



# GIVING@UCT

The University of Cape Town Donor Newsletter

VOLUME 9 | JAN 2022



## AGILE FUNDRAISING IN THE FACE OF COVID-19 AND THE UCT FIRE

I'm pleased to share this long-awaited edition of Giving@UCT with you. This publication provides highlights on different types of philanthropic giving to UCT. My sincere thanks goes to all our many regular donors as well as a large number of new donors who have recently become part of the UCT donor community.

I would also like to acknowledge the crucial roles played by the Vice-Chancellor and other members of the university's Leadership Lekgotla, as well as the many contributions by our excellent academic staff in support of the university's fundraising efforts.

Since the start of 2020, the world as we know it has changed for all of us. This edition addresses fundraising within the context of the two biggest game-changers that UCT has faced recently: COVID-19 and the UCT fire. Both of these have propelled our university into responding with speed and coordination, drawing on partnerships to build a web of support to continue with the academic programme and to further research, teaching and learning, and social engagement.

With the onset of the first lockdown in March 2020, UCT launched a COVID-19 Relief Fund to support the move to remote teaching and learning, as well as research-based innovations responding to the pandemic. We applaud the 450 donors who moved quickly to provide donations to this fund in 2020. In 2021, the ongoing support from a loyal group of funders has enabled us to continue to address prevention of the spread of COVID-19 within the university context.

UCT's focus shifted to include disaster response following the April 2021 fire that devastated key buildings on Upper and Middle Campus. This tragedy resulted in a massive outpouring of support for the university, including a significant number of donations. Reporting on donations income received following the UCT fire – contained within this publication – does not do justice to capturing the multi-layered and proactive generosity that the UCT community experienced from all quarters of the globe after the fire. This included a heartfelt response from our alumni communities in which our international offices operate, as well as particular alumni hubs across Africa. We are immensely grateful to have been held by this extended network of support during our recovery from this profound disaster.

In June 2021, the Development and Alumni Department (DAD) said goodbye to Dr Russell Ally, who had been Executive Director at DAD for nearly a decade. We are deeply thankful to him for his substantial role in cultivating strong partnerships for UCT within the broader philanthropic community; and wish him every success going forward.

I'd welcome your feedback on this publication, as well as your comments on what you would like to see in future editions. Please do email me at [sidney.vanheerden@uct.ac.za](mailto:sidney.vanheerden@uct.ac.za) if you'd like to share your input.

**SIDNEY VAN HEERDEN**  
Acting Executive Director  
DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI DEPARTMENT

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# 2019-2021

## OVERALL DONATIONS INCOME

Total donation income in 2021 was comparable with pre-COVID-19 levels in 2019

### TOTAL DONATIONS



2021 ▶ R428 558 326

2020 ▶ R770 099 762

2019 ▶ R411 224 953

**There was a significant increase in the number of donors to UCT over 2019-2021**

**Note:** \* Data relating to 2021 income is correct as at 17 January 2022, and is subject to final adjustments and external audit. \* The high level of donation income in 2020 is attributable to a single donation of R388.9 million from Atlantic Philanthropies for UCT's Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance.

### In 2021, UCT's top 10 donors contributed 45% of total donation income

Hasso Plattner Stiftung.....	<b>93 500 000</b>
Anonymous donor .....	<b>29 537 888</b>
The Bertha Foundation .....	<b>14 226 346</b>
Bank Sector Training and Education Authority.....	<b>10 680 529</b>
The ELMA Philanthropies Services Inc.....	<b>9 405 973</b>
The Raith Foundation .....	<b>8 608 318</b>
The Tambour Foundation .....	<b>7 500 000</b>
The Harry Crossley Foundation.....	<b>7 230 000</b>
Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority.....	<b>6 304 350</b>
Open Society Foundation for South Africa .....	<b>6 300 000</b>

## COVID-19 RELIEF FUND DONATIONS INCOME IN 2020 & 2021

COVID-19 Relief Fund donations were in excess of **R3.2M**



**450 donors** made contributions in 2020, while over 01-09.2021 136 donors supported the Fund.

The vast **majority** of these donations were **from individuals** who responded to UCT's call for support in 2020 and 2021.

