



GIVING@UCT

The University of Cape Town Donor Newsletter

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> BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE IDENTITY

In this edition of Giving@UCT, you will see UCT's commitment to creating a new inclusive identity in action. Strategic plans are often criticized not for the vision that they spell out, but for their lack of implementation and in worse case scenarios, for an absence of political will.

This edition of Giving@UCT demonstrates not only the seriousness with which the university takes implementation, but the high levels of political will that prevail.

From ensuring that wellness services are provided to our students so that they can perform at their full potential regardless of the difficult circumstances that they face in their lives, to making sure that students with disabilities are not further disadvantaged from realizing their academic goals, to recognizing the unique contribution that diversity makes to excellence, UCT's strategic plan for transformation lives in the activities that are taking place at the university on a daily basis.

In this centenary year of UCT since it started issuing dedicated degrees, the university can take enormous pride in the great strides it continues to take to make UCT - in the words of our incoming Vice Chancellor, Professor

Mamokgethi Phakeng - not only the leading university on the African continent, but also the leading university for the continent.

UCT enters an exciting new chapter in its long illustrious history of close to 200 years when at the beginning of July this year, it will officially have the new vice chancellor at its helm. Prof Phakeng not only brings a depth of academic scholarship to her role, but also an exciting new vision for ensuring that our commitment to creating a new inclusive identity becomes a daily living reality for all who enter the university.

Our donors have played no small part in putting us firmly on this path. In the pages which follow, you will see (and know) the invaluable contribution that you have made.

We know that you will remain loyal and committed to the university as this next exciting chapter of its history unfolds under a new leadership.

DR RUSSELL ALLY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI DEPARTMENT

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FUNDING FOR INCLUSIVE & ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION

The Disability Service at UCT has, since its establishment in 1988, grown extensively in providing support to a large number and diversity of students with disabilities. The Service works towards the removal of any physical, policy, information and attitudinal barriers that might prevent students and staff from fulfilling their potential. It provides support both in terms of harnessing mainstream capabilities for the accommodation of disabilities, as well as providing specialist services where mainstreaming is not possible. In this way we recognise the right of staff and students with disabilities to request accommodations that will facilitate their full and equal participation in all aspects of university life.

Donor funding has been an essential part of the reach that the Disability Service provides especially because many needs entail individual support not only to access lectures but also for smaller interactions such as tutorials, project team meetings, and informal student activities. The FirstRand Foundation has most recently granted generous

support to the value of ZAR 11 497 772. The donation will allow the Disability Service to appoint much-needed sign-language interpreters, note-takers and similar human services support for students with learning disabilities and physically disabled students at UCT.

Over the past three years a number of other individuals, foundations, and corporations have made regular donations to the work of the Disability Service. These include The Carl and Emily Fuchs Foundation, The Kaplan Kushlick Educational Foundation, Analyze Consulting Services, Suiderland Development Corporation.

In many cases, donor support for the purchase of specialised equipment has been the most critical element of a student's progress in their study. Without the use of voice to text software, for instance, two hearing impaired postgraduate students in 2017 would have had to discontinue their research. Text and image magnifier equipment has likewise been essential aids to visually impaired engineering students who regularly make use of drawings and plans. In these and many other ways, the generosity of donors helps to remove barriers and foster a more inclusive learning environment.

Funding for the Disability Service responds directly to goals of the UCT Strategic Planning Framework, which aim to achieve accessible and inclusive education for students; and in this instance, our disabled students. It enables students to be empowered and fulfils their potential to play a valuable role in our country's future development.



Peter Cooper of the FirstRand Foundation, Edwina Gail, Denise Oldham (both of UCT's Disability Service), Dr Siamee Abrahams of UCT's Office for Inclusivity and Change, and Professor Loretta Ferris, UCT's Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Transformation.



ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES SOUTH

Donor funding helps to boost projects such as Environmental Humanities South which argues for an ecological politics that benefits all

Creating an Inclusive Climate Knowledge Resource

Climate Science has faced enormous difficulties in persuading political leaders to collaborate on earth-friendly policies, apart from the complex, social justice issues that have prompted environmentalists to refer to climate negotiations as the 'new global apartheid'. These challenges rely on the work of social sciences and humanities to shift debates, choices, and practices. In particular, southern environmentalists and climate specialists are needed to bring new insights to strengthen possibilities for climate justice.

Aiming to address these needs, Environmental Humanities South (EHS) has grown in leaps and bounds at the University of Cape Town, initially set up in 2012 with a focus on postgraduate studies; it has now evolved into a centre with funding support from the A W Mellon Foundation. "The majority of our graduates are people who come to us with work experience, and are looking for a degree that will assist them to think integratively and respond to the complex challenges they have experienced," notes EHS Director and Associate Professor Lesley Green, "Universities have spent decades, even centuries, on building specialist disciplinary knowledges, and there are very few spaces where graduates can explore ways to think and work integratively – in ways that enable them to think inclusively about

extinctions and expulsions, ecology and economy and earth systems."

