Alumni News

2018

University of Cape Town

ALUMNI

NEWS

UCT Reflects on the Last 100 Years

A Century of Leaders

Remembering 1968

Shawco: 75 Years of Giving Back
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.

2020 VISION

Our vision for UCT is to be an inclusive, engaged and research-intensive African university. UCT will inspire creativity through outstanding achievements in discovery and innovation. It will be celebrated for the quality of its learning and contribution to citizenship. We will enhance the lives of students and staff and will advance a more equitable and sustainable social order. We aspire to be a leader in the global Higher Education landscape.

OUR STATEMENT OF VALUES

- We embrace our African identity.
- We widen educational and social opportunities.
- We enhance the lives of individuals and communities.
- We build an equitable social order based on respect for human rights.
- We advance the public good by teaching, generating knowledge and actively engaging with the key challenges facing our society.

CREATING A UNIVERSITY CULTURE THAT IS

creative
research-informed
accountable
responsible
respectful

rigorous
nurturing
excellent
open
open-minded

curious
honest
collegial
inclusive

A NEW, INCLUSIVE IDENTITY FOR UCT

We want a student and staff body that is more representative of the country and the continent, and for students and staff to see themselves – their cultures, values, heritage and knowledge systems – reflected at the university.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH A DISTINCTIVE AFRICAN LENS

We want to advance the status and distinctiveness of scholarship in Africa, and attract and connect people from all over the world, by promoting a vibrant and supportive intellectual environment at UCT.

A RESEARCH-INTENSIVE UNIVERSITY

We want UCT researchers to continue making a distinctive contribution to local and global knowledge and to produce new solutions to challenges facing the African continent and the world.

INNOVATION IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

We want to improve students’ success rates, broaden their academic perspectives, stimulate their social consciousness and cultivate more critical citizens by renewing our approach to teaching and learning, and pioneering new methods.

SOCIAL IMPACT THROUGH ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

We want to enhance UCT’s engaged scholarship to address critical development and social justice issues, including the expansion of community and external partnerships.
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VICE-CHANCELLOR’S FOREWORD

This edition of UCT Alumni News will come out close to the one-year anniversary since I became vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town.

My tenure began in the year that UCT celebrated its centenary as a separate entity since its founding over 190 years ago as the South African College.

Measured in the years of the existence of our world, a century is a mere blink of the eye. But in the lives of humans, this passage of time represents many generations of alumni who have passed through the hallowed halls of the University of Cape Town. Over this time your alma mater has advanced knowledge in many fields, produced world-renowned thinkers who went on to win Nobel prizes, graduated leaders who have had a profound impact in the world and countless scores of students who have shaped the world of work.

As an alumnus/alumna, you are part of an over 170 000 strong alumni community dispersed over more than 120 countries globally. As the vice-chancellor of one of the oldest universities on our continent and the highest ranked globally of any universities in Africa, I am proud of each and every one of you. Your association with us is what makes us a great institution.

Our history over the past century as a dedicated degree-issuing higher education institution is complex, characterized by many contradictions, highs and lows and moments that we can rightly be proud of but also instances we cannot celebrate.

In the pages that follow in your UCT Alumni News you will encounter this thorny, multifaceted history over the last tumultuous 100 years. Pathbreaking research, remarkable achievements, towering personalities. But also deep pain, multiple scars and yet to be healed wounds.

But if we are to scale even greater heights, then we have to own this history in all its convoluted manifestations. We should not be selective and certainly we should not sanitize the past from which we have evolved.

That is why I have adopted three central pillars that hold up my vision for UCT as moving forward under my leadership as your vice-chancellor. You can read the elaboration of this vision online but fundamentally I am committed to enhancing our excellence as the leading university not only in Africa but also for Africa, transforming UCT to be an inclusive and affirming home for all students, staff, workers and alumni, and sustaining the university for many generations into the future.

Universities by their nature are living organisms. As such, as leadership we are custodians entrusted to safeguard this precious resource for our country, continent and world. Our sacred duty is to make sure that we hand it over to our successors in much better shape than we found it.

My solemn pledge to you is that I will work tirelessly in the best interests of the university as a whole putting the institution ahead of any particular groups, constituencies or individuals. I invite you to join me in the next exhilarating chapter in your alma mater’s long and chequered history.

Kgethi
Vice-Chancellor
University of Cape Town
This edition of UCT Alumni News commemorates the past century of UCT’s history as a dedicated degree-issuing higher education institution. There are memorable milestones over this journey traversed from a university serving a small minority of people to a beacon of scholarship, teaching, learning and research for our country, our continent and our world. From origins in colonialism and buffeted by segregation dogma and apartheid social engineering to the leading African university holding its own on the global stage.

The process of transformation still has some way to go to truly reflect the vision of dignity, equality and inclusivity envisaged in our new democratic dispensation but the changes that have occurred over this period should make all alumni feel proud of their alma mater. Much of these changes are captured in the content of this publication.

Our hope is that alumni will be moved by the remarkable stories of accomplishments and triumphs but will also be humbled by the shortcomings, trials and tribulations.

Your alma mater is at a very exciting new chapter in its illustrious history. We have a new vice-chancellor who has elaborated a bold, imaginative and inspiring vision for the university.

We invite all alumni to remain actively engaged with their alma mater and we encourage you to continue supporting the university. A hallmark of a great university is how active, engaged and generous their alumni are.

Russell Ally
Executive Director
Development and Alumni Department
SARAH BAARTMAN
HONOURED IN RENAMING OF ICONIC HALL

It had been a change long in the works, and on 8 December 2018, the UCT Council announced its historic decision to rename Memorial Hall after Khoi heroine Sarah Baartman.

Sarah Baartman (or Saartjie, as she was known) was only 20 years old when she was taken away under false pretences by a British ship. In London she was exhibited as a freak show attraction. In 1814 she was sold to an animal trainer in France, where she died barely a year later of disease and homesickness.

Her humiliation did not end there, however: a plaster cast was made of her body, which was then dissected, and her brain and genitalia were preserved in formalin. Her body was discussed by European scientists of that century as “the missing link between human and ape”.

Her remains were displayed in the Musée de l’Homme from 1816 until 1986, even after the Griqua people began requesting their return in the 1950s. Finally, in May 2002, Baartman was brought home to South Africa, with a traditional Khoisan ceremony held on 9 August 2002.

“In this way we hope to honour her memory and restore to her name the dignity that was so brutally stolen from her in the 19th century,” said Sipho Pityana, chair of Council, and Vice-Chancellor Professor MamokgethiPhakeng, in a joint statement.

Renaming Memorial Hall would help to more holistically reflect the history of all the people of our country, said Pityana and Phakeng, adding that the hall was originally named after Sir Leander Starr Jameson, a former prime minister of the Cape Colony who initiated an unlawful raid that brought war to South Africa.
“Following the removal of the statue of Cecil John Rhodes in 2015, renaming Jameson Hall was a logical step,” they added. “It is fitting that Baartman, a victim of colonial inhumanity, should replace a perpetrator of colonial crimes.”

UCT had in 2016 invited students, staff and alumni to suggest possible names for the hall. In June that year, Council passed a resolution to rename the hall, and in October 2017 Council agreed to call it Memorial Hall in the interim. Meanwhile, the Naming of Buildings Committee (NOBC) had proposed Sarah Baartman as the new name and had initiated the appropriate procedures and consultations with members of UCT and the Khoi community.

After rigorous consultation with faith, political and cultural and community organisations, a core working group led by the Centre for African Studies engaged in meaningful collaboration with the Khoi community as part of the renaming process. In November 2018, UCT had the official mandate to proceed with the renaming.

“It is fitting that a woman who was treated as a slave should be honoured by UCT, where some buildings have been constructed over the graves of past slaves and many of our communities have been affected by its legacy,” explained the statement. “This is one way we can pay homage to the lives that were lost through slavery, and the consequences of that evil practice in modern-day Cape Town.”

By renaming the centrepiece of UCT’s globally renowned Upper Campus, the university acknowledged its responsibility to surrounding communities, many of whom were denied the opportunity to benefit from the leading educational institution in its midst by the institutionalised racism in South Africa’s past.

“We acknowledge our responsibility to not only the Khoi community but all communities to uphold Sarah Baartman Hall as a place of restoration, healing, growth and compassion,” said Pityana and Phakeng.

“With Sarah Baartman Hall at the heart of our campus, we are taking a key step in the university’s commitment to transformation and inclusivity. While we cannot undo the wrongs she suffered, we can lift her up as a potent symbol of the new campus community we are building.”

The official renaming ceremony will take place in 2019.

“It is fitting that a woman who was treated as a slave should be honoured by UCT, where some buildings have been constructed over the graves of past slaves and many of our communities have been affected by its legacy,” said a joint statement by VC Prof Mamokgethi Phakeng and Chair of Council Sipho Pityana.
MEET UCT’S FIRST CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

A university is an academic project enabled by an “engine room”, which (at the UCT) is made up of four departments. The role of the chief operating officer (COO), said UCT’s first incumbent in the position, Dr Reno Morar, is to “place the departments under one umbrella, oil them and make them sing so that the project can also sing”.

Dr Reno Morar, former deputy dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, took a seat in the Bremner building in 2018 when he became UCT’s first Chief Operating Officer.
Overseeing relevant responsibilities previously distributed among the deputy vice-chancellors of the finance, human resources, information and communication technology services (ICTS), and properties and services departments, Morar took on the role of COO in October. He is currently dividing his time between the new position and his job as deputy dean for Health Services in the Faculty of Health Sciences, and was due to take on the COO position exclusively in February 2019. The decision to introduce a COO was taken to improve the efficiency of the university’s operations and is aligned with modern management strategies used by other leading universities.

Simultaneously occupying two offices requires agility, planning and a cool head. It’s no coincidence that these are management skills Morar has mastered.

“Having recognised very early on in my career what discipline interested me, I have always been on the management path,” he said.

“That’s how I became what I believe to be a professional manager.”

Morar has a medical degree (MBChB) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. It was during his internship at Livingstone Hospital in Port Elizabeth that he got his first taste of supervision when, within two years, he became part of the management team running the outpatients department. From there on, he’s only undertaken managerial roles.

“I made a conscious decision to go into management,” he said.

“It was never incidental or an add-on to my career path.”

**SYSTEMATIC APPROACH**

Neither is it happenstance that Morar’s base discipline is that of a public health medicine specialist; it suits his preferences, particularly his proclivity for the systematic approach to work.

He has several qualifications in public health, including an MMed Public Health Medicine (UCT) and a Fellowship of the College of Public Health Medicine of South Africa.

“Public health is best described as a systems discipline, which requires understanding the systems of diseases, health services and health policies. It allows you to think in a systemic way, which has always interested and motivated me, and suited my journey in management,” he explained.

Natural abilities and proclivities aside, Morar is a firm advocate of specialised and ongoing learning, and has added to his credentials throughout his career. In management, his qualifications include a Postgraduate Diploma in Health Management, Economics and Financial Planning, and a Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Coaching Practice. The latter has long been an important tool in his management kit, both for teaching and learning.

“In retrospect, I realise that well before I studied and put a name to it, I had always used coaching techniques as a manager,” he said.

“I don’t want to be seen as someone who ‘keeps UCT going’. I want to make a difference and help others make a difference in this institution.”

**LIFT AS YOU RISE**

The concept of enabling is important to Morar, who says he learnt the importance of the related ethos of “lifting others as you rise” from his friend and colleague, the late Professor Bongani Mayosi. It’s a philosophy that Morar believes is fundamental to his role as COO.

“I don’t want to be seen as someone who ‘keeps UCT going’. I want to make a difference and help others make a difference in this institution.”

Morar is however mindful about how difficult change can be for some and says he regularly evokes the wisdom he learnt from an important mentor years ago.

“He pointed out that, particularly because I am an innovator and not a maintenance manager, it’s crucial that I remember that it is not about how far ahead you are of the pack, but how far the last person in the pack is behind you that matters in change management.

“Change requires movement, but you can only move as fast as the slowest person. In any organisation, there are inevitably people who find change difficult and they can make or break it. And if you don’t understand that ... the organisation is not going to move and the change won’t happen. I’ve never forgotten that advice and am particularly mindful of it in my new role.”

Among Morar’s primary objectives as COO is to work with the executive directors of the finance, human resources, ICTS and properties and services departments, and enable them “in coordinating and collaborating ways” so that all UCT staff feel valued.

“I have four fantastic and competent people who I rely on to do their jobs. It is my responsibility to coordinate efforts and make sure that everything is executed properly across the departments. If I do that well, then the vice-chancellor will be liberated to do what the academic project requires of her,” he said.

“My job is about oiling the engine room so that the project runs smoothly, which will free and enable everyone in the chain to be most effective in their roles.

“But, above all, if I can be part of the team that closes the gap between UCT’s professional, administrative, support and service (PASS) staff and our academic staff, then I will feel that I have achieved a most important thing.”

When you go to family gatherings, you’re still the nephew who will, when asked, have to make your uncle a cup of tea. I always advise people to go to family functions. They help remind you who you are and keep you sane and grounded.”
100 YEARS OF UCT
WHAT WAS, AND WHAT COULD BE

2018 was UCT’s centenary year since being inaugurated as a degree-issuing institution at the Centre for the Book in Cape Town. UCT’s Development & Alumni Department took the opportunity to peruse the past century through a lens that would reveal what UCT did well, and what it could have done better, during that time, so that the next 100 years can be even better. Thus, the UCT Centenary Seminar Series was born.

The first goal of UCT’s Strategic Planning Framework, 2016-2020, is clear and comprehensive: to forge a new inclusive identity that reflects a more representative profile of students and staff, and the cultures, values, heritage and epistemologies of the diversity of UCT’s staff and students”.

Being able to forge a new identity is dependent, of course, on understanding what the present identity – or identities – might be, if those even exist. Historical analysis, then, is a necessary starting point.

The idea that history is written by the victors, famously declared by Winston Churchill to the British House of Commons in the 1930s, has taken root almost as common sense in popular thinking.

Yet Dr Martin Luther King Jr., speaking on 28 August 1963, argued differently: “We are not makers of history. We are made by history.”

It is likely that both ideas hold a portion of truth.

UCT celebrates one hundred years as a dedicated degree-issuing institution this year and will commemorate 190 years since its founding next year.

Over this long history, deep traditions took root and evolved into an institutional culture and academic milieu that has had a profound influence on generations of
students, staff and communities. UCT was borne at the height of the colonial conquest by Britain and the Dutch, and its early years echoed that heritage. As South Africa evolved – through apartheid, becoming a republic, the struggle against oppression and the eventual toppling of the apartheid regime – UCT evolved, too, often presenting to the public a conflicted face regarding these central issues.

Centenaries offer rare, natural landmarks from which to reflect, to interrogate and to plan.

Through the eyes of our nine vice-chancellors, the Development and Alumni Department held a seminar series that traced UCT’s history, uncovering its evolution era by era.


For many, this history is understood to be one of racial exclusion, unearned privilege and Western hegemony, while marginalising African intellectualism and values. By locating each period of UCT’s history within South Africa’s socio-political context at the time, this seminar series aims to add empirical evidence and nuance to the conversation.

These discussions were not intended as a comprehensive appraisal of UCT’s past. They did, however, aim to make a pointed contribution to our understanding so that the equitable future we envision is built on real knowledge of how the university shaped – and was shaped by – the South African, African and global landscapes.

The series kicked off on 16 August 2018 and ran until 29 October 2018. Speakers from academia and civil society and people who helped shape UCT over the past one hundred years. The first speaker was none other than DAD’s own executive director, Dr Russell Ally, who holds a PhD in history.

The speakers, in order of appearance, were Dr Russell Ally – Sir John Carruthers Beattie and AW Falconer; Emeritus Professor Howard Philips – TB Davie; Keith Gottschalk – JP Duminy; Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza – Sir Richard Luyt; Nomfundo Walaza – Stuart Saunders; Emeritus Associate Professor David Cooper – Mamphela Ramphele; Associate Professor Harry Garuba – Njabulo Ndebele; and Ramabina Mahapa – Max Price.
A CENTURY OF LEADERS

UCT has had ten vice-chancellors and principals since its inauguration as a degree-issuing institution in 1918. Here, we get to know each one, briefly, and glimpse the university’s evolution during their tenures.

SIR JOHN CARRUTHERS BEATTIE (1918 – 1938)

Beattie, the first principal and Vice-Chancellor of UCT, had been a professor of the South African College. Beattie persuaded Cecil John Rhodes’ trustees, brothers Arthur and Otto Beit, to build a university in the Cape instead. The SAC was incorporated into the new University of Cape Town, which Carruthers led. At its inception, UCT’s first 659 students were white, with Beattie’s idea of non-racialism limited to achieving English-Afrikaner integration. UCT Council’s policy was that “it would not be in the best interests of the university to admit native or coloured students in any number, if at all”. This would not change to any significant degree until TB Davie took the reigns in 1948.

A.W. FALCONER (1938 – 1947)

Like his predecessor, Professor Arthur Wellesley “Oubaas” Falconer hailed from Scotland. Interestingly, UCT’s tradition of a three-year general undergraduate degree followed the Scottish practice, which stemmed from a three-year degree being more affordable than a four-year commitment.

Falconer arrived at UCT in 1920 to establish a Division of Medicine in the new Medical School. In 1938, Groote Schuur Hospital opened - the university focused its funding and research even more strongly on the medical sciences.
J.P. DUMINY (1958 – 1967)
Jacobus Petrus Duminy was a Belville-born academic who took UCT’s reigns from interim Vice-Chancellor R.W. James in 1958. Like his namesake, Duminy played cricket for the South African national team, although he only played in three Test matches and 13 first-class games.

Duminy’s tenure as UCT VC was not uncontested, with waves of student protests against his perceived soft stance towards apartheid. A residence in Mowbray was named after Duminy, but after objections by some alumni, the UCT Council resolved in December 2018 to remove his name and search for a replacement.

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T.B. DAVIE (1948 – 1955)
Davie was appointed in 1948, the same year that the Nationalist Party came into power. One notable feature of Davie’s tenure until his death in 1955 was an opposition to racist policies and practices, albeit through a liberal lens. It was a shift from the university’s previously unproblematised stance on racial segregation, but Yolanda Radebe’s 2009 paper titled The Meaning of Academic Freedom in the Former “Open Universities,” in Post-Apartheid South Africa, argued that the “classic liberal formulation of academic freedom by T.B. Davie did, of course, in its own way represent a moral stand against apartheid; but it was too restrictive in taking its own epistemological integrity for granted”.

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R.W. JAMES (1955-1958)
While Professor Reginald William James’ tenure was temporary and brief, the physicist’s time at UCT’s helm came at a time of great and distressing change for universities, and indeed prospective students and academics, in the country. In 1956, Prime Minister H. F. Verwoerd declared: “where there is no segregation as is the position at certain universities, it must be established or enforced”. This threat was followed by the Extension of University Education Act 45 of 1959, effected early during James’ successor’s tenure, “which created four new separate racially segregated university-colleges and imposed statutory racial constraints on the admission policies of the ‘open universities’” (Radebe, 2009: 5).

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(1955 – 1958)
The University Education Act 45 of 1959 is effected resulting in the creation of four new, separate, racially segregated university-colleges

(1958 – 1967)
Waves of student protests on campus against Duminy’s perceived soft stance towards apartheid

(1948 – 1955)
Davie is known for championing academic freedom and famously led an academic procession through the Cape Town CBD
MAMPHELA RAMPHELE (1997-2000)
In keeping with the trend of medical doctors becoming UCT Vice-Chancellors, Ramphele took over from the retired Saunders in 1997. In doing so, Ramphele became the first black and first female Vice-Chancellor of the institution. Ramphele had been Deputy Vice-Chancellor at UCT since 1991 and was also the first to make the step up.

UCT underwent a raft of major changes during her brief tenure, including collapsing faculties, appointing executive deans, and the outsourcing of staff in the cleaning, gardening, catering and security divisions. In 2000, Ramphele left UCT to take up a managing director role at the World Bank in Washington.

SIR RICHARD LUYT (1967 – 1980)
Where JP Duminy was an Afrikaans-speaking academic, his successor, Sir Richard Luyt, was an English colonial administrator, having been Governor of British Guiana from 1964 to 1966, and Governor-General of Guyana until December 1966. Luyt’s appointment to UCT was unusual in that he was not an academic by trade, and this was a stick often wielded by his critics within the academic fraternity.

Luyt’s tenure got off to a rocky start with the Mafeje Affair of 1968, which we delve into in more detail elsewhere in these pages.

Taking over from Luyt was another medical doctor, Stuart Saunders. His memoir gives his take on what it was like leading the institution through the national states of emergency, the violent ushering in of the 1990s and the transition to a democratic government in 1994.

Under Saunders, UCT’s residences were opened to students of all races. Before, black students were forbidden from living in UCT’s residences, commuting from ill-resourced townships using public transport. Saunders is credited with ending the racially segregated training of medical registrars, and for accelerating UCT’s fundraising imperative.

UCT residences are opened to students of all races. Saunders is also credited for ending racially segregated training of medical registrars and for accelerating fundraising at UCT

(1967 – 1980)
Luyt’s tenure gets off to a rocky start with the Mafeje Affair in 1968

(1997-2000)
Ramphele becomes the first black and first woman to hold the position of Vice-Chancellor at UCT. Changes during her tenure include the appointment of executive deans and the collapsing of faculties
MAMOKGETHI PHAKENG (2018 – PRESENT)

Phakeng assumed the role of VC in 2018, having joined UCT as DVC for research and internationalisation in January 2017. Phakeng served as the University of South Africa Vice Principal for research and innovation. Phakeng, an NRF B1-rated scholar, was the first black South African woman to earn a PhD in mathematics education. Her academic career began at the University of the Witwatersrand, which she left in December 2007 as an Associate Professor of Mathematics Education to take up the position of Executive Dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology at Unisa 2008.

MAX PRICE (2008-2018)

Price, also a medical doctor, completed two full terms as Vice-Chancellor. During Price’s tenure, the university went from being a research-led to a research-intensive university, joining the ranks of some of the most prolific universities in the world. In 2015, UCT also became the epicentre of the global Rhodes Must Fall movement, as students rallied around the common cause of decolonising university practices, curricula and symbols.