Seven individuals, four trusts and foundations, and two corporate donors each gifted funding of R50 000 or more.

**Note:** Data reported here excludes large-scale donations for UCT's COVID-19 learning and teaching activities by funders such as the Michael and Susan Dell, the Motsepe and the Crossley Foundations, as well as donations in kind from a number of corporates.

# ALUMNI IN ACTION

STRENGTHENING  
UCT SUPPORT SERVICES FOR  
SURVIVORS OF GBV

“

This project speaks to our humanity. It speaks to us seeing someone in need and not leaving them behind.

Zellah Fuphe

UCT alumna and initiator of the Alumni in Action campaign

”

Zellah Fuphe (photo supplied)

UCT has not been left unscathed by the increase in GBV in South Africa over the past few years. In August 2019, UCT student Uyinene Mrwetyana (19) was raped and murdered in the Clareinch Post Office when she went to collect a parcel. The COVID-19 pandemic – and its accompanying series of national lockdowns – has further exacerbated the country’s GBV problem, with support structures and counselling services hampered due to financial strain and restrictions on movement.

In response to this strong need for mental health support and counselling for GBV survivors, UCT alumna Zellah Fuphe felt compelled to initiate the Alumni in Action programme. Alumni in Action aims to provide up to eight sessions of mental health support services to UCT students who have survived GBV. Fuphe provided initial funding of R120 000 towards the programme.

“Gender-based violence has many adverse consequences in our society: it can retard personal growth, destroy the dreams of survivors, and have

a negative impact on the country’s GDP. It can also have an adverse intergenerational impact,” said Fuphe.

## PRIVATE SECTOR PLEDGES SUPPORT

Corporate South Africa has pledged its support to Alumni in Action through financial donations, which are helping to expand the programme’s counselling service.

Among donations received are R200 000 from the Citadel Philanthropy Foundation, which will provide 333 counselling sessions for 42 GBV survivors. Further contributions include R10 000 a month from Eversheds Sutherland, which will help provide extended counselling sessions to at least 180 students who are survivors of GBV; and R100 000 from the Mauerberger Foundation Fund.

Citadel’s head of philanthropy, Jean de Villiers, said the foundation is passionate about causes that affect South African communities. “As a father and husband, this cause is close to my heart, and I believe that by taking a stand against GBV we will be able to break the cycle,” he said.

For an interview between Zellah Fuphe and Jean de Villiers see here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=etDPRXqTkU&t=61s>

# CROSSLEY FOUNDATIONS

## MAKING A RAPID DECISION TO SUPPORT UCT STUDENTS THROUGH COVID-19

With recent changes to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) – the state student bursary scheme – the Crossley Foundations have stepped in to assist undergraduates who do not qualify for NSFAS support. They also work with UCT to provide access to postgraduate funding; and support research programmes such as the Harry Crossley Children’s Nursing Development Unit, the African Paediatric Fellowship Programme and the Perinatal Mental Health Programme. They have a funding partnership with the Red Cross Children’s Hospital – a training hospital for UCT.

Funding needs on the ground changed with the onset of COVID-19. Whitfield says, “The focus for [our] newly released funds was food insecurity, which we knew would go hand-in-glove with schools, universities and workplaces being closed. We were also acutely aware of the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE).” At UCT, a grant was made available to support students experiencing food insecurity. A second grant allowed for the development of PPE and ventilator initiatives.

