

# Emeritus Professor Timothy Terence Dunne

1948 to 2016



## A man to remember

Generosity, kindness, integrity, inspirational, brilliance

The UCT department of Statistical Sciences is sad to share the news of the death of Emeritus Professor Tim Dunne with the statistics community. Through his untimely death we have lost a very special man who will be remembered for his intellect, his integrity, his humour, and

his generosity. He was a man who had the wellbeing of individuals and the community at heart and who did not hesitate to fight for what he believed was right. Our condolences go to his wife Dee, his son Rowan, and the rest of his family.

Fond memories from his colleagues at the Department of Statistical Sciences

Page 2

Messages from the greater statistical community: SA and abroad

Page 8

UCT Obituary: We shall remember him

Page 12



*A great leader*

*Always ready to help  
in the most genuine  
and uncomplicated  
way*

## Fond memories from his colleagues at the Department of Statistical Sciences

My recollections of Tim are of his extraordinary generosity and kindness. His hours and hours of working for SANTRUST (and others) for no personal gain, donating his payments either to a departmental fund or to selected charities. His interest and concern for the poor and vulnerable and his determined attempts to see the good in every one. I don't think Tim ever thought or spoke badly of anyone. My earliest memory of Tim (when I was a student!) was his ever-present tankard of coffee!

- Leanne Scott

I will forever remember Professor Dunne as a great leader whose soft and kind words always betrayed a deep sense of respect for all those around him. My memory of his generosity with his time, talent and treasure goes way back to 2001 when he phoned and drove with me around in his car, in search of an apartment for me and my wife to rent. We stopped at an ATM in Rondebosch to draw some cash, all of which he gently forced in my hand with the words: please accept this as a gift! These memories of a man who discovered that true meaning to life is found not in one's credentials and achievements, but in positively affecting others, will forever be treasured in my heart.

- Dominique Katshunga

Always ready to help in the most genuine and uncomplicated way. Supported all in the department under any circumstances and fought many hard promotion battles for the departmental members in selection committees. Never a raised voice or outward agitation - hugely eloquent, always able to say the right thing and smooth ruffled feathers. Never heard a word said against him, pervasively appreciated and loved.

- Graham Barr

I'll remember Tim as a kind and gentle person. He gave his time freely and generously, and his door was almost always open. He had energy beyond his years. When you asked him for help he seemed

to solve those problems from first principles, long pauses while he stared into space, his answer emerging bit by bit. His long emails were renowned. Through them, he tried to include everybody, cover every possibility and every point of view.

- Ian Durbach

In 2011, I was putting together my application for ad-hominem promotion. Tim Dunne selflessly gave many hours of his time helping me put together my application. He carefully went through each aspect of my application and gave many insightful comments and tips about how to craft my application to stand the best possible chance of being promoted. I have always been struck by how generous he was with his time, being willing to build and encourage the most junior members of staff. When I started at UCT in 2008, he would constantly reinforce how much he valued me as a member of his team (before I had published a single paper). This gave me the confidence that I can succeed as an academic and the drive to give my best for the department. My family and I will miss him dearly.

- Melvin Varughese

I will remember him mostly for his extra-ordinary kindness to everyone he interacted with including me. I will dearly miss his counsel on social and academic matters. Tim closing off his speech at the 2013 UCT retirees dinner "And now I practice what I preach: zero." which of course was not true. Also for his love for fudge either chocolate or butter flavoured.

- Freedom Gumedze

Not sure if I have a specific memory. The only place we could find a space for a notice board and a white board in his office was behind his office door. The chocolate eclairs, bar ones in his office. Drawer full of coffee and sugar bags that he picked up at conferences. This lovable wise father figure

- Christien Thiar

I remember Tim as a real gentleman, very quick-witted, very caring, sensitive and generous. We will all miss him very much.