It was also during Price’s tenure that the national Fees Must Fall movement developed. The university also instituted a policy of insourcing workers in the service sectors that had been outsourced under Dr Mamphela Ramphele.


Ndebele is an Africanist scholar who cut his political teeth in the Black Consciousness tradition. He was the first Vice-Chancellor to be installed under Mrs Graça Machel, who had been appointed Chancellor in 1999. Ndebele was Vice-Chancellor at the University of the North (Turfloop) from 1993 to 1998, vice-rector of the University of the Western Cape between 1992 and 1993, and head of the Department of African Literature at the University of the Witwatersrand in 1991. Ndebele initiated structures like the Institutional Climate Survey and the annual Social Responsiveness as part of a push to transform the institution.


Ndebele initiates various transformative programmes: the Social Responsiveness Report and the Institutional Climate Survey. Ndebele is unsuccessful in his attempt to award Archie Mafeje with a doctoral degree, honoris causa

(2018 – present)

Phakeng assumes the role of Vice-Chancellor in 2018 having been Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Internationalisation at UCT. Among other accolades, she is the first black South African women to earn a PhD in Mathematics Education. She launched her new strategic vision in 2018

(2008-2018)

Under Price’s leadership, the university becomes a research-intensive institution joining the ranks of the most prolific universities in the world. Student and worker protests occur and the university adopts a policy to insource workers previously outsourced during Ramphele’s tenure
Tributes poured into UCT in October 2003 (the Swedish Academy made the announcement on Thursday, 2 October) and the information and media office at the Department of Communication and Development had been flooded with media queries and well-wishers from all over the world.

The announcement of Coetzee’s latest, and to date greatest, honour brings to three UCT’s number of Nobel laureates, who also include the late Professor Allan Cormack and Sir Aaron Klug, whose research endeavours were in the fields of physics and chemistry, respectively.

Of Coetzee’s unexpected victory (according to several overseas media, such as the BBC News, Coetzee was not tipped to win the laurels) Vice-Chancellor Professor Njabulo Ndebele said: “This prestigious award confirms Coetzee’s sustained international acclaim as one of the finest writers of the twentieth century. We are proud to have shared in Coetzee’s brilliant contribution to South African literature over many years. This is a proud moment for South Africa. The country of Coetzee’s birth has now produced a second Nobel laureate for literature.”

Nadine Gordimer won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1991.

A UCT graduate, Coetzee was first appointed to the university’s staff in 1972 when he was appointed as a lecturer in the English Department. Between 1972 and 1983, he rose through the ranks from lecturer to senior lecturer and later became associate professor.

In 1984 Coetzee became Professor of General Literature and in 1994 became Arderne Professor in English. He was appointed Distinguished Professor in the Faculty of Humanities in 1999 and retired in January 2002, when he was also awarded Emeritus Professorship status.

Coetzee has a string of international literary awards, including the Booker McConnell Prize, which he won twice; in 1984 for The Life and Times of Michael K, and in 1999 for Disgrace. He was the first author to achieve this double honour.


Importantly, Coetzee was a major figure in the development of UCT’s creative writing programmes and has contributed generously to the nurturing of South Africa’s future authors.

Professor Stephen Watson, who headed UCT’s Department of English Language and Literature at the time, said: “He has been one of the great modernisers of South African literature, seeing many of South Africa’s (and humanity’s) dilemmas through a sensibility saturated in European authors from Dostoyevsky to Kafka.”
Building on the pathfinding work of Sir Aaron Klug, Allan Mcleod Cormack, a nuclear physicist who earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at UCT, after aborting his engineering pursuits. His MSc was in crystallography, the speciality of Klug.

Cormack was primarily concerned with particle physics during his time in the United States in the 1960s and 1970s but pursued an interest in X-ray technology on a part-time basis. He published papers on the theoretical underpinnings of CAT-scanning in the Journal of Applied Physics in 1963 and 1964, which flew under the radar until Godfrey Newbold Hounsfield and a colleague built the first CT-scan machine in 1972, putting Cormack’s theory into practice.

Cormack and Hounsfield were awarded the 1979 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

A UCT HAND IN YELLOW FEVER VACCINE

Dr Max Theiler was the first South African to win a Nobel Prize, receiving it in 1951 for his work on the yellow fever vaccine.

Born in Pretoria on 30 January 1899, Theiler was the son of a well-known veterinary scientist, Sir Arnold Theiler. Theiler’s first tertiary alma mater was Rhodes University College, after which he studied at the University of Cape Town Medical school from 1916 to 1918.

He completed his medical degree in 1922 at the London School of Tropical Medicine, after an intervening stint at St. Thomas’ Hospital.

Theiler moved to Harvard Medical School’s Department of Tropical Medicine in 1922, first as an assistant and then as an instructor. While at Harvard, Theiler worked on yellow fever, amoebic dysentery and rat bite fever.

By 1927, Theiler and his colleagues had proved that yellow fever was caused by a filterable virus and not a bacterium, and that the disease could readily be transferred to mice. When he joined the Rockefeller Foundation in 1930, they were already deeply engaged in the fight against yellow fever, and Theiler could work on finding a vaccine for the deadly scourge.

He and his colleagues eventually developed a safe, standardised vaccine called 17D, which was easily adaptable to mass production.

While it would be remiss to suggest that UCT was the defining influence in Theiler’s life-saving research, the institution is proud to count scientists of Theiler’s calibre among its alumni.

Researchers at UCT are familiar with the name Allan Cormack, which is the designation of the home of the university’s Research Office in Mowbray.
That Bunche had spent time at UCT only emerged after the release of his memoirs, as the university had, until recently, not maintained a meticulous record of all who had worked at UCT in this capacity. Indeed, he was a postdoctoral research fellow at UCT under Professor Isaac Schapera, after doctoral research in anthropology at the London School of Economics from 1936 to 1938.

Bunche was recognised early as a prodigy in the social sciences. He was the valedictorian of his Jefferson High School class in Los Angeles, graduated magna cum laude from the University of Los Angeles with a major in international relations in 1927 (where he paid for his personal expenses with a janitorial job), and began his graduate studies in political science at Harvard University with a scholarship and a fund of a thousand dollars that was raised by the Los Angeles’ black community.

His doctoral dissertation, comparing French rule in Togoland and Dahomey, was so lauded that he won the Toppan Prize for outstanding research in the social sciences.

Active in the civil rights movement, he was known as a radical intellectual who was consulted on minority problems by President Franklin Roosevelt’s administration and who declined President Harry Truman’s offer to become secretary of state on account of the segregated housing conditions in Washington, D.C.

From June 1947 to August 1949, Bunche was appointed as assistant to the UN Special Committee on Palestine, which was charged with executing the partition of Palestinian land that was approved by the UN General Assembly. This plan was dropped in 1948 amid intensifying conflict between Arabs and Jews, and the UN appointed Count Folke Bernadotte as mediator, and Bunche as his chief aide.

Bernadotte was assassinated on 17 September 1948, and Bunche took his seat as mediator. Eleven months of tireless negotiating later, and Bunch had obtained signatures on armistice agreements between the Arab States and the newly formed State of Israel.

Bunche became a hero back in the United States, and less than two years later received the Nobel Prize in Peace for his role in mediating a conflict that still rages today.

The Guardian’s 2018 obituary hailed Klug as “one of the mildest, most broad-minded and most cultured of scientists”, and as someone who “was once seen as a radical too dangerous to be permitted access to the US”.

Having to forge a research career in the UK instead, Klug met X-ray crystallographer and virologist Rosalind Franklin, which propelled his journey to the leading edge of scientific discovery.

Klug held a bachelor’s degree from the University of the Witwatersrand (which he began aged just 15), a master’s degree in physics from UCT and a doctorate from the University of Cambridge. His supervisor at UCT was the vaunted Reginald William James, UCT’s first professor of physics and an X-ray crystallographer.

It was Franklin who introduced Klug to the study of viruses. Klug was to describe the helical symmetry of the tobacco mosaic virus and took big steps toward determining the three-dimensional structure of spherical viruses by electron microscopy.

Following 1959 his work on spherical viruses led to the realisation that the images of viruses being obtained with the electron microscope were projections that contained information about the whole three-dimensional structure.

Klug was not a headline grabber, but his crucial work made it possible to gain a three-dimensional view of viruses, which was revolutionary. His methods were also later used by the inventors of the X-ray computed tomography (CT) scan.

Klug was one of the founding trustees of the UCT Trust and chairperson from 1993 to 2010. During his time in office at the UCT Trust, more than £17 million was raised for projects at UCT. He was a frequent visitor to Cape Town where he lectured at the university and gave generously of his time, discussing projects with staff and students in the Department of Biochemistry. He received four awards from UCT: the President of Convocation Medal, the Chancellor’s Gold Medal of Merit (1982), an honorary doctorate (1997) and the Vice-Chancellor’s Medal (2010).
FINDING A CURE FOR MALARIA

Malaria is one of the world’s biggest killers, with some 212 million people being infected by the disease in 2015 alone. According to the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, humans have been affected by malaria for thousands of years, with references to diseases resembling malaria found in Chinese writing dating back to 2700 BC.

It’s no surprise that people have toiled to find treatments, but that for the most part, the anopheles mosquito has managed to spread its deadly cargo despite a swathe of treatments and preventions being made available.

So when UCT’s Professor Kelly Chibale in 2014 identified a compound that kills the malaria parasite at all stages of its life cycle, it provided genuine hope that the global drive to eradicate malaria by 2030 might actually be on course.

The compound, MMV390048 (also known as MMV048), belongs to a new chemical class and uses a unique mechanism to kill the parasite.

“The mechanism by which this new compound works has never been seen or used before in a clinical setting,” says Chibale, “which means that, at this stage, no malaria parasites have developed any kind of resistance to this compound in a clinical setting.”

As the malaria parasite tends to develop resistance to treatments over time, this is significant, but what really makes MMV048 stand out is its potential as a single-dose treatment.

According to Chibale, existing malaria treatments involve taking multiple doses of medicines daily for three or four days. The potential for a single dose is thus a game-changer, as it would reduce the chance that patients will forget to take their medicine or take it at the wrong times. It makes it easier for healthcare practitioners to ensure patients take their medication through direct observation – and, significantly for Africa, it reduces many of the costs associated with treatment. This also makes the treatment regimen far more manageable, especially in rural and under-resourced areas.

MMV048 entered phase I human studies in Africa in 2014, becoming the first new antimalarial drug to do so.

In July 2016, Chibale’s laboratory, the Drug Discovery and Development Centre (H3D), identified a new compound that might be able to both cure and prevent malarial infections.

This compound, called UCT943, was a preclinical candidate that was borne of collaboration – led by H3D – with the Switzerland-based Medicines for Malaria Venture, and an international network of partners. UCT943 has the same molecular target as MMV048 and is considered easier to formulate.

Both discoveries made headlines around the world, as one of the biggest breakthroughs against a dread disease anywhere in the world.

“Like MMV048, UCT943 has potent activity against all stages of the malaria parasite life-cycle and has the potential to block transmission of the parasite from person to person and, as such, could contribute to the eradication of malaria, a disease that claims the lives of around half a million people every year,” said Chibale, at the time of the announcement.

UCT Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price, said at the time: “Delivering two preclinical candidates within five years is an outstanding record by international standards especially for a drug discovery centre based at an academic institution. The value of a second candidate signals that the first compound was not a once-off, but part of a sustained and systematic programme.”

Chibale and the H3D lab exemplify UCT’s mission to provide unique solutions to global problems.
Professor Kelly Chibale, founder of Africa’s first integrated drug discovery lab, the Drug Discovery and Development Centre at UCT, was named as one of Fortune magazine’s 50 World’s Greatest Leaders for 2018.
Dr Louis Washkansky was a 53-year-old Sea Point businessman with a debilitating heart condition, and on that Saturday evening found himself in the Charles Saint Theatre at Groote Schuur Hospital, the unconscious participant in an epochal moment in medical history.

Barnard, at the time Head of the Cardiothoracic Surgery Department at UCT, and his thirty-strong cardiothoracic team, performed the nine-hour operation. The heart had belonged to 25-year-old Denise Darvall, who tragically had been struck by a passing motor vehicle after buying cake with her mother on 2 December, and whose father Edward, had agreed to donate her heart and kidneys. It was a painful weekend for Edward, whose wife had been killed by the same passing car.

Sadly, while the operation was a success, Washkansky’s condition deteriorated, and he died of pneumonia just 18 days after the operation.

The operation, though, granted a new lease on life for heart patients around the world, for whom a transplant was now a real possibility.

History books record Washkansky as bravely agreeing to let the surgeons perform this risky new procedure on his ailing body. Washkansky had suffered a number of heart attacks that had all but incapacitated his heart muscle; his body was bloated; he could barely breathe and was near to death. Professor Velva Schrire, a cardiothoracic specialist at UCT, realised that existing surgical procedures would not aid Washkansky, and Washkansky was referred to Barnard’s office.

While Barnard has rightly received much of the accolades as head surgeon, the team included medical professionals from a range of departments, including anaesthetics, the blood grouping laboratory, pathology, chemical pathology, haematology, cardiothoracic surgery, bacteriology, radiotherapy, medicine, diagnostic radiology, the diabetic clinic, the cardiac clinic, and the nursing cohort of the hospital’s B2 Theatre and Ward C.2/4.

It was truly a team effort, and when Washkansky’s new heart was electrically shocked into action just before 6am on 3 December, Barnard and the university were thrust into the international spotlight, its presence announced as a world-leader in complex and innovative procedures.

This might not be a story that needs retelling, but the narrative of Professor Christiaan Barnard performing the world’s first successful human heart transplant at Groote Schuur Hospital on 3 December 1967 is certainly worth recalling.
The disquiet around Hamilton Naki’s place in history is perhaps represented by disagreement about his very birth date. Encyclopaedic website Sahistory.org.za has his birth year as 1930, while AfricaCheck.org claims Naki was born on 26 June 1926 in Centane in the Eastern Cape.

Naki never read for secondary school and travelled to the Cape to find work at the age of 18. Naki’s first job at UCT was as a gardener. He met Dr Robert Goetz, who taught Naki how to dissect animals and operate on them. Naki’s talent became evident and he rose through the ranks in the experimental surgery laboratories, despite receiving no formal qualifications.

Elsabe Brits, writing for AfricaCheck.org, adds the following: “Professor Rosemary Hickman, a renowned and skilled surgeon who knew Naki well, wrote that ‘Naki had an amazing ability to learn anatomical names and recognise anomalies. His skills ranged from assisting to operating and he frequently prepared the donor animal (sometimes single-handedly) while another team worked on the recipient’.”

At the time, apartheid laws barred black people from operating on white patients and cadavers in public hospitals, so Naki was officially prevented from taking part in any procedure in a whites-only operating theatre, which is where the historic heart transplant took place.

“Those days you had to accept what they said as there was no other way you could go because it was the law of the land,” said Naki in an interview with the BBC.

When Naki died in 2005, many obituaries mentioned him as participating in the first heart transplant and as having operated on humans. One such obituary was retracted by the British Medical Journal, who claimed these details were inaccurate.

Sahistory.org claims that the source for the murmurs of Naki’s involvement in the human heart transplant was Naki himself, adding that Professor Chris Barnard had also “apparently hinted at Naki’s involvement shortly before [Barnard’s] death in 2001”.

David Dent, however, said the following during his stint as acting Dean of UCT’s health sciences faculty in 2005: “It is distressing that a fiction is gathering momentum and tarnishing the name of a highly talented and good man with an untruth.

“The suggestion that Hamilton Naki performed the
donor operation was never mentioned in life by the man himself, by the department of cardiac surgery, or by the university in his citation for his honorary degree in 2003. It was not mentioned after his death at his family funeral, or at the memorial service in the medical school experimental laboratory. The reason for this: it never happened.”

Naki was skilled in the transplantation of animal kidneys, hearts and livers, with liver transplants known to be even more complex than cardiac transfers, and Dent writes that Naki assisted many trainee surgeons as part of his work in the research laboratory, 12 of whom would become professors of surgery, according to a 2014 article published in the bulletin of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS), titled “Hamilton Naki, his life, and his role in the first heart transplant”.

Naki indeed worked with Barnard, with one of their first collaborations being when Naki acted as anaesthetist for Barnard’s experimental work on heart transplants in dogs. Naki’s work was so impressive, the RCS article notes, that Russell Claude Brock (who would become Lord Brock of Wimbledon), the pioneer cardiac surgeon of Guy’s Hospital, “was amazed to learn Naki was not qualified at all”.

Naki would become senior assistant at the JS Marais Laboratory when its incumbent, Victor Pick, died in a road accident in the early 1970s. The laboratory was situated a few doors from Barnard’s office, and it was there that Naki was responsible for sterilisation and care of instruments, operative preparation and took over the daily running of the lab.

Despite his lack of formal training, Naki became the most senior member of the JS Marais Laboratory. Indeed, Barnard is quoted as saying in a 20 June, 2003 article on www.news.24.com, titled “From gardener to surgeon”, that Naki “probably had more technical skill than I had”, and Naki would have been “quite capable” of performing heart surgery on a human being had he been allowed to do so.

Naki received a host of awards in recognition of his work, including the Order of Mapungubwe in bronze by President Thabo Mbeki in 2002 and a Master of Science in Medicine, honoris causa, from UCT in 2003.

We might never know the whole truth around Naki’s involvement with the 1967 heart transplant procedure in the world. What is clear, though, is that Naki is the tragic poster-child for generations of skilled black professionals who were structurally denied the chance to make a decisive contribution to the scholarly project by South Africa’s apartheid laws.
AC JORDAN
ACADEMIC TRAILBLAZER

Archibald Campbell (“AC”) Mzolisa Jordan is described variously in the annals as a professor, author, scholar, writer, linguist, literary critic, poet, musician, humanist, nationalist, freedom fighter, revolutionary and gentleman.

But it is as an academic pioneer and torchbearer for African scholarship and African literature and linguistics that he is remembered and his legacy has been honoured at UCT by renaming the Arts Block the AC Jordan Building.

Jordan is remembered in UCT history as the institution’s first black African lecturer, appointed in 1946 in the aftermath of the Second World War when the colonialist grip on the continent was beginning to loosen.

In South Africa in the mid-1940s, black urbanisation was on the rise and the growth of black organisations birthed new trade unions, such as the African Mineworkers Union, to challenge the country’s cheap labour system.

When Jordan took up his senior lectureship in the School of African Studies the student corps included returning WWII servicemen, many of whom had interrupted their studies to enlist.

In this dominantly white community, both English and Afrikaans, Jordan was to make his mark as a writer and scholar of isiXhosa and other vernacular black languages.

In 1956 be became the first black African scholar at UCT to obtain a PhD. His thesis, A Phonological and Grammatical Study of Literary Xhosa, won the coveted Vilakazi Memorial Prize for Literature by the University of the Witwatersrand for the most meritorious contribution to isiNguni literature.

But rewind to 1906, the year Jordan was born on Mbokothwana Mission Station in the Tsolo district of the Eastern Cape, where his father was an Anglican minister.

After completing his primary and secondary education, Jordan won a scholarship to Fort Hare University College where he obtained a teacher’s diploma in 1932 and BA degree in 1934.

Then followed a 10-year teaching stint at Kroonstad High School in the Free State where he mastered Sesotho and was elected president of the Orange Free State African Teachers’ Association. He also started publishing poetry in the Imvo Zabantsundu newspaper.

In 1940 he began working on the novel that was to become a landmark in Xhosa literature, Ingqumbo.
I am going to UCT to open that [UCT] door and keep it ajar, so that our people too can come in. UCT on African soil belongs to us too. UCT can and never will be a true university until it admits us too, the children of the soil.”

Appointed in 1946, Archibald Campbell Mzolisa Jordan was UCT’s first black African lecturer. His office was located in what is now called the AC Jordan Building, on University Avenue.

Yeminyanya (The Wrath of the Ancestors), an epic about the conflict between Western-style education and traditional beliefs. He later translated this into English and it was subsequently translated into Afrikaans and Dutch.

In 1942 he submitted his master’s thesis on the phonetic and grammatical structure of the Bhaca language to UCT.

In 1945 Jordan accepted a teaching post in the Department of African Languages at the University of Fort Hare, following the retirement of Davidson Don Tengo Jabavu.

It was a short-lived association; in 1946 he came to UCT as a senior lecturer, a career that lasted until 1962. According to his wife, Phyllis, Jordan was criticised for leaving Fort Hare for UCT. His response was:

“I am going to UCT to open that [UCT] door and keep it ajar, so that our people too can come in. UCT on African soil belongs to us too. UCT can and never will be a true university until it admits us too, the children of the soil.”

But politics interfered with scholarship. In 1960 Jordan was awarded a Carnegie Travelling Scholarship but denied a passport. He went into exile in 1962, a final denouncement of apartheid and particularly the introduction of Bantu Education at tertiary level, through the ironically named Extension of Universities Act of 1959.

Jordan sought residence in Tanzania (formerly Tanganyika), the United Kingdom and the United States. In 1962 he taught at the University of California Los Angeles and the following year was appointed to a professorship at the University of Wisconsin where he taught African languages (“the only teacher known to be teaching his native language outside South Africa”) until his untimely death in 1968. He was 61.

But Jordan’s name and voice continued through his literary works. In addition to The Wrath of the Ancestors he published a critical study of Xhosa literature in 1972. Three of his books were published after his death: Kwezo Mpindo zeTsitsa; an English translation of his anthology of short stories: Tales from Southern Africa (1973); and Towards an African Literature: The emergence of literary form in Xhosa (1973.)

At UCT his legacy was not forgotten. In 1993 the AC Jordan Chair in African Studies was established to provide meaningful study of Africa by integrating African Studies into research, teaching and learning at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in UCT’s faculties.

Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza, chair and director of the Centre for African Studies, said the move paved the way for UCT to be a leader in developing Africa’s intellectual resources by promoting African studies not only across disciplines and faculties at UCT, but the rest of the continent as well.