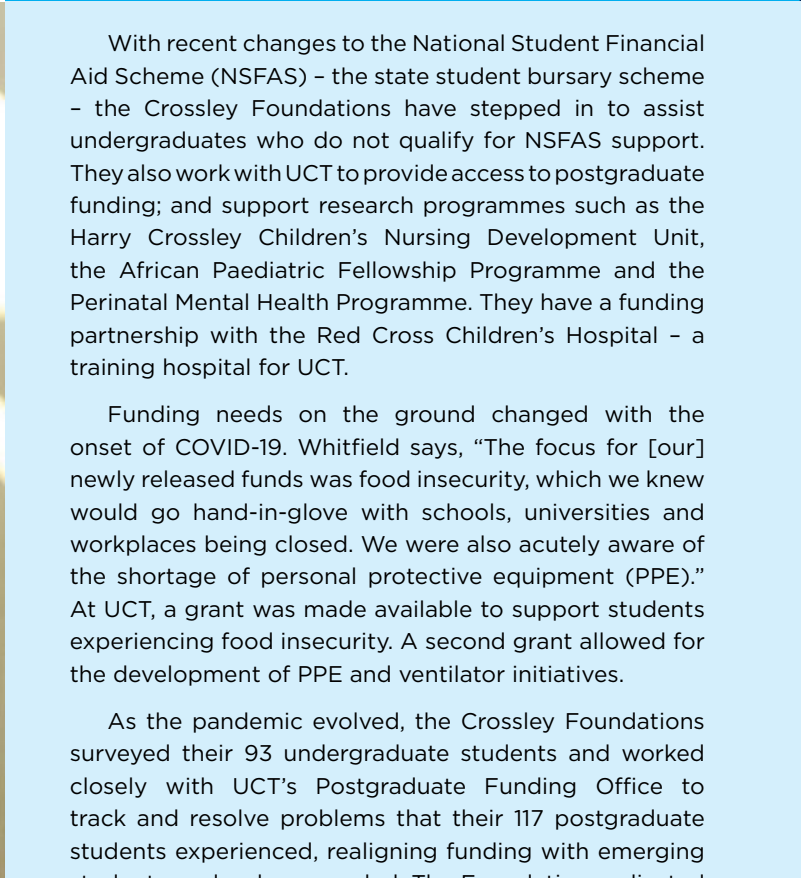
As the pandemic evolved, the Crossley Foundations surveyed their 93 undergraduate students and worked closely with UCT’s Postgraduate Funding Office to track and resolve problems that their 117 postgraduate students experienced, realigning funding with emerging student needs where needed. The Foundations adjusted projected completion dates for a number of postgraduate students whose studies were significantly disrupted.

Harry and Doris Crossley, who moved to South Africa in the 1950s, have left a combined legacy that has supported hundreds of graduates and research projects over the past half-century. The Foundations’ quick response to the COVID-19 crisis is a demonstration of how these two individuals’ generosity continues to positively impact students at UCT through the foundations established in their names.

2020 began as normal for the Harry and Doris Crossley Foundations as they readied themselves for the start of another year supporting university students. However, when COVID-19 became a global reality and the announcement of a South African lockdown was imminent in March last year, the Foundations’ trustees met and made the decision to bolster UCT’s response to the pandemic with additional funding.

Linda Whitfield, a trustee for both Foundations, reports that their Board of Trustees made some brave decisions at that early meeting: “The Trustees immediately released R10 million, over and above the annual disbursement – and earmarked entirely to meet the crisis head-on.”

The Foundations are the legacy of Harry and Doris Crossley, who gifted the bulk of their independent estates to fund tertiary education and research. Harry and Doris both left school in their early teens but recognised the impact of education and wanted to help others attain post-school education. Over the past 50 years, the Foundations have granted approximately R130 million through bursary programmes for undergraduate and postgraduate students at UCT.

