

# WITSReview

The magazine for **ALUMNI** and friends of the University of the Witwatersrand



SHIRT USED BY NELSON MANDELA  
LONG LIFE MADIBA.

(BY JANE MAKHUBELE)



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**Cover:** Beaded artwork, "Long life Madiba", by Jane Makhubela. Part of a collection recording major events in Mandela's life in the Mandela Institute, Wits School of Law.

- Best External Magazine 2012 (SA Publication Forum)
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# WITSReview

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# Managing global conflicts on campus

*Adam Habib and Loyiso Nongxa*

**T**here is a global conflict playing out in the corridors of Wits University. On the one hand, there are the advocates of the Palestinian struggle who are calling for the academic and cultural isolation of Israel. On the other, there are members of the Zionist lobby, who oppose any such attempt to isolate Israel. In between these two groups, there are multiple shades of opinion, most of which are crowded out in the acrimonious public discourse over the issue. Moreover, the contestation at Wits over these controversies has raised significant managerial challenges, some of which have been covered in the media.

We are of course not surprised that Wits has become one of the primary platforms for this conflict. It is after all one of the great academic institutions of the African continent and one of the most vibrant universities in this country, located in South Africa's commercial heartland. Winning a significant political platform for one's position at Wits provides one with access to a highly influential constituency in the country. We believe that this is why both sides have targeted Wits in such an aggressive way.

Another reason could be the remarkable transformation that has taken place at Wits in the last two decades – not just in terms of its student demographics but through the diversity of its people, programmes and ideas that bring to the fore divergent views on complex issues. Wits has sizeable communities that belong to the major religions of the world like Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, and others, perhaps one of the most complex social microcosms in the country. This concentration of multiple views and ideas in one intellectual space automatically makes Wits a compelling platform on which contentious issues are raised and debated, and it is not surprising that a globally divisive issue like Israel-Palestine should command passionate attention.

For the first time in its history, Wits appointed a Vice-Chancellor of African ancestry in 2003, and then a Muslim to its top post in 2013. Given that Adam Habib has a Muslim and political background, religious and political activists on both sides have clearly been galvanised by the appointment, either fearing or hoping for a change in Wits' position on Israel. Yet both sides have made a fundamental mistake by treating Wits and its Vice-Chancellor as synonymous. Wits is greater than its Vice-Chancel-



lor or any other members of its Executive team. The Executive holds diverse views on this and many other issues. Moreover, when the Vice-Chancellor and the Executive act, they do so in a capacity beyond their individual ideological or religious predispositions. They act to advance the mandate of the University, a key element of which is to retain the institution as a free space for competing ideas.

This is why we welcome a thorough debate on issues related to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and others, in an open and tolerant environment. We expect and allow for freedom of expression and protests on key issues. We recognise that this is part of the learning experience of our students, where they can become active citizens of this country and our world. At the same time, we also demand that while debate and protests happen, they do so within the parameters and boundaries established by our collective university community, and within the laws of our country. When students protested against the concert of the German-domiciled Israeli pianist, we had no problem with the act of protest. But when 11 members of the Wits community allegedly violated university rules, impinged on the rights of others, broke up the concert, and in effect violated academic freedom, we

then acted and subjected them to disciplinary hearings. To ensure that such disciplinary processes were fair and independent, we appointed outside legal expertise to preside over the hearings.

We are a university that shares the values enshrined in our Constitution. We believe that those values enable the building of a world-class, cosmopolitan university with an African orientation. Those principles also allow for a plurality of interpretation of how they translate into specific political situations. These interpretations we leave to our academics, students, alumni and their organisational expressions. Rarely do we as a collective translate these values into specific political situations. And in the rare cases that we do, as we did under apartheid, the decision is made through a laborious process of continuous consultation and decision-making by every single stakeholder associated with the institution, and every single structure within it including its SRC, academics, support staff, convocation, alumni, senate, council, clubs and societies.

*Prof. Adam Habib assumed office as Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Wits on 1 June 2013 from Dr Loyiso Nongxa.*



# Letters from our readers

## **Wits recognised and respected for its research**

Dear Editor,

First off, thank you for this magnificent publication. Not only is it informative and tremendously interesting, but beautifully produced as well! And now it comes as an iPad app. There seems to be no end to the creativity and passion of Alumni Relations!

Unfortunately, however, I must take issue with something that appeared in the most recent edition (*WITSReview* April 2013): the remarks by the Rector of RAU (or whatever it's called now), Ihron Rensburg, on the appointment of Adam Habib as Wits' new VC. In it Professor Rensburg asserts that Wits' research has stalled for the last 20 years. The question is, how would he know?

I attended RAU for a year during my Masters. It struck me at the time as akin to a glorified high school. And I can assure Professor Rensburg, no one in Australia that I have met in the 15 years I have been an academic here has ever heard of it. To claim

that Wits' research has stalled is not only factually incorrect, it also diminishes and disrespects the magnificent contribution made by Wits researchers – his colleagues in the academy – throughout Wits' history, especially during the last 20 years. That may be why Wits is recognised and respected for its research the world over. His institution is not. And these are not just my views. International surveys attest to this, and are on the public record.

I have no doubt that deeper collaboration between Wits and Professor Rensburg's university would predominantly be to the benefit of the latter. And that is perfectly acceptable. Wits helping RAU/UJ is after all to the greater glory of scholarship. But in accepting help from a world renowned institution, it would be appropriate for Professor Rensburg to desist from rubbishing Wits' great and enviable name.

**Adv Andy Schmulow (BA 1993; BA Hons 1994; LLB 1998) Melbourne, Australia**  
andyschmulow@icloud.com

**ERRATUM:** *It was reported in the January 2013 WITSReview that Professor Albert Solomon holds degrees in Medicine and Engineering from Wits, and that he was active at Baragwanath Hospital until 1974. In fact, Professor Solomon is an alumnus of the Medical School only, and his tenure at Baragwanath ran until 1979. WITSReview regrets the inaccuracies.*



*Medically fit: The Wits Rugby Disciples team on tour in 1964 against the UCT Saints.*

*(Back L-R) John Penhall; Fraser Aitken; Jules Zulman; John Boden; Mike Wright; Mac Rogan; Lindsay MacMillan; John Kalk; Anton Scheepers (Front L-R): Des Dalrymple; Mike Jankowitz; James Walker; Pete Thompson; Alan Baskind; Keith Kanarek*

### Following the Disciples Rugby Club

Dear Editor

It is great to see that Wits has regained its position as one of the leading rugby playing universities in the country by being admitted to the Varsity Cup (*WR* April 2013).

Medical students always played a major role in rugby at Wits, mainly because of the length of the course. However, the nature of the course also made it difficult to attend practices regularly. In 1963, Ian Samson, Farrell Spiro, John Boden and I decided there were enough enthusiastic students to form a Medical School social rugby team. And so the Disciples Rugby Club was born. We designed a badge and made a tie. Professor DJ du Plessis, Professor of Surgery, became our President.

We played a number of social games in that first year. A highlight was that we were allowed to play at Intervarsity. We planned a tour to play UCT and Stellenbosch Medical School teams the following year. This was the turning point for the club. Such was the enthusiasm and interest that we became

hard pressed to give everyone a regular place in the team. We became established at Intervarsity and for many years played against the Onderstepoort Veterinary college team, often being the only Wits team to record a win at Intervarsity.

Dr Norman Helfand, then President of the Rugby Club, suggested we become the official 3rd team at Wits. This status remained for many years and we had the honour of winning the league a couple of times.

The Club remained in existence for many years. Hundreds of students, including a few non-medical students, enjoyed many hours of socialising with colleagues. As it is the 50th anniversary of the founding of Disciples, I thought it would be pertinent to remember those, past and present, who donned the jersey and sank a pint or two. Maybe there is even enough interest for a reunion sometime this year. Should anyone be interested in such an event, they can contact me on [wrightm@global.co.za](mailto:wrightm@global.co.za).

**Dr Mike Wright (MBBCh 1965)** *Simonstown*

*(This letter has been shortened. Ed.)*



## Long in the tooth dentists reunite

Ten alumni from the Dental class of 1963 reunited at the Indaba Hotel, Johannesburg, on 13 May 2013 for their 50th anniversary. Dr David Jankelowitz and Dr Leonard Danilowitz convened the reunion.

## Yebo Gogga Yebo amaBlomo goes underground

Yebo Gogga Yebo amaBlomo is a unique annual exhibition at Wits celebrating plants and animals. Hosted by the Wits School of Animal, Plants and Environmental Sciences, it combines interactive displays, demonstrations and talks by experts on nature. More than 5 000 alumni, schoolchildren and members of the public experienced live bugs, creepy-crawlies, creatures and plants – as well as a few extinct ones – from 8-12 May at the Oppenheimer Life Sciences building. The tenth annual event, themed “Underground”, featured 31 exhibitors displaying the likes of devil’s worm – a species discovered in 2011 living in searing heat 3,5km underground – , the popular annual bug fry-up of edible insects, “the power of slime”, the “underground tree movement”, bees, earthworms, cockroaches, parasites, frogs, and subterranean spiders.

Members of the class of '63 gathered for their first reunion in Sun City, North West Province in 1988 for their 25th anniversary. They subsequently met in Israel in 1998 for their 35th reunion and the 40th reunion was in the Kruger Park in 2003.

Alumni in attendance who still practise dentistry include Prof. Zeev Abrahams, Prof. Peter Cleaton-Jones (Wits Medical School), Dr David Jankelowitz, Dr Michael Hellig (Wits Dental School) and Dr Arthur Wright. Dr Leonard Danilowitz, Dr Leonard Zybutz, Prof. Eliakim Mizrahi and Dr Arnold Gould have retired. Dr Bill Christie, Dr Lodie Vogel and Prof. Percival Sadowsky were unable to attend and Dr Fred van der Merwe and Prof. Eli Gottlieb have passed away.

*Back (l-r): Dr Michael Hellig, Dr Leonard Danilowitz, Dr Arthur Wright, Dr Leonard Zybutz, and Prof. Peter Cleaton-Jones. Front (l-r): Prof. Eliakim Mizrahi, Prof. Zeev Abrahams, Dr David Jankelowitz, Dr Arnold Gould, Dr Michael Aronson.*



Photo: Peter Maher

## Medics trained in system dynamics

Wits has pioneered a course called Health System Dynamics which is taught to first and second year medical students. It involves training medical students in the well-established field of System Dynamics, but in a way that has been specifically adapted for the medical degree. Although there is growing recognition of the importance of systems training in medical education, a specific course of this nature to train future doctors is believed to be a world first. In this course, students learn the fundamentals of Systems Theory and then go on to model, simulate and analyse a range of medical problems. Alumnus Professor David Rubin, a medical doctor working in Biomedical Engineering in the School of Electrical and Information Engineering, published a paper, together with some colleagues, describing the course, entitled "*System Dynamics in Medical Education: A Tool for Life*" (May 2012). The abstract suggests that knowledge of systems will likely enhance medical students' problem-solving skills and clinical reasoning. Further benefits include the introduction of holistic thinking processes and improved graphical visualisation skills.

## Wits tackles killer

The Wits Research Institute for Malaria (WRIM) was launched in March 2013 in the School of Pathology. WRIM aims to strengthen research into this disease, which is one of Africa's deadliest. The Institute combines three existing research groups working on malaria vectors (disease-transmitting organisms), parasites and pharmacology. Few research facilities in Africa have the capacity to address the disease in such depth. Alumnae Professor Maureen Coetzee and Professor Thérèse Coetzer jointly lead the new Institute. A child dies of malaria every 60 seconds. It remains one of the major disease burdens globally with over 200-million cases annually resulting in more than 650 000 deaths, predominantly in children under five years of age.



Photo credit: Debbie Yazbek

# Making memories

**Ali Khangela Hlongwane**, Deputy Director: Museums and Galleries at the City of Johannesburg and formerly Chief Curator of Museum Africa in Newtown, is a soft-spoken, cerebral man who comes by the most genteel of professions by means of the most violent past.



*By Natalie Knight*

**H**longwane joined Museum Africa after completing his MA in Biography and Society and Public Culture, and while working on his PhD in Heritage at Wits.

His goal for over 25 years has been to contribute to the theory and practice of memory making in South Africa, and ridding people of ethnic undertones that define people as “the other”.

Born to a Putco bus driver and cashier father and a mother who worked as a cleaner at a home for the aged, he was one of five children. He describes his childhood in Diepkloof, Soweto as “the standard and expected childhood of growing up in a township with parents who believed the best they could give their kids was education. The children all understood the education they were receiving was part of a grand design of the apartheid system, which in no way could further their lives.

“Our parents worried we would either be part of a township gang or become victims of gangsterism. They left home very early and they returned late, exhausted, not spending much time with us. My father cashed up at closing time after 23:00. In any event, my father was shot in an armed robbery at the bus depot,” he says.

The gangster culture was countered by another culture – Hlongwane became part of an activist system called the Creative Youth Association. Some of the activists didn’t go back to school after the 1976 uprising, but instead formed poetry, theatre, or art groups as an alternative to gangsterism. Some were involved in both.

Hlongwane chose to complete high school and become a political activist. He became involved in school debating societies, thanks to Peter Manota, a particularly influential English teacher, who encouraged pupils to go beyond the syllabus and the

debating society. “We would read good African literature. This fired my imagination and outlook on life, and I became interested in expressing myself and my political aspirations through the arts. I recited poetry at high school and I joined FUBA (the Federated Union of Black Arts).

“My eldest sister was a student at Turfloop University, in what is today Limpopo. It was the 1970s, heyday of the Black Consciousness Movement. She introduced me to poetry, literature and political polemic pamphlets as well as a little art. I became an avid reader. The Black Consciousness Movement had a strong cultural element. As an impressionable teenager I got involved in cultural activism and joined the youth wing of the then banned PAC – the Azanian National Youth Unity (AZANYU).

“I took acting classes and at 19, in 1984, I appeared in my first professional play, by Matsemela Manaka. I played the part of what I had just become, a youth activist. I became part of the Soyikwa Drama Group, and I appeared nationally and internationally on stage.”

After he completed two years at drama school, Hlongwane’s long study career at Wits began.

“I began with a Higher Diploma for Education of Adults at Wits. I changed from acting to the use of theatre for community development, and we worked a lot in rural areas. From there it was the Windybrow Centre for the Arts, where I was appointed as general manager, while studying for two years for my Graduate Diploma in Public Policy and Development Administration.”

Hlongwane’s life was multidimensional. He pursued an intellectual path and he was an activist in AZANYU. In 1993, in a massive raid against PAC activists, the police and army bombarded the Hlongwane household in search of him.

*“We would read good African literature. This fired my imagination and outlook on life, and I became interested in expressing myself and my political aspirations through the arts.”*

The intruders bulldozed the home, harassing his mother; she died as a result of shock.

“My beliefs and activities cost me the loss of my mother’s life,” he says.

In post-apartheid 1994, he was appointed to work for the City of Johannesburg in the Arts and Culture section, developing and facilitating culture in the inner city, Orange Farm, Soweto and Alexandra. Two years later, he got involved in what he terms the highlight of his life and career development. He was appointed Chief Curator of the Hector Pieterse Memorial and Museum in Soweto and the Kliptown Open Air Museum in Soweto.