The current mission of the AC Jordan Chair is thus to champion the integration of African studies into research, teaching and learning at undergraduate and postgraduate levels within the university’s various faculties. This focus permeates the Afropolitan strategic drive and in the work of, among others, the UCT’s School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics, or AXL, and in the Centre for African Language Diversity, CALDi.

In 2005 the South African government honoured AC Jordan for exceptional contributions to literature by posthumously awarding him the Order of Ikhamanga (Gold).

SOURCES
• US Library of Congress
• Howard Phillips, The University of Cape Town 1918-1948: The formative years
• South African History Online
• Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza, chair and director of the Centre for African Studies, UCT, www.africanstudies.uct.ac.za
DENIS GOLDBERG
THE RIVONIA TRIALISTS’ ENGINEERING MASTERMIND

Not only was Denis Goldberg the youngest member of the group that stood trial at Rivonia, but he was also the one with the greatest practical knowledge of engineering, in as far as its practical applications to the anti-apartheid movement were concerned. UCT Alumni News was fortunate to sit down with Goldberg, discussing his role in the struggle, his memories of UCT’s engineering faculty and his plans to leave a legacy.

Born in 1933 in Cape Town to parents of a strong left-wing ideology, Goldberg became a member of the underground South African Communist Party (SACP) and was recruited to the ANC’s armed wing, uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) in 1961. In 1963, Goldberg was arrested at Rivonia alongside the likes of Nelson Mandela, Govan Mbeki and Ahmed Kathrada, by apartheid police, and was handed four life sentences in 1964.

Goldberg would eventually serve 22 years in prison and was the only Rivonia trialist to be incarcerated in Pretoria, in a whites-only jail. This saw him miss out not only on his children’s formative years, but he was denied any sense of solidarity with his comrades in the struggle, which he says added a layer of isolation to an already testing time.

Now, Goldberg has launched the House of Hope project in Hout Bay, where he resides. House of Hope is envisioned as a mecca for arts, culture and education for children from the area and its surrounds, and the Western Cape Provincial Government has agreed to provide land at the existing Hout Bay Museum.

AN: Why did you start the House of Hope Project and what do you hope to achieve with it?
DG: The House of Hope merges as a name out of an idea of what to do with an extensive art collection, which you can see all around this house. I would say there are 200 significant pieces and there are a lot of works which modern curators would not distinguish between art and handicraft.

My original idea was when I shuffle off to buffalo, as they say, the stuff would be auctioned and support various NGOs in Hout Bay for young people. We live in a very divided South Africa. Hout Bay is a
Our Constitution enjoins us to build a non-racial and non-sexist South Africa and overcome the discrimination and injustices of the past. Various people said you can’t pack up the collection, as it represents a vision of South Africa and its people as it should be.

Our young people need to sing together, dance together, make poetry together. In other words, art and culture can play a leading role. But there’s no guarantee.

In Hout Bay, my concept is an arts and culture centre where people speak each other’s languages, where they can do things together. That requires an institution, so an arts and culture education centre makes perfect sense.

My two granddaughters, my son’s girls, are all capable people, highly regarded in their employment in the film industry. At one point they all worked for Warner Brothers.

My grandson is a teacher and he has suddenly popped up as a leader. He’s a whiz on computers and websites and so on. He feels his school website is not good enough, so he simply made a new one. You do it because it’s necessary. This young man who studied sports medicine, is a physical education teacher and is on an expert training group for improving the pedagogy of the school because he has an interest.

He doesn’t get paid for it. But it’s necessary. He’s also organising a rugby tour in South to play in the townships. I’m proud of the inheritance of leadership skills and social commitment that gets passed down somehow or other. Very nice.

**AN: They did have a shining example...**

**DG:** No. Very often children reject their parents’ activism because they feel embarrassed. “Why my Daddy?” In fact, my late daughter, said in a television interview after I was released that I had time for everybody’s children except her. She said: “Make no mistake, my father’s my hero, but you don’t have to love your heroes. I hate him. He wasn’t there for us when we needed him.”

It took four years of therapy for her for us to be able to argue like fathers and daughters do and then be able to talk to each other. It’s very painful. But we all struggled. All our children. You have famous daddies who stand out and it’s hard to live up to.

I’m very fortunate, I have to say. Very fortunate. And that’s because of, I think, my mother, who grew my children, who grew their children, and that’s passed onto the great-grandchildren. That’s wonderful.

**AN: Can you recall your time as an engineering student at UCT?**

**DG:** It was well into the seventies, well down the road to the end of apartheid before a black student came into civil engineering [at UCT]. We had a girl student – now that was shocking! Her father was very upset; he didn’t want her to do civil engineering as she might have to climb up ladders.

I was aware politically and socially of injustice, and the need to speak out against injustice. At UCT, all of these attitudes were reflected.

Many years later, I was sent on a design course by a company I worked for. We had an American civil engineer, and he said it’s exactly the same in the United States. Much of the work comes from government, so civil engineers tend to tow the line because they want to get the contracts, when in fact they could play an important role in changing the way society works.

But there’s a history to it. Civil engineering grows out of military engineering, because only kings and princes could build fortresses and earthworks and battle-works and so on and pay for it.
“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centres of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

It’s a metaphor that inspired generations of people to fight despair and make what might, at the time, seem but a small change. And the speech that brought it forth was delivered by one Robert F. Kennedy, in what was a massive, public act of resistance against the apartheid regime in 1966.

Addressing a bursting then-Jameson Hall on 6 June that year, US Senator Kennedy was defying a National Party government which had not-so-subtly voiced its displeasure at his visit by banning the man who invited him, NUSAS president Ian Robertson.

Despite escalating incidents of banning and detention without trial, Kennedy arrived in South Africa, touring four universities, including UCT, where he was met by thousands of expectant ears.

His speech itself rippled across the globe and was immortalised in the film RFK in the Land of Apartheid, by South African filmmaker Larry Shore and Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Kennedy’s eldest daughter. It was an occasion many look back on as a watershed moment in UCT’s one hundred years as a degree-issuing institution, not least by those who helped bring him to these shores.

Former student leader Professor John Daniel recalled Kennedy’s visit as having a “very powerful short-term effect”.

“What it did was to basically revive the sense of morale of the anti-apartheid forces,” said Daniel. “1966 was a very bad time. It was only two years after Nelson Mandela and all the other ANC leaders had been sent to prison. The ANC was banned; people were going into exile.

“The government seemed at its most powerful, and here was this leading person who came and he revived the spirit of the resistance.”

Presidential-candidate Kennedy’s visit also reminded Daniel and his fellow student activists that they were not struggling in isolation and were indeed sending forth the “ripple of hope” that Kennedy mentioned in his talk.

“It reminded us that the rest of the world was behind us and supported us; it lifted the morale, and revived the strength of NUSAS at the time. So, the short-term impact was much greater than the long-term impact.”

But the long-term impact was not to be underestimated. Some of Daniel’s student-activist colleagues were keen to leverage the visit as an act of protest against then-Vice-Chancellor JP Duminy, who was widely seen as an apartheid apologist.

Dr Ken Hughes and Keith Gottschalk remembered how the Duminy era was a goldmine of tactical lessons in student protest.

“One of the things which there isn’t a record of was an anonymous pamphlet we put out at the time called ‘Yellow Duminy’, which depicted Duminy in yellow, which showed that he was a coward,” said Hughes, who served on the UCT Students’ Representative Council for two years and is a retired professor of mathematics at his alma mater.

“It went out anonymously and it was a complete disaster. And so, one of the things I learnt early on was that if one were serious about politics, one needed to learn to anticipate what the responses would be and if one was very serious, you learnt to avoid the situation [that would lead to an own goal].”

If the didactics of protests have changed over the years, the political will has arguably only grown, as evidenced by six students holding a placard demonstration under the Rhodes Must Fall banner at the official 50th anniversary of Kennedy’s visit on 4 June 2016.

Student activist Lovelyn Nwadeyi gave a rousing speech at that event in defence of student protest.

“As young people, we do not claim to have all the answers, but we are in the business of finding these answers and interrogating them to the nth dimension until our consciences will allow us to remain silent,” Nwadeyi said.

The ripple, then, is surging, by changing time and dispensations. Indeed, it was at the final Council meeting of 2018 that a resolution to detach JP Duminy’s name from one of UCT’s postgraduate residences was made, some years after Gottschalk himself had raised the motion to do so.

“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centres of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”
It was an event that drew dozens of journalists and seemingly even more security personnel. When Barack Obama’s entourage descended on Upper Campus, it came with the message that the fate of the African continent was in its young peoples’ hands.

Referring to US Senator Robert Kennedy’s historic speech on the campus in 1966, Obama spoke about the civil rights movement in his home country during that decade, and a South Africa that was still knee-deep in the brutality of apartheid.

“It would have seemed inconceivable at that time that less than 50 years later an African-American president might address an integrated audience at South Africa’s oldest university,” he said, “and that this same university would have conferred an honorary degree on Nelson Mandela.”

Speaking of his own political stirrings as a nineteen-year-old college student, Obama said it was a visit by young South Africans in exile that first ignited his political spirit. “It was the first time that I attached myself to a cause,” he said.

Encouraging students and other young people to recognize their own strength, he told the audience of a ‘supporting act’ speech he had made at a political rally shortly after encountering the exiled South Africans. “I remember struggling to express the anger and passion that I felt. I didn’t think I had made a difference and I was embarrassed,” he said. “But looking back at that nineteen year old, I’m more forgiving towards myself that the speech wasn’t perfect and rather, I see the value of believing that I could be part of something bigger than myself.”
KENNEDY PARALLELS

When US President Barack Obama took the podium at UCT, he was walking in the decades-old footsteps of slain American senator Robert Kennedy, who made his famous Day of Affirmation speech on the campus in 1966. But, coming to a very different South Africa, Obama’s impact is likely to take on a different shape and timeframe, say experts.

According to Professor Don Ross, dean of the faculty of commerce at UCT at the time, “President Obama’s focus on the challenges, responsibilities and opportunities for Africa’s young people is accurate and welcomed.” And, he adds, the long-term consequences should not be overlooked.

“The fact that President Obama spoke the words he did here is a fact that can be used to emphasise the unique responsibilities of and opportunities for UCT students, for years to come. After all, we are still invoking the words Robert Kennedy pronounced here almost 50 years ago. We’ll be remembering and drawing inspiration from President Obama’s encouragement for at least a similar frame of time.”

For Dr John Akokpari, senior lecturer in UCT’s Department of Political Studies and an international relations expert, Obama’s visit to UCT reified the university’s status as one of the top universities in Africa.

“The long-term effects of Obama’s visit are not exactly clear at this point, but back in the United States, UCT is noted as one of the top universities in Africa,” says Akokpari. “It perhaps positions UCT as a place where US foreign policy will be debated.

“Obama spoke about things such as good governance, which is very important in a country like South Africa,” he added.

Dr Max Price, who was Vice-Chancellor of UCT from 2008 to 2018, said that Obama’s visit was rich in symbolism.

“This is likely one reason he chose to speak at the University of Cape Town. I suspect his choice of a university platform is also directly related to the more explicit goal of his visit, namely to promote economic relations between the USA and the African continent, in ways that buoy the trajectory of economic growth.”

Former US President Barack Obama in UCT’s Sara Baartman Memorial Hall (formerly Jameson Hall) during his visit to the university in 2013.
UCT’S DEBT TO MAFEJE BEGINS TO BE REPAID

2015’s occupation of “Azania House” by the Rhodes Must Fall movement was not the first time UCT students staged a sit-in at the seat of university administration and governance.

Some 600 students lead a march from UCT Upper Campus to Bremner Building in protest of the university’s decision to rescind the offer of employment made to the late pan-Africanist scholar, Archie Mafeje.
In June 1968, after UCT’s Council notoriously rescinded an offer of employment to the late pan-Africanist scholar Archie Mafeje, some 600 students occupied the Bremner building to voice their disgust at the university leadership’s alleged caving to pressure from the apartheid state.

In those days, explained Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza at a seminar in 2018, it was common practice for Council to have a direct say in appointing academics. As it happened, Council had unanimously agreed to employ Mafeje as a senior lecturer in social anthropology.

Ntsebeza’s 2014 academic treatise on the matter, The Mafeje and UCT saga: unfinished business?, relates how Professor Monica Wilson, a head of department and Mafeje’s former supervisor and mentor, delivered a glowing report of Mafeje as “the ablest anthropologist of the three [candidates] and much the best teacher”. Further, Ntsebeza recorded, much of what Wilson wrote was echoed by the three other referees.

Despite an objection from a member of Senate, Mr D.C Robertson, that the other candidates held PhDs while Mafeje was still completing his, Council duly accepted the Committee of Selectors’ decision to appoint Mafeje and on the same day, 1 May 1986, the registrar wrote a letter of good tidings to Mafeje, who was at the University of Cambridge.

The letter would never be sent to Mafeje.

In the days that followed, Vice-Chancellor and Principal Sir Richard Luyt would report to Council that the Minister of National Education had urged in writing that the “appointment be reconsidered”, writes Ntsebeza.

“According to Luyt, there was a clear warning that if the Council disregarded the request of the Minister, the Government “would not hesitate to take such steps as it may deem fit to ensure that the accepted traditional outlook of South Africa was observed””, Ntsebeza added.

“Luyt read out the Minister’s letter and “also outlined discussions which he had had with the Minister and with the Director of Higher Education.”

A motion to rescind Mafeje’s appointment was resolved with 12 in favour and eight against, far from the unanimous decision to appoint only days earlier. Council did note in the motion’s addendum its “dismay and regret that its decision in this matter of the appointment of Mr. Mafeje should have been challenged by the Minister”. The addendum recorded a vote of 14 in favour and seven against.

Mafeje was sent a modified version of the original letter, with the good news replaced by a note that the “vacancy [had] ... been filled”.

Such was the malcontent around the decision that it became known as the Mafeje Affair. Students revolted en masse, and discord was palpable in Council’s ranks itself.

“In terms of world history, the Mafeje Affair took place against the backdrop protests that involved thousands of students in France, Germany and the United States of America,” writes Ntsebeza. “The decision by the UCT Council provided ammunition for students in South Africa to become part of these global developments.”

Ntsebeza notes a peculiar amnesia about the issue in the intervening years.

“By the end of the 1960s, the Mafeje affair had escaped the memory of virtually all sectors of UCT, students and staff who sat-in at Bremner building included. It is interesting to note that almost all the students of 1968 that I interviewed in 2008 not only claimed that they never met Mafeje, they never made attempts to find out what happened to him, a clear suggestion that the Mafeje affair was, in the eyes of the students, not about Mafeje, the person, but about themselves and at best, the principle, in this case, academic freedom and the autonomy of universities.”

Mafeje’s broken heart would not be repaired at his time of death in 2007. At a panel discussion in 2014, Ntsebeza pointed out that when Mafeje expressed a desire to teach at UCT after the exiles’ return in 1990, he was made to reapply for a post and was not even granted an interview. For someone who had earned the title of full professor, this would have stung.

“As a scholar, one of the reasons Mafeje wasn’t appointed in the 90s was his stance, so to speak, on what he called colonial anthropology,” explained Ntsebeza. “His stance with respect to anthropology was of such a nature that, had he been appointed at UCT, he would have made this university an interesting place to live in.

“He would have caused interesting debates precisely because he would have been in fierce conversation with some of the chief anthropologists at UCT. But that opportunity was denied to us here at UCT.”

While UCT had since named the main meeting room in the Bremner building after Mafeje, the sense lingered that more could be done.

To this end, celebrated scholar Professor Shahid Vawda delivered the inaugural lecture as holder of the Archie Mafeje Chair in Critical Humanities and Decolonial Studies in 2018.

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Then and Now
50th Anniversary of Bremner Sit-in

It’s a landmark event in UCT’s history. In August 1968, 600 UCT students – one-tenth of the student body – occupied Bremner building to protest the Council overturning the appointment of black scholar and social anthropologist Archie Mafeje as a senior lecturer after pressure from government.

The event was a watershed for UCT. Protesting students occupied Bremner and for nine days their peaceful sit-in was front-page news around the country, starkly dividing opinion.

In September 2018 members of UCT Spirit of ‘68 returned to campus for their Golden Reunion, a series of events coordinated by the Development and Alumni Department, culminating in a panel discussion, “Then and Now: Academic Freedom, Democratic Freedoms, and Current Challenges to UCT”. It was moderated by former President of Convocation Professor Barney Pityana.

This was probably their last reunion, said veteran Keith Gottschalk, former Fulbright Scholar, retired political scientist and anti-apartheid poet.

Support and Opposition
Speaking at the panel discussion, veteran Madi Gray read from Emeritus Professor Francis Wilson’s 1968 editorial in Outlook magazine: “There can be few events which for a limited time, at least, have enjoyed support ranging all the way from Radio Albania through the students of Britain and Dar es Salaam to the Wynberg Youth branch of the United Party.

“The depth of opposition too, was surprising. The students broke no law, they never moved off the private property of the university, they continued their studies and they bathed regularly ... ”

According to the editorial, they also faced the “threat of police intervention, heavy criticism from private property of the university, they continued their studies and they bathed regularly ... ”

Academic Repression
Gottschalk, formerly head of political science at the University of the Western Cape, remembered the oppressiveness of the 60s in South Africa when every book on his reading list prescribed for political science students was banned by the apartheid government.

“Communists and non-whites were banned from teaching. You couldn’t criticise university management.”

But, chillingly, while the 60s had given rise to the new left, “what has emerged post-Obama is the new right”.

What Have Been the Gains?
Comparing the sit-in of 1968 and the protests of 2015 to 2017, panellist Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Loretta Feris said it was notable that the sit-in was a mass protest that united the student body under one banner. Similarly, during the Rhodes Must Fall campaign students had also organised themselves along non-party
In 1968, one tenth of the student population stage a 9-day sit-in at Bremner Building in 1968

lines, united by a common goal.
However, this had changed in 2016 and 2017 when the focus turned to Fees Must Fall and social media gave the movement impetus countrywide.

“[But] The context remains the same.”
Reflecting on 1968 and the more recent events, she said it was important to ask what had been the gains.

“The students now need to ask the same question. I’d like to hope we’ve made some gains over the past few years because 2015 gave us the opportunity to turn things around.”

IDEALS ON THE RETREAT
Panellist Martin Plaut, senior research fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London, was only 18 at the time of the sit-in. The issues of the time – gay, feminist and black rights – became the guiding light for his generation and over the years had been “slowly, painfully moved forward”.

“None have been resolved. But compared to where we were 50 years ago, there has been something of a transformation.”

However, the rise of the far-right was a concern, embodied by US president Donald Trump, Russian president Vladimir Putin, attitudes towards immigrants in the wake of far-reaching instability in the Middle East – and growing neo-fascism, as seen in Germany.

“The ideals unlocked after 1968 are on the retreat,” he said. “The values of the Enlightenment, of reason over prejudice, science over dogma and superstition, are under threat of what’s coming ...”

“We must not retreat, as the alternative for Germany suggests, to the dark forests of the mind. We must embrace the new while not abandoning the old. Reject narrow nationalism and parochialism and views that see security in restricting national cultures.”
UCT management rescinded an invitation to controversial Danish journalist Flemming Rose, who had been invited by the university’s Academic Freedom Committee (AFC) to deliver the 2016 TB Davie Memorial Lecture.

The annual lecture is meant as a platform for critically analysing academic freedom. Rose was cultural editor of *Jyllands Posten* when the magazine solicited and published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in 2005, which many found offensive, and was accompanied by public protest, riots and loss of life.

The university’s management, in a letter by Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price, outlined three key reasons for deciding to rescind the invitation. These pertained to the risk that Rose’s lecture would provoke conflict on campus, the security risks of presenting the lecture, and because putting Rose on the TB Davie platform in the 2016 climate might retard rather than advance academic freedom on campus.

This decision ignited widespread debate on and off campus, with many in support of the disinvitation and many decrying it as an attack on academic freedom.

A debate on the issue, and broader issues of academic freedom, was organised at the university in September 2016. Professors Imraan Coovadia, Sandra Klopper, John Higgins, Associate Professors Adam Haupt and Waheeda Amien (chair) and Mr Jacques Rousseau (then chair of the AFC) were the panellists. These are some of the opinions expressed in that forum.

**PROF IMRAAN COOVADIA**

The AFC showed “extremely poor judgment” in inviting Flemming Rose to deliver the TB Davie Memorial Lecture.
said Coovadia, “in part because this is not a speaker who’s going to enlighten us intellectually”.

For Coovadia, the biggest threat to academic freedom at UCT was not from such “spectacular” events, but came from within. “Large parts of the university … are not operating in an academic way.”

Coovadia also asked how much space there actually was in South Africa to have a “genuine culture of pluralism and debate”.

“If we look at how conflicts tend to get resolved, with a single exception maybe of our Constitutional order, they tend to be resolved by whichever side maybe ends up having the most power and closing down the other side in one form or another. That’s happened in this institution many times.”

JACQUES ROUSSEAU
Jacques Rousseau was chair of the AFC at the time when Flemming Rose, who edited Jyllands Posten when the Danish paper published cartoons about the Prophet Muhammad that caused a stir globally, was invited to talk at UCT.

“There are at least two important issues raised by the recent disinvitation of Flemming Rose,” said Rousseau at the academic freedom debate. “One is whether he should have been invited in the first place, in other words whether the Academic Freedom Committee made an error of judgment.”

The second was a matter of procedure, said Rousseau. When and why could a committee of Senate and Council members have a decision of the AFC overturned, he asked.

“In this case, Council was consulted, but Senate never was. So, there are governance issues to be interrogated, as an entirely separate issue to the question of whether the motivation for disinviting Mr Rose was sound.”

ASSOC PROF ADAM HAUP
Haupt noted that no legal right in South Africa’s Constitution was absolute.

“Your individual interests have got to be balanced with the common good,” he said.

