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# GIVING

A newsletter for the UCT Donor Community



This edition of Giving@UCT focuses on the relationship between transformation and philanthropy. It shows the significant impact that donor funding is having on the commitment of UCT to ensure that transformation is not only accelerated but that excellence is enhanced. Transformation is multifaceted. Fundamentally it is about overcoming the legacy of apartheid and colonialism.

This involves, inter alia:

- Changes to the demographic profile of the staff and student bodies
- Teaching and learning, including curriculum design and reform
- Staff development
- Institutional culture, including artworks and other symbols
- Addressing manifestations of racism and sexism

Efforts by the University of Cape Town in these respects have been ongoing for many years. But last year saw a marked acceleration – largely in response to the challenge faced by the university. We have all been asked to think more deeply about what institutional racism means and to acknowledge how differently UCT is experienced by black students and staff. There is a widespread commitment to accelerate transformation and to take personal responsibility for making the changes.

Key interventions have included the appointment of Associate Professor Elelwani Ramugondo as the Vice-Chancellor's special advisor on transformation; employment and equity programmes; creating forums for the expression of views not usually heard; addressing the dominance on campus of the symbols that reflect a particular heritage; student access; gender and sexual harassment issues; curriculum reform; and insourcing.

These programmes are all aligned with the new fiveyear strategic plan, which is currently being finalised. The strategic plan is also the transformation plan for UCT since its key element is the way transformation infuses all elements of our repositioning over the next period.

2015 was a challenging but exciting year for UCT, signalling a change from what has gone before. 2016 sees these transformation programmes gain further momentum in creating a more inclusive UCT.

Dr Russell Ally Executive Director, Development and Alumni Department

For a more detailed account of UCT's transformation interventions since March 2015, visit the UCT website: **www.uct.ac.za** 

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#### **ROBERT BOSCH STIFTUNG**

With this gift the Robert Bosch Stiftung becomes a first time donor to UCT, supporting the re-gain and retention of regional research talent

#### NEW EUROPEAN DONOR HELPS REVERSE BRAIN DRAIN

Given the growing need for more senior African academics in universities across the continent, largely due to the 'brain drain' of talented students to global north countries, UCT started a 'brain regain' initiative. The goal is to grow research talent within the continent and recruit African academics who are working abroad. The idea was most appealing to the Robert Bosch Stiftung, based in Stuttgart Germany, who invest in science and education projects that straddle international cultural exchanges. The foundation has pledged support to the value of €150,000 over two years for the purpose of recruiting and training two candidates per year, to be mentored and groomed for senior academic positions at UCT or other African universities. The plan is to include partnerships with global north universities, aggregating the experience and skill of research fellows through international collaborative research projects.

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is a first time donor to UCT, through this initiative, and the donation culminates concerted efforts to increase new funding relations in Europe. The partnership has likewise opened new perspectives on

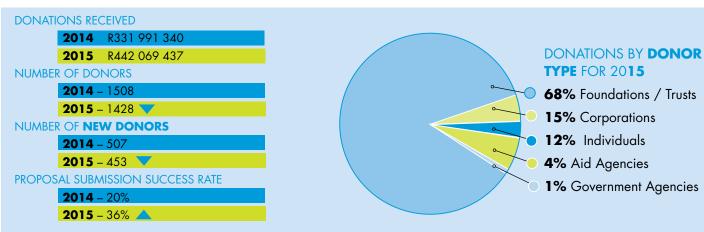
Africa from the foundation to consider further philanthropic investments on the continent. The Robert Bosch Stiftung is one of the largest German foundations associated with a private company and has managed the philanthropic bequest of company founder Robert Bosch for over 50 years.

The donation will cover full time fellowships for successful candidates, inclusive of travel and conference allowances, and research expenses.

The partnership will enable UCT to insert young, ambitious, productive and motivated researchers into a network of global colleagues.

The value of such collaboration is shared by the Robert Bosch Stiftung who are keen to follow a fundamental objective of UCT to strengthening a cohort of senior African academics in the global sphere. In this way the university will ensure its contribution to growing the knowledge production base and building socially responsive research, developing theory that is appropriate to regional contexts on the continent.