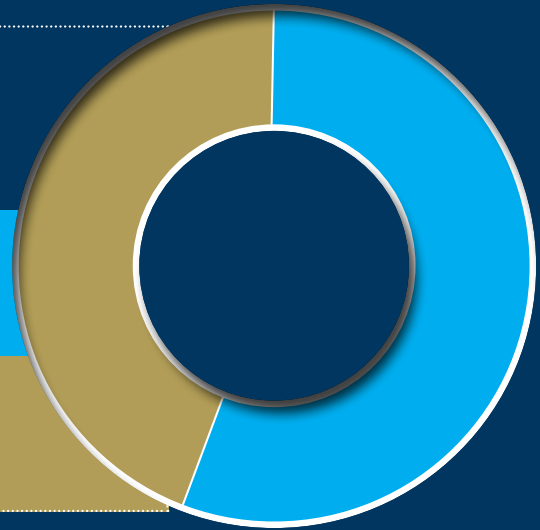


# UCT FIRE FUND DONATIONS

**R36.8M**  
IN DONATIONS FOR UCT FIRE

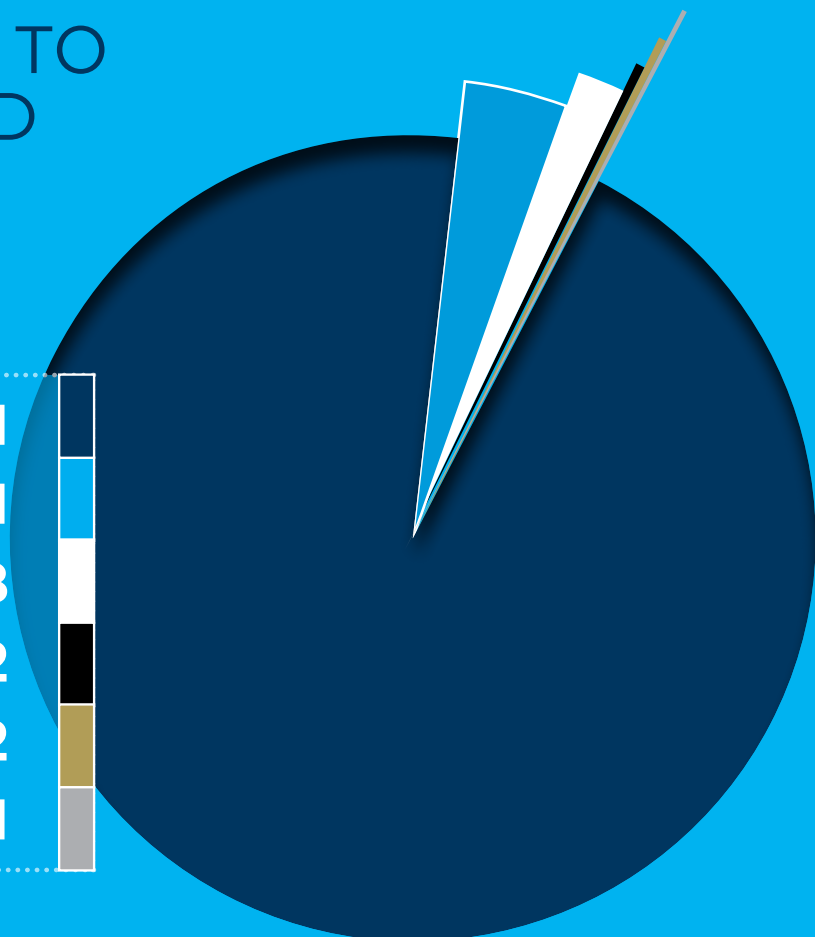
FUNDS RECEIVED  
**R20 455 626**

FUNDS PLEDGED  
**R16 300 000**



## 1071 INDIVIDUALS MADE DONATIONS TO THE UCT FIRE FUND

INDIVIDUALS **1071**  
CORPORATES **41**  
TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS **18**  
EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS **2**  
RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS **2**  
EMBASSIES **1**



# NATIONAL LOTTERIES COMMISSION SUPPORTS STUDENTS' WELLBEING AFTER UCT FIRE

**In May 2021, the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) donated R4 million to UCT after a fire gutted the Jagger Reading Room and damaged other buildings on campus. The NLC's donation has supported UCT's Department of Student Affairs (DSA) that provides holistic healthcare services and food security for students.**

The past two years have seen unprecedented challenges to UCT students' mental and physical wellbeing. The fire came amidst the COVID-19 pandemic; and followed UCT's rollout of emergency remote learning from March 2020. During 2020, some students reported struggling with depression, anxiety, bereavement and other mental health issues due to isolation from networks of support, rapid shifts in their learning environments, and severe illness or death of family members during the lockdown period. Without dedicated study spaces and faced with the added burden of having to engage in domestic duties and care for family members, some students experienced great challenges in adapting to online study programmes.

