

THE EDGE

NEWS FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF WITS JUNE 2023



One-of-a-kind sports complex

The University hosted a ground-breaking ceremony for the [Wits Brian and Dorothy Zylstra Sports Complex](#). This flagship Centenary Project was made possible by a generous R250 million legacy investment from the Zylstra family and the Skye Foundation. A special publication [Wits Sport 100: 1922-2022](#) by Jonty Winch (Wits 2023) was also launched to celebrate a century of the University's sporting history.



Fine boost for innovation



The multi-disciplinary [Wits Innovation Centre](#) was officially launched "to solve real-world problems confronting our planet". Thanks to a generous donation from Dr David Fine (BSc Hon 1964), the new David Fine Chair in Innovation has also been established. Prof Fine shared his own experience in innovation during the April graduation ceremony when he accepted an [honorary doctorate](#) from the University.

[More Wits news](#) and [Alumni news](#)

WITSIES WITH EDGE



Best olive oil producer in the world

Rob Still
"The essence of life is creativity"

[Read more](#)

First K21 Global Art Award

Senzeni Marasela
The famous red dress goes global

[Read more](#)



High honour for an engineer

Dr Frank Crundwell
"Use a non-linear approach to problem-solving"

[Read more](#)

President's honour

Two Witsies [Dr Aboubaker "Bucker" Dangor](#) and [Professor Vhangwele Masindi](#) were awarded the [Order of Mapungubwe \(Bronze\)](#) by President Cyril Ramaphosa. Dr Dangor was acknowledged for his "distinguished contribution to the field of science through his ground-breaking research in physics", while Dr Masindi was praised for his contribution to finding solutions for water scarcity in environmental science.

[More alumni achievements](#)

WITSIE PROFILES



A slice of life in Joburg

Samantha Nell
"We're a mess, but we get on with things"

[Read more](#)



From the "wokedest" club in London

Paul van Zyl
"The roots of my activism are very connected to Wits"

[Read more](#)



What to do with chances

Gary Bailey
"I was this gangly 17-year-old... then magic happened"

[Read more](#)

FLASHBACK



Letters from my younger self

Claude Cunningham
"We paid our 50c and then had unlimited quantities of beer"

[Read more](#)



How my little bubble burst at Wits

Tendani Mulaudzi
"Private schooling made me complacent and lazy"

[Read more](#)

WITSIES4LIFE



Professor Margo Steele
Wits University honoured its former Head of the School of Accountancy, by celebrating her 90th birthday on 13 May 2023. She made an indelible impact on numerous alumni.

[Read more](#)



Professor Barry Dwolatzky
The Wits community bid farewell to the "Grand Geek", Vice-Chancellor [Professor Zebion Vlakazi](#) and [Professor Estelle Tsanyova](#) shared memories of him.

[Read more](#)

Let us know about academics who contributed to your professional development. alumni@wits.ac.za

SAVE THE DATES

We'd love to see you there!

Umhlanga Reunion
3 August 2023

Founders' Tea
3 September 2023

Rounding up Witsies in TEXAS

Dallas: 6 September
Austin: 7 September
Houston: 10 September
San Antonio: 12 September

Enquiries: events.alumni@wits.ac.za

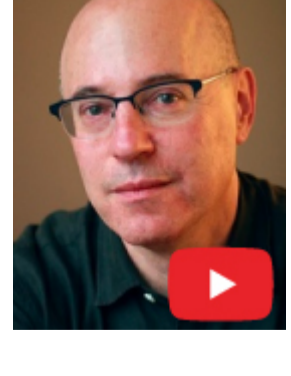
THE WRITING EDGE



"It's about bringing things to life"

Charles van Onselen
Historian chats to [Hamilton Wende](#) about his latest "Three Wise Monkeys"

[Read more](#)



"Real, flawed human beings"

Jonny Steinberg
The marriage between Nelson and Winnie Mandela embodies the tale of modern South Africa

[Read more](#)

Catch up on more Witsies with the [Writing Edge](#)

REMEMBER TO GIVE

Your support is key to Wits remaining a national treasure. Find out how to make a monthly, annual or once-off contribution now.

DONATE