#### DONATIONS 2014 - 2015 >



**100 - UP AND AWAY** 

Tefelo Mathibane is a student of the 100-Up and 100-Up Plus programmes, maintaining a competitive edge in his third year MBChB studies at UCT's Health Sciences Faculty

When Tefelo Mathibane received the news that he was awarded the Santilal Parbhoo Prize for best study project in molecular medicine, it felt like he was dreaming. As surreal as it may be, this is an accustomed stance for someone who may easily be considered to be living his dream. It was always Tefelo's ambition to pursue a career in medicine and today he is in his third year of studies at UCT's Health Sciences Faculty. His success is attributed to a sense of passion for wanting to help people and he is driven by a need to make a difference in combatting diseases such as Tuberculosis that are rife in Africa. This was the focus of his laboratory-based project, monitoring the distribution of mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTB) on the human lung system. His curiosity for asking questions and approaching solutions from diverse perspectives kept him up for many a late night on his experiments and write-up, earning him top honours.

Tefelo is one of the students who was part of the first cohort of 100-Up learners to begin their studies at UCT in 2014. The 100-Up programme is a high school intervention hosted by UCT's Schools Improvement Initiative (SII). Each year 100 talented learners in Grade 10 are selected across schools in Khayelitsha, coaching them over three years towards university access. Apart from weekly tuition classes, participants attend development workshops and receive support with selecting their tertiary study plan. This journey continues with students qualifying for admission to UCT through 100-UP Plus, hosted by the Centre for Higher Education and Development (CHED). It supports students with the critical transition to university life and with discerning their individual career paths. Tefelo attributes much of his academic achievement to the 100-Up revision programmes that gave him a more competitive edge on his mathematics and science results in Grade 12, an edge that he now maintains at the top of his class.

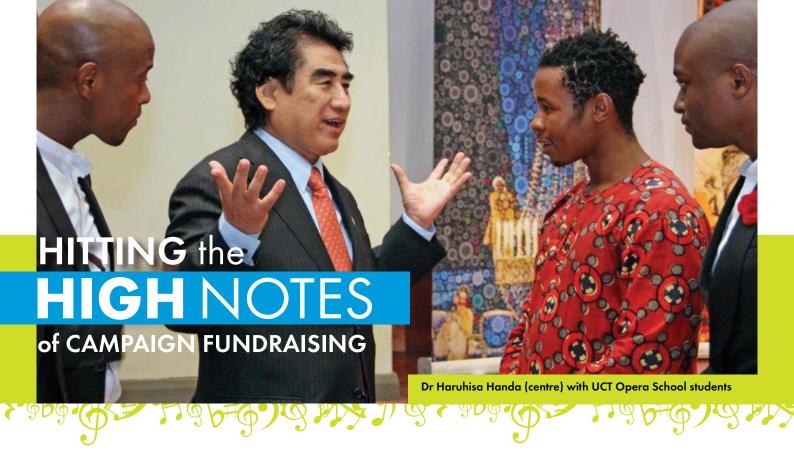
Donor funding is largely responsible for the upward trajectory of 100-Up that is now expanding towards schools in Mitchell's Plain. The programme has received considerable support from both local and international individual donors, particularly in the UK through the UCT Trust based in London. The largest corporate donors were HSBC Africa, Nedbank Eyethu Trust, and AfriSam. Another local corporate, The Foschini Group, has given support to the 100-Up Plus programme with a multi-year pledge. Tefelo is also a bursary recipient of the Moshal Scholarship Programme, funding several promising students to realise their higher education dreams towards successful careers.

Besides Tefelo himself, no-one else seems more excited about his achievements than his father whom he visits during vacation in the Eastern Cape:

"He always tells me how proud he is, and the fact that I am the first child of his to make it to varsity excites him even more. Whenever I speak with him about my studies, he reminds me that I should continue to work hard and he prays to the Lord that he doesn't die before I graduate. He wants to see me succeeding."

Tefelo likewise looks forward to completing his degree over the next three years and then nurturing his interest to specialise in cardiothoracic surgery:

"I want to make a difference in people's lives and to give back to the community because I also received immense support."



