



GRADUATION CEREMONY

Faculty of Science

SARAH BAARTMAN HALL

8 September 2026

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Academic Procession.

(The congregation is requested to stand as the procession enters the hall)

The Presiding Officer will constitute the congregation.

The National Anthem.

Welcome by the Master of Ceremonies.

Musical Item.

The graduands and diplomates will be presented to the Presiding Officer by the Dean of the faculty.

The Presiding Officer will congratulate the new graduates and diplomates.

The Master of Ceremonies will make closing announcements and invite the congregation to stand.

The Presiding Officer will dissolve the congregation.

The procession, including the new graduates and diplomates, will leave the hall.

(The congregation is requested to remain standing until the procession has left the hall.)

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakanyisw' uphondolwayo,
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.

Morena boloka etjhaba sa heso,
O fedise dintwa la matshwenyeho,
O se boloke,
O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,
Setjhaba sa South Afrika – South Afrika.

Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee,

Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom,
In South Africa our land.

NAMES OF GRADUANDS/DIPLOMATES

An asterisk * denotes that the qualification will be awarded in the absence of the candidate

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Dean: Professor H Suleman

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Mira Raheerivelo Andriamiharisoa
Sonwabile Baartman
Zaid Barends
Aneesah Barnes
Fayaaz Basa
Zarah Bedford
Meekaaeel Booley
Razeen Brey
Devon Brooks
Gabriel Chetty
Alicia Natsai Chiremba
Tatenda Amanda Chiza
Lizbeth Cloete
Ilyaas Saadiq Davies
Mubashir Dawood
Nombulelo Dlamini
Vusumzi Duda
Jodie Lynne Eatwell
Rory John Ellis
Aiden Martha Erwin
Tjaart Johannes Esterhuyse (with distinction in Biochemistry and Genetics and the degree with distinction)
Iqra Abdussalaam Faki
Zoleka Mirriam Fuyana
*Thaafir Galiel
Abongwe Gomba
Jude Daniel Hansmann
Salani James Hlungwane
Dylan Jonathan Homan
Dorian Jacobs (with distinction in Mathematics)
*Simamkele James
Lisakanya Mhlali January
Tadeck Malcolm Jones
Dreille Kabasele Ngomba
Shallom Dorcas Kalisa
Ethan Mark Kampers
Terence Dalitso Michael Kapindu
David Gideon Katz
Kirsten Koen
Hlomla Kuhlane

Rotshidzwa Kwindu
Kamogelo Letsoalo
Gemma Chelsea Liberty
Aidan Daniel Lotter
*Khanyisile Engel Mabena
Takudzwa Clinton Mabika
*Mduduzi Gladwill Mahlangu
Boitumelo Monamoleli Maja
Yaseen Majiet
Nomsa Chiedza Malaba
Ning Naledi Maleka
Mampekeng Raymond Mamabolo
Robert Debeer Marks
Weriya Joseph Masao
Ntandoyenkosi Destiny Masimula
Tapiwanashe Maria Masocha
*Alutha Mavungwana
Luthando Mbuyane
Yamkela Mcaciso
Seth Mcnevin
Sivuyisiwe Mendu
Leighon Lyle Messina
Indivile Iyodwa Nandipha Mgojo
Athenkosi Luyanda Miya
Omolemo Modise
Omolemo Innocent Mompoti
Athi Bahle Monakali
Rebaone Elvis Moroke
Karabo Motsileng
Siyamkela Mrubata
Mbali Rosette Mtsweni
Maduvhahafani Ntendeni Mukwevho
Munzhedzi Michelle-Grace Muthelo
Shaylen Naidoo
Sonali Arshini Naidoo
Ntuthuko Ncama
Zwanga Netshamutshedzi
Gladwin Pfukani Ngobeni
Abongile Ayavuya Ngqoyiya
Zepp Zamani Nleya
Uluthandolwethu Ntshweni
Caleb Mambohatsari Nyathi
Ruth-Anne Chiedza Sandra
Nziramasanga
Talha Omarjee
Madhav Parappuveettil
*Nigel Joseph Paul
Zwivhuya Phalanndwa
Sevriano Luke Prinsloo
Syanda Mpho Qwabe
Jaiden Kyle Radue
*Shannon Rieder
Munashe Tadiwa Gerald Sadya
Kaashifa Saloojee
Thabang Perfect Sambo
Mansoor Sayed
Roxas Scheepers
Makwala Emmanuel Sebatjane

Nooriya Rasheed Shaik
Vuyo Zwelihle Russell Sibanda
Itumeleng Innocent Theletsane
*Saskia Lily Todes
Thokozani Erick Tshabalala
Siyamthanda Sibabalo Tshangela
Kiran Van Der Horst
Anisha Van Wyk
Thando Tatenda Velempini
Yaqeen Viljoen
*Zhentao Ye
Samukelisiwe Zwane

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS

Angelia Colleen Antonie
Fabio Iafate
*Mphaka Mankgele
Khethani Aubrey Mugeru
Kabelo Nxumalo
*Lephuthing Phate
Matshediso Pulumo

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

Levy Lambulani Banda
*Stephanie Lorna Cookson (with distinction in the coursework component)
Alicia Yolanda Ernstzen-Moolow (with distinction in the dissertation)
Rodgers Kawooya
Henry Charles Alfonso Keyter
Tsepiso Mbali (with distinction)
Amour McCarthy
Zinhle Thobeka Nkabini
*Philip Anderson Samura (with distinction in the coursework component)
Georgina Emily Walsh (with distinction in the coursework component)

MASTER OF SCIENCE

*Ali Abdalla (with distinction in the dissertation)
*Ahmed Eldaw Abdelhamed (with distinction in the dissertation)
*Ahmed Abdelrahman Abdelmajeed Abdelrahman
Rukayat Abiodun Ademola (with distinction)
*Fidaa Ahmed (with distinction in the dissertation)

