

HONORARY DEGREES

THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD), *HONORIS CAUSA*, to Edwin Cameron

for his unstinting professional and personal advocacy for the recognition of every person's dignity, freedom and equality, being the foundational values he has helped entrench in the South African legal system and beyond.

As jurist and personal advocate, Judge Edwin Cameron is a key player in South African and international law, inter alia for his exceptional role in securing the inclusion of sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination in the Bill of Rights, as well as his advocacy for persons with HIV/Aids.

Having joined the University of the Witwatersrand's Centre for Applied Legal Studies in 1986, this former Rhodes Scholar started specialising in human rights matters, particularly advocating in the field of HIV/Aids and against discrimination on the grounds of sexuality. He drafted the Charter of Rights on HIV/Aids and helped establish the renowned Aids L.a.w. Project. In 1992, his professorial inaugural lecture, *Sexual Orientation and the Constitution*, became the standard for the constitutional protection of gay and lesbian rights worldwide.

Also in his later capacity as Constitutional Court judge, he has proven himself a level-headed custodian of the law on sexual orientation, freedom of expression and socio-economic rights.

As the first South African in a high-profile position speaking openly about his HIV status and experience taking anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs), Cameron has made a credible and crucial contribution to more accessible ARV treatment for all HIV-positive South Africans, and has been key in the struggle for a rational public HIV/Aids treatment plan.

SU alumnus Judge Edwin Cameron's contribution to developing South African law so as to truly reflect the fundamental values of the Constitution is worthy of recognition by Stellenbosch University.

THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF COMMERCE (DCom), *HONORIS CAUSA*, to Pali Jobo Lehohla

for his innovative leadership and ingenious contribution to enhance Statistics SA's internal capacity as well as statistics policy and utilisation in Africa, and for his special focus on the development of human capital.

As South Africa's statistician-general for the past 15 years, Mr Pali Lehohla has made his mark as skilled innovator in his field of expertise.

Upon appointment to this office, Lehohla set himself the task of drastically improving Statistics SA officials' skills in generating and using statistics. This has seen the forging of innovative partnerships with various higher-education institutions. He initiated the Centre for Regional and Urban Innovation and Statistical Exploration (CRUISE) at Stellenbosch University. He has subsidised summer and winter schools at the University of Cape Town, helped create the African Centre for Analysis of Population at the University of Pennsylvania, and established winter schools along with the University of Michigan. In the process, he has facilitated the upskilling of his staff in poverty, labour dynamics and demographic studies as well as survey methodologies.

He has also helped improve the state of official statistics in the rest of Africa and the world. His appeal to fellow Africans led to the founding of the African Symposium for Statistical Development (ASSD) in 2006. Chaired by Lehohla, the ASSD has facilitated vast progress in African statistics policy, ensuring successful censuses in most African nations in 2010. He also serves on the United Nations (UN) expert data-revolution advisory group and UN Statistics Commission, and is vice-chairperson of the International Statistical Institute.

Statistician-General Mr Pali Lehohla's name has become synonymous with unlocking data along with the human talent behind it. For this, Stellenbosch University honours him.

THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD), *HONORIS CAUSA*, to Kate O'Regan

for her fine and progressive mind and her unwavering commitment to the law both within and outside the Constitutional Court, which has seen justice prevail for particularly women and other vulnerable groups of society.

From her appointment as Constitutional Court judge in 1994 at the age of 37 up until her retirement in 2009, Judge O'Regan left an indelible mark with a range of leading judgements. In addition, she was one of only two female judges for the first 13 years of the court's existence.

Many of her judgements aided the battle against unfair discrimination against women and other vulnerable groups. She co-authored the directional judgement in *Prinsloo v Van der Linde*, which entrenched the connection between the right to equality and dignity in South Africa's administration of justice.

In her dissenting judgement in *Minister of Home Affairs v Fourie*, which dealt with the regulation of homosexual marriages, she sharply criticised the court's referral of the matter to Parliament instead of granting immediate relief. Her minority judgement in *S v Jordan* described the criminalisation of sex work as unfair gender-based discrimination and, thus, unconstitutional.

Judge O'Regan is held in high repute outside the Constitutional Court. In 2008, the secretary-general of the United Nations (UN) appointed her as chair of the Internal Justice Council. She is an *ad hoc* judge of the Namibian High Court, chair of the International Monetary Fund's administrative tribunal, and member of the World Bank Sanctions Board.

