



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

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UCT graduation: celebrating success and honouring excellence

Over 5200 to graduate in 14 ceremonies; Justice Mokgoro and Prof O'Connell to be honoured, Lewis Pugh and Zapiro among speakers

The University of Cape Town will cap approximately 5 228 students in 14 graduation ceremonies, which got underway this morning and will be held until 11 April 2018.

Over the 14 ceremonies, 67 doctoral degrees will be conferred and two honorary doctorates will be awarded to Justice Yvonne Mokgoro and Professor Brian O'Connell.

Mr Lewis Pugh, world-renowned ocean swimmer and ocean activist, will speak at this afternoon's ceremony at 14:00 as the first in a line-up of inspirational speakers planned.

Professor O'Connell, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Western Cape who was instrumental in turning the university into a leading research institution, will receive an honorary degree in education. He will speak at the 10:00 ceremony on 4 April, while later on the same day Director of the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine and former L'Oréal-UNESCO Awardee for Women in Science, Professor Valerie Mizrahi, will speak at 14:00.

On 5 April, Professor Mark New, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Climate Change and Director of the African Climate and Development Initiative; and Dr Sophia Kisting-Cairncross, Executive Director of the National Institute for Occupational Health in South Africa and former United Nations director of HIV/AIDS in the workplace, will speak at the 10:00 and 15:00 ceremonies respectively.

Acclaimed South African cartoonist Mr Jonathan Shapiro, also known as 'Zapiro', will address graduates at the 10:00 ceremony on 6 April, followed by Mr Manglin Pillay, CEO of the South African Institution of Civil Engineering, who will speak at 14:00.

Justice Mokgoro, a distinguished legal scholar and former Constitutional Court judge, will speak on 7 April at the 18:00 ceremony where she will be conferred an honorary degree in law.

Date	Time	Hon Degree	Speaker	Social Responsiveness Award
03 Apr	14:00		Mr Lewis Hugh	
04 Apr	10:00	Professor Brian O'Connell	Professor Brian O'Connell	Dr John Clark, Dr Patti Silbert, Mrs Ferial Parker – Schools Improvement Initiative
	15:00		Professor Valerie Mizrahi	
05 Apr	10:00		Professor Mark New	
	15:00		Dr Sophia Kisting-Cairncross	
06 Apr	10:00		Mr Jonathan Shapiro	
	15:00		Mr Manglin Pillay	
07 Apr	18:00	Justice Yvonne Mokgoro	Justice Yvonne Mokgoro	

All ceremonies are open to members of the media.

ENDS

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Aamirah Sunday

Media Liaison and Monitoring Officer
 Communication and Marketing Department
 University of Cape Town
 Rondebosch
 Tel: (021) 650 5427
 Fax: (021) 650 3780
 Cell: (076) 947 6071

Email: aamirah.sunday@uct.ac.za

Website: www.uct.ac.za