“It seems like we’re rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic,” Haupt continued. “We’re arguing about … someone we already know is racist and is a provocateur in the worst possible way and invokes the kind of right-wing, cultural racism that has taken root in Europe; the kind of xenophobia that we’ve seen in Western Europe; the kind of right-wing racism and violence that we’ve seen in the States with the rise of Trump and the perversion of the Republican party.

“Shouldn’t we just deal with the racism we already have on our books and address that? Why would we want to invite that into our space?”

PROF JOHN HIGGINS
Higgins said there were a number of challenges to academic freedom and that challenges to freedom of speech were global.

One was the “capture” of higher education institutions across the globe by “neo-liberal policies and politics which are working to redefine aims and purposes of higher education away from serving the public good to servicing the economy, and to do this by providing applied but not critical knowledge and expertise”, said Higgins.

He also disagreed with the idea that academic freedom be cast alongside individual rights to freedom of speech and expression, saying it was better understood as a “very particular” practice that could only take place at a university. So there needed to be more thinking about the place of academic freedom in South Africa’s Constitution “before we can get very far”, he said.

“It’s not an individual right,” said Higgins. “It’s the way the state and other funding mechanisms make intellectual work possible or don’t allow it to be possible.”

PROF SANDRA KLOPPER
Klopper said she was not speaking on behalf of the executive.

Respect and tolerance for cultural, religious, political and other differences and acknowledgment of the values of diversity in society were part of the UCT statement of values, Klopper said.

“Freedom of expression, including academic freedom, is relational rather than absolute,” she said. “It is, and must always be, framed by context and by changing understandings of the notions of human indignity. Espousing an idea that is intolerant, that causes harm through the advocacy of views that are demonstrably offensive, is, in my view, not consistent with the idea of academic freedom.”

Klopper said the university would come to view this episode as a “watershed moment in which a deeper understanding of tolerance and respect triumphed despite widespread protestation to the contrary”.

The Torch of Academic Freedom, seen here being lit by students at the 34th TB Davie Memorial Lecture in 1994, was created by UCT students in the late 1950s, for the purpose of being symbolically extinguished after the second reading of the “hypocritically named” Extension of University Education Bill, which sought to forcibly racially segregate South African Universities, as Associate Professor John Cartwright, former UCT student and former head of the university’s English Department, explained in a 1997 Monday Paper article.
MAMDANI RETURNS

Esteemed public intellectual Professor Mahmood Mamdani was appointed director of the Centre of African Studies at UCT in 1996. But he was to leave only three years later, after heated disagreements with colleagues who refused to accept his Problematising Africa curriculum which foregrounded African scholars hitherto unheralded in South Africa’s postcolonial academy. Suspended from teaching, Mamdani left for Columbia University. That seismic moment became known as the Mamdani Affair, and he did not return to UCT until August 2017.

Mamdani had been invited to deliver the annual TB Davie Memorial Lecture on 22 August that year, a lecture that commemorates the former vice-chancellor of that name who championed academic freedom. It was a poignant moment, given Mamdani’s own history with UCT and academic freedom.

Moments before he addressed the audience, some students and staff greeted the decolonisation doyen with a rendition of Nkosi Sikelel’ iAfrika, more struggle songs and representations by formerly outsourced workers.

“The discourse of decolonisation cannot happen in a vacuum,” student Thabang Bhili offered an explanation for the unannounced interlude.

An expectant hush while Mamdani was preparing his notes was broken by a sheepish voice from the audience: “We apologise to you.”

Laughter and clapping ensued, and more laughter followed when another voice chipped in: “We are very sorry about it.”

Mamdani, apparently, saw no need for sorrow.

“I am overwhelmed by this welcome,” he began. “I hope we can have a discussion which justifies it.”

The energy in the audience was a signal that this was hardly a traditional lecture, where the audience waits politely until afterwards to express its delight or indifference. Perhaps it was the cocktail of the subject matter, the occasion and the speaker, but Mamdani had his audience engrossed and frequently interjecting with murmurs, nods and sometimes more.

A day before the lecture, someone had asked Mamdani why, after staying away from UCT for 16 years, he had decided to come back now.
“I said: because Rhodes fell.”
Again, whooping and clapping.

“To me [Rhodes falling] it was a signal that a process of change was in the offing, and I would be the last person to stay away.
This was a talk that swirled through a history of how European expansion inflicted upon the conquered the imperative to classify all things; of brilliant quips of what colonialism actually was and what decolonising a university - and indeed a continent – truly means; and told of an epoch-shaping battle between activist-academics Ali Mazrui and Walter Rodney that would lay the groundwork for what we today understand as a public intellectual; and arguments of how it was easier to change one’s creed than to undo the idiom of one’s thought.

It was a lesson in what Mamdani has preached since his time at UCT– studying Africa through the eyes of Africans instead of only through the lens of Europeans. In this, he referenced a wealth of African scholars through the ages into his talk, from Ibn Khaldun in ancient times to this generation’s Kwesi Kwaa Prah.

THE UNIVERSITY AS A COLONIAL PROJECT
“The African university began as a colonial project, a top-down modernist project whose ambition was the conquest of society,” Mamdani summarised.

“The university was in the frontline of the colonial civilising mission.”

Properly understood, this civilising mission was the precursor to the structural adjustment programme and the World Bank and IMF loans that enforced conservative economic policy on indebted, newly independent economies.

“The university was the original structural adjustment programme,” he said.

“The African university began as a colonial project, a top-down modernist project whose ambition was the conquest of society.”

Classification became global with European expansion, said Mamdani. Household-name sociologists like Emile Durkheim and Karl Marx all used a form of classification for their theories - Durkheim chose chemistry and Marx biology.

“For those who did the classifying around the world, their reference point was the West – the world they knew.”

It wasn’t easy to unlearn one’s assumptions, but, as Mamdani put it, one could be conscious of them and thus be modest with one’s claims.

With the university now understood as an outpost of the colonial frontier, whose mission was to subjugate the natives and enforce the colonisers’ way of life on the land, Mamdani had a message for those who found themselves in such a space: “Your task has to be one of subverting that mission from within.”

Under a strong impulse one can change one’s creed, but it is much more difficult to change the process of reasoning which one acquires from one’s total educational background.”

IT’S ABOUT THE UNKNOWN UNKNOWNS
Mamdani used the “spirited exchange” between Mazrui and Rodney, of Makerere University and the University of Dar es Salaam, respectively, to make a salient point.

Mazrui, in coining the concept of “mode of reasoning”, argued that “compared to political inculturation, ideological orientation is both superficial and changeable. To be in favour of this and that country, to be attracted to this system of values rather than that, all are forms of ideological inversion.

“Under a strong impulse one can change one’s creed, but it is much more difficult to change the process of reasoning which one acquires from one’s total educational background.”

As proof, Mamdani related, Mazrui argued that no amount of radicalism in a Western-trained theorist could eliminate the Western style of analysis he [or she] acquired.

“After all, French Marxists are still French in their intellectual style,” Mamdani said to a chuckling crowd.

IS THERE A MODE OF REASONING WE CAN TERM AFRICAN?
Mamdani’s answer, to the audience’s discomfort, was no. One of the reasons was that most Africans had emerged from colonialism speaking many different languages. Some estimates were of around 700 African languages. But only Afrikaans, which ironically was first written by slaves in Arabic script, ever developed into an academic mode of instruction.

“Colonialism cut short [the] possibility of cultivating an intellectual tradition in the languages of the colonies,” said Mamdani, “As a result, our home languages remain folkloric, shut out of the worlds of science, learning, high culture and government.”

EUROPEAN LANGUAGES HAVE RETAINED THAT PEDESTAL
Even kiSwahili, which is an exception to the folkloric trend, is treated as a “foreign language” at university level.

Mamdani challenged the university leadership to open a centre for the study of Nguni languages and knowledge traditions.

“Study the literature in the language and develop the literature in the language.”
Moreover, the university needed to invest in scholars who could study and teach the non-Western traditions. “Theory cannot be developed without reference points,” said Mamdani, imploring that we need new reference points.

“Give up the obsessing with comparing with the West. The world is larger than we have known.”

Audience members listened attentively as Mamdani worked through a systematic critique of the postcolonial university and suggested reforms that, he argued, could lead African universities into an era in which they were no longer bound by Western ideological shackles.

A PERSONAL REFLECTION

Mamdani’s lecture traversed too large a ground for this limited space (and watching the full video recording is recommended), but he did reserve time for a “personal reflection”.

“I came here in 1996 full of excitement, wanting to learn and contribute to the making of a new world. Instead I found a world very unsure of itself; full of anxieties. The leadership of government had changed, but the leadership of institutions had not.

“Instead of being receptive to change, the institutional leadership looked with distrust at every initiative for change, suspecting it of harbouring a hidden, subversive agenda. It felt lonely. In retrospect, though, it was a great learning experience. It was first at the University of Dar es Salaam, which was my first academic job, but then at UCT that I began to think of what it would mean to decolonise a university. For that opportunity, I am thankful to this university.”

A spirited discussion with the audience followed the lecture, after which Mamdani closed with a parting shot of wisdom: “The best scholarship is done in times of intense activism. Now that you are active: read!”

On Africa Day 2018 (25 May), Mamdani’s return to UCT became more permanent, when the Centre for African Studies (CAS) announced his appointment as Honorary Professor.

Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza, director of CAS, said: “This appointment is particularly exciting and profoundly significant in light of the pressure from the student movements since March 2015 for UCT to be decolonised and to fundamentally transform its curricula, with numerous references by student leaders to the relevant scholarship of Mamdani.”
# TOP 100 DONORS TO UCT SINCE 1997

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On a day dubbed Black Tuesday by the local media, hundreds took to the streets to voice their concern with the passing of the Protection of Information Bill, which was widely interpreted as a move to censor criticism of the state. The protests were led by organisations such as the Right2Know Campaign.

The UCT corporate website had its own say; the website was blacked out for the day as a show of solidarity.

‘SECRECY IS FOR HIDING CORRUPTION’

As an institution that prides itself on its commitment to academic freedom and its position as interlocutor for society, it was no surprise that many members of the UCT community joined those protesting against the so-called Secrecy Bill outside Parliament on 22 November 2011.

On a day dubbed Black Tuesday by the local media, hundreds took to the streets to voice their concern with the passing of the Protection of Information Bill, which was widely interpreted as a move to censor criticism of the state. The protests were led by organisations such as the Right2Know Campaign.

The UCT corporate website had its own say; the website was blacked out for the day as a show of solidarity.
The demonstration took place on campus on 20 February 2013, with marchers moving from Middle Campus to the foot of the Sarah Baartman Memorial Hall, then called the Jameson Hall. Addressing the crowd, then-Vice Chancellor Dr Max Price said: “Violence has become so commonplace that we have become numb to it. “We protest to preserve our own humanity.” Price added: “We expect the state to protect us; a criminal justice system that ensures perpetrators are locked up”.

Associate Professor Shanaaz Mathews also expressed horror at the pandemic of gender-based violence at the time, saying that society was not even aware of the true extent of the problem. “The biggest problem is that we do not have national statistics. We do not know how big the problem is,” said Mathews, director of the Children’s Institute. “When it comes to sexual assault, we have statistics only for those cases that are reported to the police. For the year 2010 to 2011, 56 000 cases of sexual assault were reported, of which just under half involved children. But according to the Medical Research Council only one-tenth of all such cases are actually reported to the police”.

‘WE SAY: ENOUGH!’

When news of the horrific torture and murder of Bredasdorp teenager Anene Booysen shocked the country, thousands of UCT students and staff expressed their outrage at the heinous act and demanded an end to systemic violence against women and children.
THE EIGHTIES
A DECADE OF PROTEST

The End Conscription Campaign was formed in 1983 in objection to the mandatory military service imposed on white South African men by the South African Defence Force and was rooted in international principles recognising the right of freedom of conscience.

Allegations of a government spy at UCT in the mid-1980s drew fury from members of the campus community.

This picture, taken on UCT’s Upper Campus during the political turmoil of the mid-1980s, in particular around the boycott-breaking visit of Irish academic and politician Conor Cruise O’Brien in 1986, shows that protest at UCT is not something that started in 2015.

This picture rather speaks for itself.
Police and demonstrators face off in a protest organised by UCT students. The students were objecting to the presence of Irish academic and politician Conor Cruise O’Brien on campus, whose lecture tour broke the international academic and cultural boycott that aimed to weaken the apartheid regime.

One of the frequent protests against conscription in Cape Town during that tumultuous decade.
A NEW ERA FOR SA UNIVERSITIES BEGINS WITH A SYMBOLIC REMOVAL

March 2015 was a seminal month in the university’s history, as it witnessed the formation of the Rhodes Must Fall movement, who, after mass support from the campus community, persuaded the university governance structures to remove the statue of Cecil John Rhodes.

Rhodes’ legacy of oppression and disenfranchisement of the local population as an agent of the British Empire was seen as unworthy of the pride of place the statue’s positioning seemed to afford his memory. On 8 April 2015, the UCT Council resolved to remove the statue from Upper Campus.

The protests soon transcended the mere issue of the Rhodes statue, which became a symbol of what many argued was the untransformed nature of South African universities. At a university assembly on 25 March 2015, it became clear that the majority of those who attended were unequivocal: the statue must go, but only as a precursor to substantive transformation.

Here, we look back at some of the opinions expressed by members of the UCT community during what became known as the “RMF” period in the university’s history.

PROF LESLIE LONDON
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND FAMILY MEDICINE

“UCT needs to reflect on its visible symbols, because the culture of an institution cannot be separated from the statues, pictures and iconography of those whom the university chooses to valorise. Whom we honour in our symbols is a powerful message to staff and students. That UCT benefited extensively from Rhodes’ legacy is a fact that can’t be airbrushed out of history. But it will be an appropriate statement if UCT removes Rhodes’ statue from its present position to make it the subject of a critical social history. A space for a critical narrative on Rhodes’ role in South Africa should be created without the need for the statue.

However, the same colonial gaze that Rhodes exerted looking north to Cairo is a gaze that continues to permeate UCT at large. In all our Senate committees, for example, are we serious about thinking about Africa as a place of knowledge generation, from which we can learn, or do we simply treat Africa as a place to colonise, patronise, or, alternatively, as a place over which our gaze passes northward in search of our European and US role models?

“I fear much of UCT is still locked into the latter mindset. If the ‘removal’ of Rhodes’ statue is to mean anything, we need a far deeper and ongoing reflection on what we consider to be knowledge worthy of valorising.”

ZETU MAKAMANDELA-MGUQUHLWA OMBUD

“Transformation is a pervasive issue at UCT. Given the highlighted need for more transformation, Cecil is not a name in history; but his legacy is experienced by some of my visitors in the present, thus making the university reminiscent of the past. I doubt if statues, art and images at UCT would be a primary bother if the university life was different to what Rhodes conceptualised.

“What now? One can appreciate that the students are simply asking for a date for the removal of the statue. UCT will have to look into substantial issues of transformation.

“Martin Luther King Jr said: ‘History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamour of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.’

“The current climate gives UCT an opportunity to re-focus its transformation agenda, to develop and revive its communal spirit, and to be a true African university, where all its members feel that they belong and are proud members of the association.”

ASHER GAMEDZE
UCT RESEARCHER

“This pressing question is at the heart of the movement: how can we reimagine and forge a university, the values and guiding principles of which diametrically oppose its historical and current status as a satellite remnant of colonial empire?

“I suggest that the most important thing in this undertaking is to listen to black voices. Blackness speaks from daily experience of institutional racism and it must dictate the terms of ‘transformation’.

“UCT will never break with its colonial, elitist roots if ‘transformation’ debates give so much weight to the voices of those whose ancestors were Rhodes and his colonial cronies; history tells us that they are reluctant to break down the empire the benefits of which they inherited.

“That is why Rhodes still sits comfortably, and that is why he must fall.”
At UCT, students, staff and workers (who at the time were still outsourced) led protests under twin banners: Fees Must fall and End Outsourcing. These, said protesters, were two sides of the same coin. After fierce debate, the university Council agreed to formally end outsourcing, with most formerly outsourced workers reabsorbed into the university system by mid-2016. This historic moment closed a chapter that had begun under Vice-Chancellor Dr Mamphela Ramphele in the late 1990s.

More broadly, the associated call was for “decolonisation” of the higher education space. Students campaigned – and continue to campaign – for diverse and representative teaching bodies that do not exclude knowledge and voices from the historical Global South. To this end, UCT established the Curriculum Change Working Group, which presented its findings in late 2018.

UCT also set up a Fee-Free Education Working Group to explore how viable fee-free education could be in South Africa’s economic climate.

While the Fees Must Fall and End Outsourcing protests had short-term ends, there have been long-term implications. Most notable at UCT was the establishment of the Institutional Reconciliation and Transformation Commission, which was borne of an agreement on 6 November 2016 between students and university leadership who had been locked in debate since the advent of the Rhodes Must Fall movement the previous year.

The IRTC, which held its hearings in 2018, aimed to address the deeper questions of transformation and get to the heart of issues of discontent at the university. It is no doubt a process that will continue even after the commission presents its final findings.
In 2015, thousands of students, staff and workers join protests at UCT under the twin banners ‘Fees Must Fall’ and ‘End Outsourcing’
The Long, Tough Road to Insourcing

“Next year, we’ll be colleagues.” This was an exchange between a Campus Protection Services officer and a UCT staff member in the evening of 28 October 2015. Workers and students gathered at Avenue House had heard that UCT would abolish outsourcing, and employ all currently outsourced workers who provide services on its campuses.

Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price declared in a statement earlier that day that UCT agreed to the principle of insourcing, advising that a process to determine the modalities, framework and timeframes of the implementation of that decision needed to be agreed upon by the parties involved.

The first modalities of insourcing staff came after an unprecedented campus shutdown and intense protests under the joint banners of “Fees Must Fall” and “Insourcing Must Fall”, which were held aloft by students and staff across South African institutions.

By signing that agreement, UCT became the first university to officially agree to insource previously outsourced staff.

A meeting between the NEHAWU Joint Shop Stewards Council (JSSC), which represents the workers, and UCT management produced a signed agreement in which UCT committed to insource the outsourced services at the time of contract expiry, subject to a short handover period, where the expiry dates are within the next few months.

The majority of these new staff were officially welcomed by the university on 1 July 2016. These were service staff contracted to UCT on a full-time basis by six companies: TurfWorks, G4S, Sibanye, Metro Cleaning Services and Supercare. Due to contractual obligations, the last group of service staff from C3 Food Services, which catered for the residences, were insourced on 1 November 2016.

The process was guided by Section 197 of the Labour Relations Act of 1995, which deals with the transfer of employees. In essence, this meant that the insourced staff were employed by UCT on no less favourable terms and conditions of service than before.

“We are impressed and proud of what has been achieved in such a short space of time,” said then Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price at the official welcome, a celebratory tea hosted in Jameson Hall. He went on to underscore the value that these staff provided in being the eyes and ears of the campus – and being the friendly and helpful face of the institution.
“Many of you know how the university works better than I know. Many of you have been here longer than I have.”

Operationally, the insourced staff continue to be managed by Properties and Services and the Department of Student Affairs.

Price commended those who had put in the hard yards to ensure that the transition happened on time and without major disruptions.

Price said: “I’d like to recognise the work and commitment of the unions in the insourcing process and particularly the Joint Shop Stewards Council. I want to thank DVC Professor Francis Petersen, who has overseen all the processes and represented the senior management team in all the negotiations. A high-level steering committee chaired by Emeritus Professor Cyril O’Connor also played a critical role.”

WHERE DID IT ALL BEGIN?

Former Vice-Chancellor Dr Mamphela Ramphele, who led the institution from 1997 until 2000, took the divisive step of outsourcing staff who were responsible for cleaning, gardening, printing, catering and security services at the university.

In a matter of months, many workers, some who had worked at UCT for decades, had lost many of the comforts of direct employment such as permanent employment, subsidised health cover, tuition fee rebates, retirement fund contributions, and indeed many suffered salary cuts. In the restructure, some lost jobs altogether.

It was a move that was never universally accepted by the university community, and it reaped criticism from trade unions and social movements until the eventual abolition of outsourcing at UCT in 2015.

Nazeem Mobarah, a popular Jammie Shuttle driver who had worked for Sibanye, based at UCT, for 11 years before the insourcing process was completed in 2016, said at the time that working on a contract basis for more than a decade had caused uncertainty.

“We were unsure of where we were going or if we would still have work. We were still hanging then. But now we feel more secure,” he said of being permanently and directly employed by UCT.

“I think now everyone will focus on going all the way and giving their best. It’s all about team work,” he added. “Everybody is overwhelmed and loves the idea of officially being in the institution.”
The crosses in the picture above were planted along Wool sack Drive in August 2014, leading to Upper Campus, to commemorate the lives of 34 miners who were killed in what became known as the Marikana massacre on 16 August 2012.

The inaugural Marikana Memorial Lecture was held on 20 August 2014, with Professor Sakhela Buhlungu, then Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, delivering a withering critique of labour practices in South Africa’s mines and of the country’s ineffectual trade unions.

Buhlungu, whose own father worked in the mines, said the massacre of mineworkers by police was symptomatic of the ruling class’s conviction to defend a system of cheap labour.

“The overarching story of Marikana – and this is the story we’re not talking about – is that the cheap labour system has remained intact in this country. Completely intact. If you look at pay scales – it doesn’t matter what industry – those of us who sit at the higher end of it all benefit from it, because there’s just no logic that explains the gap.

“So, yes. It’s to protect profits, but also because R12 500 [the salary that workers at Marikana were demanding] begins to question, head-on, the cheap labour system. And that’s one debate that we really need to have – how do we get out of the cycle of the cheap labour system in this country?”

At a commemoration of the massacre on Upper Campus in August 2016, a leader in the workers’ movement at UCT cautioned against forgetting the killings of the mineworkers, with four years having passed since that fateful day.

“We are mothers. We are the working class. Those were our brothers that were digging the money, the
gold − whatever you call it. It’s our brothers. Today there’s no life for our sisters, for our mothers, because their sons passed away.

“That blood is still wet. You can think it’s dry. It’s not dry. Those were our brothers. Today there are widows. Today abantwana are orphans.”