With the challenge of raising R5 million to match a closing grant from the Mellon Foundation to the UCT Opera School, the fundraising campaign would need to be a harmoniously orchestrated plan involving several constituencies. This was the task laid out for our fundraising team of the Development and Alumni Department. Apart from the invested support of patrons who make regular individual donations, new partnerships were sought through corporates and foundations that value the transformative influence of the performing arts. The curtain was raised on the campaign in 2014, with the goal of raising the matching grant by 2017 and thereby setting the stage for a more sustained effort of building an endowment.

A highlight of these efforts was the substantial pledge of R5 million from Dr Haruhisa Handa through the International Foundation for Arts and Culture. The campaign has already received R2.5 million of this pledge, celebrating a new donor relationship with Dr Handa and UCT, through the foundation.

While every pledge and donation played a significant role in building cumulative support, the success of the campaign is no less attributed to the remarkable talent of our opera students who grace the world's stages from humble beginnings. The school prides itself on discovering vocal talent amidst impoverished communities that are rich in musical culture, turning the fragile dreams of young singers into real opportunities. With more young black singers from South Africa taking on the global stage, the world of opera is literally changing to a more youthful and diverse representation of this timeless art form. Even though

it is traditionally associated with European culture, opera has become most relevant in the context of a transforming society such as South Africa. The highly visual and dynamically vocal aspects of the genre lend itself to the energetic buoyancy of traditional African storytelling and this blend of culture creates a compelling expression of a more cohesive society.

Over the past decade, the Mellon Foundation provided significant funding for the Opera School that saw numerous students develop successful international careers.

As this funding partnership drew to a close in 2014, the closing grant challenge was that the foundation would release R5 million under the condition that UCT raised the same. It would create the opportunity for an initial endowment of R10 million to be nurtured into an eventual self-sustaining investment. Over a series of fundraising events that showcased the rich talent of our school, donors pledged support through both operational and endowment funding. The campaign was indeed a global effort, with fundraising activity particularly strong in South Africa and the UK, apart from USA, Canada, and Australia. The MariaMarina Foundation was among the first major donors, with a commitment over three years specifically for voice coaching and production expenses. Besides the pledge from Dr Handa, other major contributions came from the Millennium Trust, Rialto Foods, Saldanha Sales and Marketing, Dr Max Price, Sir Simon Robertson, the Harbour Foundation, the Oak Foundation, and the Claude Leon Foundation.



Our Opera School is particularly proud of an array of stars who have emerged from the comprehensive programme of theory and practice, taking their rightful place among the world's best. These well-earned accolades can be ascribed to the commitment of the School to maintain the highest teaching and coaching standards, setting the precedent for inspiring stories of success:

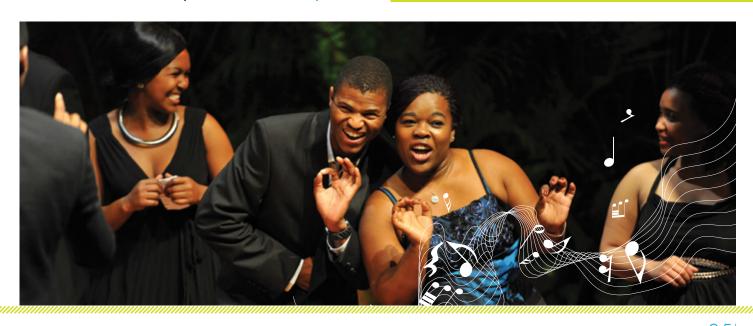
- ★ Pretty Yende presently lives in Milan and is based at the prestigious La Scala Opera House
- ★ Musa Ngqungwana is currently based in Philadelphia as a resident artist at the Academy of Vocal Arts
- → Pumeza Matshikiza signed a record deal with Decca and secured a three year contract with Stuttgart Opera
- ★ Thesele Kemane is currently taking up his fellowship for an Artist Diploma at the Juilliard, New York
- ★ Golda Schultz has made debuts in several opera houses around the world and this year returns to the Bayerische

Staatsoper as a member of their ensemble

- ★ Siyabulela Ntlale took second place at the 2014 International Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition
- ★ Levy Sekgapane was overall winner of the International Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition in 2015

These are just a few of the many young singers who have risen to international stardom through the support and training they have received from the UCT Opera School. The story is yet far from over, with the long-term goal to raise at least R40 million for the Opera School endowment. Given the trajectory of the campaign thus far we are hopeful of garnering further support and sustaining the high notes of operatic success.