*Yassir Aladdin Mohammed Osman (with distinction in the dissertation)	Deborah Mary Lanzi Mazzocchi (with distinction in the coursework component)	Keagan Angus Petersen Ansofie Magriet Pretorius (with distinction)
*Omar Khamis Allam (with distinction) Darcie Anderson (with distinction)	*Antidius Rwerengela Laurian (with distinction)	Nikita Qosholo (with distinction)
*Matthew Michael Arens (with distinction) Salmaan Barday (with distinction) Luke Jerome Barnes (with distinction) Amber Whitney Bonsall	*Senzekile Portia Lebisi *Leungo Boikanyo Leepile Donnella Peta Le Roux (with distinction in the coursework component)	*Michael Rademeyer Moses Ramakulukusha Mohamed Siraj Rawood
*Lutho Booi (with distinction in the dissertation) Kale Neville Boyes (with distinction in the coursework component)	Nkazimulo Brilliant Lima (with distinction in the dissertation) Tineke Lothe (with distinction in the coursework component)	*Ayman Saeed Mohamed Saeed (with distinction)
*Michelle Amanda Brits Joshua Daniel Browne (with distinction) Maryam Burger (with distinction)	*Austun Lee Louw Anele Ntokozo Mahlangu Tariroyashe Glory Marufu Tsapang Mashego Mofoka Rebuseditsoe Mathibela (with distinction in the dissertation)	*Shingirai Sakarombe Yusra Samsodien (with distinction) Nkosinathi Thobani Sangweni (with distinction)
*Lucas Gabriel Carr (with distinction) Mikayla Amy Chaplin *Ropafadzo Chimuti *Kumbirai Karen Chiro Dayna Tina Collins (with distinction)	*Lameque Arone Matimbe *Alice Ann McKnight Kirk Basil Meyer (with distinction) Zizipho Sihle Mfaku *Amukelani Godsave Mhlanga James Alexander Mitchell (with distinction) Kamogelo Solomon Modimola Fortunate Mogane Kamogelo Salvation Mogapi (with distinction)	Timothy John Schlesinger (with distinction) Kelly-Robyn Singh *Luke Dieter Slater (with distinction) Amber Kate Sneddon (with distinction) Julia Rose Spolander Babatunde Francis Taiwo Antoinette Prudence Tegueu Kemeni (with distinction in the dissertation)
*Isabella Willemien de Beer (with distinction in the coursework component) Emma Kate De Bruyn (with distinction) Noah De Nicola (with distinction) Claudia Des Fountain Tagen Joshua De Wet (with distinction) Mieke Deyzel (with distinction in the coursework component) Thabo Mbekezeli Dube (with distinction in the dissertation) Vusumuzi Irvin Dube	Marema Joshua Mohlabeng (with distinction) *Victor Moloi (with distinction in the coursework component) *Mc Quwaen Moonoosamy (with distinction in the coursework component) Caitlin Ann Morgan *Sifiso Sandile Mpapane (with distinction) Phumzile Lucia Msimanga (with distinction) Sekayi Mubonderi (with distinction in the dissertation) Rihangwele Muluvhu Muhammad Adnaan Nauthoo (with distinction) Thabiso Nokuthula Nkadameng Envoy Nzimba Nia Jane O'Callaghan Adeleye Yahya Ogunlade Olushola Abdkabeer Olawale	*Martine Van Den Berg *Danielle Tiegana Visagie *Clea Baker Welch (with distinction) *Melkameshet Girma Woldetsadik Bret Marshall Yotti Niels Zwartjes
*Benedict Ositadinma Ejelonu (with distinction) Steven Conrad Ellis (with distinction) Dean Arno Erasmus (with distinction) Dibanisa Fakude Lara Catherine Featherstone (with distinction) Maxime Gadeyne (with distinction) Oyedele Samuel Gbenro *Tegan Gibaud (with distinction in the coursework component) Mohammed Sayed Gool (with distinction) Tallulah Graziani (with distinction) Chipo Hamayobe (with distinction) *Oussama Hidaoui (with distinction) Helmi Ipinge Anele Joni Vuyiswa Bridgette Kubalasa (with distinction) Kyra Luthien Kummer	*Rita Ellen Awuor Opiyo *Asim Awad Hussein Osman (with distinction) *Emily May Pernet (with distinction in the coursework component)	DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY Ayodeji Steve Adesuyi Thesis Title: <i>Regional dust emission thresholds from croplands in central South Africa</i> Ayodeji Adesuyi completed his BSc (Hons) and MSc qualifications in Geoinformatics at Stellenbosch University and began full-time study towards his PhD in 2018. Ayodeji Adesuyi's thesis examines mineral soil dust emissions emanating from agricultural croplands in response to land use changes and drought in the Free State and Northwest Province. The aim was to determine physical surface thresholds that promote dust emission in croplands at the regional scale by drawing on remote sensing data to establish dust emission controls. This was achieved by examining soil moisture and Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function (BRDF), a surrogate for surface roughness, between 2006–2016, against major known

dust events. The results demonstrate a marked reduction of surface roughness from shrubland to cropland and a further enhanced erosion potential with a decline in soil moisture, as suitable predictors. The findings could contribute to monitoring dust emissions in future or similar regions elsewhere and have the potential to inform decision makers in reducing wind erosion in commercial farmland.

Supervisor: Professor F Eckardt (Environmental and Geographical Science)

Leah Amod

Thesis Title: 2,4-Diaminopyrimidines active against Plasmodium falciparum via the inhibition of haemozoin formation: In-silico discovery and SAR Investigation

Leah Amod completed her undergraduate studies with distinctions in Chemistry and Genetics at UCT and began full-time study toward her PhD in 2020.

Leah Amod's thesis reports on the development and application of a virtual screening protocol for identifying potential inhibitors of malaria parasite growth from large chemical libraries. Specifically, this study identifies inhibitors of the haemozoin formation pathway, a target that is specific to the parasite. She demonstrates the power of this approach through the discovery of several novel inhibitors, three of which show potent activity against drug resistant parasites. The 2,4-aminopyrimidine scaffold is further investigated by synthesising and testing a suite of rationally designed analogues. In doing so, Leah Amod describes structure-activity relationships and devises an optimised route for accessing this synthetically challenging and pharmacologically relevant scaffold. The virtual screening tools show considerable potential for application in future projects, providing a low-cost, efficient means toward the discovery of new antimalarials.

Supervisor: Dr K Wicht (Chemistry)
Co-supervisor: A/Professor C Veale (Chemistry)

Matthew David Carr

Thesis Title: Interactions between the Indonesian Throughflow and the Seychelles Chagos Thermocline Ridge

Matthew Carr completed his MSc in Physical Oceanography at UCT in 2018. He then worked at the South African Environmental Observation Network developing ocean forecast models, before returning to begin his PhD. His key interest is understanding how physical ocean processes influence marine ecosystems.

Matthew Carr's thesis uncovers how the waters entering the Indian Ocean from the Pacific Ocean shape the Seychelles Chagos Thermocline Ridge (SCTR). The SCTR is a region in the South Indian Ocean where deep, nutrient-rich waters rise to the surface and fuel large blooms of phytoplankton. The Pacific Ocean waters are warmer and fresher than the surrounding Indian Ocean waters. These waters cap the SCTR, limiting the amount of nutrient-rich water brought to the surface and reducing the phytoplankton bloom. This previously unexplored process was observed and described through satellite observations, in situ measurements, and numerical model experiments. The results provide vital insight into the marine ecosystem of the South Indian Ocean, highlighting how the physical ocean shapes the biological response.

Supervisor: Professor C Reason

(Oceanography)

Co-supervisor: Associate Professor B Aguiar-Gonzalez (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Oceanography); Associate Professor Juliet Hermes (Oceanography); Dr Jennifer Veitch (South African Environmental Observation Network)

Simcelile Chenge

Thesis Title: Using spectral biology to explore plant diversity and function in a biodiversity hotspot

Simcelile Chenge completed his BSc and BSc (Hons) in Earth Sciences, Environmental and Water Science at the University of the Western Cape before moving to UCT to do

an MSc in Engineering specialising in Geomatics. He began full-time study towards his PhD in 2022.

