



30 June 2019

To Whom It May Concern
UCT Naming of Buildings Committee

Proposal for Naming: Gary Marsden Boardroom

Proposed by Hussein Suleman, with support of and on behalf of the Staff of the Department of Computer Science

I propose that the meeting room within the Centre in ICT for Development (ICT4D) in the Department of Computer Science, on floor 3A of the Computer Science Building, be named the **Gary Marsden Boardroom**, to honour and acknowledge the contributions of the late Prof. Gary Marsden to the department, faculty, UCT and the international research community.

Prof. Gary Marsden was a full professor of Computer Science who joined UCT in 2000 and worked at UCT until his untimely death in December 2013. He was well-known and well-respected at the university, within the South African ICT fraternity and within the broader international research communities in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) and ICT4D. He was a B2-rated researcher and has a current h-index of 31 on Google Scholar.

Gary was the founding director of the Centre in ICT4D, an accredited research group within the university with a focus on computing solutions to human and socio-economic development problems. His research was recognised internationally, evidenced by numerous publications in leading venues and concomitant citations, and a multitude of leading international researchers who visited UCT as a consequence. His book - Mobile Interaction Design - is considered a seminal work on the design of mobile applications, especially for and in poor communities.

As testament to his stature within the ICT4D community, he hosted and served as the general chair of the ICTD2013 international conference, the leading conference in ICT4D. He was invited to address the UK Royal Society; and he was recognised with a Social Impact Award by ACM SIGCHI, the premier international society for professionals, academics and students involved in human-technology and human-computer interaction (HCI). In 2015, SIGCHI established the Gary Marsden Student Development fund to empower students from poor countries to participate in HCI and related conferences, as a fitting tribute from the international community in the spirit of what Gary valued most.

Gary was also an accomplished teacher, having earned a UCT Distinguished Teacher's Award and a national Excellence in Teaching and Learning Award from HELTASA in 2012. He is fondly remembered by all his students for exceptional and inspiring lectures on various topics in Computer Science.

Within the South African research community, he was Vice-President of the South African Institute for Computer Scientists and Information Technologists (SAICSIT) from 2004-2008. He was general chair of the SAICSIT 2011 conference, and an active member of the HCI community in

South Africa.

Gary's research focused on solving problems in marginalized communities in South Africa and Africa in general. Some of his projects included: technologies for content-sharing in poor communities; technology to support education using mobile devices; and low-cost storytelling and the preservation of cultural heritage.

Gary was a champion of postgraduate students. He was the founding coordinator of the first Hasso Plattner Institute (HPI) PhD School outside of Germany, established on the topic of ICT4D at UCT. Through this initiative he recruited, managed and supported a cohort of PhD students from African countries, many of whom looked upon him as a mentor, friend and father figure during their tenure at UCT.

Some may argue that Gary Marsden should not be recognised in this manner because he had the wrong skin colour. What should matter more, however, is the unsurpassed extent of his contributions to the training of students in Africa. The programmes and projects he developed at UCT, like the conversion Masters in IT degree and the Centre in ICT4D, are an enduring legacy that continue to transform society and address the most pressing needs of the most vulnerable people.

It is thus for his vision, passion for teaching and research, dedication to students and intense desire to improve the lives of Africans that I propose we honour him in perpetuity through an appropriate naming of the meeting room in a physical space at the confluence of postgraduate studies and research in ICT4D, a space that he originally designed and developed, where he can be remembered and serve to inspire current and future generations of students and researchers in ICT4D.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Suleman', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

H. Suleman, PhD.
Head of Department and Associate Professor