The staff member also referenced the famous anti-dompas slogan: “You touched a rock. You touch the women; you touch the rock! Today, the pain is still there. There is no one to put food on the table. Where are you, government?”

Also in 2016, Asanda Benya’s paper, “The invisible hands: women in Marikana”, won the Ruth First Prize for most outstanding article by an African author in the Review of African Political Economy for 2015. Benya had been working as a winch operator at a mine a few kilometres away from Marikana at the time of the shooting in August 2012.

After her first few visits and numerous conversations with women in the mining communities, Benya was struck by the role that they had played. And yet no one was talking about them and their contribution to the struggle for a living wage, Benya said in an interview with Humanities News in 2016.

“With their permission, it seemed fitting to write their narrative, which was completely ignored at that time, and claim space for them, not as peripheral players, but as key actors who kept the Marikana spirit and flame burning when men were arrested, others injured and 34 killed.” This research fills a gap that Benya identified − the role and place of women in mining communities and how they are affected by massacres like Marikana.

“To fully understand Marikana the event, one has to understand Marikana the location, and hence realities on the ground,” writes Benya.

Conditions in the mining settlements were abysmal, writes Benya. There was little basic infrastructure.

“The lack of basic services, for migrants, symbolises lack of respect,” she argues. “Migrants feel left out and uncared for by the local government, by traditional authorities and by the mining corporations. None of these structures seem to care, support, safeguard or consider their needs or interests.

“Even in post-apartheid South Africa, migrants say they continue to be sacrificed for the benefit of capital and to the detriment of their livelihoods.

“At the root of the migrants’ narrative are the multilayered ways the mines eat away their lives through what they describe as harsh, harmful and humiliating working and living conditions; the exclusions they face from traditional authorities because they originate from distant lands, and thus belong to different tribal or ethnic groups; and finally the ruling party, which has blurred and in some instances erased the line between government services and privileges for party members.

“Their stories capture the conditions under which labour power is reproduced and the nature of the post-apartheid order for many black mineworkers. Their chronicles of daily struggles for survival show how they navigate crises in the absence of services.”

The Marikana women’s reliance on the mines for sustenance is a complex dance. Many women are regarded as ‘out-of-towners’ and are typically barred from finding work in the mines, so they rely on their husbands’ or boyfriends’ income. But the support they provide at home − emotional support, physical support (mining injuries are commonplace), cooking, cleaning, shopping, raising children − is seldom considered.

“In a vicious cycle, the mining economy relies on a system of “cheap labour power, [which is] in turn reproduced by the invisible labour of countless women”, writes Benya.

Without them, the mines (and the cheap labour system) would not be able to exist.
The commissioners presided over campus-wide hearings in the last third of 2018, when members of the campus community submitted written and oral testimony on the layered issues it faces. The hearings presented a huge step forward for the IRTC, and at the time of writing the commissioners were considering the presentations and compiling a report. Watch this space.

The IRTC Steering Committee was established as a result of a period of unprecedented tension at the University of Cape Town (UCT) at the end of 2016. The creation of the multi-stakeholder steering committee that will oversee the proposed IRTC was one of the resolutions made in the 6 November 2016 agreement, which effectively brought the waves of continuing protest at the university to a halt.

The agreement, which was signed between the UCT executive and protesting student groups, paved the way for the establishment of the IRTC, whose aims are to: 
- consider all Shackville-related protests of 2016, including disciplinary procedures and interdicts
- invite submissions from all constituencies on clemencies that were granted and decide whether clemency should be turned into amnesty
- make recommendations on how the university should deal with pending cases and other such matters in the future
- make recommendations on institutional culture, transformation, decolonisation, discrimination, identity, disability and any other matters that the university community has raised over the past 18 months, or may wish to raise in the future.

Broadly, the IRTC’s objective is to map an inclusive and fair course for the university as it tackles the legacy of the so-called Shackville protests and to focus on the issues that have caused division on our university campus.

In 2018, after months of intensive and wide consultation and deliberation, the names of the Institutional Reconciliation and Transformation Commissioners (IRTC) were announced. Dr Yvette Abrahams, Dr Malose Langa, former minister Mosibudi Mangena, Yasmin Sooka and Justice Justice Zak Yacoob were appointed to lead the process into the substantive parts of fulfilling its mandate.

IRTC HEARINGS A BIG STEP FORWARD FOR UNIVERSITY
The review aimed to assess the work of the TSO, which comprised the HIV/AIDS, Inclusivity and Change Unit (HAICU); the Discrimination and Harassment Office (DISCHO), the disability service and led the university’s employment equity processes.

Now, the OIC oversees three service areas that had been located in HAICU, DISCHO and the Disability Service, under the guidance of director Dr Sianne Alves. Alves, as head of the OIC, reports to Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Transformation, Professor Loretta Feris.

The OIC provides institutional responses to transformation, sexual and gender-based violence, disability and cultural change. Some of the operational areas of the office include facilitating cultural shifts (staff–student engagement or staff–staff engagement), disability support services, prevention programmes, education, sexual assault, harassment and discrimination.

“Our mission is to provide effective support and encourage collaborative leadership at the University of Cape Town through evidence-led inclusivity programmes,” says the OIC’s new website. “Inclusivity is generated through a multipronged approach that focuses on curriculum, disability services, institutional cultural change, sexual and gender-based violence prevention policy and research.”

The employment equity function remains in the transformation portfolio, and will be moved to the Human Resources department in the future to allow for integration into the broader scope and work of HR at the university.
AMOORE IS NEW UCT LEGACY SOCIETY PRESIDENT

The past year was one of change and mourning for the UCT Legacy Society.

There was a changing of the guard, as Registrar Emeritus Hugh Amoore took over as UCT Legacy Society (LS) President, meeting members of the society for the first time on 22 March 2018. The LS is the official vehicle for alumni and staff who wish to bequeath a donation to UCT.

Amoore, whose career at UCT spanned 42 years, stepped into the presidency after Emeritus Professor Francis Wilson’s term had ended. Wilson had taken the reigns from the society’s first president, former Vice-Chancellor Dr Stuart Saunders, at the end of 2010.

The UCT Legacy Society was established by former Vice-Chancellor Emeritus Professor Stuart Saunders, who was the society’s first President. Saunders was awarded the Order of the Baobab in Silver by President Thabo Mbeki in 2002 for medical research and outstanding contribution to university education.

Sadly, the Development & Alumni Department and LS waved a final goodbye to former stalwart Rene Nolte, who passed away in December 2018 after a long illness. Nolte, who had managed the LS from 2011 until the end of 2017, had retired from UCT on medical grounds, and is remembered by colleagues with fondness.
TRIBUTE TO A BELOVED COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND

To commemorate the life of the late René Nolte, the late manager of the UCT Legacy Society, who passed away in December 2018, the Development and Alumni Department hosted a memorial service at one of Nolte’s favourite spots: the Rhodes Memorial restaurant.

Executive director Dr Russell Ally delivered a moving tribute to Nolte, who is survived by his wife Christine, who was present at the memorial service. Ally’s tribute can be read in full below.

“It is very strange not to have René here with us this morning. Surreal almost. This was one of his favourite spots and we can almost imagine him making an appearance any moment now.

“This is a bittersweet moment for many of us. This was where René spent a lot of time meeting with potential legacy donors and where he would ‘seal’ many of the agreements that would lead to legacy members leaving bequests to the university.

“René loved what he did. He was passionate about UCT and wanted to see the university grow in stature and be sustainable well into the future.

“He took what he did very seriously, believing not only in the contribution he knew he was making but in what leaving a bequest behind said about one’s commitment to the university. You were not only leaving a part of yourself behind for future generations, but you were also making a clear statement about your belief in the long-term future of the university. You were connecting with its long past and making a pact with securing its future.

“Not surprising then that René led by example. Not only was he the Legacy Manager, but he was also a proud legacy member himself, wearing his legacy pin as a real badge of honour.

René loved life. Even when he was struggling with poor health he never gave up on hope and optimism. He believed that he was going to survive his ordeal which is what makes his passing even more sad and heart-wrenching.

“In the department you could always be sure that he would be among the first to volunteer for any assignment or activity. Where else would you find a white Afrikaner man being one of the most active and committed members of the Transformation Committee. And he loved parties and a good time. Not surprising that he was always involved in organizing end of year functions and other departmental activities. He’d also take great care to design the notices and invitations with punctilious attention to detail.

“One of his highlights was putting together the Legacy magazine. He always did this with loving care, revelling in the wonderful stories and reminiscences of the contributors. He loved bringing their stories to life and celebrating their accomplishments in life.

“We have been missing René and will continue to miss him for a very long time. He leaves a wonderful legacy behind.”
In February this year, the FNB Fund (a part of the FirstRand Foundation) granted funding in excess of R11 million to the UCT Disability Service, aimed at supporting students who rely on the unit to thrive at university and excel academically.

The grant has allowed the Disability Service to appoint much-needed South African Sign Language interpreters, note takers and similar human support, as well as provide technical aids, improved transport and bursaries to assist students with both learning and physical disabilities.

Representatives of the foundation recently visited UCT and met with academic and support staff, and with students with a range of disabilities. The students talked about how assistive devices as well as financial and other support have helped them, inspiring them to focus on their studies and experience student life more fully.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Transformation Professor Loretta Feris explained how the support has been geared towards the individual needs of each student. Addressing staff, students and the donors, she said disability is often “the forgotten part of transformation in our society”, but that this should change.

Many students with disabilities grapple with layers of disadvantage, she said.

“If we want to ensure the success of all students, we need to ensure the equity of success of students with disabilities. Your partnership with UCT and the Disability Service has enabled us to deliver on our mission to ensure equity of access and equity of success,” Feris told the donors.

Manager of Disability Services Edwina Ghall said it is very important for the students to feel included.

“This is their space and we want them to own it and feel at home here. This is all about inclusion and we hope to bring about further change in this environment.”

“If we want to ensure the success of all students, we need to ensure the equity of success of students with disabilities.”

PERSONALISED ASSISTANCE

The partnership between the FNB Fund, a part of the FirstRand Foundation, and UCT is helping students in various ways.

A PhD student who was experiencing handwriting difficulties to the extent that she considered giving up
her studies was helped with Dragon Naturally Speaking dictation software, enabling her to get back on track.

A low-vision mechanical engineering student has been using a Transformer HD magnifier to help with the technical drawings he needs for his course. Another visually-impaired student uses the portable Zoomax Snow 7 magnifier to access lecture materials.

A student using a wheelchair has been helped with a wheelchair bag in which to transport heavy books, while a master’s student who is blind will benefit from the recently purchased portable Orbit Braille reader.

The fund has also paid for a carer for a blind master’s student so that he can get to lectures and other venues. A Deaf student has the support of South African Sign Language interpreters. Students also have assistance from note takers in lectures and tutorials, as well as scribes during exams.

A number of students with disabilities have been supported by the fund through bursaries that include tuition fees, accommodation and a book allowance.

Psychology student Jamie Adams, who lost her right leg in a motorbike accident in 2013, said the staff of the Disability Service had been “an amazing” source of encouragement, while her bursary had helped immensely. She has also been able to write her exams in the Disability Service unit instead of in the usual exam venue, which has many steps to navigate.

Adams, who is doing her honours, is full of enthusiasm and is a role model to others. She has been admitted into the global Golden Key International Honour Society, a non-profit organisation based in the United States that recognises academic excellence, for being in the top 15% of her class.

Deputy VC of Transformation Prof Loretta Feris said disability is often “the forgotten part of transformation in our society”, and that this should change.

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

The Disability Service also assists students who have learning challenges, such as Tumishang Selamulela, who described how he had battled to keep up with the pace of his mechanical engineering degree.

“It had been my dream to come to UCT to study engineering. But it took me eight years to get to the end of a four-year degree. Eventually an educational psychologist determined that I had a learning disorder.”

Selamulela had other obstacles to overcome as well.

“Life was rough, living in Belhar far from campus, and I got to a point where I was struggling with funding.”

Encouraged by his perseverance, the Disability Service, with the help of funding from the FNB Fund, stepped in. He has been provided with accommodation near campus, his tuition has been paid and he is now allotted extra time for every exam.

“Somebody gave me a chance and I appreciate it. The extra time is a relief and it’s made such a difference to be close to campus as well. I am on a journey and I will get my degree. It’s given me new hope.”

The Disability Service recently acquired a new vehicle which will be adapted to transport students and staff with disabilities, making the unit the first at an academic institution in the Western Cape to provide accessible transport. The vehicle will supplement UCT’s nine-seater accessible bus, which can accommodate three wheelchairs, as well as another smaller vehicle.

Amy Sheldon, who is doing her honours in film and television studies and uses a wheelchair, says the accessible bus and other services have been a tremendous help. The FirstRand Foundation grant has helped to pay for her education, while also funding someone to take notes for her during lectures.

“UCT and the fund have helped me to follow my dream to be a university student and to further my studies,” she said.

SOCIAL INVESTMENT

Charmaine Nondo, (FNB CSI Fund Manager) under the FirstRand Foundation, said the interaction with the students had been enlightening.

“We strongly believe that students should be educated in whichever field they choose and disability should not be a hindrance. Through speaking to the students, we’ve also realised that small changes and assistance can make a big difference on a day-to-day basis.”

Howard Arrand, Chairman of the FNB Fund, adds, “We are thrilled with the progress that Universities such as UCT are making in supporting students with disabilities; we are ever mindful of the immense need to invest in this space from early childhood development through to tertiary education.”

Monitoring and evaluation specialist Nyaradzo Mutanha, for Tshikululu Social Investments which administers the FirstRand fund, said she was moved by how students with disabilities have overcome obstacles and are pushing ahead with their studies.

She also hopes companies will help graduates get to the next level.

“From discussions, we realise that the biggest gap is the link between completing university and getting into the corporate world. We hope companies realise the great value of these students and employ … them when they graduate.”

The FirstRand Foundation has demonstrated a unique approach to partnership, said Dr Sianne Alves, director for the Office for Inclusivity and Change.

“[It] moves beyond financial contribution by emphasising how valuable it is for corporations to understand the needs of the recipients – even when those needs do not fit within the usual parameters of funding.

“The FirstRand Foundation has done more than provide funding. It has contributed towards the future of the students as academics and industry professionals. For this we are all thankful,” she said.

South Africa marks National Disability Rights Awareness Month in November.
GROUND-BREAKING NEUROSCIENCE CENTRE

“We are gathered to mark a moment in the life of neuroscience at UCT; a moment to say ‘we believe in what you want to do; believe it’s worth investing in,’ ” said Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Internationalisation, during the breaking-ground ceremony of the new Neuroscience Centre in June 2018.

The centre will be an interdisciplinary research and clinical space to study and treat mental and neurological disorders in South Africa.

With both Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price and Professor Phakeng, Vice-Chancellor designate, in attendance, it seemed both a celebration of the achievements of the past and a sign of hope for the future.

“Breaking ground signals a beginning, not of the work, but of renewed hope, of renewed energy for the work that you have been doing and the work that is still to come,” she said.

The centre will be the physical home of the newly established UCT Neuroscience Institute, as well as the Groote Schuur Hospital Clinical Neuroscience Centre, where researchers and clinicians will work together to treat brain and nervous system disorders that burden South Africa.

REALISING A DREAM

Professor Graham Fieggen, director of the Neuroscience Institute, said that the idea for a dedicated Neuroscience Centre at UCT was first proposed in 1969 by Emeritus Professor Kay de Villiers, but that the real work to establish this centre started around 10 years ago.

“I believe that we can truly be a world leader in neuroscience, by focusing on the areas where we can make a difference to patients.”

“I first spoke about my dream for a Neuroscience Centre in my inaugural lecture in 2010; the people in this room have now helped make it a reality,” said Fieggen at the ceremony. “Initial funding from private donors and the Western Cape Government catalysed UCT to recognise neuroscience as worth pursuing, and led to the Neuroscience Initiative being launched in 2015.

“I believe that we can truly be a world leader in neuroscience, by focusing on the areas where we can make a difference to patients.”

Dr Max Price spoke glowingly about the passion of the people leading this project within UCT and at Groote Schuur Hospital, and his own belief in how important neuroscience is for South Africa and for the university.

“UCT has invested in new interdisciplinary research institutes to address important problems facing our society. The Neuroscience Institute is one of these – advancing medical care while helping to understand the human brain. Doing so in an African context gives us a unique opportunity to solve local problems, contribute to knowledge and build capacity in a fast-moving area of scholarship.”

Other speakers included Professor Nomafrench Mbombo, Minister for Health in the Western Cape Government, and the late Professor Bongani Mayosi, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Previous and current CEOs of Groote Schuur Hospital attended the prestigious ceremony, as well as more than 100 researchers, students and clinicians, who joined in celebrating this long-awaited milestone.

A NEW HOME FOR NEUROSCIENCE

The centre will be in the renovated J-block building at Groote Schuur Hospital, which was first built in 1938 and home to several research and clinical facilities over the years.

The building will be expanded and refurbished to offer specialised clinical neuroscience services, and to house the laboratories, lecture theatres and infrastructure of the Neuroscience Institute.

The institute will encompass key neuroscience disciplines, a neurosurgical innovation and skills laboratory, a human tissues repository (called a biobank) and attached laboratory, a state-of-the-art lecture theatre and other communal spaces, as well as direct access to the Cape University Body Imaging Centre (CUBIC).

A R125 million fundraising campaign to refurbish and outfit the centre was led by Fieggen for the last four years, and was made possible through hard work and support from Groote Schuur Hospital CEO, Dr Bhavna Patel; Dr Max Price; and generous financial contributions from the Western Cape Government Department of Health, UCT alumni and philanthropic foundations.

Construction on the Neuroscience Centre will be completed in September 2019.

“Initial funding from private donors and the Western Cape Government catalysed UCT to recognise neuroscience as worth pursuing, and led to the Neuroscience Initiative being launched in 2015.”
(From left) Dr Keith Cloete, Professor Dan Stein, Professor Graham Fieggen, Professor Bongani Mayosi, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, Prof Nomafrench Mbombo, Dr Max Price, Dr Bhavna Patel and Professor Gregory Hussey at the site of the new Neuroscience Centre, situated at Groote Schuur Hospital.
The building is undergoing a massive revamp, including the development of a New Science Learning Centre, which the Science faculty envisions as a mecca for budding and experienced scientists from all fields to exchange ideas and collaborate.

The renaming was celebrated at an event in the Molly Blackburn Hall on 24 April. The ceremony was attended by his daughter Lindiwe Hani and Deputy Minister of Public Works Jeremy Cronin, who spoke on behalf of the Hani family, together with special guest Justice Albie Sachs, members of the university and student leadership, representatives from the South African Communist Party (SACP), and UCT students and staff.

Speaking to the decisions to rename this and other buildings, rooms, open spaces and roads on the university campus, Advocate Norman Arendse, chair of the university’s Naming of Buildings Committee, asserted the value that names have, as well as their role in promoting UCT’s project of transformation and decolonisation.

In so doing, and in accordance with its Strategic Planning Framework 2016–2020, these renamings contribute to the forging of a new and inclusive identity at UCT.

The South African Students’ Congress (SASCO) at UCT first proposed the renaming of the New Science Lecture Theatre in August 2014. It was approved by Council one year later.

The main motivation behind the proposal was that this was the last public venue where Hani had addressed an audience at UCT before he was assassinated in April 1993.

Being permitted to rename one of its buildings after Hani plays a central role in building on the kind of legacy the university hopes to achieve, said Arendse.

“As with so many South Africans across the generations, including the current young generation in our country, Chris’s first direct exposure to politics came, as it happens, on the terrain of educational struggles,” said Cronin, in delivering the keynote address on behalf of the Hani family.

In 1954, while Hani was completing his secondary education, a number of his teachers were fired for protesting against the introduction of Bantu education.

Reflecting on this in later life, Hani noted that Bantu education intended “to indoctrinate black pupils to accept and recognise the supremacy of the white man over the blacks, in all spheres. This angered and outraged us and paved the way for my own involvement in the struggle”.

This was the beginning of Hani’s lifetime of radical African nationalism.

A SCHOLAR FIRST
But this nationalism was accompanied by a seemingly contradictory love of Latin, Greek and English literature, and a propensity to quote enthusiastically from Shakespeare.

“But the contradiction is only apparent. Because what he drew from the Western canon was a deep humanism,” said Cronin. As Hani himself noted, his studies of literature further strengthened his hatred of all forms of oppression, persecution and obscurantism.

Speaking of her father, Lindiwe Hani noted: “He was a soldier, but it was at a time that it was necessary to take arms. I think that he actually regarded himself more as an intellectual.”

“Daddy was always very passionate about education,” she noted. “We didn’t hear nursery rhymes. We heard about Marxism and Shakespeare.”
Indeed, this is one of the qualities UCT considers in its renamings: selecting individuals who have been inspired by their academic education, and who have remained intellectuals throughout their lives, noted Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price.

**NAMES DO MATTER**

As many speakers pointed out, renaming, in isolation, does not a transformed institution make.

"Names do matter. They are not everything. They are not a substitute for other things, but they do matter and they are there because people have struggled," asserted Sachs.

Cronin expressed similar sentiments when he said: "There are of course cynics who will say that changing the name of a building, or removing a statue, or whatever, changes nothing.

"They will be proved wrong if we embed this renaming within a wider process of social, economic, and cultural transformation, of our universities and our wider society."

"A university is surely a place in which it is both possible and imperative to foster reflective thinking, rational discussion, debate, which may be passionate, but must be collegial and civil in character."

When Chris Hani engaged with people, he did not shout down from a podium. He engaged directly and personably, recalled Cronin.

"I hope that the ... renamed lecture theatre, which now bears the name Chris Hani, will be an appropriate forum for collective empowerment, for rational and reflective discussion and learning. I trust, in short, that it will earn the name Chris Hani."

**THE NEW SCIENCE LEARNING CENTRE**

The New Science Learning Centre will be located within the repurposed Chris Hani Building that sits centrally to most Science Faculty departments. The Science Learning Centre will provide the types of learning areas needed by our students that will enable them to engage with their studies outside of the formal class room.

