



Senior lecturer. Distinguished Teacher Awardee.
Socially responsible.

Women's Month Profile: 15 minutes with...

Zenda Woodman

My name is Zenda Woodman, and I am a senior lecturer at UCT.

Can you describe yourself in three words?

Kind. Funny. Socially responsible.

How do you think your colleagues would describe you in three words?

Fruitcake. Frontal-lobe-less. Odd.

Describe your work in two sentences or less

Supervise postgraduates, lecture undergraduates, convene courses, committee member, beg for funding, write grants and have hope.

What do you find most fulfilling about your work?

Success of students.

What have been some of the highlights of your time at UCT?

Winning the Distinguished Teacher's award and moving back to FHS.

What are the main challenges of your work?

Lack of time and money.



What do you love or hate about UCT or FHS specifically?

I love how much the Faculty cares about students' wellbeing and I hate how hard it is to live up to those sentiments sometimes.

What's the biggest risk you've ever taken?

Taking this survey.

How do you conquer your fears?

Medication.

What's your version of self-care?

A good book that makes me forget about myself.

If you could change something overnight at UCT, what would it be?

Relationships between staff and staff, students and students and staff and students

If you had a choice between two superpowers; being invisible or flying, which would you choose?

Definitely invisible. No-one would be able to find me in my office.

What was the last gift you gave someone?

Slippers.

What is your advice to young people building a future in academia?

Don't. Or if you do - be ready to roll up your sleeves and change the world.

If you could have dinner with any woman (or anyone), who would it be and why?

Steve Biko to acknowledge his sacrifice and to discuss his lived experiences that led him to pay the ultimate price for his convictions.

What are your future plans at UCT? What would you like to achieve?

I would like to build a culture where egos have no place at UCT.