“Suddenly I had the opportunity to be part of many voices retelling the story of the 1976 uprising. I had experienced it all first hand as a schoolboy. It could be told from different views. I wanted to let all the different voices speak. The riot might have initiated with learning in Afrikaans, but there were many reasons. It had to do with an overcrowded township, lack of housing and matriculants who had no chance of employment. It also involved historic figures who were released from Robben Island in 1974/5.”

In addition to his demanding career, Hlongwane registered for a Masters degree in Public Culture and Biography and Society at Wits in 2000.

“Wits inspired my imagination and critical thinking about the sudden emergence of memorialisation; the renaming of schools, buildings and streets, and the creation of new museums and memorials. After receiving my MA, I began working on my PhD in

heritage. I wanted to further my understanding of the role of memory and history in contemporary South Africa. And Wits gave me a firm intellectual base and the confidence to go about with my professional responsibilities.”

In 2008, he was offered the helm of Museum Africa where he is particularly excited about the current exhibition of images and artefacts of traditional healing. Titled *With the Help of the Spirits – Divination and Healing in Southern Africa*, based on a collection not seen for many years, the show is curated by Diana Wall. It covers the controversial subject of a religious and spiritual practice that has survived oppression by the apartheid government and Christian fundamentalists, including the educated elite. A catalogue of the show, entitled *Divination and Healing*, edited by Natalie Knight, documents the collection and contains several essays.

Hlongwane says, “Divination is a practice that continues to reach out to a large section of our society. Like all religions it’s the faith that people create to give meaning to their own lives.”

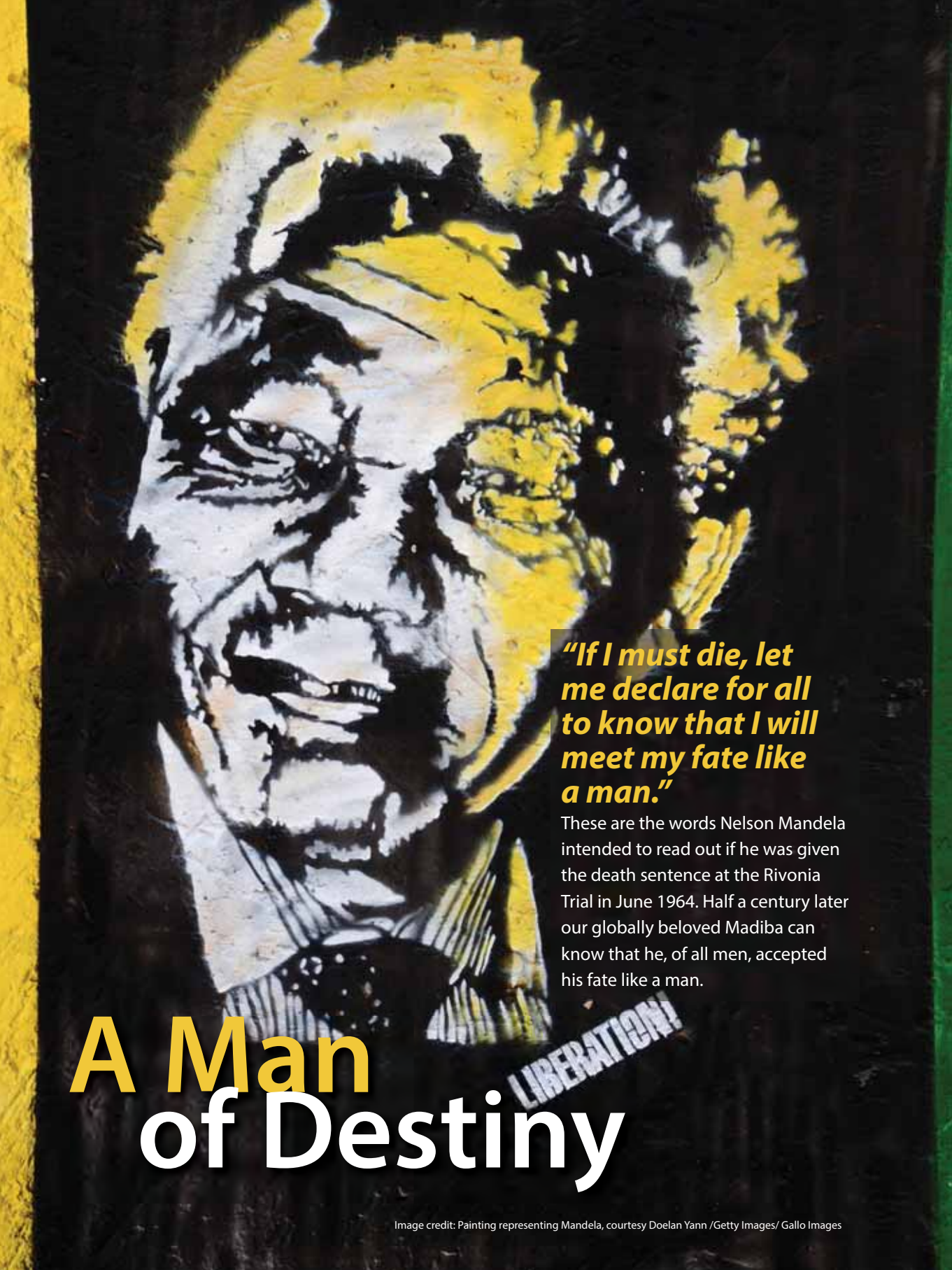
He admits the museum and other cultural institutions in South Africa face challenges: competing for resources in a world with serious social issues like health, housing and schooling; retaining existing skilled personnel; and creating opportunities for more talent to move into the sector.

But his hope is that “we will reposition Museum Africa as a significant cultural institution” – and that he will continue to contribute to ideas about history.



Photo credit: Debbie Yazbek

*“Wits inspired my imagination and critical thinking”*



***"If I must die, let me declare for all to know that I will meet my fate like a man."***

These are the words Nelson Mandela intended to read out if he was given the death sentence at the Rivonia Trial in June 1964. Half a century later our globally beloved Madiba can know that he, of all men, accepted his fate like a man.

# A Man of Destiny

By Heather Dugmore

**M**adiba has been heralded a hero, saviour and icon. He has been showered with accolades, titles and academic honours, including a Doctorate in Law in 1991 from Wits, where he studied for his law degree in the 1940s. But Madiba has shown that what meant most to him was to live up to the noblest concept of “Man”.

In his lifetime Madiba developed the qualities befitting a true leader: of courage, mercy, kindness, perseverance and self-reflection in pursuit of his quest for all people to be treated “in conformity with civilised standards” irrespective of colour, creed or culture.

*“I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against White domination, and I have fought against Black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an idea which I hope to live for and to achieve. But, if needs be, it is an idea for which I am prepared to die.”*

Standing in the dock on that pivotal day in 1964, armed with the “in the event of death” note he had penned on a piece of exercise book paper, Madiba was confronted with the real prospect of his life abruptly ending at the age of 46: an age when most men and women are reaching that powerful nexus of vigour and maturity; an age when Madiba was ready to assume a powerful, public leadership role.

That was 49 years ago and the note is now part of the Mandela Collection in the Historical Papers Research Archive at Wits’ William Cullen Library. How could Madiba ever have imagined that modest piece of paper would become a globally coveted item of Mandela memorabilia?

This year on 18 July it is Madiba’s 95th birthday. Over the past months he has been in and out of hospital and we are all keenly aware that health and age are no longer on his side. As a nation we need to come to terms with Madiba’s mortality and to prepare a resting place for him in our hearts.

### **Mandela’s Mortality**

*Mandela’s Mortality* is the title of a chapter by Wits professors Sarah Nuttall and Achille Mbembe from the Wits Institute of Social and Economic Research. It will be published in early 2014 in the Cambridge Companion to Nelson Mandela, Cambridge University Press.

In *Mandela’s Mortality* they track and remark on Madiba’s attitudes to mortality and death in the course of his life – both to the deaths of others and to his own death. Quoting passages from *Long Walk to Freedom* and *Conversations With Myself* they reveal Madiba as a man acutely aware of his own mortality and vulnerability:

*“He has known pain and devastation – countless indignities, severe and irrecoverable losses (including the loss of a newborn daughter; and of a son while he was in prison); dramatic separations and invisible wounds; grief, helplessness and mourning, the kinds of experiences that ‘eat too deeply into one’s being, into one’s soul.’”*

Death is synonymous with separation, and early in Mandela’s life he became acutely aware of this. Thus, as the authors explain, leaving Qunu – “all that I knew, and I loved it in the unconditional way that a child loves his first home” – was a direct consequence of the passing of his father.

## *“...the anxiety to live always lingered.”*

Of his son Thembi's death while he was in prison he said: "I do not have words to express the sorrow, or the loss I felt. It left a hole in my heart that can never be filled." Of his close friend and compatriot Walter Sisulu's death he said it left him "almost prostrate with grief".

### **Closest encounter with his own death**

Madiba's closest encounter with his own death occurred during the Rivonia Trial in 1964. The authors illustrate how the public requirement to be brave and strong as a torchbearer of what is just and true was in stark contrast to the personal experience of being alone in his cell confronting the reality that he was likely "to not live". He wrote: "I must, however, confess that for my own part the threat of death evoked no desire in me to play the role of martyr. I was ready to do so if I had to. But the anxiety to live always lingered."

For years before his final arrest for treason and sentencing, Madiba had lived in a twilight world tipping this way and that between the worlds of the living and the dead, day and night, visible and invisible, presence and absence, the authors explain.

It offers a parallel with the past couple of years where age and time have repeatedly snatched and spared him. None of us want Madiba to go but it is inevitable, and, just as he had to leave his wife and family to join the liberation struggle with stoic inevitability, so too will we need to release the father of our nation, while keeping his spirit alive.

### **Releasing the father of our nation**

The authors write: "As we reflect on his impending

death, we consider the drama and anxiety that this elicits in so many people, especially in South Africa. We try to decipher something of what is at stake for people in facing his death. We examine the sense in South Africa that with his death there will be a deep void at the heart of a place that has always struggled to mask what it feels might be an emptiness at its centre; that has struggled to define itself as a nation and to draw together its many fragments into a sustained sense of commonality."

The loss of Madiba when he goes will inevitably release intensely painful, complex feelings, and we may feel a sense of utter horror and panic, but we must follow Madiba's example and courageously rise and walk forward and draw on his memory to squarely face our personal demons and our country's demons of racism, poverty, inequality, corruption and oppression.

### **He is a man, a human being**

And, while we contemplate the gigantic contribution he has made to South Africa and the world, we need to remember that, like you and me, he is a human being with all the anxieties, attachments, joys, sorrows, fragilities and contradictions that none of us are spared. Nowhere is this more poignantly expressed than in the quote the authors selected from a letter to Winnie Madikizela-Mandela that Madiba once wrote: "Sometimes I feel like one who is on the sidelines ... who has missed life itself." It is a feeling with which many of us can identify in our own great and small ways, and it is comforting to know that a man like Madiba felt it too.

At the same time, as the authors express, no matter what happened to him in his life, "he held onto the assurance that joy was possible." A joy that he will surely experience in great Eastern Cape swathes when his final chapter closes and he returns to his childhood home of Qunu, forever. ■

A. N. C. Youth League 24/2/44

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“...like you and me, he is a human being with all the anxieties, attachments, joys, sorrows, fragilities and contradictions”

### I ACCUSE!

SPEECHES TO COURT BY NELSON MANDELA



Final year law class, 1949: (back row) A K Vahed, Nelson Mandela, Norbert Magzamen, Max Levenberg (2nd row) Henry Nathanson, R N Bhoodia, Johan Möller, J A 'Balie' de Klerk, Harry Schwartz (3rd row) Julian Phillips, Mrs Stutzen, Unity Ann Victor (front row) Daphne de Klerk, Ellison Kahn, H R Hahlo, J E Scholtens, Exton Burchell.

Group photo images and documents from the Rivonia Trial Collection courtesy of the William Cullen Library's Historical Papers Research Archive



2

STATEMENT FROM THE DOCK OF NELSON

My lord, I am the first accuse

Degree in Arts, and practised as an attorney in

years, in partnership with Mr. Oliver Tambo,

e. I am a convicted prisoner, serving five years

try without a permit, and for inciting people to an

May 1961.

I admi



Gathering of illustrious Wits law students from the 1940s and 1950s with former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robert Charlton: former Chancellor, Justice Richard Goldstone, former Chief Justice, Ismail Mahomed, former President, Nelson Mandela, and former President of the Constitutional Court, Justice Arthur Chaskalson.



## Mandela and Wits University

Mandela enrolled at the Wits Law Faculty in 1943 and spent six years at Wits, from 1943 to 1948.

In *Long Walk to Freedom* he writes:

*“Wits opened a new world to me, a world of ideas and political beliefs and debates, a world where people were passionate about politics ... I discovered for the first time people of my own age firmly aligned with the liberation struggle, who were prepared, despite their relative privilege, to sacrifice themselves for the cause of the oppressed.”*

In his speech at Professor Colin Bundy’s installation as Vice-Chancellor of Wits on 25 March 1998, as the President of South Africa he said:

“This evening brings many memories from the past and many hopes for the future. I remember my own days as a student and I honour some of my fellows who studied, debated and agitated on this campus. Their names are legend: Joe Slovo, Ismael Meer, Harold Wolpe, J N Singh, William Nkomo and Ruth First. They count amongst those who set forth a message and an ethos in direct contrast to the fear, oppression and subservience which legislation of the time sought to impose and inculcate. They represent one of the proud strands in the tradition of Wits, a strand which the university will undoubtedly seek to build upon as it grapples with its role in the development of a new kind of South African society.”

Bundy’s appointment was in stark contrast to the conservative University administration in Mandela’s time as a student, which was philosophically hostile to the very notion of University involvement in politics and, post 1948, was anxious to appease rather than provoke the new National Party government.

As Professor Emeritus Bruce Murray, author of *Wits: The ‘Open’ Years*, explains, this led to a high degree of disunity between the administration and student activists, including the legendary Phillip Tobias, who was President of the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) from 1948 for three years, and who mobilised NUSAS against university apartheid.

“Wits and the University of Cape Town were ‘open universities’ at the time, where black students attended the same classes as white students. It was not a universal openness because only 5%-6% of approximately 4 000 students were black – the majority at Medical School,” Murray explains. “The National Party did not approve of black and white students intermingling. It alleged, among other things, that black students were being brainwashed by white liberal and leftist students. It therefore came as no surprise that when the Nationalists came to power in 1948, they set about eradicating what they perceived as the ‘evil’ of racial intermingling at the open universities.”

