



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD



2023

NEWSLETTER

UCT LEGACY
SOCIETY

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DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

The University of Cape Town (UCT) has weathered many storms in its history, thanks to supporters like you, who have demonstrated your commitment to our institution. This wonderful group includes alumni along with other friends, partners and sponsors of UCT around the world – those who share our belief in the importance to society of higher education, research and scholarship, and of its role in equipping us to develop unique, African-based solutions to even the most wicked global problems.

If you have been following media reports about UCT over recent months, you will be aware of the recent change in leadership. Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng's last day in the Vice-Chancellor's office was 3 March 2023. I assumed office as interim Vice-Chancellor on 14 March. The executive team has ensured a seamless leadership transition and we will work together closely in leading the university as the search for a substantive vice-chancellor proceeds.

Council has appointed a four-person panel to review questions of governance at the



highest level of the University. The panel comprises retired Supreme Court of Appeal President Judge Lex Mpati (chairperson), retired Supreme Court of Appeal Judge Azhar Cachalia, Dr Bernadette Johnson, and Dr Patricia Hanekom. The decision to commission this investigation and the stature of the panel members reflect UCT's commitment to transparent and good governance. The panel's final report is expected sometime later next month.

The UCT executive and Council are also reviewing the longstanding issue of student financial needs, in a context of reduced state assistance to students and the steady fall in government subsidies to universities over past years. Like you, we were distressed to see classes disrupted at the start of the academic year by protests over basic needs such as tuition and housing for students from disadvantaged communities. The problem affects not only the higher

education sector but, in the long run, all South Africans, given the central role of our universities in providing young people with the opportunities to lay the groundwork for future careers in all spheres of activity. It requires a concerted effort to understand the various threads that run through this issue and to devise innovative solutions to a combination of problems.

The academic year has nevertheless proceeded relatively smoothly. In March we celebrated the capping of more than 5400 graduands, including the conferring of 57 PhDs, in a total of 15 graduation ceremonies. We awarded honorary degrees to Dr Debra Roberts and Her Excellency #Xuu Katrina Esau. Dr Roberts is a world authority on urban biodiversity, climate change and resilience, while "Ouma" Katrina has worked tirelessly for and promoted the survival and growth of the indigenous San language N!uu, of which she is the last remaining fluent native speaker.

Graduation is certainly the highlight of the academic year. But the work of UCT bears many different fruits. As a longstanding member of this institution, with leadership experience in scientific organisations as well as in higher education, I can attest to the quality of the work of our thousands of dedicated staff members who ensure that the University continues to meet its demanding objectives, and in this way give substance to its vision and mission.

UCT remains at the top end of the most prestigious international university rankings. We account for 13 percent of South Africa's NRF-rated researchers, these ratings being based on peer review of the quality and impact of research; and in addition UCT is home to 30 percent of the country's A-rated researchers, regarded as global leaders in their respective fields. Some 18 percent of the Department of Science and Technology/National Research Foundation

South African Research Chairs are based at UCT. Research and postgraduate education of the highest standard continue to be pursued, with a resultant significant impact on intellectual life as well as on the development of our country and beyond.

The true measure of UCT is based on the calibre of our graduates, the ground-breaking achievements and national and global reputations of our researchers, our contribution to the global body of knowledge and, most importantly, the impact of our research on the world outside of UCT: in the country, across the African continent, and beyond.

The defining mission of UCT's Vision 2030 strategic document is to unleash human potential to create a fair and just society. While this wording is relatively recent, UCT has long focused on meeting the needs of society through scholarly investigation and activity. The Social Responsiveness Award, established in 2010, recognises the most outstanding examples of this important form of scholarship.

I believe this commitment to the future of South Africa also translates to a commitment to the future of UCT. We have seen the truth of this in the outpouring of support for the restoration of the facilities and resources that were destroyed or damaged in the Table Mountain Fire of April 2021. These include African archives that were stored in the Jagger Library. UCT, in partnership with DSTv, will be telling some of those lost stories and writing new ones through the collaborative "Stories from the Ashes" project. This book was launched on the second anniversary of the fire.