Simcelile Chenge's PhD thesis demonstrates how spectral biology can advance understanding of plant diversity and function in the Cape Floristic Region, a global hotspot of plant endemism. Using leaf and airborne imaging spectroscopy he evaluates whether spectra capture seasonal water-stress responses, distinguish major plant functional types, reveal hydrological niche differences among Cape Restionaceae, and enable functional type mapping at landscape scales. Partial least squares regression showed leaf spectra can accurately estimate water potential, although performance declined for previously unseen species. Spectra allow discrimination among species representing major functional types, especially in summer. Diagnostic wavelengths were identified that classify Restionaceae species according to hydrological niche. Finally, spectral unmixing of airborne imagery enabled accurate mapping of plant functional types across the region. Overall, the thesis provides new insights into spectral ecology in a hyperdiverse system and highlights the value of field and imaging spectroscopy for monitoring and understanding biodiversity.

Supervisor: Associate Professor JA Slingsby (Biological Sciences)

Co-supervisor: Professor AG West (Biological Sciences)

Luleka Dlamini

Thesis Title: Integrating crop modelling with remote sensing: Application on data-limited small-scale farming systems

Luleka Dlamini completed her BSc (Hons) and MSc degrees at UCT. She commenced full-time study towards a joint PhD between UCT and Wageningen University & Research in 2020. Her research interests focus on climate-smart agriculture, digital tools for adaptation, and small-scale farming systems in Africa.

Luleka Dlamini's doctoral research investigated how crop growth

models and remote sensing can be integrated to enhance yield estimation and climate adaptation in small-scale maize farming systems in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province. The study began with a systematic review mapping global efforts in crop model-remote sensing data assimilation, revealing a strong focus on large-scale, high-input systems, with few studies addressing African small-scale contexts. Building on these insights, the research combined modelling experiments, climate impact assessments, and institutional surveys. In the modelling component, she demonstrated that assimilating satellite-derived leaf area index into the WOFOST model substantially improved yield estimation accuracy in data-scarce environments. Future climate simulations projected significant yield losses due to rising temperatures and rainfall variability, while institutional analysis showed limited adoption of digital tools by extension officers. The research provides practical and scientific insights for democratising digital agriculture and strengthening climate resilience in southern Africa.

Supervisor: Dr Olivier Crespo
(Environmental and Geographical Science, UCT)

Co-supervisors: Dr Jos van Dam
(WUR, Soil Physics and Land Management)

Olaolu Emmanuel Fadeyi
Thesis Title: *Development of Helianthrone for an scFv SNAP-tag-based Photoimmunotheranostic*

Olaolu Fadeyi completed his BSc (Hons) and MSc at the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, before commencing a PhD at UCT in 2016.

Olaolu Fadeyi's PhD thesis contributes to Cancer Photodynamic Therapy (PDT) based on Antibody Drug Conjugate (ADC) delivery. PDT requires a photosensitiser that can be excited with light to generate reactive oxygen species (ROS) that kill the tumour. In Ola Fadeyi's case, he chose to use helianthrone for the photosensitiser, which is an anthraquinone-based scaffold containing six rings like the

natural product hypericin. Despite the complexities of ring functionalisation owing to the high number of hydroxyl groups present, he was able to discover a selective way of attaching a single linker to the ring system in a site-selective manner. From here, he was able to develop a linker system that could be substituted at its terminus by an antibody using SNAP-tag protein labelling, generating a prototype ADC for PDT. These significant findings hold promise for development as a treatment for topical skin tumours in a targeted immunotherapy.

Supervisor: Professor R Hunter
(Chemistry)

Co-supervisor: Professor Dr Stefan Barth (IIDMM, UCT Health Sciences)

Taryn Marcelle Golding
Thesis Title: *Rational design of quinoline and benzimidazole transition metal-based hybrids as antiplasmodial agents: Mechanistic insights and photopharmacology*

Taryn Golding completed her BSc, BSc (Hons) and MSc qualifications at UCT and began full-time study toward her PhD in 2021.

Taryn Golding's thesis reports the synthesis of ferrocenyl quinoline-benzimidazole hybrid compounds and evaluates their in vitro pharmacological effects on the malaria parasite, *Plasmodium falciparum*. She investigated the activity of these compounds across multiple stages of the parasite's life-cycle and examined key mechanisms underpinning their antiplasmodial action. She also assessed one compound as a partner drug in in vitro combination therapy, providing insight into how drug mechanisms influence drug-drug interactions. The second component of her project applied photopharmacology to study how light-induced configurational changes affect antiplasmodial activity. She designed and synthesised a series of azobenzene-based compounds and demonstrated the influence of structural planarity on the ability of a compound to disrupt the formation of synthetic malaria pigment (β -hematin). Her findings offer valuable

insights for the future rational design of antimalarial compounds.

Supervisor: Professor G Smith
(Chemistry)

Dawn Green
Thesis Title: *Persons of the Antelope: The materiality of personhood and relationship-making practices in rock paintings of the Maloti-Drakensberg and Stormberg, South Africa*

Dawn Green obtained her bachelor's degree from the University of the Witwatersrand, and her Masters in Archaeology from UNISA (with distinction).

Dawn Green's PhD research compares rock paintings in the central and southern Maloti-Drakensberg and northeastern Stormberg, using both qualitative and quantitative methods to consider how the materiality of pigments and paints is entangled with the painted persons, together with their clothing and equipment. She approaches rock paintings as real, embodied materialisations of lived experience, parts of the world (rather than representing the world) in which being and knowing are active and undivided. This "one world" concept is arguably closer to the thinking of the painters than the interpretive frameworks of most rock art research. The thesis explores the relations of painted and other persons to one another and the places where they are found, and how they may express identity. It also emphasizes how the language researchers use can influence understanding.

Supervisor: Prof Judith Sealy
(Archaeology)
Co-supervisor: Assoc Prof Sven Ouzman (Archaeology, University of Western Australia)

Carrie Jane Hickman

Thesis Title: *Impacts of hot weather on behaviour and reproduction in a long-lived cooperative breeder*

Carrie Hickman holds a BSc (Hons) degree in Environmental Science from the Open University, UK. She began her MSc at the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, UCT in 2020, and in 2022 she upgraded her study to a PhD.