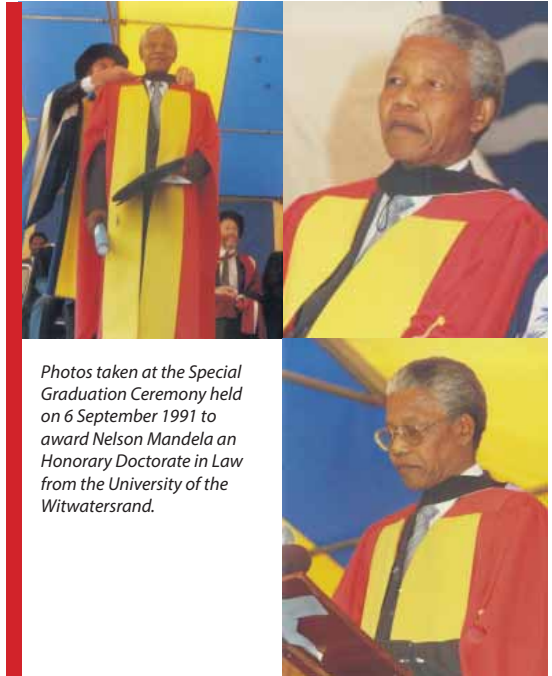
One of Madiba's lifelong friendships and legal allegiances was formed at Wits with Wits law graduate and world-renowned human rights advocate George Bizos, who describes life at Wits during that era and his association with Mandela in his book *Odyssey to Freedom*.

“The quarrel between the SRC and the university authorities relating to racial equality in all aspects of student life raged furiously within the law faculty. For instance, at the annual law dinner the eight black students were not allowed to attend on the grounds that it was to be held at the Ambassador Hotel in Hillbrow. This injunction came from the dean, Professor HR ‘Bobby’ Hahlo. The hotel was licensed to sell intoxicating liquor and the law prohibited blacks from entering such establishments as guests...”

As a member of the SRC, Bizos agitated against this ruling and the black students attended.

Hahlo was a notorious reactionary and refused to allow Mandela to write a supplementary examination in 1949 to complete his LLB, as he had failed one subject. Hahlo said that no exceptions would be made, and added that it was beyond the reach of any black man to qualify as an advocate. He suggested that Mandela rather consider completing a Law Diploma to practise as an attorney – which he did.

“While writing the history of Wits, Professor Bruce Murray unearthed the original letter written to Hahlo by Mandela, and sent a copy of it to Mandela in prison for his comment,” Bizos continues. “When he received no reply, Murray, fearing that the letter had been withheld by the jailers, asked me to enquire whether Mandela had received it. Yes, said Mandela, he had, but as Wits was doing a good job he felt it would not be helpful to revive the matter by commenting on it, and asked me to explain and apologise to Professor Murray.”



*Photos taken at the Special Graduation Ceremony held on 6 September 1991 to award Nelson Mandela an Honorary Doctorate in Law from the University of the Witwatersrand.*

**Extract from Mandela's application to the Dean of Law, Prof H R Hahlo, for permission to write a supplementary exam in 1949**

*“I should also add that during the whole of his period I studied under very difficult and trying conditions. I was a part-time student and resided (as I still do) at Orlando Native Location in a noisy neighbourhood. In the absence of electric light I was compelled to study in the evenings with a paraffin lamp and sometimes with a candle light. I wasted a lot of time travelling between Orlando and city and returned home after 8p.m. feeling tired and hungry and unfit to concentrate on my studies. Even during the examinations I was compelled to work in order to maintain the only source of livelihood that I had. It is my candid opinion that if I could have done my work under more suitable conditions, I could have produced better results.”*

Mandela completed his LLB in prison and received a Doctorate in Law from Wits in 1991. ■



## Moral reputation and mystique

*By Professor Daryl Glaser, Head: Political Studies at Wits*

Mandela cemented his legacy by midwifing us through a crucial time in history and then withdrawing from power at precisely the right time. This cemented his moral reputation and mystique.

Mandela's enormous personal charisma, racially conciliatory approach and easiness with people of all races was crucial for laying the basis of a non-racial future for South Africa. Harsher critics deem him a sell-out for making too many concessions to white capitalist power, but I don't accept this. While economic policy under Mandela veered too far in a neoliberal direction, the constitution he helped to establish permits, even mandates, radical social change.

His approach emanated from the fact that he is a rare and genuinely reconciliatory figure with a pragmatic streak, who brought stability and stature to South Africa, and who did more than any other single individual to spare the country a racial civil war, with its consequences of economic collapse.

The magic of Mandela and the key to his success is that he was both part of the ANC and the mass liberation struggle and at the same time had an ability to step away from it. He therefore made it possible to establish a legitimate constitutional settlement and bed down a new constitutional democracy.

## Wits' greatest son

*By Professor Adam Habib, Vice-Chancellor, Wits University*

Mandela is Wits' greatest son, who played a phenomenal role in transforming our country and the world in ways that no one else has ever done. We were blessed to have him study at our institution and we will always treasure this.

His was an incredible generation of leaders, several of whom were at Wits ... George Bizos, Arthur Chaskalson, Amina Cachalia, Ruth First, Joe Slovo, Ahmed Kathrada, Walter Sisulu, Oliver Tambo, Phillip Tobias ... the list goes on. These people looked beyond themselves, they were prepared to make sacrifices and were not silenced by the trappings of power.

The ANC early on realised they needed a face for the liberation movement and they chose Madiba. They could not have chosen better, for in so doing they transformed the anti-apartheid movement and Madiba became a global icon.

In assessing Madiba's legacy we need to separate his role as an administrator from his greatness and status as a global icon.

As an administrator he made a series of significant mistakes, which he recognised, including not swiftly responding to HIV/Aids.

As a global icon, his greatness is his reconciliatory approach, which helped us plant firm democratic roots and a strong constitutional democracy. His greatness also lies in the fact that he was prepared to give up political power and, in so doing, developed an even more powerful form of soft power that transcended national boundaries and led to his becoming an international figure.

## Mandela's legacy is complex

*By Professor Noor Nieftagodien, Head: Wits History Workshop and the NRF/SARChI Chair in Local Histories and Present Realities*

Mandela remains an important symbol of South Africans' collective and fragmented aspirations. He is a reminder of the apparently peaceful transition to a constitutional democracy and embodies the ideas of reconciliation and the rainbow nation.

The vast majority of people desire these democratic aspirations and the promise of a better life. Now that our democracy is coming under severe strain he continues to be an important reference point of what could have been and what can still be.

To attach all these aspirations to one person is understandable but also problematic. While Mandela will always be a presence in our consciousness, he stepped out of the limelight long ago and South Africa has moved on without his active involvement in politics. It's problematic to suggest, as some have warned, that the country will go down the drain without him and there will be a mass exodus.

There is a general sense among ordinary citizens that we must leave him in peace and let him go. And in letting him go we must be careful not to turn him into a latter-day saint or to whitewash his history. That he is an unbelievable human being and an exceptional leader is indisputable. But he is also a man and a politician, with all the fallibilities that go with that.

To his credit, Mandela acknowledged the errors made by his government. One could argue that the capacity to be self-critical is an important attribute of greatness.



*"Mandela as an old man" by Richard Chauke*

### Rivonia Trial Collection at Wits

The Rivonia Trial Collection is housed in the William Cullen Library's Historical Papers research archive: <http://www.historicalpapers.wits.ac.za>

### WITSReview cover image

Billy and Jane Makhubele from Giyani, Limpopo, have, together with other members of their family, collected newspaper photographs of their hero Nelson Mandela since 1990. Billy has also collected traditional Shangaan beadwork for many years and saw the potential to create beaded artworks.

Combining beads and safety pins on traditional Shangaan fabric, they have created images of Mandela's significant moments – the day of his release from Robben Island; his wedding to Graça Machel; a visit to the grave of Walter Sisulu.

Several of these works, especially the shirts created by Jane Makhubele, record each of the four elections, and form a cohesive theme, together with other artworks about Mandela, in the permanent collection curated by Natalie Knight at the Wits School of Law.

The School's Mandela Institute, established in 2000, also features an art wall showing an assemblage of photographs of Mandela.

<http://www.wits.ac.za/mandelainstitute>

# Addicted to Wits



**Dr Kenneth Creamer** is addicted to Wits. He has five degrees from the University (BA 1991, BA Economic Hons 1994, LLB 1994, LLM 1996, and PhD Economics 2010 for which he won the Economic Society of South Africa's Founder's Medal). And, despite his full-time job as the CEO of Creamer Media, he is still at Wits, lecturing once a week on macroeconomics in the School of Economic and Business Sciences.



By Heather Dugmore

“I have been studying and teaching at Wits since 1988 and I am still here. I love Wits,” says Creamer, who was SRC President in 1991/2. The only qualification he doesn't have from Wits is an MSc in Financial Economics from the School of African and Oriental Studies, University of London (1999).

Wits is no doubt happy still to have him after 25 years, but why so many degrees?

“I'm interested in the intersection between legal and economic thinking and I have a strong desire to expand my knowledge and contribute to public policy,” he explains, sitting in his study at his home in Parkview. He is on family duty, ready to fetch his young sons Adam and Reza from school, sharing parenting responsibilities with his wife Faranaaz Veriava.

“Faranaaz and I met while we were doing our LLBs together in 1994, so Wits also introduced me to my wife, who has supported my studies all these years, and now it's her turn – she's working on her PhD in Law.”

Somehow he finds time to run a media company between all this. “It's called multitasking,” quips Creamer. The company, started by his journalist father Martin Creamer in 1981, publishes two magazines – *Engineering News* and *Mining Weekly* – every week, in both hard copy and online format. It also updates four associated websites daily, which operate as multimedia platforms, incorporating video, audio and social media.

## Electronic media

“Our strongest growth is on the electronic media side but we are still printing 12 500 hard copies of each magazine each week, and our biggest bills are still from the printer and the post office. However, things are changing fast,” says Creamer, who believes the world is only at the beginning of the electronic revolution.

“We're going to experience the true consequences of mobile computing and communication technologies only in 20-30 years' time, because it hasn't got anywhere close to where it's headed. If you consider what you can do with a cellphone now, it's unbelievable, whereas the cellphone had not yet been invented when I was an undergraduate. The possibilities are endless. I've heard theories that some countries won't even have money in the near future, as transactions will be done by phone-like devices.”

Responding to the electronic boom and the global business opportunities it presents, Creamer Media is working towards growing its online presence and news emails, which are sent to well over 100 000 readers daily.

“Surviving and thriving in the electronic era is all about meeting our readers wherever they want us,” he explains, adding that this is how some media leaders like *The Economist* have increased their readership while others, like *Newsweek*, have closed their print editions.

With 70 staff members in South Africa, fulltime employees in Perth and Toronto and contributors from all over the world, Creamer believes they can become a global provider of news, particularly in the mining space, from a South African base.

### Labour unrest

As mining media specialists they've certainly been in the media frontline, especially following Marikana. Creamer is close to the labour issues surrounding the mining wage disputes, having worked as a research coordinator for Cosatu in parliament from 1996 to 1999. During this time he assisted in drafting some of South Africa's current labour laws and the Competition Act.

"Our economy is reeling from Marikana, which will be written large in our history and which was encapsulated in *The Economist's* October 2012 cover story, '*Cry, the beloved country*' about the downslide of the South African economy," says Creamer, who recently re-read Alan Paton's seminal book, first published in 1948. What Paton was writing about South Africa in the 1940s is still applicable in 2012, with mineworker migrants living for most of the year away from their homes in squalid conditions.

"We are dealing with a problem of huge inequality between the top wage earners and the lowest wage earners. This situation is exacerbated by the fact that workers' remittances back home are shrinking as their costs rise to maintain second homes in informal settlements around the mines," says Creamer.

"We have to hope that the credibility of the trade unions will be restored and that fair wage agreements can be reached, because the economy is taking a hard knock," he adds. "Investor confidence is down, thousands of people are losing their jobs and the rating agencies have downgraded us. The direct result of this is that the cost of future power stations, roads, rail-stock and other employment-promoting invest-

ments that South Africa is planning to undertake is going to rise due to the loss of faith in our economy."

Expanding more broadly into troubling South African labour market issues, the perennial question is whether the labour laws aren't shackling productivity and job creation.

### Leadership challenge

"I don't think it is a good idea to seek to scrap the labour laws because we need protection for workers in the asymmetrical employer-employee relationship," says Creamer. "And I don't support the argument that the labour laws make it impossible to fire people. The whole point of the labour laws is to introduce clear procedures and fairness into the labour relations process, for the sake of labour peace, investment and productivity.

"I also don't believe we will create more jobs by changing the labour laws. I think this will simply create more conflict. What we need is for the government to play a leadership role in ensuring the national budget includes funding for large-scale public infrastructure development, including recapitalising the railways and renewable energy projects, supplemented by smaller job creation projects, such as community halls, soccer fields and home-based care. This has the potential to lead to significant levels of job creation, and at the same time it will instil confidence in investors – stimulating a virtuous circle of further job creation."

This is Creamer's realm of macroeconomic policy, and, as he explains, it is well-proven that economies respond well to the kind of leadership that can plan effectively over five to ten years to get more people engaged in the economy rather than dependent on it.

"What we desperately need is for the developmental state to succeed because at the moment a small

*“To achieve strong economic growth requires strong leadership in government, business, labour and civil society.”*



middle class is propping up the economy in South Africa. We need to continue bringing more people into formal employment and expanding the tax base so that we can raise sufficient resources to fund important government programmes, like education and health,” he says.

It goes without saying that to achieve strong economic growth requires strong leadership in government, business, labour and civil society. “During the Mandela era South Africa would have been expected to win the gold medal for leadership. I don’t think that our leadership skills have since evaporated. The type of leadership we require does still exist in South African society both in the older and the younger generations, and I am confident that such leadership will emerge to guide us out of our current problems.”

### **Revolutionary times**

Encouraging words, but in the presence of rising dissatisfaction, particularly among the youth, are we looking at a possible revolution, such as we’ve seen in other parts of the world in recent times, where the people reject their government and get rid of it in a matter of months?

“I recently read *Revolution 2.0* by Wael Ghonim about the 2011 Egyptian revolution; how the Egyptian youth rebelled against the Mubarak government and what the Egyptian people did to get rid of

Mubarak and his ruling party, including making use of Facebook and the Internet,” Creamer responds. “You have to remember that Egyptian society was bottled up for more than 30 years; they couldn’t speak out and were the passive subjects of a ruthless, silent oppression. By comparison, South African democracy is noisy and robust. We speak out and we protest. This is something we should respect, foster and nurture, as it is ultimately healthy for society.”

This brings us back to Wits, where during the apartheid era large numbers of students vehemently opposed state oppression. Creamer hasn’t yet detected similar revolutionary rumblings among his students today.

“Many of the students I teach today are highly motivated to do well academically, and while many do aspire to change the country for the better, theirs is a very different situation from the pre-1994 era when the struggle against apartheid was intense. In essence, students of that era experienced a revolution at first hand and many spent less time in the classroom and more time out on the streets protesting and participating in the struggle. The battle-lines were drawn. In many ways, those of us who were at Wits and politically active pre-1994 were privileged by our sense of purpose and certainty about right and wrong. It is an experience that will never leave us.”