Another great loss to scholarship arising from the fire was the destruction of the entire collection of historical photographs - some dating back to 1876 - that were curated by the Plant Conservation Unit in the Department of Biological Science in the Science Faculty. The collection was essential in chronicling the ecological history of South Africa.

While we mourn such losses, we continue to do the repair work and to seek ways

to restore what we can. We are extremely fortunate to be assisted in many different ways by so many people - including you. Your assistance makes it possible not only to recover from a crisis like the Table Mountain Fire, but also to strengthen UCT and its influence in the lives of students, graduates and so many different communities and organisations across Africa.

UCT has forged ahead through many storms successfully because of the support of people who share our belief in unleashing human potential to create a society where every individual can thrive. This work would not be possible without the generous support of individuals like you, who follow UCT's progress, remain committed supporters, and strengthen your connection with us through your donations and bequests.

On behalf of the University, I thank you sincerely for your support.

Emeritus Professor Daya Reddy
Vice-Chancellor (Interim)



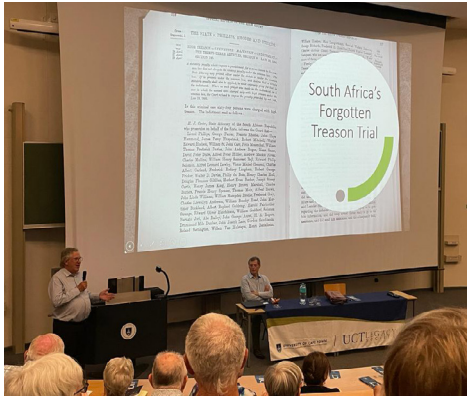
DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

The message from the interim Vice-Chancellor sums up the state of UCT today: a University worthy of the name, doing excellent work, and recognised for this by continued standing in world rankings, as well as a University dealing with the 'slings and arrows of outrageous fortune' not least of which was the fire of April 2021.

Daya Reddy's appointment as interim Vice-Chancellor is allowing UCT time to reflect on issues of governance, leadership, and management. There is an interesting parallel to the appointment of RW James as Interim Vice-Chancellor following the untimely death of TB Davie in the mid-1950s: that, too, was an opportunity for UCT to reflect on and make changes in the leadership team structure that UCT, emerging as a research-led university and gearing up to the growth that was soon to double enrolment, needed.

All I can add is to emphasise the role we can play by contributing to UCT's sustainability by providing for UCT in our will and, where we can, supporting UCT in its current work. Before the end of this decade, in 2029, UCT will mark its bicentennial. It will do so because so many laid the foundations and gave generous support over the past two centuries. It behoves us to help sustain UCT for the next century.

Hugh Amore
UCT Registrar Emeritus
President: UCT Legacy Society



LEGACY SOCIETY EVENTS

It has been a busy year with the Legacy Society having hosted various events to engage with our alumni. Events included the annual Legacy Society President's lecture delivered by Justice Owen Rogers which saw a full house in attendance on campus. Cocktail events were also hosted nationally in Durban, Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth with an upcoming event in Bloemfontein. Visits are also planned for Botswana and Zimbabwe later in the year.





It was just over two years ago that we marked the untimely passing of Professor Tania Douglas following a courageous battle with breast cancer. Tania was a professor at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and at the time of her death held the prestigious South African Research Chair in Biomedical Engineering and Innovation. On 4 April 2023 at UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences there was a celebration of this remarkable woman's life with the launch and inaugural award of the Tania Samantha Douglas Scholarship in Biomedical Engineering.

TANIA DOUGLAS: LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

This was a special occasion because Tania's parents, Dr Aubrey and Mrs Rita Douglas, were present - it was their idea to establish the award and whose generosity brought it to fruition. The keynote speaker at the event was Professor Kit Vaughan, Tania's friend and co-founder of the UCT spin-out company CapeRay, who gave a presentation entitled "The Scholarship of Tania Douglas." Professor Douglas made over 100 original and substantial contributions to knowledge during her lifetime and Kit selected five of her journal articles to highlight her legacy of excellence.