- Birgit Erni

I have been here for a relatively short time (and the last time I saw Tim was at Inge's mom's place rather than at the office) – but if I reflect on my interactions with Tim, they all showed a lot of kindness and consideration. When I started, Tim was very welcoming and attentive, and checked in on how I am doing a number of times, and offered to chat if I ever wanted (one of the few staff members who paused to take notice of the 'new person' in that way and really make the effort). The last interaction with Tim at the office, which is a fond one and shows the same qualities, was him

profusely (and unnecessarily) apologising for walking off with my office keys (accidentally leaving the kitchen with them after coming in to make coffee, when a group of us were gathered for lunch) and appearing with a handful of chocolates the next day to continue his apology.

- Reshma Kassanje

This is dreadful news. If you are putting together any departmental sympathy card, please add my name in absentia.

- Theo Stewart

I am still in shock and can only imagine that all of you are as well. My deepest condolences to you all and to Tim's family. I am still shaking my head in disbelief.

- Ushma Galal



Left: Tim Dunne celebrating Dr Gumedze's graduation with Christien Thiar, Theo Stewart and Freedom's kids at UCT in 2009. Right: Freedom Gumedze and Allan Clark with Tim Dunne at the International Conference on Multivariate Statistical Modelling & High Dimensional Data Mining, Kayseri, Turkey. (June 2008)



I don't have a specific interaction in mind but I will remember Tim as a man of great humanity, humility and humour...

- Greg Distiller

There are so many things I will miss about Prof Tim Dunne: His personal interest in my career, our thought-streamlining conversations during my PhD, his keenness to get me into lecturing way back in 2006, his comments on the disproportionate amount of noise I make in our corridor, when he showed me how to do a Windsor knot during Open Day, our mutual excitement over cricket and his interest in the social issues plaguing society. I will miss him checking in on me every day. Our hearts will be sore for a long time yet.

- Sheetal Silal

I will remember Tim as a man of great intellect and integrity. He was a brilliant mathematician and statistician, yet humble in conveying his knowledge to others. He was an inspiring mentor to the younger academics in our department, including myself, and showed a genuine interest in my career development and personal growth. He always gave freely of his time, and conversations with Tim never felt rushed, despite him being very busy much of the time. Every time I went overseas for a

conference, he seemed to have a book or DVD on the location, and advice on which national parks and historical sites to visit. I will also remember him for his witty and often dry sense of humour, and his fondness for hot chocolate and chocolate eclairs. He always stood up for what he believed was right and worked tirelessly with charities and NGOs to better the lives of others. We have lost a man who truly was the salt of the earth. I will miss him dearly.

- Miguel Lacerda

Tim Dunne is a very special person to all of us in the department in our own ways. I have the great honor to have known him as soon as I started working in the Statistical Sciences Department in 2013. He has been such a good teacher for me not only in academics but also in life. I will never forget his critical, intellectual and humorous mind. Prof. Tim, may God rest you in peace. You will be missed a lot.

- Şebnem Er

I am really saddened to hear of Professor Dunne's untimely death. I will deeply miss him as his was a life of service, love, compassion and excellence. May he rest in peace.

- Juwa Nyirenda



*He was an inspiring  
mentor to the younger  
academics in our  
department*

Tim Dunne with Sebnem Er, Sheetal Silal, Neil Watson, Miguel Lacerda and Allan Clark at the UCT SAYS ENOUGH campaign in 2011

I first saw Tim when I was a pupil at Maritzburg College and he was a teacher. He didn't teach me. Those who were taught by him considered him very clever and in some respects a formidable person. Sometimes schoolchildren can form very perceptive judgments about their teachers. We saw Tim as a man of principle and although we could not articulate this we recognized in him a sense of morality that set him apart from his teaching colleagues. His decisions were never made for the sake of convenience or expediency but because he considered it the right thing to do.