The A W Mellon Foundation, as a major donor of the university, began funding the Environmental Humanities South initiative with a four-year grant of R 2 million, which was then supplemented by research grants from the National Research Foundation and the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences. It allowed the initiative to gain some traction and spearhead a number of projects that augmented international efforts in the environmental humanities.

Given the admirable work established by the initiative, the A W Mellon Foundation saw fit to support its growth into a centre with a generous donation of almost R 10 million over a period of five years. The Environmental Humanities South centre endeavours to now strengthen its impact by raising the voices of communities that have been marginalised by top-down climate negotiations. A/Prof Green explains: "Strengthening regional scholarship in this field means strengthening the capacity of graduates to provide innovative solutions to problems that are otherwise hard to conceptualise because they are so complex. We hope to support a cohort of professionals on our continent who can think in new ways."



INVESTING

The importance of providing students with supportive pathways, transitioning between school and university, is highly topical in higher education discourse as institutions around the globe wrestle with the challenges of managing the high stress and anxiety levels of students.

Holistic student development is among our key concerns at the University of Cape Town since the achievement of academic goals is dependent on a healthy lifestyle. The Student Wellness Service (SWS) works to promote this value through a range of interventions offered by a professional team consisting of medical practitioners, psychiatrists, nurses, a social worker and psychologists. The team is dedicated to helping students adopt healthy living values and to make life choices that promote their overall well-being.

While this has become a significant and indispensable part of student services at UCT, the growing student population and diversity of

needs have necessitated a more substantial level of primary health care. This is especially with regard to care-giving approaches that are more culturally diverse and likewise attuned to healing therapies.

Our donor community has responded generously to the need for an augmented Student Wellness Service and over the past two years we have received support from:

- Anglo American Chairman's Fund
- Harry Crossley Foundation
- Moshal Scholarship Program
- RB Hagart Trust
- Anonymous Donor

Donor support for the SWS also includes a number of individuals who contribute through regular giving, apart from some of our bursary donors who have allocated a percentage of their annual fund to the SWS.

Through the generosity of our donor community, the Student Wellness Service has been able to increase its capacity to provide more personnel who can now attend to a larger number of students after hours, over weekends and on public holidays.

It is widely accepted that university environments can be stressfully demanding and the transition that young people make from a more protected context of school and home can be a daunting challenge to navigate. Many students struggle to find a healthy balance of study and recreation at this critical development stage in their lives and it can cause many talented students to become disillusioned.

The World Health Organisation confirms that suicide is the second most common cause of death in teenagers and young adults between 10 and 24 years old. This is largely due to depression, where youth develop negative thoughts about themselves and a sense of being worthless. It is exacerbated in a fast-paced and demanding environment such as a higher education institution. Professor Petrus de Vries, director of the Adolescent Health and Research Unit at UCT, advises that "suicide usually doesn't just happen out of the blue. There are many

teenagers and young adults who may have suicidal thoughts, and if they can access appropriate support, they can be helped."

Dr Memory Muturiki has served as Director of the Student Wellness Service since August 2017 and together with her committed team, they have worked tirelessly to reconfigure the service in a way that allows for greater access among students. Apart from now having more staff available, thanks to increased funding through donor support, strategies include an assessment system that allows for early awareness of risk and health promotion campaigns that motivate students to manage their own health and wellness.

As we build a more inclusive identity that designates and prioritises mental health, we are grateful for the support that we have received from donors who also recognise the value of providing a comprehensive response to student development needs. Such support has helped to strengthen the ethos of holistic health on campus such that each student is able to appreciate a sense of self-worth and successfully advance their academic goals.

IN STUDENT WELLNESS



The dedicated SWS Team, with Director Dr Memory Muturiki (front right) from left, at the March 2018 Wellness Drive on Upper Campus



DONATIONS

HIGHLIGHTS

Last year saw an increase in the total donations received for UCT, and it is encouraging to note that donor support has remained strong even during the course of a challenging political landscape. This review captures the highlights of donor funding, seen through the perspective of the last five years.

| TOTAL DONATIONS TO UCT | 2013 TO 2017 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | R179 192 484 | R31 993 152 | R442 069 437 | R351 749 154 | R368 996 109 |

There has been a marked increase in donor support from corporates in South Africa: some of whom have made significant contributions to previously underfunded initiatives such as the Student Wellness Service and the Disability Service. We have also enjoyed success with the SETAs (Sector Education and Training Authorities), particularly with bursaries and scholarships.

| CORPORATE DONATIONS | YEAR | AMOUNT IN ZAR | % OF TOTAL DONATIONS |
|---------------------|------|---------------|----------------------|
| | 2013 | 12 532 705 | 7% |
| | 2014 | 38 199 055 | 12% |
| | 2015 | 64 300 276 | 15% |
| | 2016 | 40 948 541 | 12% |
| | 2017 | 66 227 027 | 18% |

It is also heartening to note that we received more donations from locally-based individual donors in 2017, compared to overseas-based individuals in previous years. Overall, we received more donations from national as compared to international sources. This is a big shift from the pattern of previous years.

| PERCENTAGE OF NATIONAL DONATIONS | YEAR | AMOUNT IN ZAR | % OF TOTAL DONATIONS |
|----------------------------------|------|---------------|----------------------|
| | 2013 | 81 055 030 | 45% |
| | 2014 | 105 617 433 | 32% |
| | 2015 | 124 805 696 | 28% |
| | 2016 | 136 265 184 | 39% |
| | 2017 | 192 236 508 | 52% |

As we celebrate a new chapter in our history, with this being our centenary year as a degree-issuing university, we are grateful for the strong donor support that has enabled numerous initiatives to actualise the vision and mission our university. The Distinguishing UCT Campaign, aimed at growing our endowment, continues to play a major role in strengthening our donor support and is a major focus of our fundraising activities for 2018.