These included: (1) a novel method for diagnosing the facial phenotype associated with fetal alcohol syndrome; (2) measurement of radiation dose from a slit scanning X-ray machine used in whole body imaging of trauma patients; (3) automated detection of TB in sputum smears using a smart microscope; (4) diagnosis of breast cancer with a dual-modality device for which she was the principal investigator on the research grant; and (5) a user-centred design framework for mHealth apps that was published in PLoS ONE.



(L to R) are Dr Aubrey Douglas, Ms Oreneile Maphetho and Rita Douglas.

The inaugural recipient of the scholarship was Oreneile Maphetho, who is seen being congratulated by Tania's parents. Nene, as she is known to her friends, earned a BSc degree in chemical engineering with 1st class honours before enrolling for her MSc in biomedical engineering at UCT in 2022. She was selected for the award based on her outstanding grades last year when she was the top-ranked student.

Tania herself was an outstanding student, first in electronic engineering at UCT, and then during her postgraduate studies in bioengineering at Vanderbilt (master's) and at Strathclyde (doctorate). Aside from many peer-reviewed publications, her other great legacy is the group of postgraduate students she trained and mentored in the shadow of Table Mountain. Tania would be proud to know that the first recipient of a scholarship in her name, Nene Maiphethlo, has been inspired to pursue a doctorate in the field of cancer research.

Professor Sharon Prince, Tania's friend and head of the Department of Human Biology, wrote to the department on the morning of Tania's passing: "We will remember Tania for being an amazing woman - brave, humble



(L to R) are Professor Kit Vaughan, Mrs Rita Douglas, Dr Aubrey Douglas, Ms Oreneile Maphetho, Interim Vice-Chancellor Professor Daya Reddy, Dean of the Faculty Professor Lionel Green-Thompson, Professor Ernesta Meintjes, and Professor Sharon Prince.

and brilliant. She lived her life, and carried her illness, with extraordinary grace and dignity. We will remember her for her astute intellect and her quiet humanity to build

others in the process. She was talented and gracious, and we will remember her positive attitude and ever-present beautiful smile."

THE CENTRE FOR EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES 2023 AND BEYOND

The Centre for Extra-Mural Studies (EMS) has been fully integrated into the University of Cape Town's Development and Alumni Department, its natural home. This flagship programme works in close collaboration with the alumni relations unit and with the Legacy Society, offering guest lectures, in-person and online courses, webinars, newly developed bespoke study tours, the annual Summer School programme as well as UCT certificated short courses. In addition, EMS fulfils its social impact mandate by working with groups such as UCT's 100UP programme as well as with local communities. In this way, UCT is able to extend knowledge acquisition beyond the borders of the traditional academy.

Historically, the EMS offerings showcase and highlight the excellence of the work produced by the university's scholars, both early career as well as established researchers, presenting an opportunity for alumni, friends and Summer School participants to gain new knowledge and remain lifelong learners. A significant number of participants have been attending Summer





School for decades, with some coming for well over forty years, embodying the spirit of lifelong learning – offered by UCT since 1924 when the Extension Lectures Committee of the university Senate was established to offer fortnightly lectures by members of its staff and other prominent authorities.

In 2023 we resumed our in-person Summer School programme which created an opportunity for participants to learn, see one another again and be part of the

university community for three weeks. Programme highlights have included the annual Summer School Legacy Society lecture, delivered by Justice Owen Rogers and the first UCT campus tours led by the President of the Legacy Society, Hugh Amooore. These bespoke tours have received great acclaim, particularly for the richness of the information imparted on the university's built environment and its people.

We look forward to welcoming our alumni and friends to our varied offerings during

the remainder of 2023 and to celebrating 100 years of knowledge shared by the university's scholars, public intellectuals and thought leaders. The 2024 annual Summer School programme will run from 13 to 27 January. If you plan to be in Cape Town over the January period, make sure to diarise these dates for what will be a vibrant intellectual experience.

Dr Medeé Rall
Director: Centre for Extra-Mural Studies



ABOUT THE LEGACY SOCIETY

The Legacy Society honours UCT alumni and friends who have left, or are planning to leave, a legacy in the form of a bequest or provision to the University in their Will.