In my second year at Natal University I got to know Tim better when he appointed me tutor in one of his courses. At about this time I began to think of him as a friend. After my first SASA conference paper, Tim, with typical thoughtfulness and generosity, wrote to Prof Deneys Schreiner on my behalf. Soon afterwards I was appointed to the permanent staff. In the decades that followed I am glad and proud to say that our friendship matured and endured. He remained the same generous, decent man throughout. I learnt a great deal from him, not just in the field of Statistics but also in the more important area of how one should live one's life. It was a privilege to have known him

- Karl Stielau

Tim, was friendly to all, had a great sense of humour and was always able to put a positive twist on situations. Importantly Tim was socially conscious, always highlighted social injustices and cared deeply about people who were worse off than him. We will all miss the jovial way in which his presence was felt in the department.

- Dave Bradfield

The enormity of Professor Tim's contribution to all scopes of communities - from furthering human knowledge to touching individuals' lives - has become abundantly clear in the wake of his passing. What was immediately apparent upon meeting the great man, was his

*He played the game of life as honourably as any man; we can do no better than to strive to live by his ideals.*

compassion and the deep level of respect he shows to people. Apart from his many admirable virtues - integrity, courage and altruism, to name just a few - he was just a downright nice bloke. A conversation with Tim always brightened your day. He loved discussing cricket and on several occasions enthusiastically shared the poem *Vitai Lampada* with me, which starts with a cricket themed verse but ends with the following:

This is the word that year by year

While in her place the School is set  
Every one of her sons must hear,  
And none that hears it dare forget.  
This they all with a joyful mind  
Bear through life like a torch in flame,  
And falling fling to the host behind --  
"Play up! play up! and play the game!"

We will never forget Professor Tim Dunne. He played the game of life as honourably as any man; we can do no better than to strive to live by his ideals.

- Stefan Britz

I will miss Prof Dunne dearly - he was a good and kind friend and mentor to me. He always made time, and went out of his way to encourage me and help me, and he defended and rooted for me always. He interviewed me for my first job at UCT, I'll never forget having him pretend not to know anything about statistics so that I could "teach" him, our discussions in the staff room over lunch, chocolate biscuits and horlicks, sitting in his office learning about the in's and out's of legal cases, his never-ending words of encouragement and his constant support of all of my endeavours. I'm so glad to have known him.

- Katya Mauff 5



## Messages from his students

I first met Prof Dunne when I was in post grad and always thought he looked a lot like Father Christmas with his grey fluffy beard and woollen jerseys. He was without a doubt the kindest lecturer I ever had and really cared about his students. When he was in need of a first year lecturer because a lot of his staff was on sabbatical he approached me and asked if I would like to lecture a first year stats course. I was terrified but he said he had absolute faith that I could do a great job. I loved the lecturing so much that I stayed on for 3 whole years while simultaneously completing my post grad studies. During that whole time Prof Dunne was always there with an open office door, ready to help wherever he was needed with a giant smile on his face.

One day he came to me and said “you know what we need to really get all these new post-grad students from all over Africa to really bond and feel part of this department?”, “we need a Stats department soccer team” and so off I went to make that happen. For a while we had our very own fully-fledged stats department soccer team with kits and all and I even remember typing up a monthly soccer newsletter! I had never played soccer in my life before that but I wanted to make it work for

Prof Dunne because he had done so much for me. To this day we often reminisce about those fun times and I often laugh at the pictures (above). Rest in Peace Prof Dunne and know how much you meant to all of us (your students) over the years. – Carey Anne Foulds

I recall with great fondness the time I spent as an honours student and masters student with the Dept of Stats. We were an intimate little department and I had the pleasure of engaging with brilliant statistical minds both professionally as well as personally. One person in particular that I remember with great fondness is Prof Dunne, the HOD during my time there. I remember him as a caring, kind and sincere man. He opened up his home for us to have a welcome braai for new honours students. He had a wonderful sense of humour and I still remember his infectious and hearty chuckle. I had the honour of being taught by him, and also working with him on some consulting projects like analysing numeracy and literacy scores of young learners for the WC education department. I will always be grateful for the opportunity he gave me to lecture and work on consulting projects whilst doing my post grad and for all the support he had shown us. He has certainly had a positive impact on



my life and I will always remember him. RIP.  
– Karen Miller

I was really sorry to hear about Prof Dunne. I have memories of the kindness he showed me when I was struggling back in second year.