Carrie Hickman's thesis focuses on understanding how animals in hot environments respond to climate warming, and the potential for cooperative breeding strategies to mitigate its impacts. Specifically, she investigates the impacts of heat on behaviour, reproduction and offspring development in the southern ground-hornbill, a large, cooperatively breeding bird found in African savannas. She further examines whether larger groups, with more helpers that assist in raising offspring, can buffer the negative impacts of high temperatures on reproduction. Using six years of field and long-term data, she finds that high temperatures negatively affect nestling growth, physiology, and survival, and that helpers do not buffer these effects. Her research further reveals that high winter temperatures impose unexpected thermal challenges on adults and fledglings. These findings contribute to understanding species vulnerability to climate warming and provide important insights for predicting population persistence and informing conservation strategies in warming environments.

Supervisor: Associate Professor S Cunningham

Co-supervisor: Dr R Covas

Konrad Phillip Kapp

Thesis Title: *Data-driven eco-placement and authoring of large-scale ecosystems*

Konrad Kapp holds BCom, BCom Hons and MSc degrees from Nelson Mandela University and the University of Stellenbosch. He joined the Department of Computer Science at UCT in 2017 for his PhD studies.

Konrad Kapp's thesis focuses

on generating plausible natural, virtual environments based on guidance provided by a designer. The work mainly depends on utilising patterns observed in real-world data of vegetation growth and associating that with the inputs a designer would intuitively provide to achieve such patterns of growth. Furthermore, the work focuses on developing algorithms that can determine a precise and plausible placement of trees and a distribution of species over a given area based on a designer's preference. Finally, it focuses on a simulation model for undergrowth and a fast method for producing undergrowth in interactive time.

Supervisor: Professor J Gain (Computer Science)

Co-supervisor: Associate Professor E Guérin (Institut National Des Sciences Appliquées Lyon, Computer Science)

Hikmet Emre Kaya

Thesis Title: *Developing systems biology tools for altered glycosylation reaction network modeling of MUC1 in breast cancer tumors*

Hikmet Emre Kaya completed his BSc in Chemical and Biological Engineering at Koc University in Turkey, then a Master's degree in Computational Science at UCT. He registered for a PhD in Computational Science in 2020.

Emre Kaya's thesis involved developing the systems biology software tool CytoCopasi for streamlining Copasi model construction, database communication and networking to establish a visual data analytics of systems biology toolset in Cytoscape. He then used CytoCopasi to analyse the impact of aberrant glycosylation on immunosuppression and signalling pathways in breast cancer. The tools he developed have a significant potential to propel systems biology in creating target discovery and drug development compute pipelines.

Supervisor: Professor K Naidoo (Chemistry)

Rivoningo Ripanzell Khosa

Thesis Title: *Using cosmogenic nuclide, ^{10}Be , to quantify Southern African landscape evolution through the erosion of bedrock-influenced rivers*

Rivoningo Khosa completed her BSc, BSc (Hons) and MSc qualifications at the University of Johannesburg, and began full-time study towards her PhD in 2020.

Rivoningo Khosa's thesis investigates the rates and controls of landscape evolution along the Olifants and Orange rivers in South Africa. She collected quartz-bearing bedrock samples from both rivers at strategic locations and elevations, and isolated the quartz fractions through physical and chemical techniques. She then extracted cosmogenic nuclide ^{10}Be , which was measured using accelerator mass spectrometry. With these data, she produces new site-specific apparent erosion rates and exposure ages, providing quantitative constraints on the development of the southern African landscape. Her results highlight the strong influence of lithological history and climate on landscape evolution, showing that the wetter eastern Olifants River region is eroding more rapidly than the drier Orange River basin in the west. Notably, she demonstrates that erosion in southern Africa is neither slow nor uniform, but highly variable across different regions.

Supervisor: Dr R Pickering (Geological Sciences)

Co-supervisor: Dr V Mbele (National Research Foundation)

Kelly Macdevette

Thesis Title: *Escaping the GRaveyard: An exploration of alternative theories of gravity*

Kelly MacDevette completed her BSc and BSc (Hons) qualifications at UCT and began study towards her MSc degree in 2020. In 2023, she upgraded her degree to a PhD.

Kelly MacDevette's thesis investigates extensions of Einstein's theory of General Relativity (GR), motivated by open questions in cosmology, such as the nature of dark

energy and the behaviour of gravity on large scales. The work explores two types of alternative gravity theories, $f(R)$ gravity and braneworld models, as possible solutions to these issues. Using dynamical systems methods, she identifies conditions under which these models can produce realistic physical scenarios and develops model-independent frameworks that can be used in the analysis of other modified gravity theories. She also examines the existence and stability of 5-dimensional solutions in the presence of exotic fields. Together, these studies contribute to our broader understanding of whether modifications can explain the shortcomings of our standard cosmological model and pave the way for testing gravity beyond Einstein's theory with future cosmological and astrophysical data.

Supervisor: Professor P Dunsby
(Mathematics and Applied Mathematics)

Magata Jesaya Mangatane
Thesis Title: *Improving simulated Antarctic Sea ice thickness through young ice processes*

Magata Mangatane completed his B.Sc. and B.Sc. (Hons) qualifications at UCT. In 2021 he began his MSc before later upgrading to a PhD in the following year. Recognising that widely used ocean-sea ice models are primarily tuned for Arctic sea ice, which contrasts the Antarctic,

Magata Mangatane's thesis improves the representation of young Antarctic sea ice in numerical ocean-sea ice models. He first conducted a comprehensive intercomparison of six satellite-based sea-ice thickness retrieval methods, proposing a new approach to evaluate models with satellite data. Building on this framework, he implemented novel parameterizations to improve the representation of thermal and mechanical characteristics of young Antarctic sea ice in models. Together, these developments improve simulated Antarctic sea-ice production and seasonal thickness evolution, narrowing discrepancies with satellite-derived estimates and advancing the

physical consistency of Antarctic sea-ice modelling.

Supervisor: Professor M Vichi
(Oceanography)

Alice Patricia McClure
Thesis Title: *Exploring the role of transdisciplinarity for expansive learning to navigate complex African urban climate risks*

Alice McClure completed her BSc, BSc (Hons) and MSc qualifications at Rhodes University between 2005 and 2011. In 2018, she began study towards her PhD.

Alice McClure's thesis explores how people learn and change through working together across disciplines, sectors and geographic locations in transdisciplinary collaborations to tackle complex problems. Using a transdisciplinary project that supported climate-resilient urban development in southern Africa as a case study, this research applies the theory of expansive learning to understand how learning unfolds between partners from diverse cultural and historical backgrounds. The study shows that transdisciplinary learning processes across these differences can spark transformative agency, which is the shared capacity to reimagine and change practices to navigate increasingly complex problems. It highlights the importance of creating learning spaces that make partners' values, histories, and motives visible. These insights advance theories of both transdisciplinary and expansive learning, offering practical lessons for designing more effective collaborations for complex global challenges.

