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Miss South Africa 2020 among inspirational speakers at UCT's virtual Women's Day event

READ: [Read the full communication by UCT VC, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng.](#)

SOUND BITE: [Listen to a short audio version by UCT spokesperson, Elijah Moholola.](#)

Miss South Africa 2020, Shudufhadzo Musida, will be among accomplished and inspirational women on the University of Cape Town's programme for the virtual Women's Day event under the theme, 'Social responsiveness and internationalisation'.

Musida will deliver the keynote address at the event to be held on Tuesday, 10 August 2021 at 13:00 via [Microsoft Teams](#). Musida, an advocate for mental health awareness and the empowerment of women and children, recently graduated with an honours degree in international relations from Wits University.

Speakers include UCT's Executive Director: Research, Dr Linda Mtwisha, as well as the recipients of the university's For Womxn By Womxn research grants – Professor Janet Hapgood, Dr Katye Altieri and Dr Robyn Pickering – who will give an update on their exciting research projects.

The research projects range from contraception and HIV risk of womxn in sub-Saharan Africa, building capacity in the field of oceanography for black South African womxn, and transforming the field of palaeoanthropology. Some of the grant recipients' students will share on the work they have been doing during the lockdown to advance social responsiveness and internationalisation.

Three years ago, UCT Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng made a commitment to create opportunities for womxn at the university by launching the For Womxn By Womxn research grants.

"The grants focus on building scholarship in areas of study where womxn are in short supply and in areas of study that are of relevance to womxn; and training postgraduates and

postdoctoral fellows, specifically focusing on building capacity among black South African womxn and transgender researchers,” said Phakeng.

The UCT Women’s Day event is a significant part of the university’s calendar annually.

“In continuing to recognise and acknowledge womxn’s contribution to the liberation of this country, we celebrate Women’s Day in South Africa on 9 August each year. We commemorate this day in order to also raise awareness on the persistent inequalities, discrimination and abuse of rights experienced by womxn today,” remarked Phakeng.

Phakeng added that the event will not only be about celebrating “phenomenal womxn at UCT but also collectively taking stock of and recognising how far we have come as a country by showing commitment towards achieving the aims and aspirations of all South African womxn.”

To add to the celebratory ambiance on this momentous day, there will be a musical performance by Lady Day Big Band, featuring Lana Crowster. They will perform a vintage pop medley, including South African hits like *Burn Out* by Siphho ‘Hotstix’ Mabuse, *Umqombothi* by Yvonne Chaka Chaka and *Weekend Special* by Brenda Fassie.

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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