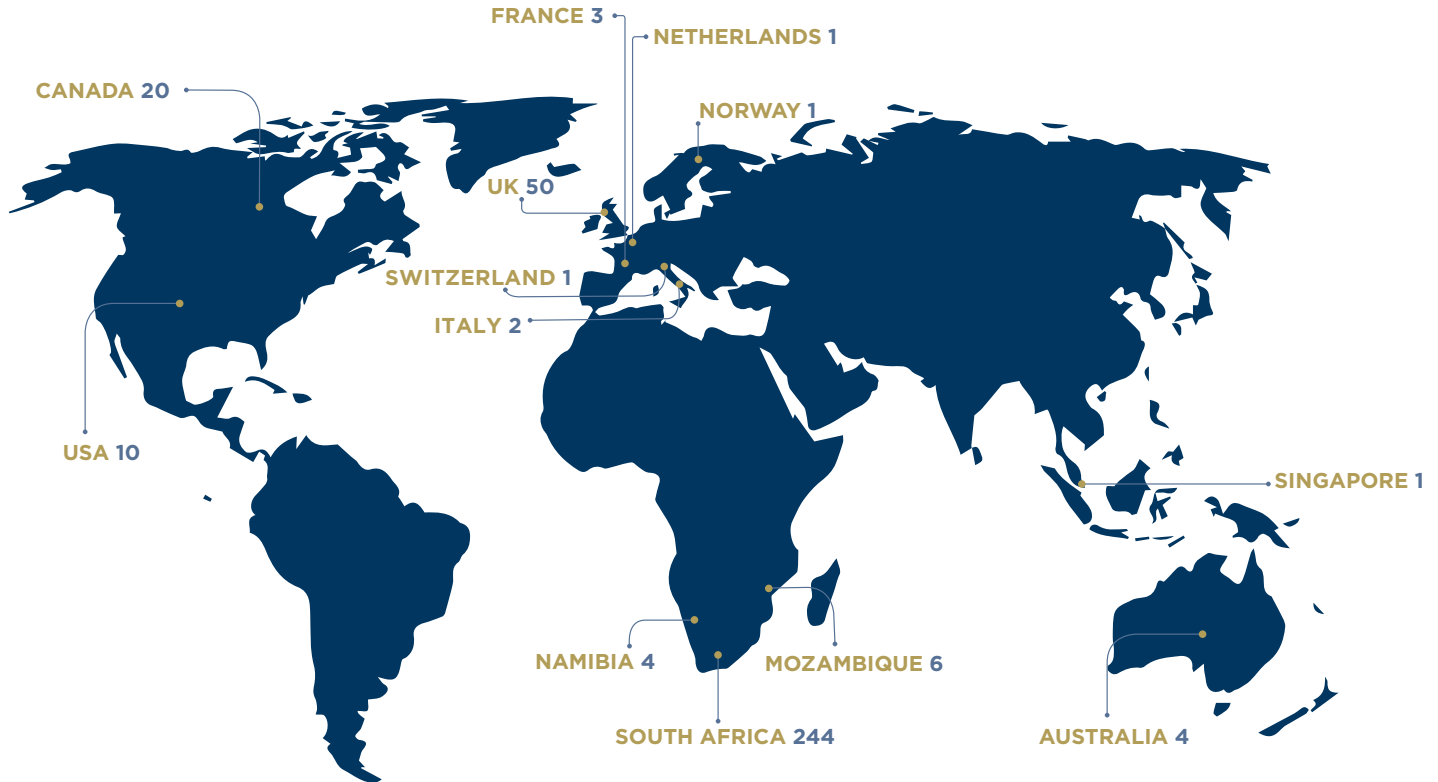
The UCT Legacy Society was established by former UCT Vice-Chancellor Emeritus Professor Stuart Saunders. Professor Saunders was a Specialist Physician who made an outstanding contribution to both medical research and higher education in South Africa. In 2002, he was awarded the Silver Order of the Baobab by President Thabo Mbeki in recognition for his service.

Between 2010 and 2017, Emeritus Professor Francis Wilson took over as president

of the Legacy Society. Prof. Wilson was a highly acclaimed author and taught at the UCT School of Economics for 40 years. He founded the South African Labour & Development Research Unit and directed the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development.