# Wits Junction

Adapting student housing and heritage

*View along Sediba Lane at night with Kum Saan and Parna Janda on the left*

A new residential complex for the University of the Witwatersrand to keep up with expanded student numbers was planned from the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The completion of this project, Wits Junction, on the Parktown campus in 2012 highlights the challenges of finance, heritage, economics, design and construction.

*By Kathy Munro and Brendan Hart*



All photos in this feature: [www.studio88.co.za](http://www.studio88.co.za)

Opened in phases from mid-2011, Wits Junction is a self-catering student residential complex, providing accommodation for over 1 200 students in a secure, gated urban community in new three- and four-storey buildings. The original objective was to accommodate upper-income senior or postgraduate students and a few visiting academics. The appointed architectural firm was Boogertman, with substantial and important input from Ludwig Hansen.

There is a mix of bachelor, two-, three- and four-bedroom units in brick-faced blocks set in a green garden site in the historic Parktown suburb. Each apartment is equipped with a telephone, Internet connectivity with unlimited access, a television aerial point and a wall mounted heater. The close proximity of a retail outlet, a gym, a TV lounge, computer rooms, social spaces and meeting places makes for secure and comfortable residence living in a green environment.

The layout of the site was determined by the original four Parktown streets – Boundary Road, Ridge Road, Junction Avenue and Park Lane – where suburban housing roots go back to the 1890s. There are 28 buildings (of which 24 are residences, including 13 new residential blocks, eight older existing student residences from the 1980s and five heritage houses with mixed usage.

### **Location and neighbours**

A hospital (Park Lane Clinic) is its nearest neighbour and a number of other office developments have emerged on the land of old residential gardens. A few remaining once-grand old homes of Parktown have been converted into company headquarters. The Sunnyside Park hotel is close by and the Houghton Isle office development lies on the north side of Boundary Road. The University's Education Campus (built in brutalist style in the 1960s) is within walking distance in St Andrew's Road.

### **Geography and history**

The geography of the complex and its location reflect Johannesburg's layered, if short, history. The site, a consolidation of nine separate residential erven, is effectively a buffer site at the edge of old Parktown, abutting Hillbrow and nudging into Houghton. The original geology of the quartzite Witwatersrand ridge necessitated geological and drainage assessments. Later came the eight well-proportioned homes of professional Johannesburg people (the architect Frank Emley's home Emleigh was sited close to the 1911 fire station on Louis Botha Avenue but was demolished many years ago). A near neighbour at the corner of Park Lane and Junction Avenue is the Park Lane Clinic (or as it now is, a Netcare hospital) which was built in the 1960s. In the 1970s the State expropriated this portion of Parktown for future educational developments for the then Johannesburg Teachers' College and in 1992 the property was transferred from the Republic of South Africa to the University of the Witwatersrand as a donation. Some of the old homes remained and were adapted to new residential and University business purposes. Some new residences were built in the late 1980s.

### **Origins and early residential thinking and planning**

By the early 21st century the University had enough space to grow its student residential capacity to match the rapid growth in student numbers (now 30 000). Residences at other campus locations were either newly built or expanded but what was unique about the Parktown site was the potential for a sizeable investment and the provision of many units, with a view to a 20% increase in residential capacity. It was a moment for vision, imagination and a bold approach to financing. What was required was a coming together of a team from diverse disciplines, a strong campus planning drive, new thoughts about finding finance and a design that spoke to a layered

history, a sylvan atmosphere, challenging geology and an imagined future student community. Serious planning began in 2008.

### **Challenges in planning – team work**

The Director of Wits Campus Planning, Emmanuel Prinsloo, has commented on the many challenges of the Wits Junction project extending over the period 2007 to 2011. There were four or five design iterations and shifting schemes before the final complex emerged. It was important not to set the designs into place too soon. The architecture needed to be simple, plain and straightforward with an ease of access and a homely feel in the communal spaces. Spencer Hodgson, the chief project manager for all Wits' infrastructural developments, describes the process as a "rollercoaster". Plans evolved as budgets were revisited and specialist inputs were sought. Achieving a balance between commercial viability and University needs meant that finding the right developers, consultants and contractors was all-important. The requirements and advice that emerged from the Heritage Impact Assessment were unique. The team work of project managers, an urban designer, architects, developers, a landscape designer, legal advisors, financiers and bankers, procurement officers and ultimately the residence officials was forged successfully over several years.

### **Budgets and financial models**

Early proposals for finance looked to a PPP model (public/private partnership) and foresaw that a developer would find the finance, commission the architects, build and then operate with a lease agreement for 20 years, and only thereafter would the complex be transferred to the University for direct management (the build, operate and transfer model). The developer, Rowmoor 615 (the special project vehicle of Synfin and Crowie), had its own construction people and designer. Initially the bud-

get was set at R490-million with a projected 900 bed capacity. Gradually the budget crept upwards (to R511-million) and the housing capacity rose to over 1 200 beds.

By late 2009, the University adopted a more hands-on approach. Rand Merchant Bank advanced the capital to Wits. The finance was the bank's first-ever 20-year loan to any institution. The State's contribution of R60.5-million offset the loan's financing costs and ensured government approval and support for the project as part of the national plan for residential provision at universities.

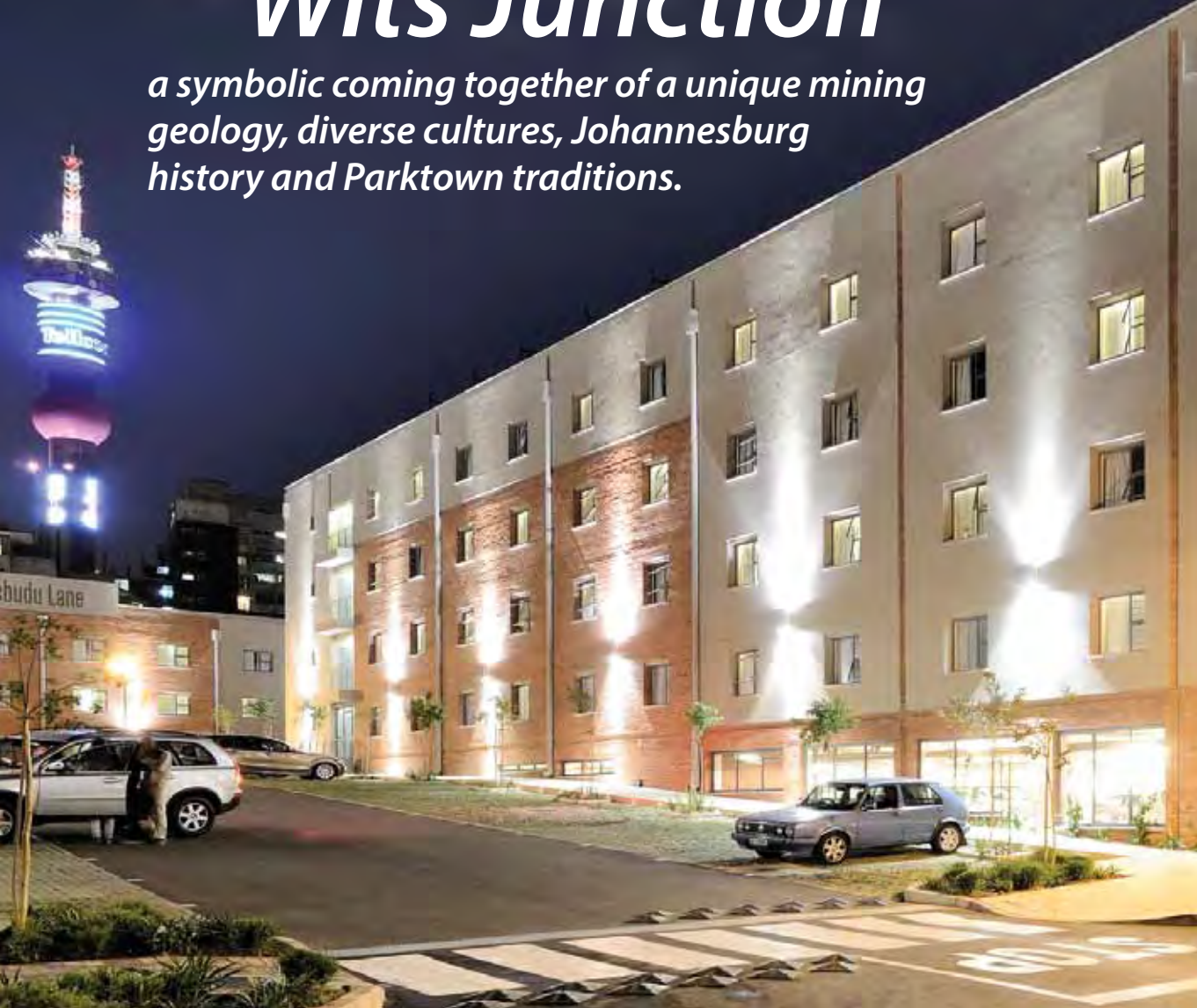
It was decided that direct responsibility for operations should be taken over by the Office of Residence Life, under the director, Robert Sharman. It was felt that a university, with its experience of running residences, was the best management option. The scheme had become "build quickly, transfer early and operate efficiently", despite the very expensive nature of the project. Nonetheless, student rentals have been set at an affordable level and 700 students had taken up residence by the end of 2012.

### **The importance of urban design**

While the developer continued to be responsible for construction, the role of an urban designer, Ludwig Hansen, became more important and Hansen brought together the rare skills of architect and urban designer with linkages to an overall university urban design. Hansen understood that Wits is an urban university possessing the size, resources and influence to change the entire spine of the city ridge from Braamfontein to Parktown. The ultimate shape of Parktown Village II, or Wits Junction as it became, was guided by that vision. A critical aspect was to preserve and promote the quality of the environment and a great deal of effort was invested in bringing to life a student village and community. The Hansen vision sought to integrate heritage, landscape, to-

# *“Wits Junction”*

*a symbolic coming together of a unique mining geology, diverse cultures, Johannesburg history and Parktown traditions.*



*Amagumbi courtyard*



*Trendy living spaces with tasteful furnishings*

pography, an urban presence and existing buildings to arrive at a well-positioned sense of place and a modern urban metro village.

The foregrounding of urban design is a unique element. The development is one that brings urban renewal to Johannesburg and spearheads revitalisation at the edges of Hillbrow. The physical imprint of the University is firmly extended, connecting the activities of the Medical School, Health Sciences, Education and Management campuses to the original nodes of Milner Park in Braamfontein.

The Landscape Studio (Bernadette Vollmer) was awarded the landscape design contract in May 2009. Vollmer strove to incorporate heritage into the gardens, with the preservation of big old trees. The landscaping took account of kerb stones, low walls and the geological formations around the historic beacon marking an old boundary of Johannesburg.

#### **Heritage impact assessment**

Heritage and the earlier suburban street layout clearly inform this development and the Heritage Impact Assessment report completed by Dr Johan Bruwer and Henry Paine became a critical design tool. It was a challenge to incorporate all that the HIA report advised, such as the remnants of walls or old street lights, but ultimately a better product emerged. All but one of the old trees were retained. The topography of the site was retained and shaped design, rather than the adoption of a proposed civil engineering solution to construct platforms for the buildings.



*View of Shosholozha, corner of Junction Avenue and Sediba Lane at night*



*One of the light and airy games rooms*



*View of Kum Saan*

We want people  
to know that this  
project is something  
**different,  
special,  
unique...**



Five heritage houses were retained and R80-million was spent to retain and integrate the heritage buildings into the complex. The oldest of the heritage houses, Muzi Yami (later Eridge House), is now a student centre; there is an administrative centre, four flats for visiting academics and two wardens' cottages. The old stables building had to be rebuilt and is virtually a new building. It has been important to ensure sustainability for Johannesburg's heritage.

### **Naming Wits Junction**

The entire complex has been named "Wits Junction", a symbolic coming together of a unique mining geology, diverse cultures, Johannesburg history and Parktown traditions, which speaks to the hope that the lives of students will intersect at the centre. Junction Avenue remains the main access road and the subsidiary lanes are named for Wits' proud achievements in palaeontology research – such as Sediba, Africanus, Sibudu and Blombos Lanes. The road leading to the historic beacon (Randjeslaagte Corner) on the western boundary is Beacon Way. The theme adopted in the naming of the buildings has been Songs of Migration, commemorating the folklore, cultures and vibrancy of the many nationalities and people who made Johannesburg. The names, such as M'Godini, Ulima, Languta, Sarie Marais, Stimela and Shosholozza, are redolent of memory, physical labour, longing and inclusivity in forging a common history. The laundry takes the name AmaWasha to com-

memorate the first Johannesburg laundry service. Meeting rooms have been named for Wits alumni who are Nobel Prize laureates – Nelson Mandela (Peace), Aaron Klug (Chemistry), Sydney Brenner (Medicine) and Nadine Gordimer (Literature). A book by Luli Callinicos, *Who Built Jozi? Discovering Memory at Wits Junction*, was commissioned and launched at the opening event in October 2012. See "*Who built Jozi*" on page 54.

### **Striking a balance**

Prinsloo commented that an exciting lesson learnt was "to find the balance between being precious about heritage and a forward-looking design and use for the building". Heritage provides constraints and opportunities. There was a challenge in making a heritage building work in a significant way for both heritage and current use. Heritage should be seen as a challenge and a resource and not a stumbling block. "We needed to step back and not necessarily adopt the perfect design, but rather opt for what we could afford while working with heritage. We do want to do the right thing and it becomes important to do something rather than do nothing. The full restoration may not always be possible but you must make it functional and make decisions without being reckless." An example of a problem decision was the retention of a specific fine antique fireplace in Muzi Yami, which had the potential to destroy a multifunction application for the space.



*View of the main entrance to the residence complex*

### **Parking**

There is a total parking capacity for 500 vehicles and garage parking offers security and removes the intrusive presence of cars. Parking capacity was a function of the topography, but basement parking provision was avoided as too expensive an option. A shuttle service of five buses is also available to ferry students to the Education and Braamfontein campuses.

### **Heritage stakeholders**

Two heritage bodies were seen as stakeholders in the evolution of the project: the Parktown and Westcliff Heritage Trust and the Parktown Association. Initial concerns revolved around the site development plans, the retention of heritage buildings, parking, the loss of views, the scale of the new buildings and building heights to match older buildings and old houses. Questions were raised about retail outlets, a projected restaurant and parking facilities. The number of beds planned for the complex represented an influx of new inhabitants into a traditional suburb, but over time and several meetings a better understanding of the challenges emerged and the fact that the University was contributing to new solutions for a decaying suburb converted objectors into supporters. The applications for the removal of restrictions and amendments to the town planning

scheme for Erf 815 went through to approval stage with the City Council. Flo Bird, the Chairman of the Trust, sees the new development as an expression of the University's founding principles: "Wits is a university not of patronage but of the people of Johannesburg; Wits was created in the crashing spirit of protest of Johannesburg people, rather like the clash of the tectonic plates in the formation of the Witwatersrand ridge." Blue heritage plaques will mark the significance of history for each of the retained and renovated buildings.

