



GIVING@UCT

The University of Cape Town Donor Newsletter

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> FIRST IN AFRICA, FOR AFRICA

In this edition of Giving@UCT we see the power of philanthropy as a force for good. From supporting the creative arts, to assisting students in distress, to breakthroughs in scientific discovery, to overcoming disabilities, you cannot but be moved by the transformative power of philanthropy.

UCT is commemorating its centenary as a dedicated degree issuing university since its founding almost 190 years ago. With much of the philanthropy celebrated in these pages coming from UCT's alumni, there is added reason for joy and appreciation.

It is the generosity of spirit of our donors, friends and alumni, excellence of our teachers and researchers, dedication of our staff and commitment of our students, that have ensured that UCT today is not only First in Africa but also First for Africa.

The people whom you will meet in this edition have made remarkable strides in both their professional and personal capacities. Their stories are inspirational.

As Vice-Chancellor I have the privilege of interacting with such amazing people on a daily basis. It is what moved me to establish a post-graduate bursary fund to which I donate 10% of my annual net salary. I believe in the passion and potential of UCT to find innovative and creative ways to respond to the complex challenges that we face at the dawn of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

My heartfelt thanks to our wonderful and loyal donors who continue to show faith in UCT as we embark on the next exciting chapter in the long and illustrious history of the university. You allow us to dream and to imagine a world of endless possibilities and promise.

PROFESSOR MAMOKGETHI PHAKENG
VICE-CHANCELLOR

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THE MARK SHUTTLEWORTH SCHOLARSHIPS IN MATHEMATICS AND APPLIED MATHEMATICS



MARK SHUTTLEWORTH
IS A GRADUATE OF UCT'S
COMMERCE FACULTY

Global entrepreneur, 'Afronaut', and UCT alumnus Mark Shuttleworth has made a generous commitment to strengthening the academic pathways of talented young mathematicians. His scholarship programme addresses the need for more black academics, thereby challenging the structures that have previously impeded a strongly diverse representation of scholars in the field of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics. This initiative supports UCT's Mathematics Department in transformation efforts to increase the number of black academic staff members.

Shuttleworth's skyward trajectory – from the online enterprise he founded in his parents' garage, to his global software company, to becoming the first African in space – has been the foundation of his transformational leadership. His visionary outlook reaches beyond personal gain to ensuring that other gifted and aspiring young leaders are enabled to reach for the stars.

The dearth of black academics, particularly in mathematics and science, is a remnant of historical education inequalities in South Africa where curriculum deficits and few adequately trained teachers meant that many youth lacked sufficient exposure and depth. Another impediment is that many talented black students who do take up Mathematics at university face enormous pressure to look for work, after their first degree, instead of pursuing postgraduate study towards a career in academia.

The Mark Shuttleworth Scholarships in Mathematics and Applied Mathematics provides financial relief and mentorship for a pipeline of talent. Each year the scholarship will identify two students in their third year of study and support them throughout their postgraduate studies until the completion of their PhD. It will also support two master's students and one PhD student per year in order to speed up the pipeline.

UCT's Mathematics Department has played an integral role in exposing youth to the more creative and innovative face of the subject through the UCT Schools Mathematics Competition and the UCT Mathematics Circle. Each year thousands of high school learners become more aware of Mathematics as an enjoyable and accessible subject for all, through this initiative. Mark Shuttleworth himself knows this experience first-hand as a winner of the Gold Award on the competition during his high school years.

The commitment and generosity of leaders such as Mark Shuttleworth is an invaluable contribution towards nurturing talent in a field of critical skills shortage. The scholarship programme supports our university's transformative initiatives to develop diverse academic staff who will represent the future in what is one of Africa's leading Mathematics departments.

SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST DEAF LAW GRADUATE QOBO NINGIZA

Some of our country's most prominent leaders have become formidable heroes of social justice through their study of law and this is a tradition that seems to be well preserved among our new generation of lawyers. Among them is Qobo Ningiza who will soon be the first deaf law graduate in South Africa. Not only did he have to overcome the challenges of a school experience with poor education resources and limited opportunities for tertiary study, it was also a matter of navigating a study path that relies heavily on verbal presentations and interactions. Motivated by a desire to seek equality, Ningiza resolutely chose to face the odds. His example is in itself a victory for social justice as he is now about to qualify with a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree and hopes to pursue a career in Human Rights Law.