These same students had only been resident back at UCT for just over two months in 2021 when they experienced the life-threatening emergency caused by the fire, uprooting 4 000 of them with immediate effect from their rooms in residences, separating them from their personal belongings, and bringing the academic programme to a halt for a fortnight – all of this within an environment in which access to the COVID-19 vaccine was not yet a possibility and in which there was still enormous risk of COVID-19 transmission. Many students who had been relocated to emergency housing due to the fire felt lonely and overwhelmed having to adjust to the sudden disruption of being away from campus again; and reached out to the DSA for support.

While peer counsellors have recorded more than 700 sessions since the start of the pandemic, there was a marked spike in requests for appointments following the fire in April 2021 – so much so that the capacity of the Student Wellness Services (SWS) of the DSA was just too small to meet students' needs. Dr Memory Muturiki, Director of the SWS, says, "The grant from the National Lotteries has made it possible for the SWS to train and appoint several more peer counsellors to reach more students during this challenging year."

The SWS has always provided a 24 hour telephonic counselling hotline in collaboration with the South African Depression and Anxiety Group. With the funding boost from NLC, it has expanded virtual communication to assist students who are learning remotely. They have teamed up with the organisation Independent



A big part of what I do as a volunteer at DSA is organising and sorting through donations. **Our job is to ensure that the packages we [give] to students [are] presented with dignity and that they are appealing as well as helpful.** Knowing that there are students in need and working out how we can stretch whatever resources we have available to accommodate as many as possible is truly fulfilling work.

**Anele Khoza** student volunteer studying towards her Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting

Counselling and Advisory Services, to create an 'On-the-Go Crisis App' that means students can access confidential and practical advice easily in 11 languages, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The SWS's social media platforms have also grown. Maturiki says that through social media, "They are able to reach their fellow students in a more relatable manner than, for instance, official notices."

NLC funding has also allowed the DSA to support students who face food insecurity. In the aftermath of the fire, the Student Development team put care packages together for students in need, using generous donations from the public and various organisations. Edwina Brooks, who heads up Student Development at DSA, reports that in May 2021, the team provided more than 600 care packages – including food, toiletries and other essentials – to

students. Provision has also been made for students whose promised funding did not materialise in 2021, including 91 Postgraduate Certificate in Education students who have each received R560 worth of cash vouchers every two weeks. A further 500 students continue to receive groceries in the form of care packages.

**The impact of the fires on the UCT campus and students has hit us all hard. In these trying times we have seen the resurgence of ubuntu in the face of [UCT's] loss.**

**Marcelle Musson**  
NLC Western Cape Manager

# SHOWCASING SUPPORT FROM **CANADIAN** ALUMNI & FRIENDS



## A BENCHMARK FOR PERINATAL HEALTH CARE

The Ebrahim family has a keen interest in maternal mental health. Through the years, UCT alumnus Dr Farouk Ebrahim – now living in Canada – and his family have been raising funds in support of UCT’s Perinatal Mental Health Project (PMHP). Generous donor support such as this ensures that PMHP counsellors can provide mental health information, screening, counselling, case management and follow-up care to vulnerable antenatal and postnatal women.

Most recently, the Ebrahim family have donated a mosaic-decorated bench for visitors to the Hanover Park Midwife Obstetric Unit to sit on while relaxing in the Unit’s garden. You can read more about this donation here: <https://www.uctcanada.ca/canadian-gift-to-hanover-park/>

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PAYING IT FORWARD

A group of international UCT alumni recently created the Young Professionals Bursary Fund with the aim of building a global network of young South African professionals.

This initiative was founded by four dynamic South African professionals living in both Canada and South Africa. Their vision is to empower students from previously disadvantaged communities in South Africa through financial support, mentorship and networking opportunities to grow their future careers.

This initiative has already supported two UCT students:

TIRO HUTAMO, a medical student from Polokwane, received a full bursary. Her passion for medicine grew out of her mother’s service to her community as a nurse. Tiro graduated in 2021.

OLACHI EMERUEM, also studying medicine, has a strong creative side and shows great determination. She received a 50% scholarship in 2020.

