commendably navigated UCT into calmer waters. In the main, exams went ahead unhindered. There may have been some false starts in an extremely fluid situation, including images of negative police encounters with students on campus.

However, not everyone may have been aware that the leadership committed themselves to active engagement with key stakeholders over many days and nights – seeking to listen and learn before taking decisions. Some of these activities took place beyond the glare of publicity.

Unfortunately, many alumni may have been influenced heavily by the Cape Town media which appear to delight in reporting on negative developments at UCT rather than providing a factual perspective based on realities on the ground. The Alumni Advisory Board recognises that the leadership were walking a tightrope in an ever changing context, highly nuanced and complex.

Nevertheless, the Alumni Advisory Board believes that we must not allow ourselves to be trapped in the past. We need to consider future generations – what legacy do we want to leave our future leaders? We cannot claim to be a world class university if we do not honestly and boldly tackle the challenges facing Africa now and in the future. We recognise that being more actively engaged as critical friends will involve revisiting and helping to revitalise the effectiveness of UCT's transformation efforts to date. The AAB recognises that there will inevitably be disagreements along the way but all of us want to stay engaged – and we need to become better listeners.

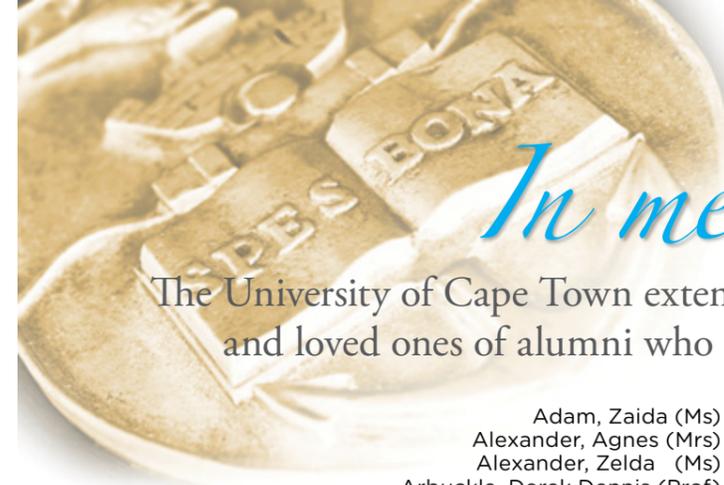
The alumni office has received many letters from alumni seeking information on developments at UCT, many welcoming the opportunity for open dialogue around

issues that have been under the radar for years, many asking how they could support students with scholarships and bursaries, some threatening to withhold funding, others disapproving of the activities of a minority of protesters who engaged in violent and destructive activities. Even where there may be differences of opinion, the AAB welcomes this strong interest and engagement – only through active engagement can we help to move our *alma mater* to the next level. 📧

### DID YOU KNOW?

Anyone who has completed at least one year toward a course of study at UCT is a member of the Alumni Association, and is eligible to nominate and vote for fellow members of the Association to serve on the Alumni Advisory Board. The Board is elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Alumni Association, which is held in December of each year.

Visit [www.uct.ac.za/dad/alumni](http://www.uct.ac.za/dad/alumni) for more.



## In memoriam

The University of Cape Town extends its condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of alumni who have passed away over the last year.

