



Dear Alumni and Faculty Friends

As we all sit in lockdown, affected in a multitude of ways by the COVID-19 pandemic, I wanted to send you all my best wishes for your good health and that of your families.

Our academic year has taken a knock, but we are working to keep on track – the Law Faculty staff are hard at it, along with the rest of UCT, to ensure that we can continue teaching online to limit the disruption to the 2020 academic programme. This requires a substantial shift in our operations, and raises all sorts of resourcing challenges for the university. We began our Remote Teaching Orientation Week this Monday 20 April, and will begin with classes on 28 April.

I can only imagine the extent of the disruption to your lives, to your work, and to your families. This is indeed a strange time, and we don't yet have a picture of the impact of COVID-19 on South Africa, our people, and our economy. If you would like to share any stories or information about how you are managing in this time of COVID-19, whatever area of Law you are working in, we would love to hear from you – and you can send stories or information to [gaby.ritchie@uct.ac.za](mailto:gaby.ritchie@uct.ac.za).

You will be aware that one of the highlights of our year – our big annual graduation ceremony scheduled for 24 March - was cancelled, resulting in huge disappointment amongst our graduates, and at the Faculty. The graduation of our LLB class along with our postgraduate LLMs and PG Diploma students is always a time of big celebration when we bear witness, along with families and friends, to all the hard work put in to get to the point of crossing the stage in the Sarah Baartman Hall. We congratulate all of those who would have graduated on 24 March and welcome you warmly to the ranks of Law Faculty Alumni!

We have uploaded the LLB Class of 2019 photo to the Class photo archive in flickr (see the link below) – and we hope this will keep our new LLB graduates going until we are able to hand the print copies over.

With so much up in the air, it is difficult to determine which of our planned events will continue as scheduled in the second half of 2020. We will keep you posted, though – and we look forward to the earliest opportunity to gather as proud alumni of UCT Law.

This would have been the March 2020 note from me, but I prefer to send a note in the middle of the month, so we held this one over to mid-April ( so if you didn't see a Dean's Note in March, you haven't missed anything!).

Please stay in touch, at a distance for now, and stay healthy.

Sincerely  
Danwood

**Professor Danwood Chirwa**  
Dean of Law

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