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	J. O'Meara.	Phone: 22-2070.

LIST OF RECENT ARRIVALS.

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UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

DEPARTMENT OF EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES

Tel. Cape Town 69-4531



Woolsack Road,
Rosebank, Cape Town.

Ref. B17

To U.C.T. Graduates, Cape.

24 June 1954.

We are writing to you as a UCT graduate to let you know about a new activity of the University. It may interest you, and you may be willing to help.

People who want to be mentally alive know how important, and how difficult, it is to keep up with modern developments and to relate these with established principles; also, they sometimes want to overhaul their philosophies of life - to evaluate and reinterpret their own experiences. Such people look naturally to the Universities to help them: for Universities are concerned with searching for knowledge, preserving it, and spreading it amongst all who wish to learn - whether or not they have previously been University students.

The University of Cape Town (Board of Extra-Mural Studies) has for some time begun to meet this demand by offering public lectures and courses on a wide variety of subjects, including literature, psychology, drama, business management, anthropology, music, health, history, economics, politics, international affairs, geology, astronomy, race relations, engineering, surveying, painting, sculpture, town planning, education, zoology, the cinema, philosophy, physics, chemistry, law, atomic energy, biology, geography, meteorology, population movements, commerce. The lectures are open to all, are followed by full and free discussion, and are usually in the evenings when most people can attend. There are no examinations, and fees are nominal.

So far, except for a small beginning made in Worcester, these facilities have had to be restricted to Cape Town because we have not had the resources to extend to other centres. However, we have now decided to explore the possibilities of holding public lectures and courses in country towns. It seems that there are two main difficulties: first, difficulties due to there being a small population spread over a wide area; second, we cannot be directly responsible for local arrangements in a large number of centres - particularly those at a distance from our office in Cape Town. As for the first, we might concentrate our limited resources in the large centres - Cape Town, Worcester, Paarl, and so on; but this would involve offering nothing to people who may feel intellectually rather isolated in the smaller places. So we want to find out which centres - big or small - have an active nucleus of those who will welcome and support a programme of University Extra-Mural lectures and discussions. We aim at bringing the lecturers to such centres, but we must first find out where the demand is likely to be keen. In order to test the demand in a reasonably large number of different centres we have to make the fullest possible use of the time of our lecturers; so, as an exploratory step, we propose

1. That UCT study-groups be organised in various centres;
2. That each group meets once a week on 4 to 6 occasions to listen to, and discuss, a recorded lecture which we will supply - to be played on a tape-recording machine; we will arrange also for illustrations and books to be available;
3. That the lecturer himself will then visit each group for a full session of questions and discussion.

In this way, lecturers' time will be concentrated on meeting groups of people who are already prepared. Then, if the scheme begins to work well with recorded lectures, it may be possible to arrange for them to be broadcast and, eventually, to dispense with these artificial aids and for the lectures to be given by the tutors personally.

Regarding the second difficulty, responsibility for local arrangements in each centre, we want - at least at first - to offer the opportunity to graduates of our own University. Hence this letter. I would like to suggest that, in each centre, those of our graduates who are interested should discuss the project together; I would then be glad to try to visit them and to make definite arrangements. I suggest in each place an ad hoc committee of UCT graduates

(electing a Chairman) to undertake general local responsibility, and the appointment of an honorary secretary (not necessarily a graduate or from UCT) to see to details. We could then try a few courses and make adjustments when we see how things develop.

Now a few further points:

If this plan succeeds, I shall need to keep in touch with many centres - some probably at fair distances from Cape Town; so I hope to be able to count on help from present students at UCT, who go home in vacations but whom I can readily meet here during term.

This letter is intended for all UCT graduates in the Cape. So if you know of any who have not received it, our lists may be at fault: please tell us their names and addresses, also any corrections needed in your own name and address on this envelope.

Finally, it will obviously be easier for us to send lecturers to centres not too far from Cape Town. But we will extend as far as possible if enough interest is shown. There is, at least, no reason why the recorded lectures should not be sent far afield: for even without a personal visit from the lecturer a great deal can be got by a group which meets regularly to hear recorded lectures and then discusses them actively. Still, we will send lecturers in person whenever possible.

I am hoping to visit country towns during July in order to meet UCT graduates who are interested in helping to start this scheme. So will you please reply at once? The form below may serve.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Sargeant

Geoff Sargeant,
DIRECTOR OF EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN.

To: Director of Extra-Mural Studies,
University of Cape Town, Rosebank, Cape.

G76c
Rec'd.:

From: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Dr/ /
[Initials & name in BLOCK letters]

Address
.....

Phone ? Home Other

Years at UCT Degree

General Comments [on letter B17 of 24 June 54]:

Suggestions as to subjects &/or lecturers:

Names & addresses of other UCT graduates in district [Please write on back ->]

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