



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

15 December 2015

UCT to honour world-renowned economist and lawyer

**Three graduation ceremonies to celebrate 1424 graduands, including
136 doctoral candidates, on 19 December 2015**

**Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price to address media on the conclusion of the 2015
academic year: Friday, 18 December 2015, at 14h00, in the Ben Beinart Room, Otto
Beit Building, Upper Campus**

The University of Cape Town will award honorary degrees to two highly esteemed and world-renowned figures for their significant contributions in the fields of economics and law, during graduation ceremonies at Jameson Hall on Saturday, 19 December 2015.

One of the honorary degrees will be conferred posthumously to the late neoclassical welfare economist and former chairman of Nedbank, Dr Johannes de Villiers Graaff. Professor Kenneth Reid, legal scholar and former law commissioner and Chair of Scots Law at the University of Edinburgh, will be honoured at the same graduation ceremony, for the faculties of Commerce and Law, at 09h00.

Dr Graaff – who graduated with a PhD from the University of Cambridge in 1950 and attained greater eminence in academic economics than any other South African – will be honoured for his contribution to economics, internationally and locally, which stretches over half a century. He was, during a career of engaged scholarship, able to show the links between the abstract theory of classical welfare and the practical challenges of the real world.

Professor Reid is a leading scholar of mixed legal systems. His work with South African scholars (many at UCT) has led to a number of productive joint academic projects, including the volume on *Mixed Legal Systems in Comparative Perspective: Property and Obligations in Scotland and South Africa* (Oxford, 2004). He will speak at the 09h00 ceremony.

Three ceremonies celebrating socially responsive research

Gerda Kruger, the Executive Director of Communication & Marketing at UCT, says: "The value of research is not just to increase knowledge but to make that knowledge useful in real life. For this reason, one of the strategic goals of UCT is to conduct research that will lead to greater impact and greater engagement with communities across South Africa and Africa."

A total of 136 doctoral candidates will graduate after completing research on topics across a wide range of socially relevant issues, such as:

- The potential of farmed abalone to fight disease-causing bacteria;
- The future role of insurance as society's primary financial risk manager;
- The evolutionary processes that have driven diversification since our genus *Homo* first evolved about 2.8 million years ago;
- How to optimise emergency care and scarce intensive care resources to treat critically ill and injured children more quickly and effectively; and
- How to help students to learn computer programming using their mobile phones – especially effective in poorer countries, where many students own a cellphone but don't have access to desktops and laptops.

The three ceremonies will be held as follows:

Ceremony	Time	Total grads*	PhD grads*
Commerce, Science and Law	09h00	474	61
Health Sciences undergraduate & honours	14h00	428	0
Health Sciences postgraduate, Humanities, and Engineering and the Built Environment	18h00	522	75

* Graduation figures are correct as of **15 December 2015**. The delay in November examinations due to fees protests had a knock-on effect on grading, recording of marks and examination marks appeal processes, so some results will only be finalised after 19 December. Students completing their programme of study on the basis of the November examinations will graduate in absentia at a dedicated ceremony on 23 December 2015.

UCT encourages both students and academics to select research topics that will have a direct impact on the communities where they work. This year UCT will bestow the Vice-Chancellor's Social Responsiveness Award to the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, chosen for its research and response to social challenges across several sectors; and to Associate Professor Roshan Galvaan and Ms Liesl Peters, of the Division of Occupational Therapy at the Faculty of Health Sciences, whose scholarship has recast occupational therapy beyond its traditional borders, towards addressing the sociopolitical realities and pressing social concerns facing South Africans in their everyday lives.

President of Convocation Medal

Retired Mthatha attorney Mda Mda, who enrolled for a law degree at UCT in 1944, is this year's recipient of the President of Convocation Medal, awarded annually to an alumnus who has contributed to the common good. Mda's long legal career was centred on criminal and native law. He practised as an attorney until his retirement in 2001. But even at 92, he remains active in the law fraternity as an advisor and mentor and a well-respected member of his community.

Golden Grads to celebrate 50 years of being UCT alumni

Forty-eight "Golden Grad" alumni will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation in 1965. This milestone will be honoured as part of the 09h00 ceremony.

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Patricia Lucas

Tel: (021) 650 5428 Fax (021) 650 5628

Cell: 076 292 8047

E-mail: pat.lucas@uct.ac.za

University of Cape Town

Rondebosch

Website: www.uct.ac.za