It will include informal (social) learning areas, attractive science displays, communication hubs, and formal flat floor venues for teaching and tutor/mentor-based cooperative learning activities. A ‘think tank’ with a digital virtual wall will provide an ideal location for more formal seminars and discussion groups at the senior undergraduate or postgraduate level.

"We are confident that a large modern learning space will not only contribute to enhancing the learning experience of our Science students and will stimulate innovative approaches to teaching and learning among academic staff," said deputy dean Associate Professor David Gammon. "The combination of these and other initiatives should then result in markedly improved success rates and reduced drop-out rates and contribute to diminishing of student debt.

"The further consequence would be that a more racially diverse cohort of graduates than at present will be equipped and empowered to enter the national and global arena with highly sought-after science and technology skills," said Gammon.

The repurposing of the Chris Hani Building will cost in the region of R90 million, and the Science Learning Centre and new Science faculty administration offices will cost R35 million.
NELSON MANDELA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC GOVERNANCE LAUNCHED

The University of Cape Town’s (UCT) new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, has launched the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, describing it as a flagship of UCT that encourages Mandela’s values of ethical and selfless leadership.

“The impact this school will make will be long-lasting and epitomises the values which Mandela stood for,” Phakeng said.

The Vice-Chancellor, who began her term of office only a few days ago, said it was also in line with her vision for the university.

“The Mandela School epitomises my vision of strengthening our excellence as a university, driving transformation and ensuring a sustainable future for UCT. Through it, UCT is becoming a more African university through its contribution to excellence in leadership and excellence in Africa.”

Founded originally as the Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice in 2011, the school has transitioned to become the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, with the support of the Nelson Mandela Foundation. The Mandela School, as it is expected to be popularly known, combines academic insight with practice-based public service to promote strategic public leadership in Africa.

The launch of the school was timed to celebrate the centenary year of Mandela’s birth.

AFRICAN GOVERNANCE

“The Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance is committed to cultivating and supporting leadership in African governance. We have built a truly African centre at the University of Cape Town. We are proud and deeply honoured to be associated with Nelson Mandela’s name,” said Professor Alan Hirsch, director of the school.

The school offers a range of programmes and courses, from a part-time master’s programme for mid-career public servants to executive short courses for government officials, high-level dialogues with experts across the continent, and pan-African youth leadership programmes.

The student body is split evenly between students from South Africa and those from the broader African continent. They come from both the public and private sector – from civil society professionals to government officials and activists. The 1 300 alumni of the school live in more than 30 African countries.

Phakeng said the school was pivotal in influencing strong public governance and leadership in Africa. She also explained her vision for the university, which rests on the three interdependent pillars of excellence, transformation and sustainability.

Transformation is at the centre of it all.

“Without transformation, excellence won’t be sustainable, but you cannot drive transformation without a focus on excellence. If you do that, you will undermine the very transformation project itself. To make it impactful you have to make sure your transformation agenda foregrounds excellence.”

The Mandela School’s focus on leadership in Africa also resonates with the new Vice-Chancellor.

In response to a question from the audience, Phakeng said there would be a shift away from the term “Afropolitanism”, which had been used over the past few years to promote UCT as a truly African university.

“Afropolitanism is mixing cosmopolitan with Africa. It is an apologetic way of being African. For me it was important that we agree in our vision on settling on being an African university. We can excel in the global space being African.”

It also dovetailed with Mandela’s stance.

“Mandela is a world leader, but he is African. He never compromised on who he was. He remained African through and through and kept to his values and style of leadership.”

FUTURE LEADERS

The Vice-Chancellor said she was excited about the talented, emerging leaders in Africa.

“Young people in the country and the continent are doing amazing things. Those are our future leaders.” She was also pleased about the potential reach and influence of the school.

“It’s a flagship centre, not just for scholarship, but in how scholarship can shape what our continent becomes … and what our continent becomes depends on a foundation of leadership and governance.

“Having the Mandela brand and working with the Mandela Foundation is an added advantage which communicates who we are and what we want to achieve.”

“It’s a flagship centre, not just for scholarship, but in how scholarship can shape what our continent becomes.”

The academic backbone of the school is the professional master’s degree, which is taught part-time in four intensive tuition blocks. This makes it ideal for those already working in leadership in the public sphere. Hirsch said the master’s programme attracted plenty of applications, enabling them to select a top-notch group of students every year. Applicants need to have
at least five years of public service experience.

The school’s executive short courses are designed to deliver cutting-edge insights and practical toolkits directly into the hands of senior public sector management, supporting robust regional and national policy implementation.

A new generation of African leaders benefit from access to public figures who exemplify the best qualities of moral leadership.

The Mandela School’s Building Bridges team trains the next generation of leaders through its Emerging Leaders programme, which selects about 25 fellowship recipients from 10 African countries for a two-week series of intensive workshops.

**NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS**

During their time in Cape Town, the young changemakers benefit from access to public figures who exemplify the best qualities of moral leadership. These have included Thuli Madonsela, Albie Sachs, Pregs Govender, Nhlanhla Nene, Thandika Mkandawire, Beatrice Mtetwa, Bantu Holomisa and Achille Mbembe.

Honorary professors at the Mandela School include former executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Carlos Lopes, and former South African Finance Minister Trevor Manuel. Professor Brian Levy is the academic director.

The school runs annual courses on evidence for policy-making and implementation, ethical leadership and public accountability, understanding poverty and inequality in South Africa, and innovations in public employment programmes.

Students and alumni of the school have been enthusiastic in expressing their support for the programmes. Alumni from 16 African countries recently responded to a questionnaire, with 96% of respondents saying they had been able to implement significant policy or attitude changes at their place of work since doing a course at the school.

A total of 93% said the course had given them an extremely valuable professional network in Africa, while 99% of respondents said they continued to use course principles in their every-day policy work.
The Distingishing UCT Campaign (DUCT) is now in its final year and as you will recall, the goal of the campaign is to grow our unrestricted endowment to one billion rand. The five-year campaign was formally started in 2015. UCT publicly launched the campaign later that year in the United Kingdom with the support of our UCT UK Trust to ensure that the campaign would have a global presence.

Since then, some 394 people and organisation have donated to the campaign, growing the current value of the unrestricted endowment from R500 million to R673 million. We thank our alumni and broader donor community deeply for their generous contributions.

Donations to the campaign are made to strengthen the university’s unrestricted endowment and the returns come as revenue into the university’s cash reserves. In 2018, the annual distribution came to approximately R27.3 million (computed at 4% real adjusted by CPI).

A range of key areas, from bursaries, scholarships, student health and wellness, and financial aid, to infrastructure and strategic projects are supported by the cash reserves, relieving pressure on the university’s general operating and CAPEX budget.

In 2018, UCT invested R150 million for bursaries and scholarships for needy and deserving students - both at undergraduate and postgraduate areas. This would not have been possible without the returns on the unrestricted endowment, which remains an important source of auxiliary funding in an environment of state budget cuts and declining student fee income.

A further R123 million was raised through the campaign for capital and infrastructure projects, mostly notably a building project for a new Clinical Neurosciences Institute that will be a global leader in the field.

The campaign has also highlighted many of the strategic programs, projects and activities of the university’s faculties. DUCT is integrally linked to the university’s strategic plan which has as its main objectives enhancing UCT’s excellence, advancing transformation and ensuring long-term institutional sustainability.

We hosted events promoting the campaign in many leading international centres where the university has a strong alumni presence and in South Africa to ensure strong local support.

I can’t stress enough our appreciation for the most generous support you have shown to the campaign. Again, we urge you to consider seeing out the campaign to a successful end.

With appreciation,

Sidney van Heerden
The primary goal of the Distinguishing UCT Campaign: to strengthen the unrestricted endowment from around R500 million to R1 billion by the end of 2019.

Unrestricted Endowment strengthened by R173 million: from R500 million to R673 million.

R123 million raised for capital and infrastructure projects.
Annual distribution: R27.3 million.
Donations in the bank: R92 million from 394 Donors.

Statistics as at 31 December 2018.
ARABIC STUDIES
CHAIR FUNDED BY ‘VISIONARY’

More than one hundred years ago a traveller, Hajee Sullaiman Shahmahomed, landed in South Africa after a trek across the Indian Ocean from the subcontinent.

He must have had access to resources, says his great-grandson, Professor Faadiel Essop of Stellenbosch University, because unlike many who embarked on the voyage from India to South Africa, Shahmahomed paid his own fares instead of stowing away.

Even among his peers, Shahmahomed was an “unusual personality for his time”, says Essop.

By the time he reached South Africa, he’d already sailed around five continents for extended periods, years at a time, and written a book about his travels. Those travels shaped his ideas, and Shahmahomed became more of a thinker than a businessman, Essop observes.

Shahmahomed became deeply concerned with preserving historical legacies, and through a trust in his name, bought plots of land in Macassar and Constantia where kramats – mausoleums for Muslim saints – were built, and are to this day managed by the Shahmahomed Trusts.

It fits in with his ethos, then, to have donated the princely sum of one thousand pounds to UCT nearly a century ago. This money was endowed for a chair in Arabic and Islamic studies and the study of Eastern languages.

Nothing much happened with the money until Essop and his father began exploring options during the last twenty years or so.

“Apartheid certainly played its role in preventing funds being availed for the chair,” added Essop.

However, through the efforts of Essop and his late father, they successfully established UCT’s Arabic Department that is still solely funded by the Shahmahomed Academy Trust.

“Now the issue is to see whether we can ensure sustainability for the department. In other words, we would like to leverage additional funds from the community such that we can now build on the foundation established e.g. appoint additional staff, to bring to fruition the vision of my great-grandfather,” says Essop.

Currently, Professor Yasin Dutton, who was the first Chair in Arabic Studies at UCT, and Dr Pasquale Macaluso, who is head of the Arabic Studies section in UCT’s School of Languages & Literatures, hold the fort in the department.

Slightly further afield from UCT, the Hajee Sullaiman Shahmahomed Trust also established two mosques, one in Wynberg and one in Stegmann Road, Claremont, where renowned anti-apartheid activist, Imam Abdullah Haron, was the resident imam until his assassination in police custody. Essop indicated that Claremont’s Al-Jami’ah Masjid in particular, was established with its place as a centre of education for the local community in mind. Professor Essop mentioned that “exciting plans are currently being put into place to revitalize the space at Al-Jami’ah mosque to ensure it becomes a focal point for religious activities and educational programmes within South Africa”.

The Trust’s other activities include funding the Islamic Peace University of South Africa for more than a decade, as well as hosting a writing competition in national community newspaper the Muslim Views, which Essop explains fits into the Trust’s mission to promote critical thinking and literary skills within especially the South African Muslim community.
SHAWCO

75 YEARS OF GIVING BACK

The Students’ Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO) turned 75 this July. In recognition of this milestone, the organisation launched a fundraising drive to continue its efforts to promote the health and education of the community.

SHAWCO called on the UCT community, and Cape Town at large, to make donations of R75, R750, R7 500, R750 000, or more.

Founded in July 1945 by UCT medical student Andrew Kinnear, SHAWCO began with a single primary healthcare clinic.

With a vision to promote an informed, healthy and thriving community, SHAWCO now leads health, education and social entrepreneurship initiatives through two main service sectors: SHAWCO Education and SHAWCO Health. This year the former boasts 1 228 registered student volunteers, and the latter 897.

SHAWCO Health currently provides evening and weekend mobile clinics to 14 sites in the Cape Town Metropole. As part of their rural health outreach, SHAWCO takes health students into rural parts of both the Western and Eastern Cape, where they provide primary healthcare and health promotion activities.

SHAWCO Health also assists in disaster relief, women’s healthcare (at the Scalabrini Centre), as well as free HIV and AIDS screenings, pap smears and rehabilitation for addicts.

SHAWCO Education’s initiatives include after-school homework assistance, and structured learning programmes for 1 300 learners at 11 sites across the Cape Town metropole. Through LAWCO (Legal Welfare Community Organisation), which forms a part of the education wing, the youth are informed about their rights and access to legal services.

All funds raised in celebration of SHAWCO’s 75th anniversary will be ploughed back into these health and education initiatives.
After a brief hiatus, inaugural lectures returned to UCT with a bang as seven top scholars delivered their first public talks as full professors.

Professor Maano Ramutsindela, a human geographer who specialises in political geography and political ecology, delivered his talk, “Remapping Africa through peace parks: What future for the continent?” in March 2018. Ramutsindela was also appointed dean of the Faculty of Science in late 2018.

Professor Caroline Ncube, head of the Law Faculty’s Department of Commercial Law and deputy dean of postgraduate studies, presented her lecture, titled “The public interest in intellectual property law: African solutions to global challenges”, in April 2016. The lecture gave a snapshot of themes that have emerged in intellectual property law over the past 16 years.

Also in April, historical musicologist Professor Rebekka Sandmeier’s lecture, titled “In search of ‘The first South African composer’: The potholes and pitfalls of researching the history of Western music in South Africa”, featured performances by soprano Louise Howlett and James Grace, who work with Sandmeier at the South African College of Music.

Crick Lund, Professor of Public Health in UCT’s Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, presented a case for investing in mental health care during his lecture in May. Lund’s talk was titled “Ten reasons to invest in population mental health in low- and middle-income countries”, and highlighted links between poverty and mental illness.

Professor Shahid Vawda holds the Archie Mafeje Chair in Critical Humanities and Decolonial Studies and is the director of the School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics. His inaugural lecture, titled “The Provocation of Archie Mafeje”, explored Mafeje’s contribution to the social sciences in Africa and was delivered in August.

Professor Karen Murris, a specialist in the field of pedagogy and philosophy in the School of Education, delivered her inaugural lecture, titled “Posthuman Child: Reconfiguring the human and educational relationality in all phases of education”, in September. Her thesis was that existing educational models miss opportunities to develop children’s natural talents in art, languages, and the ability to ask philosophical questions, because they focus solely on preparing children for a narrow, chronological view of adulthood that is intrinsically connected to paid labour.

Finally, Professor Neil Armitage’s inaugural lecture, “After the water crisis: How to turn Cape Town into a water-sensitive city”, suggested a holistic approach to water management for the city. Armitage is professor of Civil Engineering and deputy director of UCT’s Future Water research institute.
FOUR VC MEDALS AWARDED IN 2018

VC medals have been awarded since the 1980s, at the Vice-Chancellor’s discretion, to individuals who have made important contributions to the University of Cape Town. The 2018 recipients were: Dr Sybill Storz (top), Richard Gnodde, Charles McGregor and Sir Frank Berman. UCT thanks these individuals for their ongoing work to support the university’s goals. Previous recipients of the VC medal include Sir Aaron Klug in 2010 (bottom right), and Wendy Ackerman in 2014 (bottom left).
VICE-CHANCELLOR: PROFESSOR MAMOKGETHI PHAKENG

Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng began her term of office as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town on 1 July 2018, where she had been serving as Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Internationalisation since January 2017. Previous to this appointment she served as Vice Principal for Research and Innovation at the University of South Africa (Unisa) for five years, after serving three years as Executive Dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology at the same university.

Her academic career began at the University of the Witwatersrand, where she started as a research assistant in 1996 and left in December 2007 as an Associate Professor of Mathematics Education – and Founding Director of the award-winning Marang Centre for Mathematics and Science Education – to take up the position of Executive Dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology at Unisa in January 2008. She had a very successful tenure as Dean at Unisa and was promoted to serve as Vice Principal of a newly established portfolio of Research and Innovation on 1 July 2011. When her five-year term ended in 2016, she joined UCT.

Kgethi, as she is popularly known, obtained her first degree, majoring in pure mathematics, at the University of Bophuthatswana, now North-West University, in Mafikeng in 1987, obtaining a solid 74% for her final year pure mathematics module. She completed all her postgraduate studies, which ended with a PhD in Mathematics Education in 2002, at the University of the Witwatersrand, where she also served for five years as President of Convocation (2011–2016).

She is a highly regarded B1 National Research Foundation-rated scientist, with over 60 research papers and five edited volumes published. She has been invited to deliver over 40 keynote/plenary talks at international conferences, and has been invited as a visiting professor to universities around the world, including Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, India, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Senegal, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the USA.

Kgethi has won numerous awards for her research and community work, including the Order of the Baobab (Silver) conferred on her by the President of South Africa in April 2016. In August 2014 CEO Magazine named her the most influential woman academic in Africa, and in August 2016 the Businesswomen’s Association of South Africa awarded her the prestigious Businesswoman of the Year Award in the education category.

Her commitment to academia and research extends beyond personal advancement. She was elected as a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) in November 2007,
Chancellor Graça Machel embraces VC Prof Mamokgethi Phakeng at the Vice-Chancellor’s official robing ceremony in December 2018.
an honorary member of the Golden Key International Honour Society in May 2009, and an honorary life member of the Association for Mathematics Education of South Africa (AMESA) in July 2009. In 2008 she was appointed to co-chair a study commissioned by the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction titled “Mathematics and language diversity”, which was published as an edited volume, Mathematics Education and Language Diversity, in 2016.

She is member of the board of the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls (OWLAG) and currently chairs the Human Resource Development Council Standing Committee on Mathematics and Science Education. She served as member of the board of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and chaired its Research Development and Innovation Committee from January 2015 until September 2017.

She was elected in 2011 as the first woman President of the Convocation of the University of the Witwatersrand and served for five years until 2016. She led the Association for Mathematics Education of South Africa (AMESA) as its first woman National President from 2002 to 2006, served as founding chairperson of the Board of the South African Mathematics Foundation (SAMF) from 2004 to 2006, and as secretary and member of the executive committee of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education (PME) from 2003 to 2007.

Richard van Huyssteen has been appointed as the Executive Director: Information and Communication Technology Services (ICTS). He will commence in this role on 1 November 2018.

Mr Van Huyssteen is not new to UCT, having served as the Director: Systems Division within ICTS since 2014. In this role he was responsible for the provision (identification and selection, implementation, incremental enhancement and integration) and support of application systems that support identified aspects of university administration, teaching and learning, and research.

With a BCom (Hons) in information systems management (first class) from UCT and an eye for identifying areas for improvement, he initially joined UCT as manager of the Faculty of Science in 1994. Three years later he was seconded as user representative to the Project to Revolutionise Information Systems and Management project. His valuable input led to him becoming project manager of the Integrated Student Information System project from 2003 to 2006.

In 2006 he established the Student Systems Support section within the Office of the Registrar, which ensures that UCT makes effective use of its student administrative systems. Under his leadership, changes to the degree certification process resulted in this key business process becoming faster and more secure. Other upgrades included putting a system in place to support the postgraduate memorandum of understanding, which improved the readmission application process, and developing an early warning system to assist with the identification of students who are struggling academically.

Mr Van Huyssteen is a founder member and past chair of the Southern African Higher Education User Group (SAHEUG), which aims to foster collaboration between a group of software customers in the southern Africa region. Through this collaboration, UCT and three other South African universities co-developed the revised functionality required to enable them to integrate with the new student-centred process implemented by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme. He is also a member of the Oracle Global Education and Research Industry Strategy Council.
DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (TEACHING AND LEARNING): PROFESSOR LIS LANGE

Lange joined UCT from the University of the Free State (UFS), where she has held the same position. Before that she headed UFS’s Institutional and Academic Planning and Research Department from 2011 to 2014. She was an executive director for the Higher Education Quality Committee in the Council on Higher Education (CHE) from 2006 to 2010 and was acting CEO of the CHE from 2007 to 2008. During her service in the CHE, she secured funding for research projects on higher education from the following international funders: Fulbright, Nuffic, Carnegie Corporation and Ford Foundation.

Lange was born in Argentina and is a permanent resident in South Africa. She earned a BA(Hons) in history from the University of Buenos Aires in 1984, an MA in African studies from El Colegio de Mexico in 1988, and a PhD in history from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1998.

Lange’s research interests focus on the philosophy and politics of education. She has done research on change in higher education as well as on the meanings and possibilities of the notion of transformation, especially at curricular level. Her current work is on higher education curriculum and pedagogy in the context of the call for decolonisation of the curriculum.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: PROPERTIES AND SERVICES – MUGHTAR PARKER

Mughtar Parker has been appointed as the Executive Director: Properties and Services with effect from 1 July 2018. Mughtar has a BCom in accounting from the University of the Western Cape and a master’s in corporate real estate from CoreNet Global, Atlanta, USA. He also holds a post master’s (senior leader in corporate real estate) and is the first person to hold this designation within Sub-Saharan Africa.

Mughtar’s career spans over two decades of senior management roles at several listed companies including KPMG, Old Mutual, Telkom, Liberty and the University of the Witwatersrand. His industry class experience includes financial services, telecommunications, government/parastatals and academia. Asset class experience includes corporate campuses, branches, malls, telecoms masts/towers, network buildings and data centres. He has managed real estate portfolios spanning various countries across sub-Saharan Africa.

Mughtar has exceptional experience in all facets of the corporate real estate services suite. At a strategic level this includes real estate strategy development, property services strategy, property development, organisational change, operating model design and real estate supply chain/procurement strategy.
The Development and Alumni Department seeks to expand the network of University of Cape Town alumni chapter and affinity groupings around the world, amplifying the work of the department in as many regions as possible. Developing successful, thriving interest groups is a key ingredient in building a strong UCT alumni network, aligned to the vision and mission of the broader institution.

UCT alumni groupings are involved in active fundraising; in creating career mentorship and employment opportunities for graduates or simply opening up new engagement possibilities for the university’s advancement activities. Currently over 20 such groupings exist around the world in regions that include South Africa; Uganda; Kenya; Botswana; Namibia; Switzerland; United Kingdom and New Zealand. 2018 saw the establishment of a number of new chapters and, provided opportunities to strengthen relations with the more established alumni affinity groupings at the university.