### **Quality residential life and its meaning**

Wits Junction is a quality complex with its focus on green design and urban living. Paul Kotze comments on the importance of the quality of life in the spaces between the buildings: "This is where students meet, these are the spaces of chance encounter." Perhaps the closest comparison in approach is the somewhat smaller Graça Machel Residence at UCT (architect Martin Kruger). In providing quality residences the University promotes and ensures academic success for its students; a secure home during term time bridges the gap between school and the world of higher education. "The end product," commented Sharman, "is a service and not simply a building."

### **Setting a new standard**

The design of Wits Junction sets a new standard in student accommodation by creating a diverse range of residential choices in a consciously urban environment. Cutting-edge design gives a sense of place and of confident purpose. Successful heritage adaptation has bridged past and present, contributing to the sense of a unique place. Over time, as Parktown is reborn as a community of students and scholars, it will develop its own history for the 21st century. The success of the project lies in its long-term projections, the complexity and care of urban planning and the linkages between the buildings. ■



Portrait 1

*Archaeology alumna and Wits PhD candidate Tamaryn Hodgskiss researches the uses of ochre during the Middle Stone Age.*

# Resuscitāre

*Latin – to revive, rouse again; reawaken (re- again + suscitare, revive)*

*Resuscitāre*, a photographic exhibition in September 2012 by **Brett Eloff**, featured 12 Natural Science postgraduate students posing nude to reflect their fields of study. The envisaged calendar predictably sparked controversy among academics, despite being carefully conceptualised. A *Resuscitāre* protagonist, Aurore Val, wrote, “There is absolutely no will to shock ... but just to resuscitate people’s interest for something we are all passionate about, through the aesthetic eye of an artist.”

## Portrait 1: Tamaryn Hodgskiss

Ochre refers generally to a variety of iron-rich rocks, which are a source of red, orange and yellow pigment. Ochre use is common in the Middle Stone Age, but evidence of how it was used is limited. Ethnographic records suggest ochre use for art, ritual body paint, and skin protection, among others. Hodgskiss researches the use of ochre from Sibudu Cave, KwaZulu-Natal and whether its use signifies advanced cognitive abilities.

## Portrait 2: Jerome Reynard

Reynard studies animal remains to explore the hunting patterns of Middle Stone Age people. His PhD research focuses on the animal bones found at Blombos Cave during the Still Bay period, between 77 000 and 70 000 years ago.

## Portrait 3: Juliet McClymont

Human beings display extraordinary ability as endurance runners enabled by morphological adaptations including body proportions and intravenous cooling via mouth breathing. Theoretically, endurance running developed in humans to increase our ability to

chase animals over long distances and access a high protein diet. Subsequently, increased protein intake led to increased brain size.

## Portrait 4: Azizo Da Fonseca

South Africa’s San rock art is a cultural heritage resource that warrants protection and Da Fonseca has been at the forefront of its digital preservation. The dying eland painting in the portrait is part of a panel of images in the Kamberg region, Drakensberg. This “Rosetta Stone” panel of rock art is where scholars originally deciphered the symbolism of San rock art painting and its connection to shamanism. The portrait depicts Da Fonseca in a typical shaman death dance posture indicative of a dying eland.

## Portrait 5: Pia Viglietti

The End-Permian mass extinction 251 million years ago killed more than 90% of living organisms. UCT Masters student Pia Viglietti researches the animals that survived the ‘mother of all mass extinctions’ and what they were left with - ‘bonebeds’ preserved young animals killed en masse in post-extinction droughts.



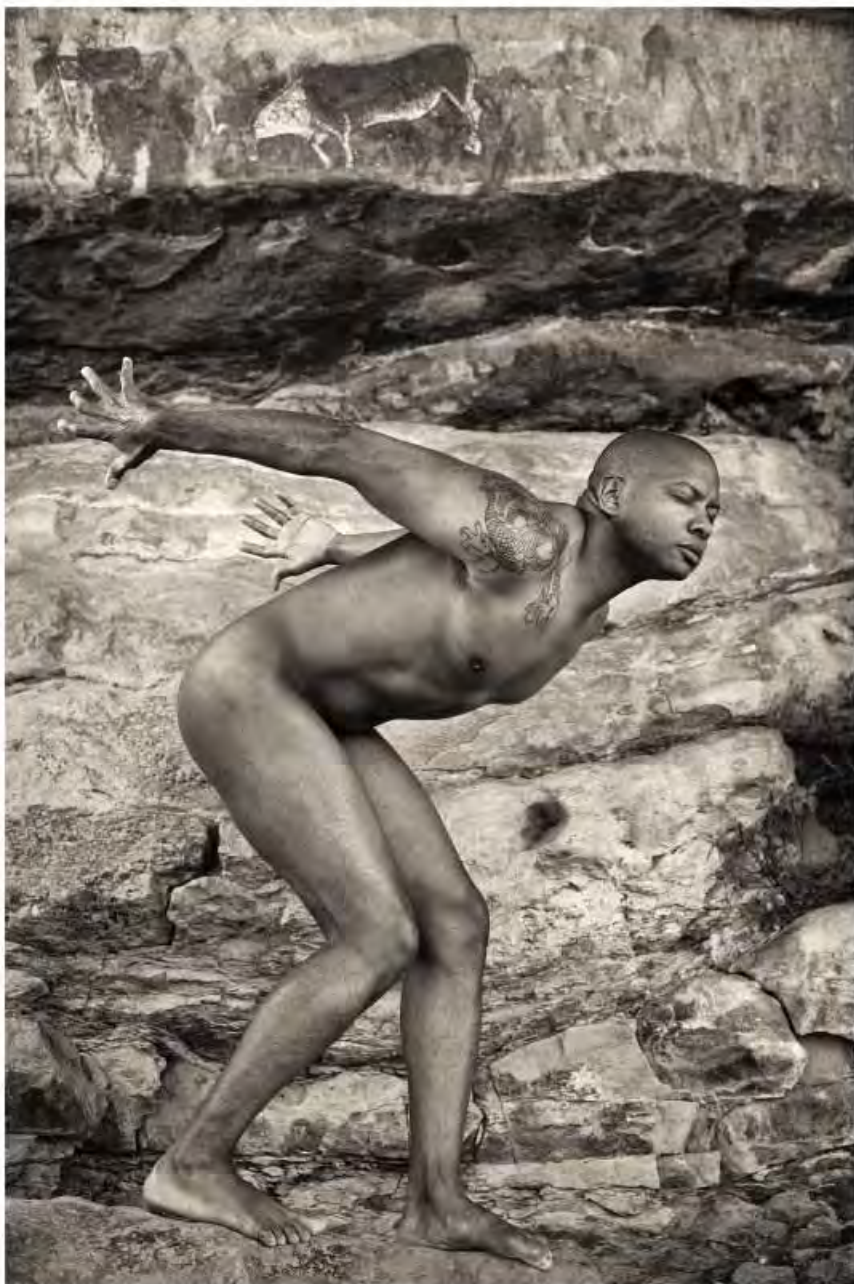
Portrait 2

*Archaeology alumnus and PhD candidate (Wits) Jerome Reynard researches human hunting patterns during the Middle Stone Age.*



Portrait 3

*PhD candidate (University of Liverpool) Juliet McClymont researches human morphological adaptations for endurance running.*



Portrait 4

*Heritage alumnus Azizo Da Fonseca preserves African rock art in the world's largest repository, the African Rock Art Digital Archive.*



Portrait 5

*Pia Viglietti studies the 10% of animals that survived mass extinction 251-million years ago.*



Bernie Fanaroff



Glenda Gray

# National Orders and Honorary Doctorates for Wits Alumni

*Wits University awarded Professor Bernie Fanaroff, Justice Yvonne Mokgoro and Brenda Gourley honorary degrees at graduation ceremonies in the Great Hall in 2013. Stuart Morris received the University's Gold Medal in December 2012.*

• Theoretical Physics alumnus Dr **Bernie Fanaroff**, “an academic, a trade unionist and an exceptional public servant”, received the Order of Mapungubwe (silver) “for his excellent contribution to astronomy and dedication in putting South Africa on the map with the SKA Project”. This Order recognises South Africans whose achievements have international impact and serve the country’s interests. The silver category denotes excellence. Fanaroff led the country’s bid to host the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), awarded jointly to South Africa and Australia on 25 May 2012. The SKA is the most powerful radio telescope on Earth.

Wits University awarded Fanaroff an honorary doctorate at the Faculty of Science graduation

ceremony, in recognition of his academic and trade unionist credentials. In 1974, Fanaroff discovered a schema of classifying objects, later known as the Fanaroff-Riley classes. This earned him his PhD in Radio Astronomy and Astrophysics from the University of Cambridge and the Fanaroff-Riley classes have been cited more than 1500 times.

Fanaroff returned to South Africa after completing his PhD and taught briefly at Wits. He then joined the fledgling trade union movement, to which he contributed significantly over 26 years. He was active in the Industrial Aid Society, then in the Metal and Allied Workers’ Union (MAWU), and in the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa, with which MAWU merged in 1987.



Essop Jassat



Ridwan Mia

President Jacob Zuma bestowed National Orders on four alumni at a ceremony on 27 April 2013. Professor Bernie Fanaroff, Professor Glenda Gray, Dr Essop Jassat, and Dr Ridwan Mia received the highest awards South Africa bestows on citizens who have made a significant impact on improving the lives of South Africans.

*By Deborah Minors*

As a trade unionist, Fanaroff negotiated with factory employers to secure recognition agreements during South Africa's volatile 1980s. MAWU subsequently grew to be the largest black trade union in the country. Fanaroff helped initiate significant policy departure when MAWU elected to join the National Industrial Council for the Steel Engineering and Metal Industry in 1983. At democratisation, he helped steer NUMSA into a radical policy shift from resistance to reconstruction. The union participated in pioneering new policies within a global, economically liberalised context. The result was the Reconstruction and Development Plan (RDP) that the new government adopted in 1994.

- Professor **Glenda Gray** received the Order of Mapungubwe (silver) from President Zuma for her “excellent life-saving research in mother-to-child transmission of HIV and AIDS that has changed the

lives of people in South Africa and abroad”. Gray directs the Perinatal HIV Research Unit (PHRU) at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, Soweto. PHRU is a world-renowned HIV research and treatment site. Gray's work here reduced mother-to-child transmission of the virus from 1 400 babies in 2002 to fewer than 500 babies now. Gray is a Research Professor in the Wits Faculty of Health Sciences and she led the first HIV vaccine trials in South Africa. She is an alumna of the Wits Medical School, a specialist paediatrician, and a Fellow of the College of Physicians of South Africa in Paediatrics. The Simon Fraser University in Canada awarded Gray an honorary doctorate in April 2012. She received the Hero in Medicine Award from the International Association of Physicians in AIDS in 2003, and the inaugural Nelson Mandela Health and Human Rights Award in 2002.

• President Zuma awarded Wits Medical and Science alumnus (1960) Dr **Essop Jassat** the Order of Luthuli (silver) “for his excellent contribution to the struggle for liberation and advancing democracy in South Africa, through selfless sacrifice without regard for his own safety and well-being”. This Order recognises South Africans who have made a meaningful contribution in the struggle opposing apartheid. Jassat joined the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress (TIC) in 1947. At Wits, he co-founded and chaired the Student Liberal Organisation. He was banned and detained for his anti-apartheid activities from 1964 until 1974. He was a member of the TIC – resuscitated in the 1980s after being driven underground – which participated in negotiations at the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) in the early 1990s. Jassat was elected as a Member of Parliament in 1994 and served in this capacity until 2004. He returned to his surgery on Bree Street, Fordsburg, before semi-retiring.

• The President awarded Wits Medical School alumnus (1999) Dr **Ridwan Mia** the Order of the Baobab (silver) “for his excellent contribution to the field of medicine and giving hope to victims devastated by burn injuries”. This Order is made to South Africans “for distinguished service delivered above and beyond the ordinary call of duty”. It recognises exceptional and distinguished contributions in categories including medicine, business, and community service. The silver denotes “grand counsellor”. Mia made history when he and his medical team saved the life of three-year-old burn victim Pippie Kruger, by transplanting flesh cloned from her own cells in a lab in Boston, USA. The reconstructive surgery operation in Garden City Clinic in Johannesburg on 11 June 2012 was the first of its kind in Africa. On 25 April 2013, Mia performed a second successful skin graft operation on a child with 35% burns.



Brenda Gourley

• Wits University conferred an honorary doctorate on Professor **Brenda Gourley**, an alumna of the School of Accountancy (1956), at a graduation ceremony at Wits in March 2013. Gourley was Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Natal (now UKZN) from 1994 to 2001. She was the first female Vice-Chancellor in South Africa. Gourley held the same post at The Open University, London from 2002 until retiring in 2009. Gourley is renowned for her role in academic management over 30 years. She charted a course for higher education in South Africa during the transition, advancing the sector locally and abroad. She drove improvements in access and expanded the role of higher education to include civic engagement and the adoption of profoundly influential new technology. She championed the Open Educational Resources movement and ensured that The Open University was the first university in Britain to make a selection of its learning resources available online. She served on the Board of the International Association of Universities and twice chaired the Association of Commonwealth Universities. She holds a Certificate in the Theory of Accountancy from Wits and a Masters in Business Leadership (1978).

# Honorary Doctorates for Wits Alumni



*Yvonne Mokgoro*



*Stuart Grant Morris receives the University's Gold Medal.*

- Wits University conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws on Justice **Yvonne Mokgoro** at a graduation ceremony on 27 March 2013. Mokgoro is renowned for her commitment to sociological jurisprudence in the fields of human rights, customary law and the impact of law on society generally, and on women and children specifically. She is closely associated with securing a place for the concept of ubuntu (humanity) in South African jurisprudence. Mokgoro currently chairs the South African Law (Reform) Commission. She became a Judge in the Office of the Chief Justice in January 2011. She was previously Justice of the Constitutional Court and served from 1994 to 2009. Prior to her judicial career, she lectured at universities in South Africa, Europe and the US, and held posts at NGOs – notably as President of Africa Legal Aid from 1995 until 2005 – and in legal research at the Human Sciences Research Council. She holds Law degrees from the University of Bophuthatswana (1982) and the University of Pennsylvania (1987), several honorary degrees, and multiple local and international awards.

- Wits University awarded a Gold Medal to Commerce alumnus (1966) **Stuart Grant Morris** at the Faculty of Health Sciences' graduation ceremony on 11 December 2012. The award recognises Morris's 16 years serving Council and more than a decade as Chairman of the Board of the Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre (WDGMC). Morris was appointed to Council in 1996 when he was Financial Director of Nedcor. As a member of the Executive Committee Morris helped Council lead Wits through a period of explosive growth in student numbers, leadership changes, and a financial crisis. In 2002, Morris accepted the additional role of Director of WDGMC and then Chairman. He steered the floundering hospital to profitability and became its passionate advocate, demonstrating a commitment beyond his Board requirements. He supported the CEOs he helped appoint and secured R5m from Council in 2008 to establish a Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory. His leadership contributed to the significant role the hospital now plays in training the country's clinical specialists. ■

# Alumni with the edge



The Florida High Tech Corridor Council in Florida, United States, named Chemistry alumnus (1964) Dr **David Fine** as one of its 2013 Faces of Technology from Brevard County on 21 March 2013. The initiative recognises firms advancing innovative technologies. In 2006 Fine founded GeNO LLC, a company that develops inhaled nitric oxide products, indicated for multiple diseases. Fine holds a PhD in Explosion Chemistry from Leeds University. He arrived in the US in 1969 and directed the Combustion Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He spent 28 years at Thermo Fisher before establishing a company that makes hand-held landmine detectors. He holds US patents on 69 inventions.