Supervisor: Professor G Ziervogel
(African Climate & Development Initiative)
Co-supervisor: A/Professor Z Patel
(Environmental and Geographical Science)

Joelle Bel-Ange Ndongmo Vouffo Epse Tsopze
Thesis Title: *PMolecular characterization of the associated microbiome of the resurrection plant Xerophyta schlechteri: toward production of a biostimulant that would enable crop resilience to drought*

Joelle Vouffo obtained her BSc and MSc degrees from the University of Yaoundé 1, Cameroon. She initiated PhD studies at UCT in 2022.

Joelle Vouffo's PhD has characterised the nature of extremophile microorganisms associated with the soil and rhizosphere of the vegetatively desiccation tolerant "resurrection" plant *Xerophyta schlechteri*, and their interactions with the staple food crops maize and sorghum, to improve plant vigour and drought tolerance. Her work is truly multidisciplinary, including techniques used in plant physiology, biochemistry, genomics, metabolomics and biotechnology, and straddles two broad fields of crop science and microbiology. Importantly, the work has applied potential in the production of a biostimulant that will facilitate a green approach to solving one of the most pressing issues we face today; food security in a hotter drier future.

Supervisor: Professor J Farrant
(Molecular and Cell Biology)
Co-supervisor: Associate Professor H Hilhorst (Molecular and Cell Biology)

Thaabiet Parker
Thesis Title: *Making sense of morphology in the genomic era: An integrative taxonomic study of the African Daisy genus Dimorphotheca*

Thaabiet Parker completed his BSc and BSc (Hons) qualifications in Biological Sciences at UCT and began full-time study towards his MSc in 2020, which he upgraded to a PhD in 2022.

Thaabiet Parker's thesis evaluates the role of physical traits (morphology) in the modern era of plant taxonomy, where genomic data have become the standard way to classify diversity, using as a case study an investigation of the African daisy genus

Dimorphotheca. He first reconstructed evolutionary relationships in the genus as a whole, and described two new species. He went on to integrate morphology and high-throughput genomic data alongside other diverse lines of evidence to refine the taxonomy of two iconic spring daisies (*D. pluvialis* and *D. sinuata*) which contain remarkable, yet undescribed, floral diversity. Through a series of evolutionary studies he split the species complex into three species and 18 subspecies; improving understanding and diagnosis of these entities. His research shows how morphology can refine classifications based on genetic data, and substantially improves the taxonomy of *Dimorphotheca*.

Administrative supervisor: Professor M. Muasya (Biological Sciences)
Supervisor: Professor G. A. Verboom (Gothenburg, Biological Sciences)
Co-supervisors: Dr N.G. Bergh (Gothenburg Botanical Gardens, Biological Sciences); Professor A.G Ellis (Stellenbosch, Biological Sciences)

Axel Dorian Piepi Toko
 Thesis Title: *Micro-mechanical modeling of fluid-rock interaction: Nonlinear elastic stiffening and anisotropic response in saturated thermo-poroelastic media*

Axel Dorian Piepi Toko holds a BSc in Physics-Chemistry from the University of Douala and an MSc in Geophysics and Geo-exploration from the University of Yaoundé 1, Cameroon. His MSc research focused on subsurface geological reservoir characterisation using stochastic geostatistical simulations to estimate hydrocarbon volumes.

Axel Dorian Piepi Toko's thesis investigates the complex interaction between fluids and rocks in deep subsurface environments. He develops a new micro-mechanical mathematical framework to predict how porous rocks deform under varying stress, pressure, and temperature. Contrary to classical theories which predict rock softening, he discovers that high pore pressure and local cooling actually cause the rock structure to elastically stiffen.

He demonstrates that this pressure-induced stiffening is accelerated by unequal subsurface stresses and aligned microcracks. He applies this novel framework to the Porthos geological carbon sequestration (GCS) project in the Netherlands. The findings reveal that as the rock stiffens during injection, it allows pressure to dissipate faster away from the wellbore. This enhances the safety and efficiency of carbon storage operations, underground water transport and waste disposal management by reducing the risk of fracturing the reservoir caprock.

Supervisor: Dr F B Ebobisse (Mathematics and Applied Mathematics)
Co-supervisor: Professor A Tambue (Mathematics and Applied Mathematics)

*Fetraharmalala Ombanjanahary
 Randriatsara

Thesis Title: *Reconstruction of the vegetation in Northwestern Madagascar from the mid-Holocene to the present and its relevance to biodiversity conservation*

Fetra Randriatsara achieved an MSc degree in Forestry and Savanna Ecology at the University of Antananarivo, Madagascar. He started his studies as an MSc student on applied palaeoecology in the Department of Biological Sciences at the UCT and upgraded to a PhD in 2022.

Fetra Randriatsara's thesis concerns the vegetation history of northwestern Madagascar and how this relates to vegetation conservation. He utilizes ecology, palaeoecology, and remote sensing to understand vegetation dynamics over the past 5400 years. He used a multiproxy approach to investigate how climate, fire, herbivory, and human influence have shaped vegetation change at multiple temporal and spatial scales. The findings show the existence of an open vegetation mosaic characterized by wooded savanna, thicket, and dry deciduous forests during the last 5400 years. Forest decline was caused by climate variability before human settlement and by the combination of human activity, through fire and pastoralism, and drought from 1000 years ago. Increasing

human impact has been recorded in recent decades, leading to more open vegetation. The implications of these will inform forest restoration while acknowledging the importance of open and mosaic ecosystems in the western region and elsewhere in the tropical dry forests.

Supervisor: Emeritus Professor L Gillson (Biological Sciences)
Co-supervisor: Dr E Razanatsoa (Biological Sciences)

Ruchi Rani
 Thesis Title: *The non-coding RNA landscape of Xerophyta species: A comparative study on desiccation tolerance and developmental regulation.*

Ruchi Rani holds BSc, MSc and MTech degrees from Pondicherry University, India. She joined the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology at UCT in 2021 as a Science Faculty funded PhD student.

Ruchi Rani's thesis tests the hypothesis that non-coding RNAs are key regulators of the response of resurrection plants in the Xerophyta genus to extreme drought, and their ability to fully recover when rehydrated. While protein-coding genes have been the traditional focus of such studies, this research explores the potential critical role of genomic "dark matter": non-coding RNAs. Using genome-guided computational methods, she identifies key microRNAs and long non-coding RNAs in three Xerophyta species. Her findings suggest a complex regulatory architecture where some lncRNAs may act as "molecular sponges", predicted to sequester miRNAs and modulate pathways for plasma membrane repair, cell wall flexibility, and energy metabolism.

Supervisor: Prof. Nicola Illing (Molecular and Cell Biology)
Co-supervisors: A/Prof. Robert Ingle (Molecular and Cell Biology); Dr Caroline-Jane Ross (Molecular and Cell Biology), Dr Rafe Lyall (Centre for Plant Biotechnology and Biology, Plovdiv), Prof Zoran Nikoloski (Potsdam, Bioinformatics)

Sarah Saeid Pour

Thesis Title: *Reference point methodology for interactive exploration of the Pareto frontier*

Sarah Saeid Pour holds a BSc in Applied Mathematics and an MSc in Operations Research from universities in Iran. She joined UCT in 2016 for her PhD studies. Prior to this, she worked for the Management and Planning Organization of Iran for twelve years.