- Darryn Williams

Of the various encounters I have had with Prof Tim, I distinctly remember one interaction:

On a visit to UCT I was working in the masters labs one afternoon when Prof Tim came in to discuss something with one of the students. Before leaving the room he greeted me and we had the typical exchange of 'how are things?' etc. At the time he entered the room I was browsing through the Franschoek Motor Museum catalogue in order to get an idea of what will be on show over the upcoming weekend. At some point (while standing in the doorway 3 meters away) he nodded toward my computer and said "**So, you are a lover of old beasts?**". I proceeded to explain my fascination with classic cars and the significance of some of the cars I had hoped to see. In the conversation that followed I attempted to answer the question as best I can, despite knowing from experience that explaining a love for what amounts to a tin bucket with wheels and an air-pump attached to it is impossible at best and cannot be understood without the aid of a few pints of beer (or wine if you are from CPT). The conversation concluded and the day went on as usual, but the way the conversation started stuck with me. At the time I wasn't sure why.

It was only after gnawing on the words for some time that I had realised what had happened: Despite not seeming to have any direct interest in the subject matter (at least not what I could gather from the conversation we had) he managed to formulate a question while we were speaking that not only asked the right question but also showed that he had some insight as to what the answer might be. He needn't even

have known what was since he understood that to me there was something more to it. He wasn't simply inquiring about cars or what I liked for the sake of conversation, he was inquiring about me and the way he did this reflected an extraordinary amount of insight. Looking back, I think this reflects who he was: Not just a man of extraordinary intellect, but an extraordinarily good man.  
– Etienne Pienaar

## Messages from other UCT departments

I just wanted to write to tell you how shattered I am at the news of Tim's death. I worked with him for over 20 years and came to love and respect him so deeply. I actually can't believe he is gone. What a great and wonderful man. So brilliant and so gentle. - Ali Meadows, School of Management Studies

What a great tragedy. - Anton le Roex (Dean)

My sincere condolences from all of us in Astronomy to you and your colleagues in Stats at this tremendous loss. - Patrick Woudt

I'm out of town but wanted to send my condolences to you and your colleagues as well as Tim's family. My memory of Tim will be of a gentle and very kind man who always had time for people. I know that he'd often stop for a chat with the chemistry lab staff and he will be missed by many in our department. - Susan Bourne

Tim was an early and consistent supporter of the association between our two departments. I always enjoyed his company and insight. I am sure he will be honoured in the thoughts of those he worked with and taught. - Rodney Ehrlich, Public Health

From the School, please accept our condolences – He will be dearly remembered - Landon Myer, Public Health

I am shocked to have heard the very sad news about Professor Dunne's untimely passing. I met Prof Dunne at the Cadlabs in Centlivres, this is what I always called him, in 2003, my first year at UCT. I never met a more humble and kind person who always remained composed no matter how much issues we experienced during the running of his courses.

I got to know Prof Dunne a lot better from 2008 onwards as he then started running the SANPAD/ARCI courses in Scilab D.

He would often pop in to my office just to say hi. Professor Dunne and I would always wish each other happy birthday as we both celebrate it on June 19<sup>th</sup>. He will be sorely missed and greatly admired and respected for a long time to come. - Gerhard Mohamed, Scilab

I have come to the conclusion that there are sometime angels that walk among us – and I think Tim was one of them. My thoughts are with you and all his colleagues, friends and of course his family. – Christopher Mitchell (Newsroom and Publications)

## Messages from the statistical community

Professor Dunne was responsible for the Scientific Programme of invited papers, posters and contributed papers, in short the crucial session of the 57 Session of the ISI that we hosted here in Durban South Africa in 2009. He lived to be an intellectual giant, yet imbued personal humility and through his soft-spoken mannerism he would deliver an intellectual killer punch. Always standing firmly behind those he believed in. He gave me an assignment to deliver on and the burden of his passing on makes the assignment the more urgent. It is about jerking up the skills of South African youth. Having been swallowed by my own work I have not paid attention or sufficient attention to his proposal. Now that he is able to tower over me through his departed spirit in respect and fear I have to drive this initiative, which was closest to his heart with determination and professional will.

