

THE EDGE

NEWS FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF WITS



Campus ready for staggered opening

The University has developed a schedule for the planned return of students and staff at level three and subsequent levels of the national lockdown. Approximately 500 final year medical students returned to the University in May, while approximately 4 000 members of the Wits community plan to return in June and about 10 000 in July. A [COVID-19 screening app](#) has been developed for staff members with permits to be on campus and students who have been invited to return.



From the president

President of the Wits Convocation, Stacey Lee Bolon, writes that Wits has shown resilience and innovation during this time of crisis.

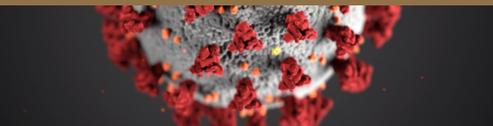
For more WITS news click [here](#)

Why we need universities

Vice-Chancellor Adam Habib and Professor Imraan Valodia, Dean of the Wits Commerce, Law and Management Faculty argue universities have an important role to play in shaping a post-crisis world.

- They also contributed towards a Jonathan Ball e-book, along with other Witsies, looking at [challenges facing a post-pandemic world](#).

COVID-19 RESEARCH NEWS



A five-minute breath test

At the end of June, Professor Francois Venter and his [Ezintsha group](#) will begin a trial for a new, non-invasive COVID-19 breath test.

Live coronavirus harvest

Professor Baveesh Kana (BSc 1997, MSc 1998, PhD 2002) and Dr Bhavna Gordhan (BSc 1988, MSc 1989, PhD 1994) made a remarkable breakthrough by harvesting live coronavirus as an additional control for validating tests.

For more COVID-19 news click [here](#)

#WITSIES4GOOD



Shalene Selkirk, a PhD student and lecturer in structural geology, has reached out to those in need. Her organisation provides shelter for the homeless and distributes food. Watch her story [here](#).



Wits-educated scientist [Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong](#) (MBBCh 1975) is credited with saving former Senator Harry M Reid's life with experimental cancer treatment.

We invite fellow alumni to share their #Witsies4Good story by emailing alumni@wits.ac.za

TOP OF THE LIST

Five alumni have made [Forbes Africa's list of 50 Most Powerful Women](#) in its March edition.



Wendy Appelbaum



Professor Glenda Gray



Dr Judy Dlamini



Dr Phuzile Mlambo-Ngcuka



Thuli Madonsela

#WITSIE4LIFE



As a true Witsie4life, [Professor Stephen Eisenstein](#) (BCom 1961, MBBCh 1968, PhD 1980) still flies his vintage DeHavilland Tiger Moth biplane, a hobby which he took up while studying at Wits. Through his work as orthopedic surgeon he has become a minor celebrity in Shropshire, UK for relieving his patients' debilitating pain. His family shared his remarkable story to honour his 80th birthday.

WITSIES WITH EDGE



[Professor Jeffrey Linman](#) (MBBCh 1972) and [Dr Roger Pillemer](#) (MBBCh 1965) have been recognised in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Awards.



[Dr Lauren Hutton](#) (MBBCh 2010) has been awarded the prestigious 2019 Tim Quan Medal by the Senate of the College of Medicine South Africa.



[Professor Lizette Koekemoer](#) (PhD 1999) received the Kwame Nkrumah Award for Scientific Excellence for her contribution to the field of malaria vector control.



[Dr Dalia Saad](#) (MSc 2011, PhD 2013) is a recipient of the prestigious 2020 FLAIR research fellowship.



[Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim](#) (BSc Hons 1984) was awarded prestigious Christophe Merieux Prize for work done at Centre for the AIDS Programme Research in South Africa (Caprisa).

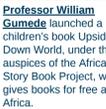


[Dr Nduka Mntambo](#) (BA DA 2006 MA 2010) won the Best Visual Art award for his installation Asymmetries at the 2020 Humanities and Social Sciences Awards.

BOOKS AND STORIES



[Professor William Gumede](#) launched a children's book Upside Down World, under the auspices of the African Story Book Project, which gives books for free across Africa.



[Alborcah Tokologo Rathupetsane's](#) short story "The Faraway Things" was shortlisted for 2020 Commonwealth Short Story Prize.

CAREER JOURNEYS



Sunday Times Lifestyle publisher [Aspasia Karras](#) (BA 1994, PDM 1995, MM 1999) profiled career trajectories of several Wits alumnae in her series How She Does It: [Lara Foot](#) (BA DA 1990), [Professor Estelle Trengrove](#) (BSc 1990, MSc 2001, PhD 2012, PGDip 2016), [Fatima Vadwa](#) (BSc 1993, BSc Hon 1994, MSc 1995, HDip CompSci 1997) and [Dr Philippa Tumubweine](#) (BArch 2003).



Two Witsies feature in radio podcasts that profile young professionals having frank conversations about their relationship with money.



[Cikida Ccali](#) (BSc Eng 2014) Senior Customer Strategy and Operations Manager at UberEats, tackles her challenges head-on.



Listen to [Mpho Manyala-Chitani](#) (LLB 2013) Nedbank's Head Legal Group Technology share how to deal with "black tax".

MULTIMEDIA



[Wits Impacts for Good podcasts](#). Listen to this series with Eusebius McKaiser connecting with researchers from Wits University to interrogate the contributions they're making.



We invite you to attend a Webinar with guest speaker Fatima Vawda. Talk: The Evolution of the South African Savings and Investments Industry Register [here](#).



[Professor Lee Berger](#) has produced a series of online video lectures giving a fascinating inside look at the University's world-renowned fossil vault.

[Giving to Wits](#)

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