Sarah Saeid Pour's thesis develops interactive decision-making methods for many-objective optimisation problems, where decision makers (DMs) must choose among alternative solutions involving more than three conflicting objectives. Classical decision-making methods often struggle in these settings due to the size and complexity of the solution space, while evolutionary optimisation methods face challenges in incorporating structured human preferences. This thesis adopts an interactive decision-making framework that combines preference-modelling concepts with evolutionary optimisation techniques to guide DMs through the decision process. Three original methods are proposed, each offering a distinct way of modelling and refining user preferences across successive interaction rounds. Numerical experiments demonstrate that the methods support learning about available trade-offs, progressively focus the search toward the DMs' preferred solutions, and enable an informed and confident final decision with manageable cognitive and computational effort. This thesis advances practical decision support for real-world many-objective optimisation problems that is broadly usable by the non-expert.

Supervisor: The late Emeritus Professor T J Stewart (Statistical Sciences); Emeritus Associate Professor L Scott (Statistical Sciences)
Co-supervisor: Dr G Rakotonirainy (Statistical Sciences)

Ellwin Taleni Shiimi

Thesis Title: *The origin of Camp Alpha megacrysts and their relationship to kimberlite magmatism – Liberia, West African Craton*

Ellwin Shiimi completed his BSc, BSc (Hons) and MSc degrees at UCT and began full-time study towards his PhD thereafter.

Ellwin Shiimi's thesis investigates the petrogenesis of the Camp Alpha megacryst suite from the Liberian kimberlites of the West African Craton, with the aim of constraining their origin and genetic relationship to kimberlite magmatism. Using an integrated approach combining detailed petrography, major- and trace-element mineral chemistry and isotope geochemistry, the study evaluates whether the megacrysts represent products of kimberlitic melts, precursor magmatic events or interaction with the sub-continental lithospheric mantle. The results provide new constraints on megacryst formation processes, the evolution of kimberlite magmas during ascent and emplacement and the nature of mantle sources beneath the West African Craton. These findings contribute to broader models of kimberlite petrogenesis and mantle metasomatism in cratonic settings.

Supervisor: Associate Professor G H Howarth (Geological Sciences)
Co-supervisor: Professor P Janney (Geological Sciences)

*Fiona Catherine Ssozi

Thesis Title: *Using community-based co-design to improve community engagement in the development of appropriate technologies for rural water management*

Fiona Catherine Ssozi holds a BSc degree in Computer Science from Makerere University, Uganda and a Masters degree in Information Systems from London South Bank University, United Kingdom. She joined the Faculty of Science at UCT in 2014 for her PhD. She has been a Lecturer at Makerere University since 2007.

Fiona Catherine Ssozi's thesis

focuses on exploring Community-Based Co-Design as a method to improve the engagement of people with limited experience in technology design, to design appropriate Information Technology (IT) solutions to support rural water management in Uganda. This process led to the development of Pay Me for Water (PM4W), a co-designed mobile application to help rural water managers track and manage communal water payments. She used this resultant IT solution to further investigate the factors that influence the uptake of such co-designed community-based technologies. She found that rural communities can be meaningfully engaged in technology design and use the designed IT solutions if they uphold shared community values, are embedded in Institutional frameworks, complement existing communal practices and are functional to meet priority needs.

Supervisor: Associate Professor M Densmore (Computer Science)
Co-Supervisors: Professor U Rivett (Computer Science); Professor E Blake (Computer Science)

Nicole Teixeira

Thesis Title: *Discovery of a new class of putative Plasmodium falciparum cytochrome bc1 inhibitors: virtual screening, synthesis, biological evaluation, and resistance profiling*

Nicole Teixeira completed her BSc in Biochemistry and Chemistry with distinction in 2019 and obtained a first-class BSc (Hons) in Chemistry in 2020 at UCT. She began full-time study towards her PhD in 2021.

Nicole Teixeira's thesis reports the high-throughput virtual screening of more than 180,000 compounds for their ability to inhibit the formation of the synthetic malaria pigment (β -hematin) – a key mechanism for malaria parasite survival, as well as in vitro Plasmodium falciparum growth. She successfully identified three hits, two of which were active against the drug target of interest. She further explored the most promising chemotype, revealing an alternative mechanism of action through organic synthesis and structure-activity

relationship analysis, followed by a forward genetics approach that strongly suggested the compounds act by inhibiting the parasite's mitochondrial electron transport chain. These results offer valuable insights for the future rational design of antimalarials of this class and demonstrate the utility of the virtual screening workflow for antimalarial drug discovery.

Supervisor: Dr K Wicht (Chemistry)
Co-supervisor: Associate Professor C Veale (Chemistry)

Wanjiru Thoithi

Thesis Title: *The influence of La Niña event duration on climate over southeastern Africa*

Wanjiru Thoithi completed her BSc (2017), BSc (Hons) (2018) and MSc (2020) degrees in Oceanography at UCT. She went on to pursue her doctoral studies in Oceanography soon after completing her MSc.

Wanjiru Thoithi's thesis investigates how different durations of La Niña events—those lasting one, two, or three years—can have different impacts on summer rainfall and temperatures over southeastern Africa. La Niñas do not always result in wet conditions over the region, as is typically expected. Her work also examines the large-scale circulations and physical mechanisms that cause these different outcomes. A case study of the devastating floods that occurred in KwaZulu-Natal province during April 2022 is investigated to identify the weather systems that led to this extreme rainfall event. The findings are important to the forecasting community, as they may help improve the predictability of rainfall, especially for groups like farmers who depend on rainfed agriculture for their livelihoods.

Supervisor: Professor C Reason (Oceanography)

*Marc Simon Travers

Thesis Title: *Avian powerline collisions in Hawai'i: a mechanistic approach assessing undercounting biases and collision risk factors*

Marc Travers completed his BSc at Bishops University (Canada) in 2003 and his MSc at Simon Fraser University (Canada) in 2009. He has been working in avian conservation in Hawai'i since 2011.

Marc Travers' thesis identified the mechanisms by which traditional powerline collision monitoring can grossly underestimate avian powerline collisions. Through direct observations of avian powerline interactions, Marc Travers conducted the first mechanistic examination of species-specific collision risk factors. His thesis introduces a novel powerline collision monitoring method that can scale to monitor powerline collisions at the landscape level.

Supervisor: Professor P Ryan (Biological Sciences)

Mutshutshu Tsanwani

Thesis Title: *A 20-year (2000-2019) reconstruction of the climatology, trends, and the variability of CO₂ in the Benguela Upwelling System*

Mutshutshu Tsanwani completed his BSc at the University of Venda, BSc (Hons) at the University of Limpopo, MSc at the University of Pretoria, and began part-time study towards his PhD in 2015. He has worked for the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment as a scientist since 2006.