Further awards will be made in 2022.

The four initiators of the fund aim to build the network and funding over time through including other alumni and past recipients of awards from the fund. If you wish to participate as a donor to the fund, please contact Di Stafford at [info@UCTcanada.ca](mailto:info@UCTcanada.ca).

## A SCHOLARSHIP FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN STUDENTS

From 2019, UCT undergraduates from South Africa, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe have been able to apply for a scholarship established by Dudley Maseko, a Zimbabwe-born lawyer now living in Canada. The Daniel Samuel Maseko Memorial Scholarship is named for Dudley Maseko’s late father in honour of his unwavering belief in the value of a good education. The scholarship is available to undergraduates across all study disciplines who show academic excellence, financial need and a history of community involvement.

In 2020, Dudley Maseko also contributed R73 522 to UCT’s COVID-19 Relief Fund. He has been centrally involved in facilitating the establishment of an exchange opportunity for scholarship recipients with his alma mater in Canada, the University of Ottawa.



# DIVERSE FUNDING BOOSTS THE SAN & KHOI CENTRE DURING ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATIONS



Photo: Je nine May

San and Khoi cleansing ceremony during Heritage Month, 2021

The UCT San and Khoi Centre celebrated its first anniversary with a Heritage Month Colloquium in September 2021. This included a cleansing ceremony to cleanse key sites on Middle and Upper Campus that have seen strife and conflict in the past, including the periphery of the recently destroyed Jagger Library.

Led by Dr June Bam-Hutchinson, the Centre is working to restore dignity to the Khoekhoegowab language, a click language of the San and Khoi people that was once commonly heard on the Cape Flats. Today only around 160,000 Khoekhoegowab speakers, spread across the Northern Cape, Southern Namibia and Botswana, remain.

Bam-Hutchinson says, “The Centre aims to empower communities to know what they’ve lost and who they are as an affirmation of a particular cultural identity within a diverse and inclusive South Africa.”

Studies addressing San and Khoi communities support UCT’s commitment to transforming and decolonising the

university, including through mainstreaming indigenous languages, knowledge and cultures. Embedded in the work of researchers at the Centre is recording indigenous knowledge and providing restorative justice through community co-design of resources.

Started with strategic funds from UCT, the initiative is also funded by the Department of Sport, Art and Culture to develop an interactive digital map of southern Africa, pinpointing places, languages and cultures from many interrelated pasts.

Other donors have stepped forward too. Community Chest of the Western Cape funding has enabled start-up of a formal UCT language course in foundational Khoekhoegowab, while the Mauerberger Foundation has supported a focus on cultural entanglement. Funding to collect stories from indigenous speakers has also been received from the National Heritage Trust and the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences.

## A PASSIONATE PRIZE TO REMEMBER CAROLYN GAD

Carolyn Gad was a contemporary artist who, after completing a degree in Textile and Surface Design, exhibited her artwork in South Africa, the United States and Czech Republic. In 2020, two and a half years after being diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, Carolyn passed away at age 37. She is remembered for her passionate, motivational words to other artists, encouraging all to express their authentic, creative selves to tell their own stories.

In honour of her memory, David and Millicent Gad – Carolyn’s parents – and other family members partnered with UCT to establish the Carolyn Gad Memorial Art Prize in 2021 that will benefit students at the Michaelis School of Fine Art each year. UCT is proud to serve as the custodian of the endowment in perpetuity that supports this annual prize, keeping the spirit of Carolyn alive going forward.

Artwork by Carolyn Gad (image supplied by her family)



# THE SHAHMAHOMED TRUST

Supporting the growth  
of the Arabic Studies  
Department

Hajee Sullaiman Shahmahomed  
(picture supplied by Prof. Faadiel Essop)



**An Indian businessman from Cape Town, Hajee Sullaiman Shahmahomed, donated 1,000 pounds to UCT in the 1920s with the vision of establishing a chair in Eastern Philosophy and Language. One hundred years later, his great-grandson, Professor Faadiel Essop, heads up the Shahmahomed Trust that is now supporting a 21st-century Arabic Studies Department at UCT.**

Shahmahomed's concept for the study of Eastern cultures, religions and languages was broad and inclusive and stemmed from his concern for cultural legacy and upliftment. He left the details open to negotiation between the trustees and UCT. The endowed money then lay dormant until 2003, when the opportunity arose to establish a new chair. Essop, Professor of Medical Physiology at Stellenbosch University, and the other trustees then had to consider which parts of Shahmahomed's vision from the 1920s were relevant in the 2000s.