- Pali Lehohla, Statistician-General, Statistics South Africa



Above: Tim Dunne at ISI2015 with Jeff Teugels (ex ISI president), Helen McGillivray (IASE president, incoming ISI president) and Jeff's wife Rita...everyone always laughed where Tim was, he was such fun!



It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden death of Professor Tim Dunne on 17th of April 2016. As an active and devoted member of the ISI, Prof. Dunne played an indispensable role in the work of various ISI Committees. He was also member of the ISI Council from 2007-2011. Prof. Dunne's death is an enormous loss for the ISI and we will miss him greatly. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife and all of the Dunne family.

– ISI Website

This is very sad. I last met up with Tim a few years ago at a small area conference in Bangkok and we had a very pleasant evening chatting. Our chat brought back memories and stories of various people from PMB which was very interesting. I did not maintain contact with Tim but I felt I knew he was there and that I would always talk to him when I could. I am sad that this won't happen any more. I am sure it is a big loss to many, and particularly to you.

- Alan Welsh (Australia)

I was deeply saddened by the untimely passing of Tim. I have known Tim for at least 20 years, met him at conferences locally and more recently abroad as well as seen him at Umalusi meetings.

Tim was occasionally prickly, but when you passed the surface a warm and very considerate professional who was always prepared to go the extra distance to make things better. He could be very exacting and usually for very good reason, highly principled and a dedicated member of our small community. I have met several of his former students who all have the highest regard for him. One of his later students who is now on our staff, Raeesa Ganey, was most distressed by his passing. I wish all of you in your department my deepest condolences on this tragic loss.

- Peter Fridjhon (WITS)

My deepest sympathy to your Department on this great loss. Please also convey my sympathy to Tim's family.

– Tertius de Wet (US)



Assoc Prof Peter Dunsby (right) deep in conversation with Tim Dunne discussing a new Astrophysics programme at UCT in 2003

He was a dear friend and colleague over many years. With this note I just want to extend my condolences to you and your Department. He will be missed by us all.

- Niel le Roux (US)

It is with great sadness and shock that we heard the news this morning of Prof Dunne's passing. Kindly convey our heartfelt sympathies and condolences to his colleagues and family.

- Rose (UP)

I was saddened to hear of the death of Tim Dunne. Although I have seen Tim at conferences for many years, it was only in the last 5 years that I got to know him personally. From his conference lectures I attended and talking to him, I got to know him as someone with an exceptionally good insight into the theory and applications of statistics. Please convey my condolences to UCT Statistical Sciences Department members and Tim's family.

- Henri Moolman

I'm very sad to receive the news of Tim's death. My thoughts are with you all, and especially with his family.

- Walter Zucchini

Please pass my condolences to everybody in the Stats department at UCT regarding Tim's untimely death. I have known Tim since the early 80s and was very shocked to read about his death in the email sent from SASA, last night.

– Corrie Uys (CPUT)

It is with such deep sadness that I heard the news of the untimely passing of a dear friend, Tim! My shock slowly turned to a deep sense of loss, knowing that this incredible friend, who I could phone at any time of day to share a joke with, to bounce ideas off, is now no more. Never again will I bear the brunt of his jokes, sit at his dinner table late into the night at national and international conferences, listening to his wisdom as I sip my mineral while he enjoys his red wine!

Tim's contribution to the Statistics community, both locally and internationally is so immeasurable, he was appreciated and loved by so many! His twinkling eyes and wicked sense of humour is legendary. I personally had the great fortune of knowing Tim for around 35 years, first meeting him when he was my external examiner in the 80's, whilst he was employed as a Statistics lecturer at the former UNP.