CELEBRATING MILESTONE EVENTS
Among the key affinity group activities in 2018, the alumni relations team hosted the Spirit of ’68 reunion. In 1968, 600 protesting UCT students occupied Bremner Building for nine days in a peaceful sit-in that was front-page news around the country, at the time. In August 2018, members of the UCT Spirit of ’68 returned to campus to participate in a four-day reunion marking the 50th anniversary of the 1968 Bremner occupation. Arranged in partnership with UK-based alumna Madi Grey, the reunion featured a series of events culminating in a public lecture entitled “Then and Now: Academic Freedom, Democratic Freedoms, and Current Challenges to UCT” with Professors Adrian Guelke, Keith Gottschalk, DVC Prof Loretta Feris and Martin Plaut as key note speakers. The panel discussion was moderated by former President of Convocation, Professor Barney Pityana. The reunion week culminated in campus tours of UCT main campus and the Graduate School of Business. In 2012, the Spirit if ’68 cohort established a bursary fund to benefit current UCT students.

Following an alumni event in 2018, UCT alumni in Dubai have created a WhatsApp group and continue to connect with each other.

Leading up to the 2018 World Economic Forum, former UCT Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Max Price and Belinda Fleischman (UCT International Development Manager) met with a group of alumni and friends of the University of Cape Town in Zurich. Dr. Price used the opportunity to update Swiss alumni on key developments occurring at the institution. The event was hosted by the Swiss alumni chapter in Zurich. UCT alumni attended a cocktail event hosted in Dubai in March 2018. The Dubai alumni grouping have since formed a WhatsApp group and continue to connect with each other. In May 2018, Belgium-based alumni met Dr. Russell Ally and Belinda Fleischman for dinner in Brussels. Following the visit, an alumni WhatsApp group was established and a few informal networking sessions were hosted during 2018. One such event was ‘The Hope and Optimism Expo,’ a tribute exhibition to Nelson Mandela, co-directed by Gerrit
Kempeneers. Mr. Kempeneers has since volunteered to establish an official alumni chapter in Belgium.

GROWING ALUMNI CHAPTERS ON THE CONTINENT

Alumni chapter activations continued in 2018. These included: Kenya; Uganda; Zimbabwe and in Mauritius. Two alumni events were hosted in Mauritius during 2018. The first visit in April 2018, formed part of former Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price’s farewell engagements with alumni across the world. The second visit (hosted in September), was a joint initiative between the Development and Alumni Department and UCT Careers Service. Highlights from the trip included a business breakfast hosted in partnership with the Economic Development Board Mauritius, meetings with representatives from South African corporations located in Mauritius and, an alumni networking event. Guests at the UCT business breakfast included the Honourable Mrs Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research.

UGANDA CHAPTER:
The Uganda alumni chapter has been particularly active since inception in July 2017. A number of alumni events have been staged in partnership with the South African High Commission in Kampala. In 2018 Uganda Chapter registered a company with the objective of marketing UCT in Uganda; for networking and for philanthropy purposes. A board of directors has since been established, they have a registered office address, a bank account, a cash flow statement and an annual budget for the year. The list of members is growing. To date, two successful alumni networking events have been held: a cocktail in January 2018 and a barbecue in April 2018.

The Uganda alumni chapter staged their first Annual General Meeting early in 2018 and they produced a newsletter to share events and initiatives. The South African Ambassador H.E Prof. Major Gen (Rtd) Solly Mollo, along with Dan Kasirye of IFC/World Bank and Keith Kalyegira, CEO of Capital Markets Authority Uganda) were present at both the events. H.E has been very supportive from the start when UCT alumni relations team visited Kampala in 2017, and following his recommendation, the Ugandan alumni chapter are considering joining the Forum for South African Businesses in Uganda (FOSABU) to enhance their marketing, networking and fundraising efforts.

ZIMBABWE CHAPTER:
Launched in April 2018, the Zimbabwe alumni chapter convened two meetings in 2018, the first one to discuss an introductory meeting that was followed by the election of the Steering Committee which consists of 4 members. The Zimbabwe chapter has since refined its objectives to focus on assisting Zimbabwean graduates with employment opportunities through: facilitating work-holiday programmes and, by facilitating post-graduation placements. In addition, the Zimbabwe alumni chapter hosted a ‘speed-networking’ event for all alumni on 20 December 2018. The concept was to network with fellow alumni, explain their vision and locate alumni who are able to form part of the committee. 2019 plans include a career fair in order to facilitate connecting recent UCT graduates with organisations that are looking to employ UCT graduates.

NAMIBIA CHAPTER:
In November, alumni relations hosted a Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series event in Windhoek. Celebrated journalist; anti-apartheid and press freedom activist Gwen Lister delivered the keynote address entitled “Democracy in a post-truth era: a Namibia case study”. The event was attended by UCT alumni, parents of current UCT students as well as members of the public. The visit afforded an opportunity to establish a new alumni chapter in Windhoek who plan to host a variety of events during 2019. The Namibia alumni chapter committee comprises: Vanessa Heileka, Xungileni Chitundu and Severus Sheetekela.

CAPE TOWN CHAPTER:
In August, the Cape Town alumni chapter, in collaboration with the Development and Alumni Department and the Alumni Advisory Board, invited alumni to meet the Vice-Chancellor. Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng delivered a presentation on her vision for the University of Cape Town going forward and the event provided an opportunity for alumni to ask the Vice-Chancellor questions around developments occurring at the university.
THE GSB’S CHANGING HEART

While UCT’s Graduate School of Business opened its first full-time MBA class in 1966, the school taught its first part-time class in 1964, making it the oldest institution of its kind in South Africa.
More than half a century later, the GSB has maintained its standing as Africa’s top business school, with more accreditations and rankings than any other on the continent, and as widely respected as the best in the world.

Dr Bob Boland, the founding director of the GSB, says he came to Cape Town in 1965 “with the dream of developing a multi-racial Harvard Business School in Africa.” Modelled on the archetypal American business school, the GSB has worked to build a distinctly African identity to its research and teaching offerings.


A 1977 survey showed that within 10 years of graduating from the GSB MBA, over 25% of students had become chairpersons, managing directors and general managers. By 1979, this figure had climbed to 36%. Part of this success may be ascribed to the acumen of then-director, Meyer Feldberg, who strengthened ties with the business community and redesigned and refreshed academic programmes. In the 1980s, director John Simpson saw a leadership position for the GSB, not only in South Africa, but in southern Africa and understood how it could participate in the advancement of all people of the region.

As part of this drive, it opened the Centre for African Management in the 1980s as an independent wing that aimed to develop managers from communities who had been excluded from the mainstream of tertiary education.

In the early 1990s, the GSB launched the Associate in Management (AIM) programme, which allowed working black South Africans who might have been denied access to education under apartheid to achieve a postgraduate qualification in business.

The GSB also moved from its former Rondebosch campus to its current home at the Breakwater Campus, adjacent to the V&A Waterfront. The Breakwater Campus had been a political prison, making its transformation as a home for inclusive education all the more significant.
AN: For the uninitiated, what is the Alumni Advisory Board? What purpose does it serve?

DY: The UCT Alumni Advisory Board (AAB) is the Executive Committee of the UCT Alumni Association. Its key function is to act as an advisory body to the University and to the Vice Chancellor of the day via the Alumni Office or by communicating directly with UCT leadership. The AAB aims to ensure that the UCT Development and Alumni Department and UCT alumni work together to build an inclusive, dynamic and robust alumni programme that will translate into a vibrant and supportive UCT alumni community. The AAB has three key roles:

1. To serve as the conscience and the voice of the UCT alumni community by expressing concerns about actions taken (or not taken) by the University, as well as about circumstances and opportunities in the wider society that might impact upon the University.
2. To establish and oversee branches, chapters and affinity groups of the Association around the world.
3. To advise the Development and Alumni Department on relevant alumni events and alumni communications.

The AAB includes seven members elected at the AGM in addition to Council members elected by Convocation, the President of Convocation ex officio and UCT ex officio members. The AAB also has a close working relationship with the University of Cape Town Association of Black Alumni (UCTABA) and GSB Alumni Association Board.

AN: What opportunities exist for alumni to become involved in decision-making at UCT?

DY: Although the AAB has no executive functions, it plays an important advisory role. During the year, key members of the UCT Leadership Team are invited to engage with them on current and emerging developments at UCT. Invited presenters have included the Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Finance Director, DVC for Research and Internationalisation and the Head of Campus Safety and Security. These engagements have been invaluable in enabling the AAB members to share information and help to influence policy development and implementation in critical areas, most notably, providing input to the development of the UCT Strategic Plan.

The wider alumni community is also encouraged to become more involved in enhancing the student experience by offering their time as mentors (especially to students from their own Faculties), offering to provide bursaries and scholarships, providing internships and work shadowing opportunities for students, participating in Distinguishing UCT events and suggesting speakers. Branches, chapters and affinity groups also provide ongoing opportunities for active involvement in UCT.

Alumni nominated by the AAB have played a significant part in the work of the pathbreaking UCT Institutional Reconciliation and Transformation Commission (IRTC). It is anticipated that the IRTC process will contribute positively towards UCT’s commitment to forging a new inclusive identity.

AN: Do alumni have a role to play in addressing the challenges facing the higher education sector or is this the responsibility of the institutions?

DY: In my view alumni have a vital role to play in this space. Our alumni are located across the globe - we need to listen and hear their experience and insights to actively shape the future of higher education. The higher education sector in South Africa is facing serious and abiding challenges not least of which is ensuring future financial sustainability. There is an urgent need to find innovative funding models and apply these to our local context. Alumni abroad may be able to share international perspectives to prevent a real crisis in the
Diana Yach is serving her second term as UCT Alumni Advisory Board chairperson.
future. Grappling with the 4th industrial revolution and its impact on our own institution needs to be more fully thought through. We also need to harness more tangible financial support for post graduate students and students in distress.

AN: Describe the connection between the AAB and UCT’s Development and Alumni Department.

DY: The AAB and the Development and Alumni Department enjoy a close and constructive working relationship. During the past year the AAB has supported the Department’s efforts to strengthen and deepen ties with alumni across the globe. Both the AAB and Alumni Department have sought ways to mobilise alumni from historically disadvantaged backgrounds including younger alumni who historically may not have been fully involved with their alma mater owing to feelings of alienation. The department has worked tirelessly with branches, chapters and affinity groups both at home, in neighbouring provinces and countries and abroad. A key role of the alumni relations unit has been to support networking activities especially in areas traditionally underserved by UCT such as arranging high profile lectures for alumni in Athlone, Khayelitsha, Grassy Park and Philippi. The AAB supports these and other engagement initiatives such as the new social networking platform - UCT Alumni Connect; digital communication strategies and lifestyle events rolled out from 2017.

During Women’s Month (2017) the AAB participated in an exciting alumni event in Johannesburg. The topic was “Patriarchy - women’s experiences in the workplace and the guest speakers were two prominent UCT alumnae. We are hoping to host a similar event in Cape Town in 2019.

AN: Which priority fundraising or ‘friend-raising’ initiatives does the board champion?

DY: Much of the work of the AAB has been on ‘friend-raising’ recognising that not all alumni are able to provide money but are able to provide their expertise and time. Apart from “friend raising” initiatives, the AAB is especially interested in finding ways to support students in distress and finding scholarships for post graduate students. The AAB supports the Department’s fundraising strategy which includes provision of postgraduate bursaries (becoming a pressing priority), support for the Student Wellness Service (funding for psychologists), Growing a Lawyer campaign, support for African Climate Development Initiative and social justice programmes including the Knowledge Co-Op, and Abalobi Small Scale Fishers project.

AN: This is your second term of office as chairperson of the AAB. Why did you stand for re-election?

DY: When I was first elected as chair of the AAB, I committed myself to helping UCT to deliver its promises on transformation. Although much has been achieved over the past few years, there remains much to be done. I want to continue to be part of the journey to encourage a more inclusive environment for students and staff.

AN: What changes can alumni expect to see from the 2018 board?

DY: With the election of a new board, members have expressed a willingness to become more involved in supporting particular board portfolios. These include revising our constitution and considering how we can integrate convocation and the alumni association providing alumni with more streamlined support and communication; seeking views from our alumni on how the AAB can better support them and inviting offers of support for fundraising, mentoring, internships, suggestions for guest lecturers etc The Alumni Survey is an example of one of the new initiatives emanating from our new board.

AN: Favourite aspects of your role as chairperson?

DY: Connecting, reconnecting and engaging with our diverse stakeholders - the human aspects of the alumni association are what inspires and motivates me. Learning from others how we can reinvigorate UCT is a driving passion. As I said at the AGM, transformation is not a spectator sport - we are all in this together. If we stay silent or ambivalent in the face of injustice or inequality, we are part of the problem not part of the solution. Transformation goes beyond numbers -facing up to people’s lived experiences which may be very different from our own, being willing to engage in open, respectful and honest conversation even when we may disagree with each other, being willing to critically review our institutional culture to expose the “unwritten rules” and “micro indignities”. The AAB plays in important role as a sounding board for the university leadership to understand the diverse views of UCT’s alumni as well as work together to change our university to be able to lead our country intellectually and professionally.

“ The AAB and the Development and Alumni Department enjoy a close and constructive working relationship. During the past year the AAB has supported the Department’s efforts to strengthen and deepen ties with alumni across the globe.” Diana Yach, Chair of the Alumni Advisory Board.
MEET THE NEW PRESIDENT OF CONVOCATION

Understanding the many challenges facing the University of Cape Town (UCT), and lending a hand to finding solutions to these, is a priority for incoming president of Convocation Professor Eddy Maloka.

Maloka is the chief executive officer of the African Peer Review Mechanism, an organ of the African Union (AU). He holds a PhD in history from UCT and comes with a wealth of experience as both an academic and a diplomat. He takes the reins from Lorna Houston, who served as head of the university’s alumni forum from 2017.

“I am humbled and touched that I have been selected to serve as the president [of Convocation]. I owe so much of my personal and professional development to UCT. I am excited to give back to the institution that has truly helped to mould me into the man I am today,” he said.

UCT’s Convocation is a statutory body administered by the Office of the Registrar. It provides a platform for alumni to actively participate and engage in pertinent issues affecting the university community, and to help find solutions.

Maloka’s appointment comes at a critical time for the institution, with the university’s executive committed to speeding up transformation and inclusivity on campus.

MOVING UCT FORWARD

Maloka was a former student activist and member of UCT’s student movement in the 1980s – a tumultuous time in South Africa’s history. Now, he said, moving the institution in the right direction, by making a valuable contribution to the university community, is high on his list of priorities.

Ticking this box will be unattainable, however, without first assessing and understanding the university’s key challenges.

“I really want to understand why UCT is dealing with the same issues as in the [19]80s. It’s a different generation and it’s a completely different time, yet many of the issues remain the same. I seek answers to that very important question,” he said.

Creating an inclusive and transformed higher learning environment “reflective of the new South Africa” is possible with hard work and dedication, Maloka emphasised.

But change won’t happen overnight. While he acknowledged the “ongoing and outstanding work” of the university to date, he said there is more to be done. In his new role he will start with identifying the university’s main challenges, and draw on the past and present student network to seek out solutions.

“All I would like my experience to be a resource to reshape and benefit this wonderful institution. I can’t do it alone. There’s a plethora of UCT graduates out there who can make a valuable contribution to this university, and we need them.

“Collectively we can achieve great things.”

ALL-ENCOMPASSING ROLE

Of his appointment as president of Convocation, Maloka said he is filled with pride. It gives him the opportunity to re-enter the university community he left behind many years ago and to share the experience he’s gained as an academic and a diplomat.

There’s a lot more to his role than attending quarterly meetings and annual general meetings once a year. And while he has yet to receive the full outline of his responsibilities, Maloka said he looks forward to the task.

All he aspires to is to play an active role in the university community and, in doing so, help generate ideas and solutions to issues that concern the institution.

“I am here to serve UCT and to draw in more alumni who can do the same. I am a solutions-driven thinker. UCT can count on me to make a contribution and to help move the university forward,” he said.
ALUMNI EVENTS

From top L-R: UCT alumni were invited to relax and network inside the UCT alumni suite at the 2018 Cape Town Cycle Tour. The Cape Town Cycle Tour attracts over 30 thousand participants each year making it the largest timed bicycle race in the world; Alumni Relations Manager, Sihle Mabaso addresses alumni at an alumni chapter activation event held in Harare, Zimbabwe in 2018; Former UCT Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price (centre) chats with guests at the alumni event in Harare.
From top L-R Dr Hannah Reeve-Saunders greets a current UCT student at the 2018 90th Fuller Hall celebration event held in October 2018; UCT alumna Gwen Lister was the keynote speaker at the Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series event held in Windhoek in 2018; 58 alumni attended the 2018 Golden Graduation event held at UCT in December 2018. Golden Graduation provides a unique opportunity for the graduating class from 50 years ago and prior to participate in a UCT graduation ceremony, to meet the current generation of UCT students and to enjoy a day of networking and a campus tour; Young alumni at the Fuller Hall 90th celebration event held in 2018 and guests at the Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series event held in Windhoek.
From top L-R: Over 200 alumni attended an alumni Women’s Day cocktail event hosted in collaboration with PWC at their new offices in Johannesburg. Entertainment was provided by legendary South African vocalist, songwriter and producer, RJ Benjamin; Dr Russell Ally (centre) pictured here with Prof. Jhurry, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius; Mr Ken Poonoosamy, Deputy CEO of the Economic Development Board Mauritius; the Honorable Mrs Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research and Nawaal Boolay (UCT) at a UCT business breakfast hosted in partnership with the Economic Development Board Mauritius. The event formed part of a three-day trip to Mauritius to establish fundraising and alumni connections as well as graduate career placement opportunities with corporate institutions based in Mauritius; Advocate Rod Solomons (UCT Association of Black Alumni) addresses alumni at an event held on campus.
From top L-R: UCT students before the WEARSA Student Fashion Festival held in the Sara Baartman Memorial Hall. UCT alumni were invited to support this student entrepreneurship initiative coordinated by Planet Productions in collaboration with UCT’s Student Representative Council. The fashion show and entrepreneurship bootcamp were sponsored by SACTWU and Trade Call Investments; In July 2018, alumni were invited to pledge their support to the 2018 cohort a 12 week Impact Venture Incubation Programme. The MTN Solution Space in partnership with the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship spend 12 weeks providing mentorship and training to a cohort of local entrepreneurs. The programme culminates in a competition for the best business. The 2018 judging panel comprised four experienced business leaders, three of whom were UCT alumni.
So said branch chair Khululwa Mthi, speaking at a packed memorial service for Kgosana on 26 April 2017 in Jameson Hall. Kgosana, a Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) leader in the province and an international struggle icon in the 1960s, fled South Africa after being arrested by the apartheid regime.

Speaker after speaker extolled Kgosana's coolness under pressure, retelling how the then-23-year-old UCT student, sporting short pants, came to lead 30 000 people who marched from Langa to the Cape Town CBD on 30 March 1960.

Sabelo Mcinziba, representing the UCT Association of Black Alumni (UCTABA), remarked that UCT historically had a “difficult relationship with vibrant student leaders”. Mcinziba addressed the crowd, many of whom have been politically active at UCT and other campuses in recent years.

“As UCTABA, our support for you has gone without question but not without questioning,” said Mcinziba. “Through mutual appraisal and accountability, we have pledged to reconsider some of the strategies while we remain steadfast to the goal of decolonisation at this university.

“We draw comfort in knowing that even though Ntate Kgosana’s life took some moderation in particular courses of action, he remained unapologetic in championing the wretched of the Earth in this country and committed to the struggle for land and dignity for our people.”

When Kgosana was a UCT student, he was not allowed to live in the university’s residences. Instead, he lived in the township of Langa.

“What Ntate Kgosana and many others fought for when they were here, it seems as if it is still with us,” said Lindokuhle Patiwe, referring to the much-publicised accommodation challenge at UCT. Patiwe, a PASMA UCT member, was chairs proceedings.

‘OUR DEMOCRACY HAS NOT REFORMED THE IDEA OF THE UNIVERSITY’

The buzz escalated just before then-Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price took to the lectern, as a few hundred PASMA members, mostly from UWC and CPUT, joined proceedings in a whirlwind of song and dance.

“I think that it is appropriate that we are able to unite in celebrating this life while mourning the death and thinking about the significance of this for all of us,” said Price.

If Kgosana had pursued his studies at UCT, he might have enriched himself, had a family, perhaps a business, he said.

“But he chose a path that led to serving others his whole life.”

Masixole Mlandu, UCT student and a leader of the PAC youth in the Western Cape, spoke on behalf of the PAC. “We are not just in the business of remembering," said Mlandu. “We are in the business of reconfiguring. Part of reconfiguring is to ask ourselves, have we done enough to resist?”

Mlandu quoted Milan Kundera, who said that “the struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting.”

“We ask ourselves what it means to still pay tribute to legends of the PAC while we are still dispossessed [of the land]. How do we find new ways of remembering [while we are still dispossessed]?”

Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, UCT’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor for research and innovation at the time, reminded the audience that in the days that Kgosana was a student, black students had to apply for special permission to study at whites-only institutions.

“Like black students who get accepted to UCT today, Ntate Kgosana was not an average student,” said Phakeng.

Despite his academic prowess, Kgosana had to leave his studies “because the political project at the time needed him full-time”, she said.

The question was, said Phakeng, how much had UCT changed since the days of Kgosana and his peers? “The sad thing is that our democracy has not changed the apparatus of the state nor has it reformed the idea of the university. While 1994 provided a solution to end apartheid, it did not reconstruct society.”

LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

PAC veterans and leaders then took to the stage to pay tribute to their fallen comrade.

Keynote speaker Sabelo Sibanda urged the young activists in the crowd to do some “stocktaking”.
“Lessons not applied are lessons not learned,” Sibanda said. “We are here tonight because there are lessons to be learned.

“Do you have a vision for this country? Do you have a vision for Africa? [Philip Kgosana] decided that his relevance was with the people he came from. What is your relevance namhlanje [today], maAfrika?”

Philip Kgosana was a leader of the Pan Africanist Congress in South Africa. He led a march in 1960, where 30,000 protestors opposing the country’s pass laws marched from Langa to Cape Town, in one of the largest anti-apartheid demonstrations to take place in Cape Town.

