

Professor Graeme Hugo

Faculty of Arts

16 September 2015, 2.00pm

Chancellor, today we are honouring the late Professor Graeme Hugo.

Graeme Hugo attended Findon High School, winning the state's Lewis Medal as best geography student, before coming to the University of Adelaide, where he completed a BA (Honours) in Geography, while concurrently attending Adelaide Teachers' College and qualifying as a secondary school teacher. He completed his MA at Flinders University and his PhD at the Australian National University. Following holding academic positions at Flinders, he returned to the University of Adelaide in 1991 as Professor of Geography. In recent years he held positions at The University of Adelaide as Professorial Research Fellow in the Department of Geography, Environment and Population in the School of Social Sciences as well as the Director of the Australian Population and Migration Research Centre in the Faculty of Arts. He held visiting positions at the Universities of Iowa, Hawaii, ANU and Hasanuddin, Indonesia, and positions on advisory boards and councils of many Commonwealth and State government departments and their agencies.

Geography was his lifelong passion, and his many hundreds of publications and substantial impact were truly international. At his death he was the world's leading scholar and expert on demographics and migrations around Southeast Asia, especially Indonesia and Australia, and, at the University, irreplaceable. His work was commissioned by the United Nations, the International Labour Office, the OECD and the World Bank. He held executive appointments, including that of National President, in the Australian Population Association. Constantly on the move, he networked supremely across Australia and overseas.

At the same time, with the assistance of his colleagues, he supervised over 70 Higher Degree Research students to completion. Many of his students now hold senior academic and government positions across the world. With his background and experience as a school teacher, he was eager to speak to school students, especially those from our more disadvantaged schools and suburbs, as he felt his story, of coming from a working class and working suburb family with no tradition of university education could inspire others to aim high.

Prof Hugo was awarded numerous grants by the ARC (including Federation and Professorial Fellowships) and the NH&MRC. He was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and among his many other awards were the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award from Flinders University, the 2012 J P Thompson Medal of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and the Institute of Australian Geographers' Australia-International Medal in July 2014. An engaged and engaging teacher, he was also the recipient of the University of Adelaide's Stephen Cole the Elder Prize in 1995 and the 2002 Geography Teachers' Association of South Australia Award for his outstanding contribution to teaching geography in South Australian schools.

Graeme was an invaluable, unique and modest colleague whose death deeply affected many at the University who knew him personally and who had worked with him professionally. A mark of his personal impact and the loyalty, many of his staff moved with him from institution to institution, and at his death several of the staff in Australian Population and Migration Research Centre had been with him for over 30 years. With his passing, his colleagues have continued to supervise his students, work on his projects and complete his research publications, where possible, in order that his legacy can continue. To them he was family, as we could see from the generations of scholars who attended his memorial service along with his family and hundreds of other mourners at the Adelaide Oval.

Chancellor, for distinguished service to population research and for his leadership roles with national and international organisations I am proud to propose the late Professor Graeme Hugo, Officer in the Order of Australia, Master of Arts, Doctor of Philosophy, Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, for the award of the degree of Doctor of Arts, *honoris causa*, and I invite his partner Sharon to receive it on his behalf.