This encouraging, supportive colleague gave so much of his time and energy to build capacity in statistics, at all levels. What I valued most about him is his insight and wisdom, how serious he could be about getting structures and principles right...but how well he connected with people.

Tim played a seminal role in the ISI, ICOTS and IASE, where he touched so many lives, witnessed by the many, many messages of condolences I received from his international colleagues, who were also deeply saddened by the terrible news.

- Professor Delia North (UKZN)

*His twinkling eyes and wicked sense of humour is legendary!*

Terribly shocked – too sad for words. Such a lovely person. Tim was special - I am so very sad – as well as all the interaction I had with him at & after SASA 2007, for ICOTS9, ISI & IASE, on the African YS competition of 2013, on mentoring, & on school assessment, criteria & standards, we hosted each other as “tourists”.  
- Helen Mac Gillivray (Australia)

These are very sad news for us all who knew Tim. We will miss him and his friendly smile! If you have a chance, please let his family know how much he is appreciated and will be missed world around - Pedro Luis do Nascimento Silva (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

I find this extremely sad news. Tim was a wonderful man who contributed so much to our Association and Statistics Education around the world as well as within Africa. Over the years I worked closely with Tim and to receive such news is a great shock. I recall the very happy times we had at various conferences and his excellent insights into planning. - John Harraway (New Zealand).

Very saddened by the news about Tim Dunne. We had some wonderful chats over the years, and he did great work for IASE at ICOTS9 and elsewhere. Another reminder that our world is random.  
- Iddo Gal, Israel



Tim with HDM2008 conference delegates, Kayseri, Turkey, June 2008



April 2016



Special moments with Tim Dunne



## Tribute: The Quintessential Academic

It is my special privilege to present a tribute to Tim Dunne on behalf of the University community and of the Statistics community both here in South Africa and around the world.

The story begins at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg in the 1970s. I like to think that these were Tim's formative academic years. I first met him in Statistics Honours. Tim was a mature student and I a slightly more mature student. Both of us were lecturing in Statistics, as was then so often the way. When I look back to those early days, I recognize the interwoven strands of Tim's academic career, "The University" and "Academic Scholarship". To begin with "The University": Tim was a student activist and fiercely anti-apartheid. He had been the President of the SRC in Pietermaritzburg and later Deputy President of the National Union of South African Students. I was nervous of meeting him, but here was a man who was charming, humble and concerned for all. Tim loved the history of the University of Natal and all that the university stood for. He was a great friend of the Schreiner family and his love of all things academic was nurtured by Professor Deneys Schreiner, then Principal of the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg. Tim once told me that Deneys instructed him never to miss an inaugural lecture and indeed, thereafter, Tim never did.

And now, "Academic Scholarship".

Tim already had degrees in Education and in Mathematics Honours when he embarked on the Statistics Honours course. A most famous story was of his graduation, on completing Honours, when a Tim Dunne whom no one recognised was called to the stage to be capped. Tim confessed to us afterwards that he was trimming his beard, a little to the right, a little to the left, but somehow it was never symmetric. And so he shaved it off.

The years after Honours were a time of consolidation. Our mentor was Professor Arthur Rayner, a formidable man, until one got to know him, with a formidable intellect and a passion for generalised inverse matrices. We were not in general enthused with these matrices, apart from Tim. For him, he told me once, the symbols and the characters danced. It was a perfect fit, the Mathematics and Tim's inimitable handwriting. We duly attended a conference in Johannesburg and Tim gave a beautifully structured lecture on generalised inverse matrices. But there was one, Professor Cas Troskie from the University of Cape Town, in the audience who recognised Tim's fine potential. And so the University of Natal lost one of its favourite sons.

Tim moved to the University of Cape Town in 1981.

To begin with, "The University".

Tim was a wonderful person to have in any department. There was always a kind word, a random thought, a probing question or a wicked probability problem. One of the problems involved some indistinguishable pencils. I would tell you about the problem but we are still working on it. Tim engaged individually with staff and students alike and was particularly caring of the younger members of staff. It was only natural that he became Head of Department, a position which he held for two terms. Tim was always involved with broad student matters. He was deputy warden of Leo Marquard Hall and Warden of College House and gave generously of his pastoral care.