Sibanda pointed to a PAC logo. “This is a symbol of pride,” he said. “This is a symbol of greatness. This is a symbol of the future of this continent of Africa. This is a symbol of the freeing of the land of our ancestors. This, maAfrika, is the symbol of the end of white supremacy. There is no other who can challenge the end of white supremacy in this country besides the PAC.”
Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng said the university had discovered that its skeletal collection included 11 skeletons that were obtained unethically in the 1920s.

The very limited documentation for the skeletons indicates that they are of people who died in the 19th century. At least nine of them were probably Khoisan people who had been captured and forced to become farm labourers in the Cape in the 1800s, and who were found to have been held in the skeletal collection in the Faculty of Health Sciences in the 1920s.

During a media briefing, Phakeng said the university had been shocked by the discovery of “this shameful chapter” in its history and had put in place a collaborative process to make some form of amends for what had happened.

“While we know from our work with the national...
government that many skeletons of South Africans in the 19th century were treated similarly, there is as yet no precedent for returning skeletons to their places of origin. Therefore we met with the families to ask for their advice and assistance,” she explained.

“It was a big shock at first. But I am very relieved. I was also very happy to realise that there are people who care.”

**COLLECTION ANALYSIS**

Dr Victoria Gibbon, from the Department of Human Biology in the Division of Clinical Anatomy and Biological Anthropology who manages the UCT Human Skeletal Collection, said she was prompted to do an analysis of UCT’s collections and records following a discussion on ethical procurement of human remains at a national symposium on human remains management at Iziko Museums in 2017.

Examples of unethical procurement include someone from the public excavating or digging up a burial site and bringing the remains to the university.

**ALFRED STUURMAN AND SENSA MIETAS**

After discovering that the 11 skeletons had been procured unethically, they were immediately placed under a moratorium, sealed and separated from the collection, according to Gibbon.

Phakeng said it was not unusual for universities to receive skeletons in a tightly controlled and ethical way for teaching and research purposes. The university has 1 021 human remains in its collection. Skeletons help academics to understand how our species has developed over time and adapted to different environments.

Usually these skeletons come to us as the result of a bequest – people who donate their bodies for educational purposes, or whose families do so – or as donations from the state.”

**FINDING THE FAMILIES**

As soon as the documentation on the Sutherland skeletons was discovered, Phakeng continued, the university began investigating how it could return them to their place of origin so that they could rest near their descendants.

The investigation indicated that they are likely to have been related to members of the Stuurman and Abraham families in the Sutherland area. Social development specialist Doreen Februarie helped UCT to trace the relatives.

One of them, Alfred Stuurman, described his relief and elation when he heard the news about the remains. He said it had solved a long-time mystery, over which his family had agonised, about what had happened to his forebears.

“I knew about the existence of the Stuurman family, but I could never put my finger on it. We now know where we come from.”

Stuurman’s niece, Sensa Mietas, was also relieved: “It was a big shock at first. But I am very relieved. I was also very happy to realise that there are people who care.”

**WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY**

A team from the university, led by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Loretta Feris, visited the Sutherland community earlier this month to meet with members of the Stuurman and Abraham families. They also met with community members, including local and government leaders, and traditional and religious leaders. Feris thanked the community for being open to their visit.

Public participation consultant Doreen Februarie discussed the return of the skeletal remains during a visit to Sutherland in the Northern Cape.

“We thank the families for the gracious way they welcomed us in Sutherland. We had moments where we had shared pain in having to deal with this, but there was graciousness and warmth, and we appreciate the community for that.

“We now have the opportunity to work with the community of Sutherland to see that justice is done … not just to those who were removed from their graves, but also to the descendants.”

The university hopes to provide the families with a biological report, as they are very interested to learn more about their ancestors’ lives and deaths.

So far, the records show that the remains of four men, two women and two children were found on the farm Kruis Rivier. The ninth skeleton is that of an unknown individual and was found in Sutherland. Most of the adults died between 1875 and 1890, while the children died some time before 1880.

Gibbon said two of the adults appeared to have been elderly when they died. The children were likely to have died through illness. Records suggested that one adult may have been murdered, while another had tetanus.

**PROCESS OF RESTITUTION**

Phakeng said while it is impossible to undo the injustices endured by the men, women and children, “we hope that this process of restitution will go some way to restoring the dignity that was stolen from them and to give their descendants the opportunity to remember and honour their ancestors”.

She said that as deeply distressing as the finding had been to UCT, it was an opportunity to reflect and learn from the past.

“While many of our discussions around transformation at UCT tend to be forward looking and focused [on] where we want our institution to be, we need to have the courage and the honesty to confront our past and loosen its grasp on us.”

Thus, the finding presented a transformational moment for the institution – “a moment in which we acknowledge and apologise unreservedly for an institutional mistake and ensure that we continue to forge an inclusive institution which operates under the highest possible ethical code”, Phakeng added.
**UCT REMEDIES**

**A PAST INJUSTICE**

The story of social and political analyst Professor Raymond Suttner finally receiving his Master of Laws (LLM) degree almost 50 years after withdrawing his thesis from examination in the University of Cape Town’s (UCT) law faculty captured imaginations around South Africa in 2018.

Even though he was pleased to be joining the joyous procession of law graduates on Thursday, 13 December to receive his belated accolade, Suttner, who is today visiting professor and strategic adviser to the Dean of Humanities at the University of Johannesburg, said he wasn’t convinced at first that there would be any value in resubmitting his work on customary law.

“I was not very taken with the idea because it was settled as far as I was concerned.

“I was fairly content to be without the degree and I had moved into other areas.”

He was also not keen to delve back into the literature of a field which has developed considerably over the past 50 years.

The thesis in question was titled “Legal pluralism in South Africa”. Suttner decided to withdraw it 49 years ago when his supervisor Professor Donald Molteno QC asked him to remove any references to “listed” communist Professor Jack Simons, who could not, in terms of the law of the time, be quoted.

“It was a good gesture from UCT to try to remedy what had happened, where apartheid laws had led to a decision that I could not act,” said Professor Raymond Suttner upon receiving his LLM.
Suttner said he had not anticipated legalities to arise, as he recalls quite a few academics breaking laws around quoting “banned” or “listed” people in those days. “But it was, of course, a law faculty and perhaps I should have anticipated this reaction.”

Since he was not prepared to use Simons’s work – which he had studied in-depth – without acknowledgement, Suttner decided to withdraw his draft document. This decision was in part influenced by the fact that Simons had been a great source of encouragement to Suttner as an emerging scholar.

Although he’s had to make a number of difficult decisions later in life, Suttner said that – unlike his thesis withdrawal – they have all come with the advantage of having some time to prepare and weigh up the pros and cons.

“I just did it on the spot and it was a correct call. I have never thought back and considered it impetuous or wrong. It was the correct thing to do,” he said.

**DECISION TO RESUBMIT**

Rather than leave the thesis unfinished, Suttner decided to finalise his draft, purely for his own peace of mind. Over the decades that followed, he showed it to one or two people, but never submitted it elsewhere.

“It was left somewhere amongst my various papers, moved from place to place,” he said.

When he was asked to resubmit his work to the law faculty from which he originally withdrew it, Suttner was somewhat surprised.

It was UCT’s Public Law Professor Dee Smythe who approached him with the idea after she found out about the LLM-dissertation-that-never-was while hosting the relaunch of Suttner’s book Inside Apartheid’s Prison (first published in 2001) in 2017.

His initial inclination was to turn down the opportunity, but with some encouragement from his wife Nomboniso Gasa – who felt strongly that he should resubmit – as well as Smythe, Professor of Public Law Hugh Corder and former Dean of Law Penny Andrews, who were fully supportive of remediying what they saw as a grave injustice, Suttner decided to follow their advice.

It took him about five months to find a photocopy of the final typed manuscript among his documents. Once found, he submitted it without making any revisions.

“The document I submitted had never been seen by UCT. It was written up after I had withdrawn the draft,” he said.

“This was on a typewriter and I did not even have the original but a photocopy with three pages missing.”

**STILL RELEVANT TODAY**

His argument in the thesis, he writes in the introduction, “rests primarily on the changing social conditions, where women were increasingly emerging as independent individuals, quite different from their place in a kinship group headed by a male”.

In contrast, the members of the Bantu Appeal Court, who were ‘reformers’, relied primarily on certain practices being contrary to natural justice, which was part of the statutory limitation on recognition of customary law.

“Whatever the basis may have been, this was a move, towards consciously developing customary law, that was thwarted,” he wrote.

Ultimately, Suttner argued that custom and customary law must be treated as deriving from “living custom”, not purely what supposedly existed from time immemorial.

Smythe and Corder, who is currently acting Dean of Law at UCT, were listed as co-supervisors. They appointed two external examiners, Professor Emeritus Thandabantu Nhlapo, a former senior deputy vice-chancellor at UCT, and Sir Jeffrey Jowell, Emeritus Professor of Public Law at University College London.

Suttner’s examiners agreed that the thesis is still relevant in that it uses an approach similar to that employed by many progressive people in the area today.

“In fact, it has remarkable contemporary resonance,” said Smythe.

**RIGHTING PAST WRONGS**

Even though Suttner could easily have done without the addition of this accolade to the many he has gathered over the course of his career as a social and political analyst, he sees it for what it is: an opportunity for UCT to right a past injustice.

“It was a good gesture from UCT to try to remedy what had happened, where apartheid laws had led to a decision that I could not act, according to my duty and ethics, by acknowledging the primary source of my ideas,” he explained.

In turn, Suttner also sees this as an opportunity to resurface Simons as one of the intellectual giants of South African history.

“He is insufficiently recognised, even today when his work can be used legally and it is not simply on customary law.”

Suttner hopes that his story might empower others whose academic careers may have been prejudiced through the laws of the time to take steps to remedy whatever injustice they suffered.

“This is all part of remedying the legacies of apartheid and I hope that others will benefit,” he said.

Suttner received his LLM degree on 13 December 2018.
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 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.”

MEET SA’S FIRST DEAF LAW GRADUATE

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.

"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.”

ABOUT DISABILITY SERVICES AT UCT

- The University of Cape Town has an Office for Inclusivity & Change (OIC) that provides institutional responses to transformation, sexual and gender-based violence, disability and cultural change.

- The vision of the OIC is to build, develop and foster an environment where everyone feels included and change is respected, encouraged and celebrated.

- The Disability Service supports students on a case by case basis, tailoring programmes to meet individual student needs.

- For more information on services offered through the OIC, visit: www.oic.uct.ac.za
Qobo Ningiza obtained his Bachelor of Law degree from UCT in 2018. He is South Africa’s first deaf law graduate. He is currently working on applications to several law firms in order to serve his articles in 2019.
‘WHAT’S STOPPING ME?’

Meet the Godfather of information technology in the townships and rural areas.

It’s not a name Luvuyo Rani has given himself, but he laughingly relates how friends and colleagues have dubbed him thus. This is Luvuyo Rani, UCT alumnus and joint-founder of Silulo Ulutho Technologies. Silulo is a pioneering information technology company that provides public computer courses that are accredited by MICT SETA.

“This year [2018] is our 14th in existence,” says Rani.

He suddenly realises that today - 15th February - is the company’s actual 14th anniversary. A broad smile crackles across his face and hearty handshakes ensue.

Fourteen years ago, Rani was selling computer hardware from the tiny boot of the family’s Opel Corsa Lite. As a high school teacher at Kwamfundo Secondary School in Khayelitsha, he had no money for premises for his burgeoning business.

Indeed, he didn’t even have money for the Corsa’s repayments - the bank was on the brink of repossessioning the car.

“It’s very difficult to start a business from the boot of a car, from nothing. And then you build it to having a store and an internet café, then a training centre...”

Now, Silulo has more than 40 stores, internet cafes and training centres in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Kwa-Zulu Natal.

Unlike your neighbourhood underworld Godfather, Rani’s mission is not to squeeze every drop of money from his clients.

He calls himself a “social entrepreneur.”

The fourth industrial revolution has seen artificial intelligence and automation reaching farther and deeper into traditional employment strongholds, threatening to not only cut jobs but also shrink funding for NGOs and NPOs, who over the past few decades have taken over from governments the task of enabling poor communities to meet their most basic human needs.

Instead of writing funding proposals and hoping donors bite, Rani reckons the best way to uplift poor communities is to create businesses that generate their own income and re-invest that money into the people who need it.

With more than 2 500 people now on Silulo’s ever-increasing payroll, and many more benefiting from the company’s training programmes, Rani is putting his money where his mouth is.

Their six courses are accredited by MICT SETA, the Services Sector Education and Training Authority.

He’s not just eager to employ more people. Silulo has put in place a franchise model - this way, people who come on board as Silulo employees can work towards an economic freedom of sorts, by eventually owning their own franchise.

“By 2020 I want 80% of the stores to be run by franchise owners,” he says.

The name of his game is empowerment. He’s not just in business for his own profit.
BIGGEST CHALLENGE

“The biggest challenge is to manage a growing business. When we started, we were entrepreneurs; we started with a passion; it started with selling. We were driven by entrepreneurial spirit.

“The last four years have been very tough. Putting in place systems, processes... That’s why many entrepreneurs will sell or bring someone on board after a few years. It’s a different skill-set that you need. It’s not a start-up anymore.

“Most entrepreneurs will start and grow the business. But to keep it is a different animal.”

And keeping Silulo running Rani has not been easy. Rani was robbed at gunpoint of money that was meant for new premises and was rejected by multiple banks when applying for loans, which are but two examples of the uphill battle he’s faced. Persistence, in addition to business nous, was key to his success.

Rani credits much of his success to the knowledge gained when reading for an Associate in Management (AIM) course at UCT’s Graduate School of Business, which he undertook in 2006.

It’s been a long and tough road for Rani, but gradually his tenacity has been recognised. In 2014, he was named as one of Ten Outstanding Young Persons for his entrepreneurial work by the Junior Chamber International network; has made regular appearances at the annual World Economic Forum; and won the Schwab Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award for 2016.

Rani sums up the indomitable spirit that makes Silulo’s continued success almost a guarantee in just one sentence: “What’s stopping me?”

“It’s very difficult to start a business from the boot of a car, from nothing.”
A LEGACY OF GIVING

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 2018, 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.
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.

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- Colin Dutkiewicz
- Angela Frater
- Andrew Gibson
- John Gurney
- Eric Hassall
- Peter Hope
- Craig Howie
- Sir Chips Keswick
- Michael Levy
- Clive McIntyre
- Irene Menell
- William Michell
- Craig Mullett and family
- Nicolene Nel
- Keith Oates
- Nicholas Oppenheimer
- Flora Pedlar
- Anthony Rademeyer
- Liam and Penny Ratcliffe
- Delise Reich
- Alistair Ruiters
- Kier Schuringa
- Shirley and Hymie Shwiel
- Mugsy Spiegel
- Colin Tebbutt
- Les Underhill
- David Watson
- Paul Wilcox
- 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
- Peter Beighton
- Leslie Bergman
- Bob Bishop
- R David Bloomberg
- Marcus Bowman
- Neil Braude
- Stanley Braude
- Walter Braude
- Donald Jamieson Buchanan
- Geoff Burton
- Yasmin Carrim
- Francois Cilliers
- Ian Clark
- Beric Croome
- Michael Darlison
- Ezra Davids
- Jim Davidson
- Bryan Davies
- Elmarie de Bruin
- Jeanelle Louise De Gruchy
- Marion Dixon
- Prashila Dullabh
- Sakhi Dumakude
- Peter Dryburgh
- Ian Farlam
- Arthur Forman
- Robert Forman
- Anthony Stephen Fricke
- Lauren Friedman
- Christoph Fröhlich
- Siamon Gordon
- Robert Gould
- Suzanne Mary Hall
- Mary Ethel Harrisson
- Nigel and Lila Harvey
- Vivien Hodgson
- Ruth Horner-Mibashan
- Georgina Jaffee
- Andrew James Jaffray
- Megan Ruth Jobson
- Geoffrey Kaye
- William J Kentridge
- Rochelle Le Roux
- Thomas Leiden
- Hugh Livingstone
- Paul Malherbe
- Timothy Mathews
- Mary Mattholie
- Malcolm McCallum
DEAN’S CIRCLE
Individuals whose gifts to UCT over a five year period have amounted to between R100,000 and R250,000

- David JP Meachin
- Ron Merkel
- Malcom Andrew Miller
- Michael Erwin Richard Mittermaier
- Mutle Mogase
- David Nurek
- Gerald Norman Nurick
- Helena Okreglicki
- Gabby Parker
- Deborah Posel
- Hannah-Reeve Sanders
- John Stuart Saunders
- Steve Schach
- Christoph and Renate Schmocker
- Mark Shuttleworth
- Crain Soudien
- Sara Spiegel
- Margaret Stanford
- David Strong
- Gregory John Symons
- Jenny Thomson
- Martin Tooke
- Stephen Townsend
- Karen Van Heerden
- Jacob Daniel Wiese
- Rob Williams
- Peter George Abner Wrighton
- Derek Yach

FRIENDS OF UCT
Individuals whose gifts to UCT over the last five years have amounted to less than R100,000

3305 individuals who have generously shown their support by making a gift to the University of Cape Town.

BEQUESTS
Individuals who have bequeathed a legacy gift to UCT in their wills.

- Niel Ackerman
- PA Ackerman Will Trust
- Harry Allschwang
- Enid Atkinson
- Linda Doreen Beckett
- JFW Bell
- Anne Alida Bomford
- Simon Bor
- CLF Borckenhagen
- AM Botha
- Arthur Bridgman
- Jack Broadley
- Edward Carter
- CH Charlewood
- Di Chilton
- Phillip Alexander Clancey
- RJHH Colback
- David Graham Cunningham
- Joyce Irene Ivy Cupido
- Ilse Margaret Dall
- EIGT Danziger
- GSD Davis
- Pauline de la Motte Hall
- MBM Denny
- Lilian Dubb
- Seymour Dubb
- CW Eglin
- M Eilenberg Trust
- Elsabe Carmen Einhorn
- Barbara Finberg
- Azriel Fine
- Derek Stuart Franklin
- Sybil Elizabeth Laura Gauntlett
- Pamela Marcia Glass
- Victor Glasstone Will Trust
- BA Goldman
- BJN Greig
- JM Griffiths
- JS Griffiths Will Trust
- RB Grosse
- GN Hayward
- Alfred Harold Honikman
- ML Hutt
- Carolina Rebeca Iljon
- Vera Jaffe
- Colin Kaplan
- The Leanore Zara Kaplan Will Trust
- John E. Karlin
- Miriam Kluk
- LB Knoll
- ESE Kramer Will Trust
- Ann Kreitzer Will Trust
- NH Lerner
- Elias Bertrand Levenstein
- Leah Levy
- Myer Levy
- Henri Marais
- IN Marks
BEQUESTS

Individuals who have bequeathed a legacy gift to UCT in their wills.

- Dorothea McDonald
- J Melrose
- EOWH Middelmann
- Walter Middelmann
- Valerie Moodie
- IM Monk
- Audrey Moriarty
- P Moss Will Trust
- RM Moss
- Margaret Alice Nash
- Elizabeth Ethel Barbara Parker
- HFB Paulsen
- RC Pead
- AH Peires
- Edward Petrie
- Harry Phillips
- Esme Wedderburn Quilley
- Jacob Wolf Rabkin Trust
- BM Raff Will Trust
- Martha Reed
- Patricia Roche
- Kathe Rocher
- Kevin Rochford
- Anita Saunders
- CCG Steytler
- Hajee Sulaiman ShahMahomed
- BG Shapiro
- James Sivewright Scratchley Will Trust
- Aline Smit
- Ian Trevor Berry Smith
- Rolf Richard Spiegel
- PWL Stanton
- RM Stegen
- AM Stephen
- George Strates
- Clifford Herbert Stroude Trust
- Abraham Swersky
- Peter Theron
- Sarah Turoff
- Rosalie van der Gucht Will Trust
- LM van der Spy
- Cederic James Vos
- Laurence Gregory Wells
- JF Viljoen

NOTE:

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.

A full list of UCT donors is also available at www.uct.ac.za/main/donating-to-uct/donor-recognition
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UCT currently has alumni chapters in the following regions: Cape Town; Johannesburg; Durban; Port Elizabeth; Botswana; Kenya; Uganda; New Zealand; Switzerland. Don’t see a chapter in your region yet? Why not start one? To find out more, contact UCT Alumni Relations Manager, Sihle Mabaso at: sihle.mabaso@uct.ac.za.

Join UCT ALUMNI CONNECT and connect to a global community of UCT alumni. Sign up at: www.uctalumniconnect.com

Follow us:
Transnational Giving Europe (TGE) is a partnership of leading European foundations and associations that facilitates secure and tax-efficient cross-border giving within Europe.

The TGE network enables donors, both corporations and individuals, to financially support non-profit organisations in other member states, while benefiting directly from the tax advantages provided for in the legislation of their country of residence.

All donations received by the UCT Trust are transferred to UCT in their entirety; the University pays the Trust’s operating costs.

**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).

- **Belgium:**
  King Baudouin Foundation
  Tel: +32-2-549-02-31
  Email: tge@kbs-frb.be

- **France:**
  Fondation de France
  Tel: +33-1-442-187-60
  Email: tge@fdf.org

- **Germany:**
  MaecenataStiftung
  Linienstrasse 139
  10115 Berlin, Germany
  Tel: +49 30 2838 7909
  E-mail: tge@maecenata.eu

- **Ireland:**
  Community Foundation for Ireland
  Tel: +35-3-187-473-54
  Email: tge@foundation.ie

- **Netherlands:**
  OranjeFonds
  Tel: +31-30-656-4524
  Email: tge@oranjefonds.nl

- **Spain:**
  Fundación Carlos de Amberes
  Tel: +34-9-143-522-01
  Email: tgel@fcamberes.org

  OR
  Empresa y Sociedad
  Tel: +35-9-143-589-97
  Email: fabad@empresasysociedad.org

- **Switzerland:**
  Swiss Philanthropy Foundation
  Tel: +41-2-273-255-54
  Email: tge@swissphilanthropy.ch

  Please note that the minimum donation accepted via Swiss Philanthropy Foundation is CHF500