

Message from the VC Dr Max Price

As a developing country, South Africa faces significant challenges in every sphere of life. At the same time, we are fortunate that this country also has the talent and capacity to meet those challenges head on.

We are proud, at UCT, that we not only have an abundance of such talent, but also encourage the values that channel those abilities in a direction that makes a difference. The Alan Pifer Award plays a role in this, recognising and incentivising those whose research has social impact. The awards make socially responsive research visible and appreciated inside the university, as well as among the communities UCT serves.

Over the last 21 years, the Alan Pifer Awards have recognised and honoured the work of

a range of researchers from across the university. The remarkable variety of recipients showcased here demonstrates that socially responsive research is not discipline specific. Yet the recipients of the Alan Pifer Award have one thing in common: they all applied their personal research interest to real-life problems and tangibly improved the quality of life for the country's most disadvantaged citizens.

I would like to give a special mention to Professor Sandra Burman, of the Faculty of Law, who passed away late last year

and so has been unable to see her work recognised in this publication. Professor Burman was a pioneer in the field of socio-legal studies in this country and made a significant contribution to the understanding of the impact of the justice system on the lives of vulnerable children. Her work is emblematic of the values these awards uphold.

The Alan Pifer Award recipients demonstrate the power of socially responsive research to change lives for the better. It is my hope that emerging researchers take inspiration from their excellent work, take up the challenge themselves and make a difference.

The solutions to Africa's problems must come from within. As one of the strongest research-focused universities on this continent, the University of Cape Town has a crucial role to play in leading the charge.

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About the Alan Pifer Award

Established by the UCT Fund of New York in 1993, with a gift from Drs Caryl Parker Haskins and Edna Haskins.

Caryl Haskins was an entomologist and specialist in ant biology. He was the founder of Haskins Laboratories, a private non-profit research laboratory established in 1935.

The award was named after Alan Pifer: educationist, philanthropist and former president of long-term UCT benefactor, the Carnegie Foundation.

The award is made at the discretion of the UCT vice-chancellor and deputy vice-chancellor for research.

Eight recipients have been drawn from the Faculty of Health Sciences, including three from the Department of Psychiatry.

Edna Haskins published several works on chemical research and also conducted research with her husband in entymology.

Alan Pifer's connection with UCT spanned five decades, and he could boast of having known five vice-chancellors (Davie, Duminy, Luyt, Saunders and Ramphela).

It has rewarded recipients from a wide range of disciplines, from fine art and the social sciences, to the natural and health sciences.

Linda-Gail Bekker and Robin Wood (2014) are the second wife-and-husband team to have been honoured: the first were Nicoli Natrass and Jeremy Seekings (2000).