For the staff at the University, Tim was a champion. He served on innumerable committees, far too many to mention. He was always principled, always fair and never afraid to speak out for what he

believed in. Tim loved the University of Cape Town, its buildings, its traditions, the characters and the students. He was particularly proud of the stance the University took against apartheid.

And now, “Academic Scholarship”.

Tim joined the Department of Statistical Sciences and completed his doctorate with Cas Troskie. He followed the usual trajectory of a fine academic, from Lecturer to Full Professor.

Tim produced some formidable papers in Statistics and, more latterly, in Education, many with his Ph.D. students. But his love of people spilled over into the national arena and he was duly recognized by the South African Statistical Association. Here was a Statistician who was outgoing, with a great breadth of knowledge, and one who was principled and willing to serve. Tim was President of the Association and remained a leading figure within it thereafter. More recently, he served on the Education Committee of the Association and facilitated the funding of bursaries and grants for students to attend international conferences. Tim travelled widely to conferences and spent sabbaticals in the United States and in Australia. He made friends wherever he went, with people who enjoyed his charm and his superb intellect. And so his love of people spilled over into the international arena. He joined many international societies and in time hosted and organised many international conferences. One of the first of these was at the University of Cape Town in December 1996. Tim organised the conference almost single-handedly. An American visitor asked him where he was going for Christmas, and Tim, with his usual good humour, replied, “My dear, I am going to sleep”. For Tim, it was a natural transition from conference organising to international statistical committees. The International Statistical Institute sent a tribute to Tim that ended with the following words: “Professor Dunne's death is an enormous loss for the Institute and we will miss him greatly”.



Tim Dunne: The Quintessential Academic:

I have tried to convey to you something of the collegiality of the academic community. It is not possible to recount all that Tim did and indeed achieved in that arena. We have many wonderful memories of him. We will tell, and we will retell, the stories of Tim for many years to come, of his kindness, his exploits, his formidable intellect and his impact on the Universities of Natal and Cape Town and on the Statistics community both here and around the world.

- Emeritus Professor Linda Haines

# UCT Obituary

We shall remember him

Tim Dunne trained as a mathematics teacher before completing his later studies in mathematics and statistics at the University of Natal and his doctorate in mathematical statistics at UCT. He joined the UCT academic staff in 1981 and was a member of the Department of Statistical Sciences for more than three decades until his retirement at the end of 2013. He served as head of the department for eight years and was very involved in many UCT committees. He loved UCT, especially the history of the university and the campus buildings.

He was a fellow, and a past president, of the South African Statistical Association. Over the years he served on the Councils of the International Biometric Society and the International Statistical Institute. He organised national and international conferences and workshops in various statistical disciplines. He served on the Council of UMALUSI, the body with oversight responsibility for school-leaving examinations in South Africa. His interests included the Schools Development Unit at UCT of which he was a board member.

Prof Dunne's academic interests during the latter part of his career involved the study of Rasch modelling and analysis of educational test performances. It was his passionate belief that these new technologies could contribute to the improvement of the numeracy and mathematics levels in South African schools and universities. He was a highly intelligent man with an exceptional insight into the theory and application of statistics. He would often send his colleagues interesting probability problems or questions in logic to contemplate. He was very articulate but would never say something in five words if he could use 10 and then would throw in a phrase of Latin for good measure as well.

He will be particularly remembered for his social conscience, always concerned about the welfare of others and the upliftment of society. His colleagues remember him for his kindness, his mentorship, his encouragement and support to each and every one on an individual level. He had a unique impact on the lives of each and every student he came in contact with, not only teaching them statistics but preparing them for life.

Through his untimely death at the age of 67, UCT and the South African academic community have lost a very special man who will be remembered for his intellect, his integrity, his humour, and his generosity. We will treasure his legacy for a long time to come.

Siyabonga Tim. Hamba kahle.

