

LAUDATIO:
A MOST REMARKABLE MAN

By Lynda Baroness Chalker of Wallasey



Most who write about Stuart will have known him far longer than I have, but ours has been a constant and enduring link since I was first taken to the University of Cape Town in 1987. My first and lasting image of Stuart is his proud defiance while leading UCT students in one of the many anti-apartheid marches. Of course he did so much more than march. He was once described to me by a person of note, not known for his swearing, as that b*** UCT Professor. Stuart campaigned long and hard for the ending of apartheid, and also for the needs of all his students, as well as for reforms in medicine and its teaching, for which so many have reason to be grateful.

For those of us from overseas, Stuart was the quiet dependable voice of reason, the well informed and highly committed academic who could always be relied upon to give advice and guidance for those who might not be up to date with the latest twists and turns of SA politics. Many ambassadors have real reason to be grateful for his guidance as well as this United Kingdom Minister for Africa. He never shied away from the difficult questions, and his advice was often used although he was by no means always acknowledged for it. That would have been much too embarrassing.

Since I left office I have had the wonderful benefit of being treated as a very dear personal friend, and the dinners which Anita and Stuart have treated us to have always been memorable for Stuart's humour and story telling, to say nothing of his skills as the Sommelier.

Stuart continues to be indefatigable as a money raiser for UCT, although we have to allow him more rest and time with Anita as the years go on. But the United Kingdom end of the UCT Trust will always be grateful to him as the constant reminder of all that has been the best in a UCT Professor and Vice Chancellor. My greatest personal joy of late was his presence, despite the high temperature outside, at

the conferment of my Honorary Doctorate of laws in December 2010 in Jameson Hall.

Stuart has been a fine Professor of Medicine, and outstanding Vice-Chancellor, a remarkable advocate for UCT students in all disciplines, a wise counsellor and one of the greatest ambassadors for South Africa, using his common sense and valuable ability to debate to win over people of all races, in many countries and under amazing pressure.



BARONESS LYNDA CHALKER OF WALLASEY served as Member of Parliament for Wallasey for eighteen years, as the United Kingdom Minister for Africa for almost twelve and as Minister for Development for eight. She formed her own consultancy company fourteen years ago and now advises governments and businesses on investments in Africa. She considers herself fortunate to be a friend of Stuart and Anita Saunders. As a Member of the United Kingdom Trust for the University of Cape Town, she takes an active interest in developing different aspects of university work, whether in engineering or finding medical cures for neglected tropical diseases. She is often known across the continent as 'Mama Africa'.