*Chemistry Honours class of 1963 (David Fine is standing left)*



By Deborah Minors



Professor **Andrew Crouch** became Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at Wits on 1 May 2013. A key focus will be on improving the success rate of students. Crouch was previously Dean of the Wits Faculty of Science, in which capacity he was instrumental in creating an enabling environment for research. His key projects included completion of the first phase of the Science Stadium, the refurbishment of the Physics laboratories, the establishment of a Mathematical Sciences Centre, and the launch of the Institute for Global Change and Sustainability. As Dean, Crouch remained active in chemistry research and on 9 April 2013, the International Society of Electrochemistry awarded him the Electrochemistry Excellence Award for Teaching and Research, in recognition of his advancing Environmental Electrochemistry in South Africa.

Dr **Roy First** received the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society of Transplantation (AST), in recognition of lifelong work that has advanced the field of transplantation. First graduated from Wits Medical School in 1966 and then took up a fellowship in Chicago. He joined the University of Cincinnati in 1974 as Assistant Professor of Medicine. He stayed at Cincinnati for 30 years, ultimately directing the transplantation section. First was President of the AST in 1990/1991. He was a founding Associate Editor of the *American Journal of Transplantation*. He was instrumental in co-establishing a unique Clinical Trials Committee aimed at engaging stakeholders to enable studies to advance transplantation. First is currently Vice-President and Therapeutic Area Head (Transplantation) at Astellas Pharma.





Photo credit: Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory

**Sello Hatang** succeeded Achmat Dangor as Chief Executive of the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory on 1 June 2013. Hatang was previously Head of Outreach and Communications and spokesperson for the Centre, and senior manager at South Africa's Human Rights Commission prior to that. He participated in the post-1994 transformation of the National Archives, including archival support for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He was previously a Director of the South African History Archive and still serves on its board and that of the Open Democracy Advice Centre. He was a member of the editorial team for Nelson Mandela's book, *Conversations with Myself* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2010). Hatang holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Heritage from Wits.



**Professor Nirupa Padia** is the new Head of the School of Accountancy at Wits, effective 1 May 2013. The Associate Professor in Auditing was the first black female chartered accountant (CA) to achieve a professorship at a South African university. She holds degrees in Commerce and Accountancy from Wits, as well as a Masters. She was co-opted to the Executive Committee of Convocation in 2009. Padia has taught prospective CAs in the School for the past 12 years, since she completed articles at PwC. She sits on the PwC board and represents academia on the Auditing Guidance Committee of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants. She is a yoga and spiritual teacher for the Art of Living Foundation.



Wits Law and English alumnus **Rob Rose** is the new editor of the *Business Times*. Rose took the reins at the supplement to the largest weekly newspaper in the country, the *Sunday Times*, on 29 April 2013. Rose has won the Vodacom Business Journalist of Year, the Citadel Business Journalist of the Year, the Sanlam Financial Journalist of the Year, and the Webber Wentzel Legal Journalist of the Year awards. He was part of the *Sunday Times* team that investigated government spokesman Mac Maharaj (“Mac’s Dodgy Millions”), which won the Taco Kuiper Award for Investigative Journalism in 2011. Rose won the same award in 2009 for his individual exposé of fraudster Barry Tannenbaum (“South Africa’s Madoff”).



The Committee of 200 – a global forum of women CEOs – named **Lorraine Segil** as its Foundation Chair and Governing Board Vice-Chair on 1 January 2013. Segil is an entrepreneurial senior executive with expertise in conflict resolution and complex change management. She is Partner Emeritus of Vantage Partners, a conflict resolution consultancy. Segil is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Southwestern, California and serves on the Entrepreneurs Board of UCLA Business School. She taught Strategic Alliances for Executives at the California Institute of Technology. Segil emigrated to the US in 1974. She holds BA and BA Honours degrees from Wits, a Juris Doctorate in Law from Southwestern, and an MBA from Pepperdine. She runs an agricultural company in California.



Alumnae Dame **Janet Suzman** and Lara Foot collaborated on *Solomon and Marion*, a play about redemption through an unlikely relationship during the 2010 World Cup. Suzman is a Johannesburg-born, world-renowned actor. She plays 'Marion' opposite Khaya lethu Anthony's 'Solomon'. Foot is an award-winning director whose play won the 2012 Fleur du Cap award for Best New South African Play. Suzman and Foot also received 'Best Actor' and 'Best Director' nominations respectively. (Image: Jesse Krame)



**Michael Sutherland** was elected as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in the Western Australian Parliament on 11 April 2013. Sutherland studied History at Wits (1977), after which he taught for five years. During this time, he studied law at UNISA and obtained a teaching diploma. He then practised in South Africa and was elected to the City Council of Johannesburg in 1982. He emigrated to Australia in 1987 and settled in Perth. Elected to the City of Perth Council in 1995, Sutherland served as Deputy Lord Mayor for five years. He retired in 2009 as Freeman of the City in recognition of exemplary service. He practised as a solicitor and notary public before his election to Parliament in 2008.

# the writing edge

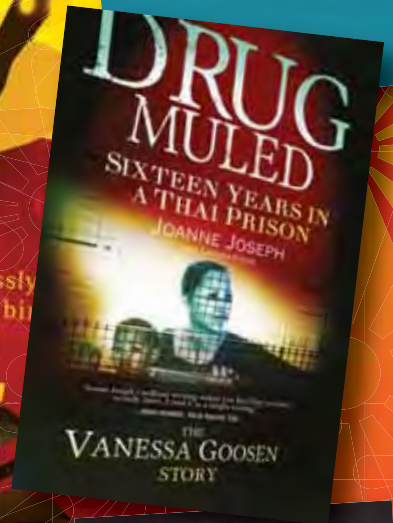
Alumni with

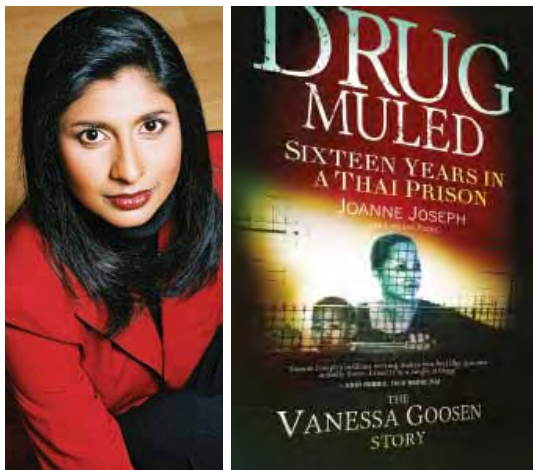
LIESL  
JOBSON

"Liesl Jobson's crisp empathetic prose takes us fearlessly  
the electric pulses of South Africa's painful new bi  
- BIKAYANGA WAININA

RIDE THE  
TORTOISE  
STORIES

Compiled by Deborah Minors





### MEMOIR

*Drug Muled: 16 Years in a Thai Prison: The Vanessa Goosen Story*, by Joanne Joseph

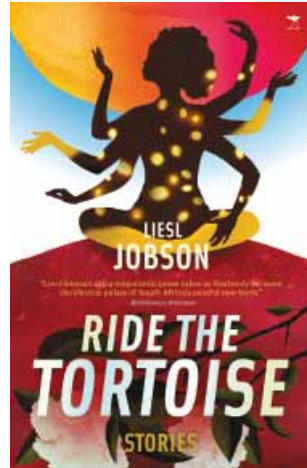
An eNCA news anchor who formerly presented SABC3 news, Joanne Joseph is a journalist with impressive credentials. She has worked in the media for the past 15 years in radio and television. She has extensive experience as a news writer, producer and anchor. Fluent in French, Joseph holds an Honours degree in European Literature, as well as a BA in Drama and Film, and a Masters in Literature from Wits. *Drug Muled* (Picador, 2013) is her first book. It recounts the story of Vanessa Goosen's ordeal as a Thai prisoner following a conviction for drug smuggling, while pregnant. The former Miss South Africa beauty pageant finalist gave birth in prison – her daughter is now 17 years old. Goosen's original death sentence was commuted to 35 years, of which she served 16. The launch of *Drug Muled* took place at Exclusive Books in Hyde Park, Johannesburg, on 3 May 2013. eNCA Africa editor Chris Maroleng led the conversation with Joseph and Goosen, whose daughter Felicia also attended.



### NON-FICTION

*Conversations with my Sons and Daughters*, by Dr Mamphela Ramphele

Dr Mamphela Ramphele is a medical doctor, academic and businesswoman. She was active in the anti-apartheid struggle and is a global thought-leader in the area of sustainable development. She holds a medical degree (UKZN), a PhD in Social Anthropology (UCT), a BCom (Administration) (UNISA) and medical diplomas and an honorary doctorate in Law from Wits. She formerly served as Managing Director of the World Bank and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town. Based on discussions with South African youth, Ramphele's latest book, *Conversations with my Sons and Daughters* (Penguin 2013), "responds to the growing despair among young South Africans about the cracks that are appearing in our system of governance and threatening the idealism of the country that reinvented itself with the dawn of democracy in 1994. Ramphele urges young South Africans to set aside their fears; to take control of their rights and responsibilities as citizens in upholding the values of the constitution; and to confront the growing inequality that undermines good governance, social justice and stability."



## NON-FICTION

*Picturing Change: Curating Visual Culture at Post-Apartheid Universities*, by Prof. Brenda Schmahmann

Formerly in the Wits History of Art department, Brenda Schmahmann holds four degrees from Wits, including a PhD, and is a B-rated National Research Foundation scholar. She was a winner of the Vice-Chancellor's Book Award at Rhodes University, where she was ranked in the top 30 most productive researchers. She is at present Professor in the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture at the University of Johannesburg (UJ). Schmahmann recently published *Mapula: Embroidery and Empowerment in the Winterveld* (David Krut Publishing, 2006), among several other publications. Since South Africa's transition to democracy, institutions have attempted to redefine their identities through engagement with imagery through the artworks they acquire. *Picturing Change* (Wits University Press, 2013) unpacks the complexities, contradictions and slippages involved in this process. Schmahmann launched *Picturing Change* at UJ on 7 May 2013. Wits alumnus Professor Federico Freschi, Dean of the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture at UJ, welcomed guests and UNI-SA literary theorist Professor Andries Oliphant was the guest speaker.

## SHORT STORIES

*Ride the Tortoise*, by Liesl Jobson

Liesl Jobson holds a Masters in Creative Writing (*cum laude*) from Wits, where she studied music as an undergraduate. She has published a volume of poetry, *View from an Escalator* (Bosotso, 2008), and some 60 stories published online formed the basis of her dissertation. The result, *100 Papers* (Bosotso, 2008) is "flash fiction" (very short-form storytelling) for which Jobson won the 2006 Ernst van Heerden Creative Writing Award from Wits. *Ride the Tortoise* (Jacana, 2013) is a collection of short stories based on Jobson's fascinating life experiences. These include marrying at 19, working as a psychic, a stint as a journalist, and playing bassoon for the National Orchestra and flute in the Soweto Police Band. *Ride the Tortoise* was launched at the Wits Writing Centre on 13 April 2013, where author and alumna Jo-Anne Richards said, "[Jobson's] skill lies in her perfect specificity of detail and beautiful particulars that ground her stories in a familiar world." *Ride the Tortoise* has been long-listed for the 2013 Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award.

# Alumni events



## ALUMNI REUNIONS

Saturday 9 November: **Cape Town**

Saturday 30 November: **Durban**

Enquiries: [Justine.dangor@wits.ac.za](mailto:Justine.dangor@wits.ac.za)

September 2013: **VOW FM Alumni Reunion**

Enquiries: [sm@vowfm.co.za](mailto:sm@vowfm.co.za)

Friday 19 July, **The Wits Theatre 30th Birthday**

*Afrocartography: Traces of Places and All Points*

*In-Between*, a play that explores a way of being in

the world that can only be described as Afropolitan.

## REUNIONS IN USA AND CANADA

Monday 19 August: **San Diego**

Tuesday 20 August: **Irvine, Orange County**

Thursday 22 August: **Los Angeles**

Sunday 25 August: **San Francisco**

Tuesday 27 August: **Vancouver**

Thursday 29 August: **Toronto**

Enquiries: [Purvi.Purohit@wits.ac.za](mailto:Purvi.Purohit@wits.ac.za)

## ALUMNI EVENTS

• Thursday 4 July, **Cocktails with MTN Chief Executive Sifiso Dabengwa** (MBA, 1993)

Enquiries: [Purvi.Purohit@wits.ac.za](mailto:Purvi.Purohit@wits.ac.za)

• Thursday 18 July, **The Story of Pacific Salmon - An Upstream Battle for Sex**

Enquiries: [nelisiwe.majola@wits.ac.za](mailto:nelisiwe.majola@wits.ac.za)

• Sunday 18 August, **Wits<sup>2</sup> Kudus 21km/10km road race and 5km campus fun-run**

Enquiries: [Purvi.Purohit@wits.ac.za](mailto:Purvi.Purohit@wits.ac.za)

• Thursday 14 November, **Founders' Tea**, Gavin Relly Green, West Campus

Enquiries: [Purvi.Purohit@wits.ac.za](mailto:Purvi.Purohit@wits.ac.za)

Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations for more information about alumni events:  
Tel. +27 11 717 1091 or email: [alumni@wits.ac.za](mailto:alumni@wits.ac.za)



# Places to visit at Wits

## Adler Museum of Medicine

Wits Medical School, 7 York Road, Parktown, Gauteng  
**Tel** +27 (0) 11 717 2067 | **Email** [adler.museum@wits.ac.za](mailto:adler.museum@wits.ac.za)  
**Hours** Monday to Friday, 09:30 - 16:00, Saturdays on request  
**Cost** Free | [www.wits.ac.za/adlermuseumofmedicine](http://www.wits.ac.za/adlermuseumofmedicine)

## Wits Art Museum | WAM

Corner Jorissen and Bertha Streets, Braamfontein  
**Tel** + 27 (0) 11 717 1365 | WAM is one of Johannesburg's premier tourist attractions. It is home to one of the largest collections on the continent of African art. WAM has a café on site and hosts regular events and exhibitions.  
[www.wits.ac.za/wa](http://www.wits.ac.za/wa)