Born and raised in Ntseshe location, Ngqamakhwe District in the Eastern Cape, Ningiza is the fifth born out of six children and the only deaf person in his family. He describes his schooling experience as one with severe disadvantage since the limited resources at schools for the deaf meant that learners had to share textbooks and cope with poor infrastructure. Due to a shortage of teachers they could also not choose subjects but had to comply with a prescribed list. As compared to the school experiences of his siblings, Ningiza grew in consciousness of these shortcomings in the implementation of human rights and became determined to change this.

His attempts to pursue tertiary studies in law were so challenging that he spent an entire year trying to gain entrance at a university that would accommodate deaf law students. He recalls travelling with public transport over a long distance to an institution for registration. He found another aspiring student making the same journey, at that time a stranger but now a close friend. Since they arrived after the offices had closed, they spent the night sleeping next to a lamp post in the parking lot. When Ningiza finally got an interview he was told, within the first five minutes, that the institution



QOBO NINGIZA (RIGHT) WITH SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER TSHEPISO MOKOENA.

would not be able to provide sign language interpreters and he was denied access again.

Ningiza's experience at the University of Cape Town was such that the Disability Service facilitated his registration for tuition and residence. The Service also assisted him in accessing comprehensive bursaries such that any financial challenges were overcome. Ningiza received dedicated support with sign language interpretation and also had assistance from fellow students with taking notes in class since it is impossible to take notes for oneself and focus on an interpreter simultaneously. Much of the funding for UCT's Disability Service and student bursaries is thanks to the support received from donors.

Ningiza is currently working on applications to law firms in order to serve his articles next year but this is another challenge since firms have thus far been hesitant to accept him given that they do not have facilities for deaf candidates. Ningiza is however hopeful that an opportunity will soon emerge and that his career may reach fruition: "there is nothing I want more than to make a difference in other people's lives. I believe that we are a country with a lot of potential and that many of our problems would disappear if we focused our energy on assisting those in need."

THE INSTITUTE FOR CREATIVE ARTS BREAKING NEW GROUND IN LIVE ART PRACTICE & RESEARCH



A PERFORMANCE OF **ATHI-PATRA RUGAS'**
THINGS WE LOST IN THE RAINBOW

Over the past three years, a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has enabled the Institute for Creative Arts (ICA) to grow its work into a comprehensive platform for cutting-edge creative arts research and practice. The Institute is responsible for creating Africa's first ever Live Art Festival, which features a range of established and emerging artists, both national and international, in cross-disciplinary work that embodies themes of presence, identity, and gender. As the ICA's flagship project, the Festival showcases the Institute's innovative agenda of creating new platforms and mentoring new artists.

In a country transitioning from socio-political divisions, the ICA fulfils the need for a space where intellectuals and artists from a wide range of backgrounds can come together to experiment with ideas and develop new visions. In this sense, the ICA expresses what it means for art to influence social cohesion, using multiple media and forms to explore subject matter that is difficult to express with familiar language.

The Institute began its work in 2008 and received

funding from the Donald Gordon Foundation to be formally constituted as the Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts (GIPCA). When this funding contract concluded, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation became the major funding partner of the Institute for Creative Arts, along with other subsidiary donors.

This support has enabled the Institute to build a graduate programme in Interdisciplinary Arts through Master's and PhD streams, as well as fellowships. The grants are awarded to artists for the purpose of extending their work in interdisciplinary practice, live art and public engagement strategies through the creative arts, and with the intention of sharing their research with a range of publics. The development through these fellowships of practice as research, as well as traditional research in the form of writing and publication, is invaluable.

Based in the Faculty of Humanities, at UCT's Hiddingh Campus in the Cape Town city centre, the ICA is well placed to foster dialogue with urbanism and community. This is particularly evidenced through the Public Art Programme,



A PERFORMANCE OF **NICOLA ELLIOTT'S CHALK**

which includes the annual Infecting the City festival. It consists of public performances that are socially engaged, and visual art in communal spaces of the city, thereby transforming Cape Town's central business district into a space where art is free and accessible to everyone.

