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UCT to confer more than 5000 degrees at its autumn graduation

The University of Cape Town (UCT) will honour approximately 5124 students in 14 graduation ceremonies taking place from Wednesday, 10 April until Thursday, 18 April 2019. During the 14 ceremonies – expected to be attended by about 14 000 people – 70 doctoral degrees and 383 master's degrees will be conferred.

An honorary doctorate, Doctor of Engineering, will be awarded to [Professor David Roger Jones Owen](#) on Saturday, 13 April 2019. Professor Owen is an international authority on finite element and discrete element techniques, and one of the researchers responsible for building the field of computational mechanics from nascence to maturity.

The [Social Responsiveness Award](#) will be awarded to the South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI), during the Health Sciences ceremony taking place on 13 April at 18:00. SATVI's portfolio of community engagement activities has made a substantial contribution to knowledge production about community engagement within TB research.

Among the speakers during the various ceremonies will be deputy executive director of the Nelson Mandela Rhodes Foundation, Ms Judy Sikuza; co-founder and CEO of Yalu, Mr Nkazi Sokhulu; co-founder of GetSmarter and Getwine, Mr Sam Paddock; and UCT engineering alumnus, Mr Mavo Solomon.

Speakers' brief biographies

Ms Judy Sikuza: Ms Sikuza's primary responsibility at the Nelson Mandela Rhodes Foundation is the flagship scholarships and leadership development programme that aims to build exceptional leadership in Africa. She is a non-executive board director of Oxford University Press (Southern Africa), and chairs the board's social and ethics committee. She will speak on Wednesday, 10 April at 18:00.

Mr Nkazi Sokhulu: Mr Sokhulu is a UCT finance graduate. He was the co-founder and COO of FNB Life. He was one half of the duo who started the life insurance company within the FirstRand Group (the largest banking group by asset size in Africa). He will speak on Saturday, 13 April at 09:00.

Mr Sam Paddock: Mr Paddock is an entrepreneur who co-founded Getwine in 2005, and co-founded GetSmarter a few years later in 2008. While based in Cape Town, the

organisation works with the world's leading universities (including UCT) to offer online short courses to working professionals in 150 countries. He will speak on Monday, 15 April at 15:00.

Mr Mavo Solomon: He is an engineer who resigned after almost 20 years from a financially rewarding engineering career to teach rural learners maths and science in his home province. For him, the call to serve pupils in high schools who needed maths lessons became greater than the comforts of his job. Mr Solomon has a master's degree in engineering from UCT. He will speak on Tuesday, 16 April at 15:00.

ENDS

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