## The Origins Centre

West Campus, Wits University, corner of Yale Road and Enoch Sontonga Avenue, Braamfontein, Johannesburg  
**Tel** +27 (0) 11 717 4700 | **Hours** Daily and public holidays, from 09:00 - 17:00 | **Cost** Adults R75, Children (under 12 with adult) R35, Guide fee (minimum ten) R180, Learners R40, Teachers (with school groups) R50, Lectures R45, Temporary exhibitions R45, Films R50 [www.origins.org.za](http://www.origins.org.za)

## Planetarium

East Campus, Wits University, Yale Road off Empire Road, Entrance 10, Milner Park, Braamfontein, Johannesburg  
**Tel** +27 (0) 11 717 1392 | **Email** [planet@planetarium.co.za](mailto:planet@planetarium.co.za)  
**Hours** Public shows Fridays 20:00, Saturdays 15:00, Kiddies' show (5-8-year-olds) Saturdays 10:30 | **Cost** Adults R32, Children/students/pensioners R20 [www.planetarium.co.za](http://www.planetarium.co.za)

## Wits Rural Facility

From Johannesburg, N14 and from Pretoria, N4 to Witbank (eMalahleni) to Belfast (eMakhazeni) to R540 to Lydenburg (Mashishing) to R36 to Abel Erasmus Pass to R531 to Klaserie then Orpen road turn-off 2km past Klaserie, Limpopo  
**Tel** +27 (0) 15 793 7500 | **Email** [wrfmanager@tiscali.co.za](mailto:wrfmanager@tiscali.co.za)  
**Cost** Terminalia and Vaalboom en-suite units: R530 for two, R215/extra person | Lodge: pps R200, single R296 | Anselia self-catering unit: pps R250, single R340 | Aerocamp: pps R204, single R293 | Bushcamp/4-person dormitory: R97 per person | [www.wits.ac.za/placesofinterest/wrf](http://www.wits.ac.za/placesofinterest/wrf)

## Wits Theatre Complex

East Campus, Wits University, Performing Arts Administration, 24 Station Street, Braamfontein, Johannesburg  
**Tel** +27 (0) 11 717 1376 | **Email** [Catherine.Pisanti@wits.ac.za](mailto:Catherine.Pisanti@wits.ac.za)  
**Hours** PAA reception hours, 08:00 - 16:00, Monday to Friday  
**Cost** varies according to programme | **Tickets** 073 725 7381  
[www.wits.ac.za/WitsTheatre](http://www.wits.ac.za/WitsTheatre)

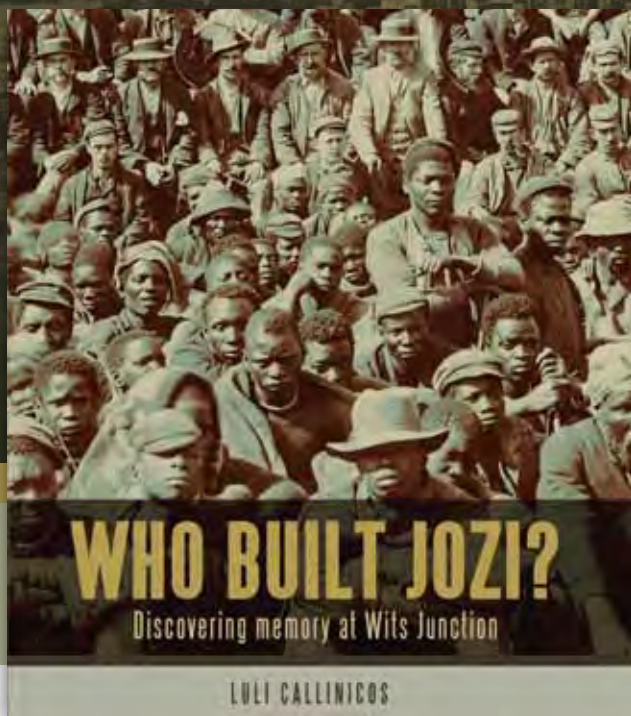
## Maropeng, the Cradle of Humankind and the Sterkfontein Caves

Off R563 Hekpoort Road, Sterkfontein, Gauteng | **Tel** +27 (0) 14 577 9000 | **Email** [website@maropeng.co.za](mailto:website@maropeng.co.za)  
**Hours** 09:00 - 17:00 daily | **Cost** **Caves** Adults R120, Children R70 (4-14 years), Pensioners/students R80  
**Maropeng boat rides** Adults R115, Children R65 (4-14 years), Pensioners/students R80 | **Combined Maropeng/Cave** (until 13:00 only) Adults R190, Children R110 (4-14 years)  
[www.maropeng.co.za](http://www.maropeng.co.za)

*Details accurate at time of publishing. Please contact facilities directly.*

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# BookReview



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**Who Built Jozi? Discovering Memory at Wits Junction by Luli Callinicos**

Published by Wits University Press, 2012

In October 2012, the Wits Junction in Parktown officially opened. The new residential complex spans 3.6 hectares and offers more than 1 200 students a home in Johannesburg.

The book *Who Built Jozi? Discovering Memory at Wits Junction* launched at the opening, combines memory, heritage, Wits history and Johannesburg's social history. It presents an accessible heritage history that connects the past with the present. It links the lifestyles of an affluent Parktown with the often-nameless migrants to the city.

The city's layered past is reinterpreted by posing the question of who built Jozi. The book adds to the construction of a new identity and a more inclusive history. Callinicos shifts between past and present – her task to recover forgotten people in a complex historical landscape.

Parktown was a suburb for Johannesburg's elite when, since 1892, mining magnates built grand late Victorian mansions on larger suburban estates to escape the older suburbs like Doornfontein. Callinicos does not simply tell the story of elite Parktown, but blends this with the history of the poorer migrants who lived in other parts of the town.

The historic Randjeslaagte surveyor's beacon, which marks one of the boundaries of the layout of the old town, is now a protected monument. A mosaic map represents the beacon in the book but is truncated and thus fails to reflect the full Randjeslaagte triangle – or any of Parktown.

Old black and white photographs effectively link places such as Sophiatown to the “compound” of Parktown. Contemporary colour photographs make

for a sharp contrast between early Johannesburg “then” and transformed Jozi “now.”

The book explains how and why Wits emerged as an immigrant institution of higher education, what its Parktown connections were and how scholars of international achievement were the products of Wits, or shaped Wits, in setting high standards in teaching and research.

Wits University was founded only in 1922 and should not be described as existing in 1904, a small slip. It was a reef town University (too little is made of the Witwatersrand connection) and its graduates served the city as engineers, doctors, dentists, architects, teachers and scientists.

A chapter on Wits in the 1930s and 1940s explores institutional attitudes towards sexual and racial discrimination. The political stance of Wits students concentrates on the 1940s and the more recent struggle history of Wits is missed.

The narrative switches to Parktown in decline in the 1950s and the National Party's bulldozing of old residences to make way for the Johannesburg Hospital and the College of Education.

The name Wits Junction makes a verbal play on the original central road through this precinct, Junction Avenue. The name recalls past roots but speaks to the future intersection of students' lives in the new residence.

Callinicos draws a parallel between the frequent rebuilding of Jozi with Brecht's poem *Questions From a Worker Who Reads*, which opens with “Who built Thebes of the seven gates?”, reminding us that traditional history frequently celebrates the famous and ignores the contributions of ordinary people.

*KA Munro, School of Architecture and Planning*

# Obituaries

Compiled by Deborah Minors

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## *Wits University fondly remembers those who have passed away*

### **Drake, Martin 'Dizzy' Francis (1941 – 2013)**

Professor Martin Drake died in a motor related accident on 8 April 2013, aged 72. Drake was born on 31 October 1941. He held Geography degrees from UKZN, an MA from Wits (1972) and an MSc in Planning from the University of Strathclyde, Scotland. He spent time at the University of Stuttgart, Germany, before returning to South Africa in 1978. He joined the planning department in the Wits School of Architecture, where the field trips he conceived for students remain legendary. Drake consulted on projects across Africa, including a bid for South Sudan's capital, capacity building in Rwanda and conservation in Ethiopia. He was President of the Association of Chartered Town Planners in South Africa and a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society. Drake retired in 2001. He leaves his wife and son.

### **Friedman, Morris 'Mockie' Woolf (1927 – 2012)**

Retired judge Morris Friedman died in November 2012, aged 86. Woolf was born in Witbank on 29 March 1927. He studied Law at Wits, where his roommate was Communist Party leader Joe Slovo, with whom Woolf enjoyed poker games. Woolf was an advocate at the Johannesburg Bar and took silk in 1978. In 1988, he became a Judge in the Supreme Court of Bophuthatswana, now the North West High Court. He participated in South Africa's transition to democracy, became Judge President of that court in 1994 and retired in 2002. Friedman was an elegant raconteur and a gifted orator. He chaired the Great Park Synagogue and South African Zionist Organisation. He was devoted to his family and leaves his wife and three children.



### **Griffiths, Patrick David (1942 – 2012)**

Wits benefactor Dr Patrick Griffiths, 70, died suddenly from a heart attack on 20 January 2012, aged 70. Griffiths came to Wits as a De Beers engineering scholar but graduated instead with an Honours degree in Linguistics (1968). He went abroad to complete a postgraduate diploma in General Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh, which also awarded his PhD (1977). Griffiths joined the University of York in 1974 and remained there for 20 years before moving to the University of the South Pacific, Fiji where he became professor and head of department. He left after the political coup and returned to York before accepting a professorship in Linguistics at Beppu University in Kyushu, Japan, where he stayed for five years.

### **Herholdt, Albrecht 'Boet' Johan De Villers (1914 – 2013)**

Former Wits Registrar and benefactor 'Boet' Herholdt died in Cape Town on 15 May 2013, aged 99. He was born in Carnarvon, Northern Cape on 21 January 1914. A Commerce alumnus, Herholdt joined the Wits Registrar's Office in 1936 after a brief stint in the private sector. Promoted to Assistant Registrar in 1941, he filled this role at UCT in 1944 before returning to Wits in 1946. He remained in this post until his appointment as the third Registrar at Wits in 1954. Herholdt shouldered the full range of responsibilities - from legal and infrastructural through public and government liaison - originally individually, with discretion, wisdom and impartiality. Former Vice-Chancellor Professor Guerino Bozzoli described Herholdt as "an outstanding administrator, a dedicated servant of the university." Herholdt retired reluctantly in 1975 and Wits awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1977.

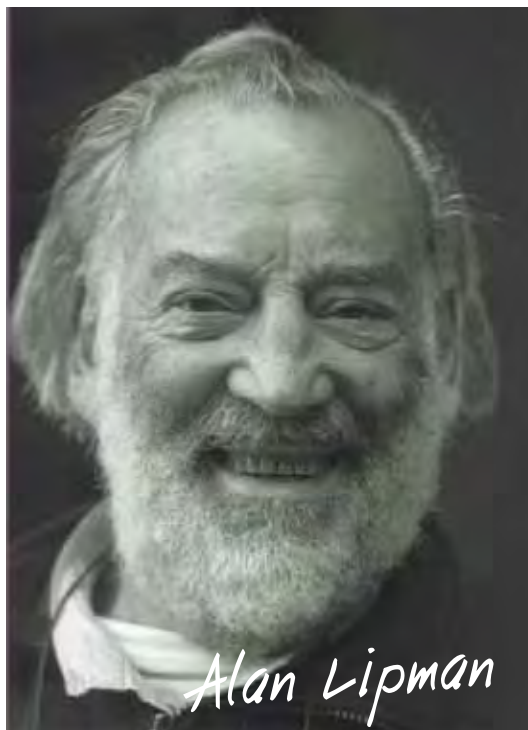
### **Meltz, Louis Solomon (1961 – 2013)**

Attorney Louis Meltz, 52, died unexpectedly of cancer on 2 April 2013. Born in Pretoria on 20 January 1961, Meltz attended Pretoria Boys High and earned a BA at Pretoria University. At Wits, he studied Law (1985) and emigrated to the US after completing military service. He co-founded Seham, Seham, Meltz & Petersen LLP in New York and chaired the Immigration Law practice. He managed the firm's maritime clients and established the American Maritime Safety Inc, a non-profit which provides legal support and safety training to shipping clients. Meltz was a Latin scholar and an avid student of Torah renowned for his keen mind, unwavering civility and loyalty. He ran marathons and was a dedicated family man. His wife and three children survive him.



**Richards, Colin Peter (1954 – 2013)**

Eminent art critic Colin Richards, 58, died on 26 December 2012 after a fall at home in Cape Town. Richards was a Professor at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, a post he took in 2010 after 31 years at Wits. Here Richards first worked as an illustrator in the Medical School while studying Art through UNISA. He began lecturing in Fine Art at Wits in 1985 and married his colleague, the artist Penny Siopis, in 1986. Theirs was a formidable artistic collaboration. Profoundly affected by his military conscription experience, Richards studied Art Therapy in London in 1988. He returned and co-founded the Mokhele Art Therapy and Education Project in Soweto. Richards earned a PhD (Wits, 1995). Wits awarded him full professorship and a personal chair in 2002. He leaves his wife, daughter, son (a Wits Fine Art alumnus) and grandchild.



**Lipman, Alan Robert (1925 – 2013)**

AA celebrated architectural scholar who explored the moral potential of architecture in society, Alan Lipman, 88, died at home in Johannesburg on 27 January 2013. An ardent anti-apartheid activist, Lipman had been a member of the Communist Party and later the ANC, affiliations that drove him into exile in 1963.

He was born in Johannesburg on 6 June 1925. He served in World War II and then studied Architecture at Wits, graduating in 1950. He practised in the UK and then in South Africa, in Durban, and as Chief Architect of Greatermans Stores in 1961. His writing during this period on architectural theory broke new ground. A banning order drove him to exile and he began an academic career at the University of Wales. Here he undertook seminal research exploring parallels between architecture and sociology. He retired in 1989 as Professor Emeritus.

Lipman returned to South Africa in 1990 and continued writing on architecture as “an outward manifestation of social relations”. He collaborated on projects, earning accolades from the South African Institute of Architects, among others, and an honorary doctorate from Wits (1998). He leaves his wife, two children and three grandchildren.

### **Tomkin, Samuel ‘Sonny’ Norton (1908 – 2013)**

The architect who designed the Geology Building and Medical Library at Wits, Samuel Tomkin died on 31 January in Toronto, Canada in 2012, aged 104. Tomkin was born on 28 August 1908 in London. He came to South Africa with his family in 1919. A chance meeting with Nathan Finkelstein prompted Tomkin to study Architecture at Wits and they graduated in 1933.

Tomkin, Finkelstein and classmate Norman Hanson established practices in Johannesburg and then Durban. Here Tomkin would make a significant contribution to the city’s architecture over 40 years, designing a synagogue, the nurses’ quarters at Addington Hospital, parts of the University of Natal and Durban Technikon campuses, and schools for Durban’s Indian Blind and Indian Deaf, among others. Tomkin earned accolades including the Institute of South African Architects Gold Medal of Honour and Medal of Distinction. He was a member of the Durban Rotary Club and became a Paul Harris Fellow for his contribution. Ultimately, he received the Freedom of the City of Durban.