The Public Lecture Series is another of the ICA's popular features, most especially the Great Texts/Big Questions series. In keeping with the series' emphasis on questioning and interaction, each lecture focuses on an encounter with a 'great text' or 'big question', and offers audiences the opportunity to engage with prominent national and international writers, artists, scientists, public figures, researchers, and activists.

ICA director Associate Professor Jay Pather is excited about the national and global significance that the Institute has achieved, and the platform that it has provided for performance art: "The simple question of access to a gallery space or a theatre is not answerable with a series of development programmes of bussing children into these spaces. The publics are not the problem, the problem may

lie in the conception itself, the spaces, the modalities, the inherited claims to purity, the sets of codes available to a few."

It is with gratitude to our donor community that this pioneering work has been supported and developed. Through the artists who have received funding to pursue innovative work, the ICA sustains its vision of engaging with critical issues through the universal medium of interdisciplinary live art.





PROFESSOR BONGANI MAYOSI IS REMEMBERED FOR HIS COMPASSIONATE EXAMPLE OF LEADERSHIP

A LEGACY OF GIVING

PROFESSOR BONGANI MAYOSI

As a highly regarded international figure in the field of cardiology, Professor Bongani Mayosi was more than a leading clinician. He was also known for the affectionate care he expressed towards students at UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences. In July this year, we mourned his untimely death and the global outpouring of tributes captured the spirit of one who worked tirelessly for others to achieve greatness, inasmuch as he was heralded as an outstanding medical scholar.

Speaking as the Health Sciences Faculty representative at Professor Mayosi's memorial service at UCT, Professor Ntobeko Ntusi remarked: "He was second to none as a clinician. He was loved by his patients who remembered his gentle and impeccable bedside manner. As a teacher he was legendary. As a leader, Bongani was awesome. His brand of leadership was honest, inspiring, full of integrity and characterised by creativity and innovation."

Professor Ntusi, now the Head of Medicine at UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences, is one of the countless examples

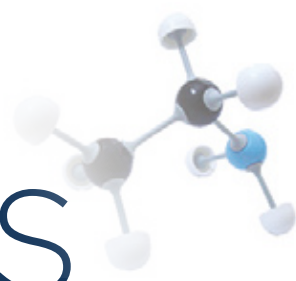
of students who were mentored by Professor Mayosi. A hallmark of his legacy is that it is characterised by a spirit of giving. Beyond his teaching and learning responsibilities, he always gave of himself in maintaining a close and consistent relationship with students. He understood the challenges that were especially faced by marginalised students, assisting them to work through personal difficulties and motivating them to achieve excellence in their respective fields.

Completing a university degree is the aspiration of countless young South Africans, enthused with the hope of making an impactful contribution to our fast developing region. The cost of funding such a lifelong asset is, however, one of the greatest obstacles that many talented students face. Degree programmes at the Faculty of Health Sciences are among the most costly because studies often require students to be learning in practice at various medical facilities. Even for those who receive funding, ancillary costs can often lead to students accumulating debt and being unable to complete their studies.

Not only was Professor Mayosi a member of our donor community but during his time as Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences he also garnered support for funds that assisted students in need. One of the funds to support students is the Faculty of Health Sciences Impilo Bursary Fund which helps to mitigate against adverse socio-economic circumstances and provides top-up funding for students who have exhausted all sources for paying their outstanding fees. Donors to the fund include UCT staff, alumni, and others who have been enthused by the heroic example and compassion of Professor Mayosi.

The legacy that Professor Mayosi has built is one of care and support for those most in need. His spirit of giving reminds us that despite socio-economic adversity, no student should need to compromise their lifelong career aspirations.

DRUG DISCOVERY & DEVELOPMENT NEW MEDICINES IN AFRICA BY AFRICANS



PROFESSOR KELLY CHIBALE (SEATED FRONT CENTRE) WITH SOME OF THE **H3D TEAM**

Over the last six years, the University of Cape Town Drug Discovery and Development Centre, H3D – the first and only one of its kind in Africa – has been pioneering the work of translating basic disease biology into new medicines. This is a challenging task anywhere in the world but in Africa it is especially daunting because of limited infrastructure, expertise gaps, and a lack of financial resources.

