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23 November 2023

UCT to co-host Sutherland reburial

The University of Cape Town (UCT) will co-host the Sutherland reburial programme over three days on Friday, 24 November on campus; Saturday, 25 November en route to Sutherland; and Sunday, 26 November in Sutherland.

In 2018, UCT disclosed that during an archiving audit, sacred human remains of nine people from Sutherland were identified as having been unethically brought to the university in the 1920s by a medical student.

A collaborative process to redress, make amends and provide closure was then pursued, working with the Sutherland community; the two families who share surnames with some of the nine – the Abrahams and Stuurmans; as well as the relevant stakeholders.

After five long years since UCT embarked on a process of restorative justice, the reburial will proceed following the relevant authorisation by the Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture earlier this year and a permit granted previously by the South African Heritage Resource Agency.

- [Read the full media release.](#)
- [Visit the 2019 feature page for more on the Sutherland Reburial.](#)

NOTE: Most parts of the reburial programme are open to the media. Please see the below customised media programme for the open sessions.

RSVP: Please confirm your attendance by replying to this email and indicating on which day/s you wish to attend.

Friday, 24 November 2023	
Venue: Frances Ames Room, Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS), Barnard Fuller Building, Anzio Rd, Observatory, Cape Town	
09:00–10:50	• Opening prayer and song: Chief Bradley

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks: Associate Professor Lionel Green-Thompson, FHS Dean • Remarks: Emeritus Professor Daya Reddy, Vice-Chancellor <i>Interim</i> • Remarks: Professor Victoria Gibbon, Academic Advisor of the Sutherland Nine Reburial Programme • Remarks: Ms Desery Fienies, MEC and Premier's Delegate: Northern Cape Provincial Government • Remarks: Mr Anthony Stuurman Mietas, family representative
11:00–11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official renaming of the Drennan Museum and the Drennan Lecture Theatre in the Anatomy Building • Official naming of the Garden of Remembrance
Location: Outside the Anatomy Building	
14:00–15:00	<p>Guard of Honour (academic gowns and white coats to be worn):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of the Guard of Honour on either side of the road leading from the Anatomy Building to Anzio Road exit, comprising the Faculty of Health Sciences staff, and Doctoral and Masters' students. • Official words by UCT to acknowledge the significance of the departure of the sacred human remains: Dean of FHS, Associate Professor Green-Thompson. • Hearses transporting the sacred human remains leave the FHS campus.
Saturday, 25 November 2023	
08:00	Departure from Cape Town to Sutherland
Location: N1 turn off into Sutherland	
14:00	Symbolic handover of the Sutherland Nine sacred human remains from the Western Cape representatives to the Northern Cape representatives
Location: Sutherland bus stop	
16:00	Arrival and reception by the Sutherland community
Sunday, 26 November 2023	
Venue: VGK Church (Guests to be seated by 10:30)	
11:00-11:10	Welcome by Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality
11:15-11:20	Lighting of candles for the sacred human remains by the Abraham and Stuurman family children, led by the reverend
11:20-11:30	Address by UCT Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Transformation, Student Affairs and Social Responsiveness, Professor Elelwani Ramugondo
11:30-12:15	<p>Speakers from national, provincial and local government and family:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mervin Cloete, Executive Mayor: Namakwa District Municipality • Ms Desery Fienies, MEC and Premier's Delegate: Northern Cape Provincial Government • Mr Paul van der Ventel, family representative
12:15-12:30	Closing

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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