UCT Opera School students perform in seasonal productions with Cape Town Opera and at the annual Vice-Chancellor's Concert



## INTERNATIONAL GIVING@UCT: FOCUS ON THE UNITED KINGDOM

The University of Cape Town Trust is a UK registered charity which was established in 1990 and raises funds for projects at UCT from Foundations, Alumni and other individuals. Over the years, UK donors to UCT have supported a host of projects that have especially included the Schools Improvement Initiative and the Opera School.

The drive to invest in transformation is also a key focus of fundraising efforts in the UK and this is facilitated through the UK Alumni Bursary Fund. In 2015 the fund assisted a total of twelve talented students in need of financial support, five undergraduates and seven postgraduates. There are approximately thirty UK based alumni who support student bursaries at UCT, all of whom have pledged to assist in opening further opportunities for transformation and redress.

**Chantry Westwell** (née Holborn) graduated from UCT with a BA in 1981 and now works with medieval manuscripts at the British Library:

"I feel strongly that it is our responsibility to give back... It is crucial to the future success of a country to which I am indebted and which holds many happy memories for me. This is why I and my husband Stephen are regular donors to the UK Alumni Bursary Fund."

**Dr Megan Jobson**, BEng(Chem), graduated in 1989 and is now a senior academic at the University of Manchester:



UCT Chancellor Graça Machel, flanked by Stephen and Chantry Westwell

"I am very proud of UCT and its excellent academic reputation. I am deeply grateful for the education I obtained... and therefore wish to help create opportunities for others, so that they can realise their potential through a UCT education."

**Kenneth Jones**, BCom 1963/BCom Econ (Hons) 1964: "I support the UK Alumni Bursary Fund because it helps students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have overcome so many obstacles to reach UCT."

**Thomas Withington,** BBusSci, 2005, and **Joanne Withington**, MBChB, 2007:

"Living in London but still feeling very much South African, we appreciate any opportunity to contribute to causes back home. Furthermore, we are aware of how much UCT shaped us and what an excellent platform it offered us for our careers, so we are grateful to assist others who may not have the financial means to study there."

### OUR INTERNATIONAL FUNDRAISING EFFORTS ARE GLOBALLY LOCATED

#### **UCT AUSTRALIAN TRUST** IN MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY

Lenore Plummer and Ruth Thornton: info@ucttrust.org.au

#### **UCT CANADA IN TORONTO**

Diane Stafford: info@uctcanada.ca

#### **UCT FUND INC IN NEW YORK**

Johanna Fausto: advancement@uctfund.org

#### **UCT TRUST IN LONDON**

Angela Edwards: uct-trust@tecres.net



#### TRANSNATIONAL GIVING IN EUROPE

The UCT Trust has been approved by the Transnational Giving Europe (TGE) network. As a partnership of leading European foundations and associations facilitating tax-efficient cross-border giving within Europe, the network enables donors to benefit from tax advantages provided by the legislation of their country of residence. Apart from the UK, the UCT Trust is now able to receive tax effective donations from Switzerland, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, The Netherlands, and Spain. Our regional representative in the UK, Angela Edwards, may be contacted by e-mail: uct-trust@tecres.net



#### SUPPORT FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Given a strategic focus on building capacity for industrial clusters around Africa's extractive sector, the African Development Bank has awarded UCT a generous first time grant for the MPhil Programme in Sustainable Mineral Resource Development. As part of the global Education for Sustainable Development in Africa, with the United Nations University Institute for Sustainability and Peace, UCT's Department of Chemical Engineering hosts this programme with the University of Zambia. The overall development goal is to contribute to the realization of an environment for sustainable employment and inclusive growth in the natural minerals and extractives industry in Africa. The grant enables students to participate in a comprehensive programme of activities that includes short courses, the preparation of a dissertation, and internship placements.