H3D has been bravely taking on these challenges and harnessing modern pharmaceutical industry skills along with the development of the relevant infrastructure, enabling technologies, and expertise. Donor support has been critical in this regard since in this relatively short period, H3D has made ground breaking advances by leading an international effort in the discovery of Africa's first potential malaria medicine. Currently a clinical development candidate, MMVO48 not only has the potential to impact both malaria control and elimination, it has also already shown that major advances in scientific and clinical research are possible at H3D.

Founder and director of the Centre, Professor Kelly Chibale, is a leading scientist in his field and explains his motivation for driving the initiatives for H3D: "We need to demonstrate that Africa has more to offer than the mere opportunity for human clinical trials. Africa has largely been a recipient of Western research. It is time for Africa to

also contribute research so that people from other continents can also benefit... The challenges we are trying to address in Africa are not just African challenges but human challenges."

Professor Chibale holds an A-rating from the National Research Foundation and was recently named as one of Fortune magazine's 50 World's Greatest Leaders for 2018.

Over the years, H3D has seen the establishment of interdisciplinary project teams including pharmacology, biology expertise, computational chemistry and medicinal chemistry. Together this has been contributing towards the creation of a critical mass of African scientists with the capabilities of discovering new medicines with a unique focus on the diseases afflicting sub-Saharan Africa.

The role of donor funding has been crucial in supporting the vision and goals of H3D, most especially with the establishment of state-of-the-art facilities to conduct outstanding research. Donor partnerships with H3D include the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Medicines for Malaria Venture, Novartis Research Foundation, Wolfson Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation, as well as a number of individuals and family trusts. This support has made it possible for research excellence to flourish at UCT, contributing to health and economic benefits to the poor and most marginalized.

WHY I AM GIVING@UCT

ABIEDA ABRAHAMS



For many donors to UCT, Abieda Abrahams is a familiar name. Over the past 16 years she has worked as the Donations Officer at UCT's Development and Alumni Department, often being the first person that donors interact with when processing their transactions or querying tax certificates. For Abrahams, this has been a fulfilling experience as she is also a regular donor to UCT:

"The biggest highlight and excitement of my job was doing the actual receipting of the donations. This gave me an opportunity to discover the diverse reasons why people give to UCT. Most individuals give because of a specific 'ask' and quite a few will give in memory of someone who died, out of respect and sympathy. Others, like myself, give because we firmly believe that you must share with others, besides your family...I love going to Gatesville on a Saturday morning and watching the people mingling in the crowd. You can clearly differentiate between the 'haves' and the 'have nots'. This always sets me off wondering about missed opportunities in life. What if the 'have nots' had the opportunity or the ability to understand and realise how important an education is? How far would they have come in life?"

At the end of this year, Abrahams retires from her

formal working career. It is an auspicious time as the university closes its centenary celebrations, which has seen much support for the Distinguishing UCT Campaign to strengthen our endowment. Abrahams has been a pioneer donor in this regard since she was one of the first donors to the campaign. It harks back to the 2004 Chancellor's Challenge in which Abrahams was also among the first donors to give momentum to the fundraising campaign.

Looking ahead, Abrahams feels optimistic for the next chapter in UCT's history: "I have high hopes for the future of the university as I believe that with our new Vice-Chancellor we can achieve a lot in terms of transformation. We do not come from the same homes or families but this is a chance to create a new home and family while enabling young people to have a firm base to create bigger and better futures for themselves and our country."

Regarding her own new chapter, Abrahams looks forward to some unfinished business: "I want to dedicate time to learning Arabic and memorising the Quran. I am also extremely excited to start doing what I always wanted to do, like a wardrobe full of new books that I bought but never had a chance to read; boxes of magazines that I still want to scan through; boxes of material and patterns that I want to sew; bales of wool that I still want to turn into jerseys; crochet and embroidery cotton that must still be turned into useful items, etc. I'm giving myself a full year to do all those things but I know that the allure of NGOs out there and the exciting work they do in the community will probably divert me from all those things that I have been saving for years to do in my retirement. Most importantly, though, I want to dedicate time to learning Arabic and memorising the Quran."

EDITOR Merlin Ince
DESIGN Lara van Otterlo
PHOTOGRAPHS Michael Hammond
Robyn Walker
Oscar O' Ryan

For further information or to make a financial gift to the University of Cape Town, please contact us through giving@uct.ac.za

DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI DEPARTMENT

University of Cape Town Lower Campus, Rondebosch,
7700, Western Cape, South Africa
www.uct.ac.za