Since 2018, Registrar Emeritus Hugh Amoore has presided over the Legacy Society. Beginning in 1970 as a student, Amoore's career at UCT spanned 46 years. He served as Registrar for 29 years, from 1987 to 2015. He retains an active interest in university matters, serving on committees on behalf of Universities South Africa (USAf).

LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS AROUND THE WORLD





JOIN THE LEGACY SOCIETY

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

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



MAKING A BEQUEST

A bequest is a specific provision in your will, directing some of the assets in your estate to the university. Bequests are also known as 'planned' or 'deferred' gifts. The advantage of this type of giving is that you still have the use of your assets during your lifetime with the satisfaction of knowing that a part of your estate will support UCT's tradition of academic excellence into the future.

The benefits to you of making a bequest to UCT

Making a deferred gift to UCT through a bequest means:

1. You have the use of your assets during your lifetime
2. You can consider many options to ensure that your bequest is personally meaningful
3. A bequest to the university is exempt from estate duty in terms of the relevant section of the Estate Duty Act, and

thereby reduces the value of the estate which is subject to taxation. (Those who reside in countries other than South Africa should please contact the Development and Alumni Department for guidance on local estate duty laws.)

4. Your gift will be appropriately recognised during your lifetime through membership of UCT's Legacy Society
5. Your legacy will benefit UCT and its students for decades to come.

WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE A WILL AND WISH TO ADD UCT AS A BENEFICIARY?

If you would wish to add UCT as a beneficiary to a will that has already been drawn up, you can add a codicil (which is an addendum, or supplement) to your existing will. The codicil must be signed by the testator, and also by two witnesses who do not stand to benefit from your will or codicil. A sample codicil is included in this newsletter.

There is great flexibility in making a bequest.

You have several options when making a bequest in your will. You can bequeath:

6. a specific sum of money - this is the simplest bequest, but it is also the most easily affected by inflation.
7. a percentage of your estate - thereby ensuring a specific distribution between your beneficiaries regardless of any changes to your estate.
8. the residue of your estate - after having made provision for your dependants you may choose to bequeath the remainder of your estate to UCT.
9. a life assurance policy - you can sign over an existing policy or take out a new one, naming UCT as the beneficiary.
10. real estate, artworks, antiques, jewellery and other valuables. It is advisable to talk to your lawyer, estate administrator or financial adviser about the best choice for you and your family.

SAMPLE CODICIL

By this (insert relevant number: "first" if this is the first codicil to your will, or as appropriate)

Codicil to my Will dated

I (full name)

of (address)

In addition to the provisions of my said Will, I give to the **University of Cape Town** (Select as appropriate)

- (description of item/property/shares)
- The sum of
- % of the residue of my estate not otherwise disposed of in my said Will.

I direct that the said University of Cape Town shall (the following are some examples but this list is not and cannot encompass all possibilities: Select as appropriate)

- add the sum bequeathed to the University's general endowment to be invested and reinvested;
- invest sum bequeathed and apply such income as may be prudently distributed towards (state desired purposes)
- apply the sum bequeathed towards to (state desired purpose)

I direct that the receipt of the University's duly authorised officer shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors/Trustees.

In all other respects I confirm my said Will. (For you to sign on every page of your codicil)

Signed:

Date: Place:

in the presence of the following witnesses

(For you to sign on every page of your codicil)

Signed by the above in our joint presence and then by us in his/hers.

FIRST WITNESS:

Full Name:

Address:

Occupation:

Signature: Date:

SECOND WITNESS:

Full Name:

Address:

Occupation:

Signature: Date:

DISCOUNTS FOR LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS



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

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

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

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

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

Your support is much appreciated.

UCT Legacy Society

FORM OF INTENT

BEQUESTS

Title Name

Surname

Address

Postal Code

Tel Cell

Email address

Year of Graduation and Degree

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

Please send me further information.

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

My bequest should be used for the following purposes:

Field of study (if applicable):

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

FOR UCT LEGACY SOCIETY:

Fahim Docrat

E-mail: fahim.docrat@uct.ac.za

Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 4106

Mobile: +27 (0) 81 571 3164

For recognition purposes, may we recognise you publicly

or whether you wish to remain anonymous.

Signature

Date

Place



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