In 1992, Tomkin and his wife, Rita, relocated to Canada to live with his daughter, Janet Hellmann (BA 1971) and son-in-law, Dr Jonathan Hellmann (MBBCh, 1970). Rita died in 1999 and Janet in 2009. Tomkin maintained his daily discipline of a cold shower, an apple and a sausage a day, wore a tie, hat and jacket at all times, and enjoyed a tot of Johnnie Walker daily at 6pm until the end of his full life.



*Samuel Tomkin*

### **West, John Fergus (1920 – 2012)**

Dr John West died in Perth, Western Australia on 7 October 2012, aged 92. He was born in Queenstown, Eastern Cape on 26 June 1920. He served during World War II and spent three years as a prisoner of war. West studied Medicine at Wits and qualified in 1952. He worked in Casualty at the Johannesburg Children’s Hospital and it was here that he met his wife, Jeanette, a radiographer. West moved to the Paediatric Emergency department at Baragwanath Hospital in 1971 and obtained a diploma in Child Health. West remained at Baragwanath until he and his family relocated to Australia in 1977. He continued to work with children in community health care until his retirement. His wife, son, daughter, and four grandchildren survive him. ■



# Body chemistry

By Heather Dugmore

Wits graduate Tarryn Rego (BSc Eng 2007) is a chemical engineer and a belly dancer. If you've heard of a combination like this before you're the rare exception, says Heather Dugmore.

“**B**elly dancing got me into Chemical Engineering,” smiles 27-year-old Tarryn Rego from under the hard hat she wears as part of her safety uniform at Senmin in Sasolburg, which manufactures chemicals for the gold, copper, and platinum mines.

This same woman led her dance group – the Hizi-Hizi Belly Dance SA Team – to first place in the belly dance category at the international Montenegro Dance Festival in May this year. Representing South Africa in silks, satins and seductive veils, they out-shimmied the world.

She took a few days off to travel to Montenegro, then returned to her industrial day job, driving between her office at Senmin's headquarters in Roodepoort and the plant in Sasolburg. Hers is a life of opposites coinciding around the common denominator of Wits.

“While I was in high school I started belly dancing at The Sheikh's Palace in Sandton, the owner of which, Jo Manachi, had studied at Wits,” Rego explains. “I asked his advice after I completed the standard school aptitude tests, which showed that I was inclined towards engineering. Jo recommended that I study engineering at Wits. He then took me to Wits to show me around and encouraged me to enrol, which I did. It was really exciting when Wits contacted me and said I'd been accepted.”

In her first year she took an introductory course to Chemical Engineering and found her niche. “Chemical Engineering is all about problem solving; it's about applying your mind logically and laterally at the same time and this appeals to me because by nature I'm a problem solver.” A problem solver who

turned heads as she roared onto campus in the bright yellow 1997 Porsche 924 her father had restored for her.

“It makes me sound like a spoilt rich girl, which I certainly am not. I have been financially independent from the age of 14, when I became a professional belly dancer. I paid for my textbooks at Wits with the money I made and I secured a bursary from Senmin for my third and fourth years. Jo helped me find the old Porsche, which my brother and Dad (Carlos Rego Snr and Jnr), who love cars, helped me fix. My Dad grew up in Turffontein in the south of Joburg, which was all about fast cars, motorbikes and gangs,” says Rego, who inherited his interest in fast cars and motorbikes, but left off the gangs.

“Before my time, the Portuguese and Lebanese would regularly battle it out; they were notorious rivals,” explains Rego, who is of Portuguese origin. Carlos' parents moved to South Africa and settled in Turffontein in the late 1960s. “A lot of Portuguese families settled in South Africa at that time and opened all sorts of businesses. My grandfather Antonio Rego opened a travel agency, which was very established in the Portuguese community, and he built himself up over the years. He sold the first ever flight on TAP (the Portuguese airline) when they started flying from South Africa.”

Growing up in Turffontein (and later Bedfordview), young Tarryn – who now owns her own home in Observatory – preferred hanging out with the boys in jeans and tackies, talking cars and bikes and playing soccer and rugby. “I wasn't interested in girly things. I was always tomboyish; only the dancing kept me girlish.”

Encouraged by her mother Leslie Rego, who fell in love with this ancient Middle Eastern dance form on a trip to Egypt, Tarryn started belly-dancing classes at the age of 11. “I’d been doing tap and modern dancing from the age of four and found I had a natural ability for belly dancing, perhaps because I started dancing so early.”

Back then, she explains, belly dancing was not nearly as popular as it is now. “It was mostly older women doing it for a bit of fun and exercise rather than for competition or professional reasons,” says Rego. She performed her first belly dance on TV in the mid-1990s on Tony Sanderson’s *Chuckle and Chat Show* at the age of 13. A year later the group with which she danced, Jewels of the Nile, entered the South African Championships for the Performing Arts and won first place, which took them to Los Angeles to represent South Africa.

At age 14 she started belly dancing professionally at a range of local venues, including The Sheikh’s Palace and Emperor’s Palace, and continued through high school. “Loads of makeup and big hair would make me look older,” says Rego, whose parents would accompany her to performances.

“As a teenager, belly dancing helped me develop and understand what confidence is all about,” she says. “I’m a shy person but when I put on the makeup and costumes, and the music starts up, the performer in me emerges and my energy and confidence kick in. It’s such a release for me and it makes me feel better no matter how good or bad my life is at the time.”

Asked whether she thinks anyone can belly dance, she tactfully replies: “Definitely. It’s a most forgiving dance form and you can be any age, size or shape, or come from any cultural background to enjoy it. It’s a fun form of exercise, and it greatly improves your strength, fitness, muscle tone and posture.”

All the same, few women would be confident enough

to shimmy and shake on a public platform; and chances are only a handful of men could cope with their girlfriend or wife being ogled and admired as belly dancers are. Recently single, Rego says some of her boyfriends have coped; others have not. “The thing is, if a man is going to be with me he has to love my belly dancing because it’s a large part of who I am.”

### World class performance


Rego has performed all over the world, and her audiences have included Egyptian ministers and Saudi princes who know a thing or two about this dance form. They tipped her well in appreciation.

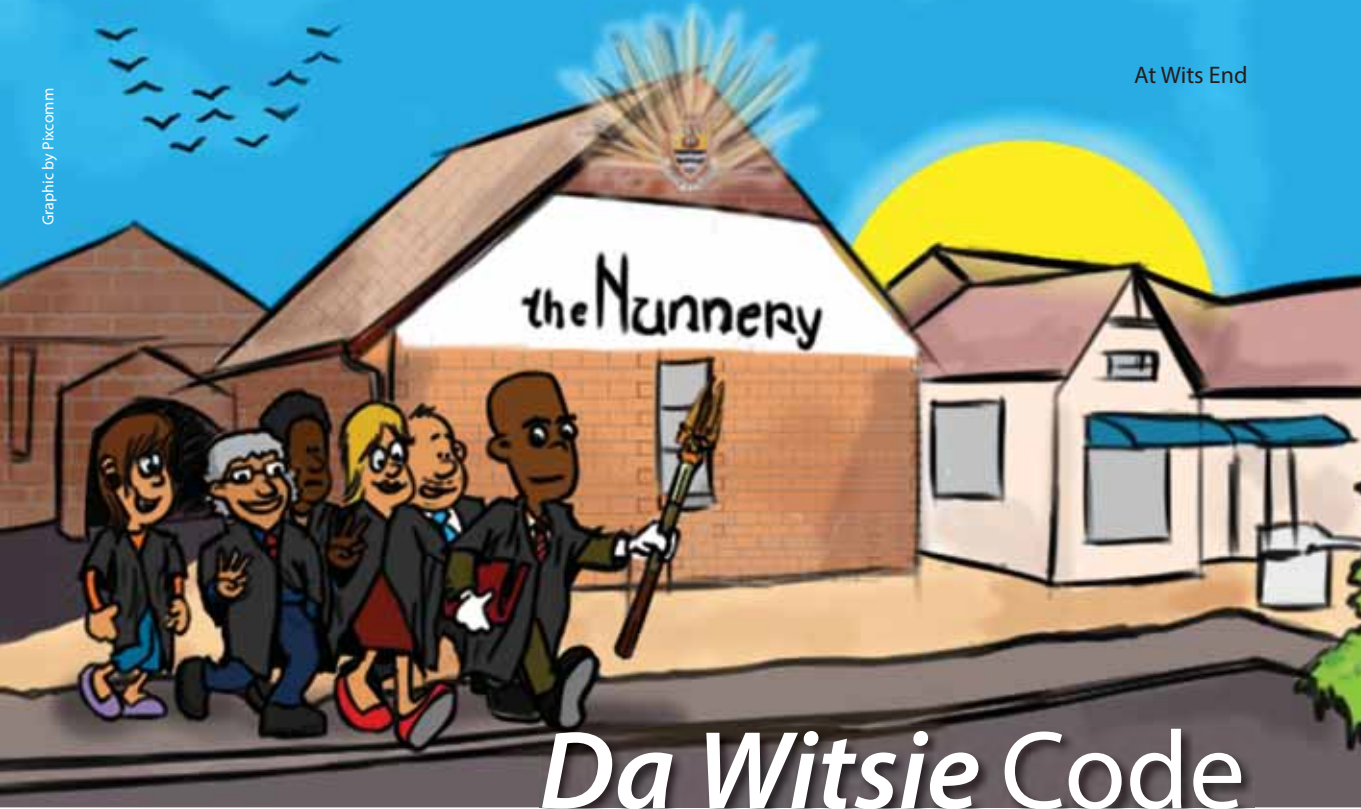
“What’s interesting is that in places like Egypt some of the best belly dancers are straight men, and they can be as sensual and sexual as the women dancers. The women audiences go mad for them,” says Rego, adding that the versatility of the dance form is that it can be played up or down according to the audience.

The Hizi-Hizi Belly Dance Troupe is extremely popular and is booked for a wide range of functions many months in advance.

“Our performances range from fun acts for a kid’s birthday party to more exotic performances for a ministerial or adult corporate audience. What we don’t do is bachelor parties, because we don’t want to be mistaken for strippers; we pride ourselves on our professional reputation.”

Asked what her colleagues at Senmin think about her other profession, she says: “Most of my colleagues find it amusing but they don’t know the extent of my involvement in belly dancing because I keep it very separate from my daily work. It’s also refreshing for me to be able to step aside from the glamour and associated bitchiness of competitive dancing, and apply myself in a no-nonsense male environment of hard hats and safety boots.”





# Da Witsie Code



By Keyan G Tomaselli

**M**y job is to get readers to plough through to the last page of this July mag. Not an easy task in our contemporary media-led world with its fractured sound-bite multitasking digitally carved-up consciousness. When last did you see anyone actually reading or leafing through a magazine in a doctor's waiting room or on a bus? People either stare at the walls or burrow self-importantly into their beeping, flashing, interconnected smartphones. No-one talks to anyone else any more in public spaces. Heads down at an angle, they sidle along like sidewinder snakes over a never-ending social desert, texting away in a desperate attempt to connect with a virtual community that confers upon them their perceived identity. A sixth sense warns them of impending lamp posts. The non-texting among us dodge these stupid twittering texters who could care less about the "last page".

The editor of *WITSReview* was literally at his wits' end in addressing this problem of last page inattentivity. Yes, this is an actual clinical condition afflicting all of us in the postmodern world. I can claim to have discovered and patented this condition, because this one-time Wits geographer turned Wits film production lecturer turned journalist is now housed in a school of applied human sciences. These are just big words for "psychology" and some other disciplines. I'm now a certified pop psychologist, probably certifiable also. Tell that to my postmatric career counsellor, whose jaw dropped to his knees when I told him that I wanted to be a psychologist – a bit like the John Cleese character, an accountant, in *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, who really wanted to be a lion tamer. Patience and idiocy obviously pay off.

I'm also something of a turnaround artist for university mags with captive readerships like staff and/or alumni. One learns by doing: my early career was penning articles for austere theatre journals and industry trade mags when I was a freewheeling free-lancing feel-em-up and foolhardy lecturer/unionist/film maker. When lecturing at Wits in the late 1970s I also wrote pithy, mildly Marxist film reviews for counter-culture magazines, some of which contained oh-so-tame girlie pin-ups. Even less tame girlie mags like the infamous *Scope* that pioneered pin-up nudity battled to keep their readers interested until the last page. One of my UKZN students going through late adolescence used a ruler, slide rule and tracing paper to predict the very date that *Scope* would reveal all. Just shows: social science is not useless.

Last page inattentivity does not affect newspapers because sport is the main attraction. That's why the tabloids bury nudity inside. Page 3 seems to be the magic number that entices the semi-literate cretins who read the tabloids to get beyond the first page, closer to the classifieds. Having fought censorship from the front, in the end *Scope* died because it tamed out in the no-holds-barred raunchy sexualised media environment that followed political liberation.

Well, at least we got to be sexually liberated even if freedom of political expression is now being rolled back by a government that prefers that we get our jollies from the very tame *WITSReview*. I am not going to untame it. Its engaging design solves the inattentivity condition. It's small and handy, and it's got nice colour pictures and good short stories on Wits academics we know or should know. It's won lots of awards from obscure organisations. Some boring stuff about university rankings is balanced by titillating articles on the sexual life of plants, migrating quiver trees and on song and dance. Every doctor's waiting room should be supplied with a copy. Even the kids can read it.


## Alumni secrets

So, who is the mag's readership? The Alumni, maybe the Alumnati, maybe the Alumnatae, an association of intrigued graduates. We might as well Latinise it, as many of us still remember reciting our conjugations at school. Hey, we're all alumni and in this together – that's why the back page is important. Or, maybe the Alumnati or Illuminati are a residual shadowy group in a Dan Brown novel, bent on global domination? Certainly Wits wants to be the top-ranked university. *WITSReview* is the diabolical means to this laudable end.

Under the surface of *WITSReview* are hidden codes, calls to arms, known only to Wits Alumnati, to change the world (and promote the University). They will congregate when called by one of the sub-textual messages that is wrapped up in an otherwise boring article sourcing Italian semiotician and novelist Umberto Eco on sub-particle anti-gravity read through an obscure medieval theological text, clouded with poststructuralist discourse masquerading as a shindig in pop psychology. The Friends of Wits will congregate at the gates (because they don't have swipe cards to get onto campus). They will be herded to The Nunnery, once a theatre, now a secret underground convention centre where my production company once shot an episode of a slapstick TV series starring Al Debbo and Wits drama students in a chain gang. There they will be addressed by my editor, Peter Maher, Director: Alumnati Relations, and told the real meaning of being an Alumnus. He will bare all and illuminate the darkness.

The secret message: please read the whole mag beyond page three, including the back pages. After all, I gotta keep my job in these challenging times.

*Keyan G Tomaselli was once a student and lecturer at Wits. Now at UKZN, he gets his jollies by writing articles like this.*  
Tomaselli@ukzn.ac.za



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- Wits staff named as NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards Finalists
- Tribute to former Wits Vice-Chancellor, Loyiso Nongxa
- Alumnae Dame Janet Suzman and Lara Foot at Baxter Theatre

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Alumni networking function and cocktail event

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