Initiatives such as the Moshal Scholarship Program help provide greater access and inclusivity for students from challenging socio-economic backgrounds



PAYING IT FORWARD

THE MOSHAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Ask any student recipient of the Moshal Scholarship about what they value in the programme and they will probably speak of "paying it forward". It is the philosophy that everyone has the ability to make a difference in the lives of others, no matter what your circumstances may be.

Apart from pursuing remarkable academic careers at university, Moshal scholars participate in a range of volunteer humanitarian projects that put into action their innate desire to be agents of change. These are the values that the programme promotes as it assists talented students from challenging socio-economic backgrounds to not only finance their university studies but to also nurture them as individuals who make a positive impact in their communities and places of work.

Since the first cohort of students were recruited at the University of Cape Town in 2010, a total of 301 bursaries were awarded to the total value of ZAR28,906,273. In addition, the Program has also most recently donated to the Student Wellness Service.

Founder Martin Moshal is a UCT alumnus and currently a venture capital investor. He was inspired to set up the scholarship programme after reflecting on the education inequalities that jeopardise the futures of so many would-be global leaders. "How different would the world look today if everyone had the opportunity to realise their potential?"

Country manager Jodi Bailey explains that the Moshal Scholarship Program focuses on the overall, holistic development of the student. The psycho-social and academic well-being of students are key concerns, apart from work place readiness which begins from the first year of study. In the senior years, students are exposed to a variety of work place environments as the Program works hard at creating an employers' network which students can leverage off in their final year.

Nokuthula Zama is the Program co-ordinator who works closely with students on campus. Apart from paying attention to their academic outputs, she also assists with projects that students initiate. Many of these include development programmes in their home communities such as tutoring and mentorship for other youth. Her experience is one of being inspired and motivated by their examples of commitment. "The Moshal scholars are ambitious, determined and tenacious individuals who are driven to make a difference in their lives and those of others. They are so diverse, and yet so similar in that they all come from challenging backgrounds but have remained resilient and worked very hard to achieve their goal of obtaining a university degree. It has been fulfilling to witness their growth and to see them taking great strides towards making their dreams a reality."



WHY I AM GIVING @UCT **Lerato Mbele**

For Lerato Mbele, sharing one's means to help talented students realise their potential is nothing less than a civic duty. "Obviously South Africa's got inequality problems, so many talented students are denied access to education because the costs are prohibitive and not because they can't qualify," Mbele said.

"And that's why I donate."

The ace BBC journalist's parents could afford to pay her fees when she studied for her bachelor's degree in political studies and international relations at UCT in the 1990s, but if that was not the case, "I don't believe I would have forgiven the world for denying me the right to develop myself because of money". Mbele is living testimony to how invaluable an initial foothold in hallowed academic halls can be for one's career.

Once she had an undergraduate degree under her belt, Mbele's professor identified her and three colleagues to continue their studies at Stellenbosch University. Mbele's professor pointed out that UCT at the time didn't have the reach into the highest echelons of government that Stellenbosch did, so recommended to UCT that Mbele and three of her colleagues continue their education in Eikestad. This fitted neatly into Mbele's plan to join the diplomatic corps, as did her master's degree in development studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. "I thought I was on a fast-track to becoming a diplomat. I got into journalism by the back door."

Now, hers is a familiar voice and face for news connoisseurs. Her media career began at the SABC in 1999. After a stint at CNBC Africa, Mbele joined the BBC in 2012, where she made her name co-hosting the network's premier breakfast radio show, Africa Business Report. Now, she and her team are piloting a new television format that will be called Talking Business Africa, which aims to up the level of discussion about leadership and policy on the continent.

A litany of personal accolades is equally impressive. She was nominated in the media category of the inaugural New African Women Awards in 2016, was named on the Oprah O Magazine Power List of 21 African women who are "rocking the world", and was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in Geneva, Switzerland.

With the world at her feet, why donate to UCT in particular?

"UCT has produced many leaders in our society." Of her four alma maters (St Mary's School for Girls being the first) Mbele rates UCT highly. "Were it not for that collegial, intellectual environment, I don't think I would have the career I have today."

And she's firmly of the view that paying it forward is almost mandatory. "If we are in a position to identify the most talented people, we should not chuck them out. If it costs you maybe one percent of your annual income to help somebody actualise their potential, I think it is your civic duty to do it. That's why I give."

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

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