Her enormous contribution to justice for South Africans in general, and for women and other vulnerable groups in particular, is praiseworthy and deserving of Stellenbosch University's highest honour.

THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF ARTS (DLitt), *HONORIS CAUSA*, to Adam Small

for having shifted the boundaries of South African literature, enhanced the Afrikaans language, and sensitively though strongly articulated issues others hesitated to address, thereby becoming a voice for the voiceless.

As beloved and acclaimed poet and playwright, Adam Small has 'written himself into' the very being of the South African nation as our moral conscience, poignantly commenting on the destructive apartheid system.

With revolutionary volumes of poetry such as *Kitaar my kruis* (1961), *Sê sjibbolet* (1963) and *Oos wes tuis bes, Distrik Ses* (1973), he helped document the South African story of racial classification, discrimination and forced removals – a past never to be repeated. In theatre, his 1965 play *Kanna hy kô hystoe* has had such a powerful impact that the literary commission of the Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns in 2012 took the unusual decision to award it the Hertzog Prize for drama nearly 50 years following its initial publication, having been overlooked at the time. With this and other plays, Small became a leading figure in protest theatre on the Cape Flats.

In addition, his insistence on using Kaaps as a full-fledged language to articulate the experiences of the oppressed and underprivileged made him one of the first advocates for the recognition of the many variants of Afrikaans that add to the richness and diversity of the language today.

In his work, Prof Adam Small feelingly yet fearlessly addressed the burning issues of a segregated South Africa, proving himself both a thinking revolutionary and revolutionary thinker.

THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF COMMERCE (DCom), *HONORIS CAUSA*, to Solomon Johannes (Sampie) Terreblance

for his outstanding contributions as profound analyst of Western socio-economic systems, his emphasis on social amelioration for all in multiple leading publications, his fearless advocacy for the end of apartheid in South Africa, and his lasting impact on many an economics student as inspiring lecturer.

Prof Sampie Terreblanche's academic career at Stellenbosch University spanned half of the Economic and Management Sciences Faculty's 90-year existence. Many prominent economists have ascribed their success to this innovative thinker and beloved professor. With his distinctively vibrant lecturing style, "Prof Sampie" has truly achieved legendary status at SU.

His emphasis on social amelioration for the broader community serves as a running theme in his scholarly work. As a member of the then Commission of Enquiry into Matters Relating to the Coloured Population Group – the Erika Theron Commission – he became deeply affected by the problem of structural poverty. This became a constant influence on his views of South Africa's political economy, manifesting in a number of his publications, which include 12 books and over 30 articles and book chapters. Even academic colleagues of dissenting views acknowledge the outstanding quality of his work.

His contribution to political transformation has also been aimed at social improvement for the majority. His insights have remained influential post-1994, and his *A history of Inequality in South Africa, 1652–2002* in particular has become a significant reference for contemporary South African economic and social analysis.

With the very same enthusiasm with which Prof Sampie Terreblanche has influenced perspectives on the socioeconomic system, he unlocked his discipline for his students.

Stellenbosch University honours this unique and outstanding economist.

THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF ENGINEERING (DEng), *HONORIS CAUSA*, to Jakob Johannes (Japie) van Zyl

for his contribution as driving force behind many a successful space project, ambassador for Africa and Stellenbosch University in probably the most advanced technological environment globally, and an inspiration for young scientists on his home continent.

Dr Jakob Johannes (Japie) van Zyl has established himself as one of the world's leading space scientists.

Having trained as engineer, this native of Namibia joined NASA's esteemed Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in 1986, where he soon assumed increasing responsibility. As JPL associate director of project formulation and strategy, he currently has a significant influence on the technical aspects of future space programmes in the United States. He inter alia helped design the radar system that enabled the robot Curiosity to land on Mars in 2012. His excellent work has earned him several NASA awards, including a leadership award in 2001 in recognition of his significant role in the successful first space mission of the new millennium, which he spear headed.

Despite his research on all things beyond earth, the soil of Africa and the potential of the continent remain close to his heart. As extraordinary professor in SU's Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department, he ploughs back into the next generation of engineers and scientists at his alma mater, and often uses international platforms to give credit to the quality of his Matie training.

Through his internationally acclaimed contributions to space research and programmes, this son of Africa is living proof of what the world can still expect from the continent and Stellenbosch University as African institution.