The University of Cape Town has prioritised this field of study through the Minerals to Metals Initiative, within the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment. The Initiative was born of the realisation that making mineral beneficiation activities more sustainable means that the selection, design and operation of processes and technology options must take place within the context of environmental,

economic and socio-political consideration. The Initiative is one of five UCT Signature Themes created by the University Research Committee demonstrating its prioritised position among key challenges facing our region. Mining in Africa, as in the rest of the world, has changed from simply balancing production targets with cost control to a complex set of interrelationships including safety, health, the environment, sustainable development and proactive stakeholder management. This programme is aimed at providing an interdisciplinary postgraduate qualification that highlights the critical factors of sustainable development in the context of mining and minerals processing in Africa including an understanding of managing and interacting with communities, environmental challenges, safety cultures, health-related issues and regulatory frameworks.

With this grant from the African Development Bank, over a two year period from 2016 to 2017, the higher education sector receives significant support in the areas of urbanization and technological advancement. The Bank recognizes that "investing in higher education is a requirement because education remains the greatest natural resource of any country and is a source of opportunity."

# MUTLE MOGASE... WHY I AM Giving@UCT

Mutle Mogase is a BCom alumnus of UCT and an active donor

Mutle Mogase's affiliation with UCT, as an alumnus and donor, marks a long relationship with the institution from his student days in the 1980s. As a BCom graduate who was impressed to see the names of his lecturers on many of the textbooks and journals he studied, Mutle maintained a highly motivated stance in pursuit of his goals during challenging times. Supported by his mother, who worked as a nurse while his father was in detention, he attended university with scholarship funding.

Today as co-founder and Executive Chairman of Vantage Capital, Mutle holds firm to the belief that corporate South Africa has an important role to play in supporting more students from disadvantaged backgrounds with opportunities to pursue tertiary studies.

If business is to expect a diverse cohort of young talent for recruitment, then its financial backing is imperative.

This is particularly with regard to university programmes that improve opportunities for student access in cases where this would otherwise not be financially possible. As a donor to UCT, Mutle's commitment is one of many such efforts on the part of individuals and corporates to support talented students fulfill their career aspirations.

As universities across the country experience a time of protests and new conversations around transformation, we are challenged to reconsider these issues within the broader context of a collective concern. Mutle considers universities as a microcosm of society, with many of the present challenges only being resolved through engagement with all civil society leadership stakeholders. Through his involvement in UCT's alumni forum and the Legacy Society, Mutle has pledged his support to strengthening efforts that

EDITOR DESIGN

**PHOTOGRAPHS** 

Merlin Ince

Lara van Otterlo

Michael Hammond

Cape Town Opera

Lu Nteya



increase the access and participation of black students from challenging socio-economic circumstances. As more of these initiatives gain momentum then inequality gaps find adhesion. While the challenges of transformation remain complex, he is confident that the university is headed in the right direction.

Apart from the demanding academic regime of student life, Mutle has fond memories of his time at UCT. The Faculty of Commerce Freshers' Ball is one of these highlights, as well as his membership of the Wine and Cultural Society. The latter has been an especially lasting influence in that Mutle has since gone on to launch a wine label with three of his partners. His career in investment and financial services has seen many highlights, including his participation in the development of the Financial Sector Charter. In 1993 he was also involved in the first BEE transaction for South Africa, with the purchase of a stake in Africa Life Insurance.

Mutle is well recognized as a formidable leader and role-model, although he is modestly slow to admit any of these connotations. He prefers to rather embrace the values that underpin his philanthropic disposition: honesty, integrity, and love of family.

For further information and assistance with making a financial gift to the University of Cape Town, please contact us through <a href="mailto:giving@uct.ac.za">giving@uct.ac.za</a>

#### **DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI DEPARTMENT**

University of Cape Town Lower Campus, Rondebosch, 7700, Western Cape, South Africa

www.uct.ac.za