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Max du Preez to deliver UCT's Annual TB Davie Academic Freedom Lecture

Thursday, 28 August 2014, at 13h00 in Jameson Hall, Upper Campus

Columnist, social commentator and political analyst Max du Preez returns to the University of Cape Town next week to deliver its annual TB Davie Memorial Academic Freedom Lecture. His lecture will focus on "The mediocrity of intellectual discourse: misrepresenting South Africa in the academy and beyond", and take place on Thursday, 28 August 2014, at 13h00 in Jameson Hall, Upper Campus.

In 1992 UCT awarded the veteran journalist an honorary Master of Social Science degree for – among other achievements – "his fearless exposition of power corruption in high places" during the height of apartheid. "He has done so in the face of all kinds of attempts at silencing him, from criminal and civil proceedings in the Courts to extrajudicial strong-arm methods," reads his 1992 citation. It described him as "clearly a non-conformist, an independent thinker, a maverick".

Mr Du Preez was the founder/editor of the anti-apartheid Afrikaans newspaper, *Vrye Weekblad*, and of television programmes such as *Special Report* (about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission) and *Special Assignment*. He was also part of a delegation of Afrikaner personalities who travelled to Dakar, Senegal, in 1987 to attend a highly controversial and historic meeting with the then banned African National Congress.

During the TB Davie lecture, Mr Du Preez will discuss how public intellectuals, academia and the media fail to reflect the whole of South Africa to its citizens, and will argue for a need to "move beyond the dominant and predictable discourse dictated by powerful politicians and corporates".

Mr Du Preez is a Fellow of the Centre for Applied Leadership Ethics at Fort Hare University and a visiting professor at the School of Communications at the North-West University.

The Annual TB Davie Memorial Academic Freedom Lecture is held in honour of Thomas Benjamin Davie, UCT Vice-Chancellor from 1948 to 1955. Dr Davie was a fearless defender of the principles of academic freedom and university autonomy. He defined academic freedom as the university's right to determine who shall be taught, who shall teach, what

shall be taught and how it should be taught, without regard to any criterion except academic merit.

ENDS

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