Mutshutshu Tsanwani's thesis reports on 20-year (2000-2019) climatology, trends, and variability of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the Benguela Upwelling System (BUS) reconstructed using extended Multi-Linear Regression (eMLR). He starts by reconstructing in-situ carbonate chemistry along the Saint Helena Bay monitoring line and finds that upwelling and biological processes drive the seasonal cycle in carbonate chemistry. There were no significant trends in the surface carbonate chemistry of the southern BUS when the reconstruction did not account for increasing atmospheric CO₂. However,

the surface carbonate chemistry of the BUS, reconstructed from observations and satellite reanalysis products, including atmospheric CO₂, showed significant trends, with the surface partial pressure of CO₂ only weakly linked to rising atmospheric CO₂. He attributes the faster growth rate in sea surface pCO₂ to regional climate feedbacks through temperature and winds, and/or changes in the dissolved inorganic carbon content of the upwelling Subantarctic Mode Water.

Supervisor: Emeritus Professor J J Bolton (Department of Biological Sciences)
Co-supervisors: Professor P Monteiro (Stellenbosch, Climate Studies); Professor L Auerwald (Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment)

Roelof Louw Uys

Thesis Title: *Wave field modification due to wave-current interaction in the northern Agulhas Current and potential impacts on ship safety*

Louw Uys completed his BSc (Nautical Science) degree at the South African Military Academy, Faculty of Military Science, Stellenbosch University and his MSc (Oceanography) degree at UCT. He began part-time study towards his PhD in 2016.

Louw Uys' dissertation is an interdisciplinary approach to the application of oceanography. He uses the third-generation wave model SWAN (Simulating Waves Nearshore) in an offshore environment and reports on the wave-current interaction in the northern Agulhas Current. This area forms part of the main shipping route around South Africa and is known for severe wave conditions and ship damage. The wave modification due to interaction with the Current influences the wave spectra, directional spreading, and in general what the actual sea conditions will be. From the wave spectrum, an encounter spectrum can be determined and a ship response spectrum. This process is simplified in the use of Response Amplitude Operators (RAO). The accurate modelling of actual wave

conditions, including wave current interaction, as input to ship design models and routing software, will lead to safer ships and the identification of danger areas for shipping.

Supervisor: Professor C Reason
(Oceanography)

Christian Johannes Thomas Van Der Merwe
Thesis Title: *3D hydrodynamic simulations of white dwarf – main-sequence star collisions*

Christian van der Merwe completed his undergraduate, honours, and MSc degrees in Physics and Astronomy before commencing doctoral studies in the Department of Astronomy at UCT, in collaboration with the South African Astronomical Observatory.

Christian van der Merwe's doctoral research investigates what happens when an extremely dense star, known as a white dwarf, collides with a normal, sun-like star in dense stellar environments like the centers of galaxies and globular clusters, which are old star clusters that have millions of stars in a small volume. Using advanced supercomputer simulations, he models these dramatic events, which produce powerful explosions that can be detected by modern telescopes. His work explores how the outcome depends on factors such as the masses of the stars, the angle at which they collide, and their collision speed. From these simulations, he predicts the energy released, the patterns of material ejected into space, and the distinctive chemical fingerprints produced during the encounter. His findings provide new theoretical insight into these extreme stellar interactions and offer astronomers clear observational markers to identify them among the growing population of observable cosmic events.

Supervisor: Professor S Mohamed
(Astronomy)

Menka Kathryn Vansant
Thesis Title: *Decolonizing the blue economy: A case study of Port Nolloth, South Africa*

Menka Vansant received her BA in Economics from Skidmore College and a Masters in Science and Technology Policy from Arizona State University, both in the US. Before joining UCT, she worked for the government and private sector on the intersection of emerging technology, policy and sustainability.

Using a decolonial lens, Menka Vansant's thesis explores how the ocean, or "blue" economy, plans have affected the livelihoods of small-scale fishers and other community members in the town of Port Nolloth, Northern Cape, which continues to grapple with colonial legacies and power structures. Her research uses qualitative methods and the Colonial Matrix of Power as an analytical tool to understand the lived realities of this community and the perspectives of other key blue economy actors about key blue economy development activities, such as offshore oil and gas, coastal mining, and green hydrogen. She reveals a top-down approach to decision-making in the blue economy, a lack of consideration of cultural and spiritual heritage, concerns regarding ecological damage and climate change, and uncertainty about how Port Nolloth will economically benefit from development activities such as offshore oil and gas. The thesis contributes to blue economy discourse and debates by advocating for mechanisms that can enable just and decolonial pathways for ocean economic development.

Supervisor: Emeritus Professor M Sowman (Environmental and Geographical Science)
Co-Supervisor: Professor R Wynberg (Environmental and Geographical Science)

Joshua Weeber
Thesis Title: *Quantitative approaches to understand threats and inform conservation in a headwater stream amphibian*

Joshua Weeber completed his BSc, BSc (Hons), and MSc qualifications at UCT, and began studying towards his PhD in 2020. Since then, he has married, had two kids, and started a full-time job.

Joshua Weeber's doctoral research investigates how quantitative ecological, demographic and genetic approaches can be used to better understand threats and inform conservation action for a highly threatened headwater stream amphibian that only occurs on Table Mountain – the Table Mountain Ghost Frog. Focusing primarily on the larval life stage, the study uses statistical modelling approaches and genetic analyses to identify mechanisms driving population decline and persistence throughout the species range. The research found that fine sediment accumulation is a key driver of habitat degradation, that tadpoles use their sucker mouths to move between isolated pools and therefore rely on connected networks of stream pools to complete their prolonged development, and that streams remain genetically connected across the mountain. These findings directly inform conservation management, contribute to a revised assessment of extinction risk, and provide a transferable framework for conserving other data-poor freshwater species facing similar threats.

Supervisor: Professor R Altwegg
(Statistical Sciences)
Co-supervisor: Professor K Tolley
(University of Johannesburg, Zoology)

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Founded as the South African College in 1829, the University was established as the University of Cape Town in 1918.

The institution was a boys' school that aimed to provide higher education as well. The early history was one of great expectations and hard times and it was not until the early years of the twentieth century that the University was developed into a fully-fledged tertiary institution. University status was conferred in 1918. A significant and pioneering development in the 19th century was the admission of women as degree students in 1886, many years ahead of most universities in the world.

At the start of the 20th century the University incorporated the Diocesan College, the teacher training classes of the Normal College, the South African College of Music and the Cape Town Schools of Fine Art and Architecture. The Medical School was established and in the 1920s the University began a partnership with the local health authority (now the Provincial Government's health department) that saw the Medical School move from the Hiddingh Campus and the Green Point Somerset Hospital to Observatory. This partnership allowed for the construction of the first Groote Schuur Hospital on a University site. This partnership continues to this day and now involves not only Groote Schuur as a teaching hospital but Red Cross, Valkenberg and a growing number of primary health care sites. UCT's Upper Campus moved to its present site on part of Cecil Rhodes' estate in 1928.