He says they felt Arabic was the right platform to start from: "We had to look at his overall approach to life, his overall vision, and extract what we could feasibly introduce at an institution such as UCT. [We saw Arabic] acting as a glue to bring all of that broad vision together."

He adds that Arabic is also marketable. An initial short course attracted 15 students. Since then, Arabic Studies has grown steadily, endorsing their decision. The Trust has supported the introduction of an undergraduate programme with an average of more

than 30 students per year, as well as helped to build postgraduate opportunities, beginning in 2019. In 2018 it funded the appointment of Professor Yasin Dutton as the first Emeritus Professor of Arabic. Pasquale Macaluso, Head of Arabic Studies at UCT notes, "The contribution of the Shahmahomed Trust to the establishment and development of Arabic Studies at UCT has been fundamental."

UCT's Arabic teaching includes both classical literature and Modern Standard Arabic. The latter is useful for trade and tourism, and builds skills that can be applied in jobs such as translation, editorial work, customer service, quality assessment and business intelligence analysis. Macaluso says students in Law, Engineering and Education choose Arabic as an elective course since they recognise the relevance of a language that is widely spoken. He says, "Foreign language teaching in general can contribute greatly to the development of culture and economy in South Africa. Arabic Studies can help build a bridge with countries in the world that speak Arabic." He adds that Arabic is one of the six official languages of the African Union.

Macaluso feels that presenting Arabic as a modern language that can open doors to future careers has been one of the main reasons why Arabic Studies has grown to where it is today. He says, “In an educational environment in which foreign languages in general are not compulsory, even for programmes and majors such as Politics and Economics, [we’ve seen] significant growth.” He is also proud of the cultural exchange that occurs during classes, which tend to be very diverse, and he thinks Shahmahomed would be too. He says, “I think he would have been pleased with his contribution towards creating a space where different students can meet and share their experiences, as he was a very well-travelled man, open to variety and cultural exchange.”

Essop seconds this. It may have taken almost a hundred years since the original bequest to get to this point, yet Shahmahomed’s desire to support learning about other cultures while grasping new languages that can help with trade and dialogue is as relevant in today’s globally connected world of commerce as it was in the 1920s.

Prof. Faadiel Essop (photo supplied)



**Financial support from bequests like the Shahmahomed Trust is critical to enabling UCT to deliver on programmes and initiatives that have high social impact.** In remembering the individuals who envision these legacies of great generosity, we recognize their foresight in establishing long-term funding commitments that ensure a better future for students and the broader UCT community.

**Sidney van Heerden**

Acting Executive Director: DAD and Head of Fundraising, UCT



# WAYS TO GIVE TO UCT

Vice-Chancellor Mamokgethi Phakeng and staff thank the UCT community of supporters



UCT relies on the generous donations of individuals, trusts and foundations, bequests and corporate partners to support tailored institutional and faculty-based initiatives that:

Attract students and staff who embody exceptional potential, diversity and inclusivity

Develop creativity, analytical thinking, complex problem-solving, social responsibility and collaboration across disciplines

Respond to the changing needs of the world of work

Foster innovative research that responds to the pressing problems of today and tomorrow

Our giving page is available here: <http://www.alumni.uct.ac.za/giving/ways-to-give>  
Details on our **priority fundraising projects** are available under each of the **giving** options.

If you live outside South Africa and would like to claim tax relief for your donation, you can do so in Canada, USA, UK, and Australia.

We also welcome bequests.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A FINANCIAL GIFT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, PLEASE CONTACT US THROUGH

[giving@uct.ac.za](mailto:giving@uct.ac.za)

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