



Dear Alumni and Friends

I write to you, already six weeks into the new year, with not much to punctuate our entry into 2021 as the pandemic continues to present massive challenges globally.

Remote teaching

Our challenge at the University of Cape Town is that we continue to teach remotely, having moved from emergency mode to a now more established way of delivering our academic programmes online. The teaching year kicks off on 15 March as we welcome (remotely) a whole new cohort of first year Law students into the Faculty. The difference between your experience of being a student at UCT Law, and the experience we are currently able to offer our students, is vast. We are confident though, based on our achievements in 2020 and the completion of the academic programme for last year, that we can and will deliver another successful year of teaching, learning and research during 2021.

New colleagues

We are very pleased to welcome a number of new colleagues to the Faculty. In Public Law, we welcome Dr Tshelo Mosaka, Nurina Ally and Nomfundo Ramalekana; and in Private Law we welcome Leo Boonzaaier. We have other new colleagues due to join us, and will share their appointments as they come on board.

Professional development

If 2021 is your year to engage in further skills development, or simply to keep up-to-date with legal developments in various fields of law, then the Faculty's professional development unit, Law@Work, probably has a short course to suit you. Law@Work has a wide range of short courses on offer, in online format for the next while, including (amongst many others) courses in commercial and court-aligned mediation; South African labour law; tech law and policy in Africa; effective legal writing; legal data analytics; and hedge fund regulations. All the details can be found on the unit's website, at the link below.

In memoriam

Amongst the excitement of new energy, new colleagues, and new courses on offer, we are critically aware that our alumni and friends across the globe have experienced terrible loss and grief at a time when we have been forced to find new ways of mourning the passing of our loved ones. We at UCT Law have been deeply saddened by the passing of former Vice Chancellor, Dr Stuart Saunders whom many of you will have had as VC during your time on campus. Professor Hugh Corder remembers Dr Saunders in an interview on the UCT News platform. Mary Burton, activist and former UCT Council member, also pays tribute to Dr Saunders.

Many of you will remember Raymond de Wet, who likely handed you your course readers and other materials from the Faculty print room. Mr de Wet passed on in January this year and his absence will be felt by staff and students. We are deeply saddened to share news of the passing of Willie Burger, SC (LLB Class of 1955), who so many of you will know from the Cape Bar, where he practised until four years ago. We send condolences also to the family and friends of alumnus Professor Louis van Huyssteen, who earned his PhD from UCT Law in 1976. Prof van Huyssteen taught at UWC's Law School until 1999 and continued to provide advice and support to the Faculty and its members until his passing in December.

I wish you all good health, and I look forward to keeping you posted on news and developments in the Faculty.

Yours in Law,

Danwood

Professor Danwood Chirwa | Dean of Law

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