The period between the end of World War II and 1994 was marked by two themes. Firstly, the University recognised that if it was to be fully South African, it would have to move beyond academic non-segregation to be fully inclusive. It would have to face the consequential and increasing clashes with a government determined to legislate for segregation and enforce the doctrine of apartheid. And secondly, the University intended to transform into a leading research institution.

Before World War II, the University was largely a teaching university and its students were mostly undergraduates. The research undertaken was sporadic, though in some cases notable. A research committee was appointed for the first time in 1945. The next decades saw a great expansion of research and scholarly work such that the UCT of today has a greater proportion of highly rated researchers and gains significantly more research grants and awards than any other South African University.

The 1980s and 1990s were characterized by the deliberate and planned transformation of the student body. This was aided by the establishment of the Academic Development Programme aimed at helping students from disadvantaged educational and social backgrounds to succeed and the desegregation of student residences. A significant proportion of our students come from the SADC states and we have students drawn from over 100 countries. Particular emphasis is placed on postgraduate studies with students enrolled in masters and doctoral programmes. A growing number of postdoctoral fellows (UCT has more than a third of the total number of post docs in South Africa) contribute substantially to the research endeavours and reputation of the University.

UCT continues to work towards its goal to be Africa's leading research university. Its success can be measured by the scope of study it offers and the calibre of its graduates.

VISION AND MISSION

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Vision

An inclusive and engaged research-intensive African university that inspires creativity through outstanding achievements in learning, discovery and citizenship; enhancing the lives of its students and staff, advancing a more equitable and sustainable social order and influencing the global higher education landscape.

Mission

UCT is committed to engaging with the key issues of our natural and social worlds through outstanding teaching, research and scholarship. We seek to advance the status and distinctiveness of scholarship in Africa through building strategic partnerships across the continent, the global south and the rest of the world.

UCT provides a vibrant and supportive intellectual environment that attracts and connects people from all over the world.

We aim to produce graduates and future leaders who are influential locally and globally. Our qualifications are locally applicable and internationally acclaimed, underpinned by values of engaged citizenship and social justice. Our scholarship and research have a positive impact on our society and our environment.

We will actively advance the pace of transformation within our University and beyond, nurturing an inclusive institutional culture which embraces diversity.

OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Chancellor

Precious Moloi-Motsepe, MBBCh DCH *Witwatersrand* Dip in Women's and Reproductive Health *Stellenbosch*

Vice-Chancellor

Matlagolo Mosa Moshabela, MBChB *Natal* Dip in HIV Management (SA) *CMSA* MMed *Limpopo (MEDUNSA)*
MSc *LSHTM* PhD *Witwatersrand* *MASSAf*

Chair of Council

Norman Martin Arendse SC, BA LLB *Cape Town* LLM *UCL*

President of Convocation

Yumna Moosa, MBChB *Cape Town* MMedSci PhD *KwaZulu Natal*

Deputy Vice-Chancellors

Brandon Ian Collier-Reed, PrEng BSc(Eng) MSc(Eng) PhD *Cape Town* FSAIMechE
Thokozani Majosi, BScEng MScEng *Natal* PhD *Manchester* CEng FICChemE Order of Mapungubwe: Bronze
Elelwani Ramugondo, BSc (Occupational Therapy) MSc (Occupational Therapy) PhD *Cape Town*

Registrar

Kathleen Idensohn (Interim), BA LLB *Cape Town* LLM *Cantab* PhD *Cape Town* Advocate of the High Court

Chief Operating Officer

Richard John van Huyssteen (Acting), Project Management Dip *FTI* BSc *Nelson Mandela*
HDE (PG) BCom(Hons) *Cape Town*

Deans of Faculties

<i>Commerce:</i>	Suki Lesley Goodman, BSocSc(Hons) MBusSc PhD <i>Cape Town</i>
<i>Engineering & the Built Environment:</i>	Aubrey Njema Mainza, BMinSC <i>UNZA</i> PhD <i>Cape Town</i>
<i>Health Sciences:</i>	Lionel Patrick Green-Thompson, DA FCA <i>CMSA</i> MBBCh MMed PhD <i>Witwatersrand</i>
<i>Humanities:</i>	Shose Kessi, PDBA <i>Witwatersrand</i> BA(Hons) <i>London</i> MSc PhD <i>LSE</i>
<i>Law:</i>	Mohamed Paleker, BA LLB LLM PhD <i>Cape Town</i> Attorney of the High Court
<i>Science:</i>	Hussein Suleman, MSc <i>Durban-Westville</i> PhD <i>Virginia Tech</i>

Dean of Higher Education Development

Kasturi Behari-Leak, BA(Hons) HDE BEd *Durban-Westville* MEd *Cape Town* PhD *Rhodes*

Director of the Graduate School of Business

Catherine Duggan, BA *Brown* PhD *Stanford*

YOU'RE A GRADUATE!

NOW STAY CONNECTED TO UCT!

Today does not mark the end of your journey with UCT, but the beginning of a new chapter in your lifelong relationship with your alma mater. We invite you, as a graduate, to join a vibrant global community of more than 200 000 alumni making an impact around the world.

We hope to stay connected as your journey continues - celebrating your milestones, sharing opportunities, and keeping you connected with classmates, mentors, and the university community.

To make sure you remain part of the UCT network, we just need one simple thing from you: please update your contact information.



Alternatively, send your updated contact information via email to alumni@uct.ac.za.

Other ways of staying connected

- Attend alumni events in your region
- Participate in the Convocation AGM
- Follow us on LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook
- Visit the Alumni Engagement team at the Development and Alumni Department
- Share your achievements with us at alumni@uct.ac.za

UCT's global network of alumni chapters, affinity groups, and volunteer networks provides opportunities to connect, collaborate, network, and support your alma mater. Contact our team to get involved locally or internationally:

SOUTH AFRICA

Lu Nteya: lu.nteya@uct.ac.za

Cindy De Oliveira: cindy.deoliveira@uct.ac.za

Nomcebo Msweli: nomcebo.msweli@uct.ac.za

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Porcha Dodson: porcha.dodson@uct.ac.za

Marifel Verlohr: marifel.verlohr@uct.ac.za

UNITED KINGDOM

Sam Davies: sam@ucttrust.org.uk

EUROPE

Andrew Wigley: andrew.wigley@uct.ac.za

AUSTRALIA

Jillian Shiels: jillian.shiels@uct.ac.za

We look forward to connecting with you as alumni of UCT.

PLEASE SCAN & COMPLETE THE 2026 SURVEY

- Voluntary, takes 7 mins
- Helps current students and faculties with world-of-work insights



CAREERS SERVICE
OWN YOUR FUTURE
Centre for Higher Education Development