Adam, Zaida (Ms)  
Alexander, Agnes (Mrs)  
Alexander, Zelda (Ms)  
Arbuckle, Derek Dennis (Prof)  
Armist, Ronald (Mr)  
Baillie, John Bruce (Dr)  
Bain, Shelah May Sinclair (Mrs)  
Balchin, Keith John (Mr)  
Baron, Geoffrey Stephen (Dr)  
Behardien, Yasmin (Ms)  
Benjamin, Arthur David (Mr)  
Blacking, Paula (Mrs)  
Bottger, Walter Alfred (Mr)  
Bowker, Ronald John (Mr)  
Bramwell, Stewart (Mr)  
Brice, Trevor Edmund (Mr)  
Briscoe, John (Prof)  
Brook, Joy Ada (Mrs)  
Brown, Denis Robert Christopher (Dr)  
Burger, Bernardus Antonius (Mr)  
Burman, Sandra Beatrice (Em Prof)  
Chute, Robert Bryan (Dr)  
Cole, Jonathan Hugh (Mr)  
Conway-Cragg, John (Mr)  
Crompton, Allan (Jake) John (Mr)  
Davidson, Margaret Elizabeth (Mrs)  
De Villiers, Abraham Benjamin (Dr)  
Dell, Murray John (The Rev Dr)  
Elliott, Julian Arnold (Dr)  
Fitzgerald, Lynette Ann (Ms)  
Fourie, Melvin Johnith (Mr)  
Freemantle, Aubrey Charles (Dr)  
Furman, Geoffrey (Mr)  
Geldenhuys, Dirk Willem Hendrik (Mr)  
Gilinsky, Isaac (Mr)  
Godlonton, John D'Urban (Dr)  
Graham, Kenneth William Turner (Dr)  
Grant, Neil Hartington (Mr)  
Gunter, Petrus Albertus (Dr)  
Hansen, Denys Arthur (Dr)  
Helm, Brunhilde (Em Prof)  
Hoffman, Kate Eugenie (Ms)  
Hopkins, Ernest Beven (Mr)  
Hotz, Leonard Marcus (Mr)  
Hunt, Matthew Thomas Wiltshire (Mr)  
Israel, Hasday (Mr)  
Jeffery, Peter Colin (Dr)  
Kahn, Stanley Bernard (Mr)  
King, Edwin Leslie (The Hon Mr Justice)  
Kirby, Richard Conyers (Mr)  
Korck, Ivor Melvin (Mr)  
Krause, Milton Frederick (Assoc Prof)  
Lambrechts, Mathiam Stefanus Johannes (Mr)  
Latimer, Valerie Ellen (Mrs)  
Le Roux, Desmond Raubenheimer (Dr)  
Leask, Bruce Colmer (Mr)  
Lerner, Laurence David (Prof)  
Li Green, Jeffery (Dr)  
Lidovho, Mardocai Nange (Dr)  
Lindhorst, Mark William (Mr)  
Lipshitz, Jossel (Mr)  
Macata, Abednego (Mr)  
Madyo, Deon (Mr)  
Mandelbrote, Bertram Maurice (Dr)  
Manning, Patricia Anne Lane (Ms)  
Marais, Gerrit Van Rooyen (Em Prof)  
Marks, Charles (Dr)  
Maxwell, Juliet Lesley (Mrs)  
Mazwai, Konke (Mr)  
Mc Cumisky, Lorna Ann (Ms)  
McKenzie, Herbert Simon (Mr)  
Meltzer, Bertha (Mrs)  
Meyer, Genevieve Jocelyne (Ms)  
Meyer, Hedwig Alwine Henriette (Dr)  
Meyer, Raymond Henri (Mr)  
Minter, Pamela Enid (Mrs)  
Mitchell, Betty St clair (Mrs)  
Molloy, Robert (Mr)  
Mossop, Raymond Thomas (Dr)  
Mpambukeli, Manelisi Jonson (Mr)  
Newman, Raymond Carl (Dr)  
Nichol, John Robert (Mr)  
Norton, David Alan (Mr)  
Paulse, Lucille Denise (Ms)  
Poole, Conrad Henry (Mr)  
Prisman, Cyril Bernard (Mr)  
Purnell, Edna Mary (Mrs)  
Rabie, Monty (Mr)  
Reid, Darryl Adrian (Mr)  
Rennie, Stuart Howard (Mr)  
Rosenberg, Raymond Henry (Dr)  
Russell, David Patrick Hamilton (Bishop)  
Schmitt, Paul Waldemar (Mr)  
Shell, Robert Carl Heinz (Prof)  
Silberstein, Leonard Milton (Dr)  
Sinclair, David Stuart (Mr)  
Sleggs, Timothy Arthur (Mr)  
Smith, Mervyn Meyer (Mr)  
Smith, Philip Christopher (Mr)  
Spreckley, Christopher Stanley (Mr)  
Sussman, Harold Leonard (Dr)  
Tasker, Timothy Patrick Beaumont (Dr)  
Taylor, Jeremy Guy (Mr)  
Thomas, Edmund James Mclachlan (Mr)  
Thomas, Victor Clifford (Mr)  
Thukwana, Agnes Jabulile (Mrs)  
Toogood, Tony Humphrey (Mr)  
Tyers, Trevor John (Rev)  
Tyfield, Michael Jeremy Lewis (Mr)  
van den Ende, Joan Herold (Mrs)  
van Lennep, Bryony Hilda (Mrs)  
van Ryneveld, Elizabeth Ann (Mrs)  
van Wageningen, Gerhard (Dr)  
Volkwyn, Michael Theodore (Mr)  
Wadsworth, Wendy Alison (Mrs)  
Wenzelburger, Reinhard Klaus (Mr)  
West, Martin Elgar (Em Prof)  
Whaley, Ray Handley (Mrs)  
Wilkinson, David Robert McIntyre (Prof)  
Willis, Ireton Zeeman (Mr)  
Withers, Michael John (Mr)  
Wolman, Ellie Meyer (Dr)  
Wyner, Lesley Ann (Ms)

*We sincerely apologise for any errors or omissions.*

# ALUMNI AND DONOR EVENTS



**1.** Students and alumni from the UCT Opera School perform with Dr Haruhisha Handa at an event celebrating the launch of the IFAC-Handa endowment fund. **2.** Auditor General Kimi Makwetu (BSocSci, UCT) received a gift from the Gauteng alumni chapter after delivering a talk to alumni in Johannesburg. **3.** VC Max Price addressed alumni and donors at an event in Johannesburg in March 2016.

**4&5.** The FNB Varsity Cup alumni golf day is a favourite on the annual events calendar **6.** Dianna Yach - UCT council member and chair of the Alumni Advisory Board, with her husband Peter Bigelow, and Lungile Jacobs, Head of Alumni Relations at UCT. **7.** Mashiyane Mabunda, Karabo Sitto and Nikiwe Kaunda, all of the Gauteng alumni chapter. **8.** Elle Williams (Editor, UCT Alumni News) with Jennifer Herman at a performance of *Remembering the Lux* at the Baxter Theatre.



10. Mda Mda is introduced to the audience during December graduation. Mda received the 2015 President of convocation medal. 11. Dean of Humanities, Professor Sakhela Buhlungu (third from left), with members of the Gauteng alumni chapter. 12. The Development and Alumni Department hosted a screening of the documentary film “Ndiphilela Ukucula - I Live to Sing,” which won a New York Emmy Award. Pictured here is the award statuette.

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