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WITS Review

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

Adam Habib

A Bold New Future for Wits



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- > Alumni Events
- > What's on at Wits
- > Graduation Ceremonies
- > Places at Wits
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- > Virtual tour of Wits



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An honour and privilege to serve Wits

My second and final term of office as Vice-Chancellor ends on 31 May 2013. This message forms part of my formal goodbyes to our key stakeholders, like you, who are the ambassadors and champions of Wits across the globe.

There are many experiences from my decade as Vice-Chancellor that will remain etched in my memory. The most poignant of these is the Alumni General Assembly of 2005. Here we publicly acknowledged Wits' role during apartheid and made a formal apology to black students who had experienced discrimination and alienation in the University environment. What really excites me is that our student body today is the most culturally and racially diverse in the country. However, we still face the challenges of many disadvantaged students for whom attending University is a major achievement in itself. You have generously assisted us to support them in creative ways.

I am delighted by how Wits continues to excel in research. This is evidenced by our performance in various global university measurement systems and the establishment of our 21st Century Research Institutes in thematic areas.

We have produced more than 130 000 graduates in the past 90 years. My engagement with some of these alumni has been most enjoyable and also humbling, in that so many of you remain proud Witsies.

During my tenure, we have strengthened Wits' governance, stabilised its leadership and secured its financial future. Worth noting, too, is the investment

in our infrastructure supported by the Department of Higher Education and Training. And we remain the leading University in terms of industry and other partnerships.

Our Vice-Chancellor designate, Professor Adam Habib, takes up office from 1 June 2013. He is an academic, an activist, an administrator and a political commentator who brings an impressive portfolio of academic research and institutional expertise to Wits. His experience spans five universities and multiple local and international institutions, boards and task teams.

Professor Habib shares Wits' vision to become a global research-intensive University, and his experience in this regard is a major asset. I can confidently hand over to him and the executive team.

I have been honoured and privileged to serve Wits and treasure the opportunities I had to meet you. Please continue the distinctive legacy of this institution through sharing your time, expertise and resources in advancing the world-class education project that is Wits.

Warmest greetings and best wishes.

Professor Loyiso G Nongxa
Vice-Chancellor and Principal



Contents



- 4 Letters
- 5 Social
- 7 News
- 10 **Adam Habib:**
A bold new future for Wits
- 20 **Ridwan Mia:** Surgeon hero
who saved Pippie's life
- 26 **Mervyn King:**
The boy the girls love
- 32 **Photo Essay:** A tribute to
Professor Loyiso Nongxa
- 39 **Alumni Achievers:**
Honorary degrees
- 44 Alumni with the edge
- 47 Alumni with the writing edge
- 50 What's on at Wits
- 53 Places to visit at Wits
- 54 Book reviews
- 57 Obituaries
- 62 **At Wits End:**
The lost professor returns



Prof. Loyiso Nongxa with daughter Buhle.

Best External Magazine 2012 (SA Publication Forum)
Best External Magazine 2012 (MACE)
Best External Magazine 2011 (SA Publication Forum)
Best External Magazine 2010 (MACE)
Editor of the Year 2010 (SA Publication Forum)

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Editor: Peter Maher
peter.maher@wits.ac.za

Contributors: Deborah Minors, Heather Dugmore, Lyrre Thurston and Keyan G Tomaselli

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Tel: +27 (0)11 717 1090 **Fax:** +27 (0)11 717 1099

Address: Private Bag 3, Wits, 2050, South Africa

E-mail: alumni@wits.ac.za

Website: www.wits.ac.za/alumni

Wits Shop: www.witsshop.co.za

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Letters from our readers

Researching the future

Dear Editor,

Can I add my voice to those expressing appreciation at receiving and enjoying the *WITSReview*. The hard copy beats the electronic version hands down for user-friendliness and colour photos. The January issue reported, sadly, the obituary of Hugh Bergh. It brought back enjoyable memories of my time as a student at the old premises of the Bernard Price Institute of Geophysical Research (BPI). I consider myself fortunate in having Professors Nicolaysen and Allsopp as mentors at the BPI – very human, approachable, and inventive researchers. Having lived and worked for the past 30 years on other continents, I continue to be impressed by the technical inventiveness, adaptability and stature of South African researchers and academic institutions. And Wits stands pre-eminent among institutions producing future generations to reward South Africa.

Ron Davies, Wokingham, UK
PhD (Wits)(1972), PhD(London)(2010)

Most importantly, Wits inculcated in us an intellectual curiosity, a love of learning and a discipline in working that has enriched our lives in many ways.

Teaching the teachers

Dear Editor,

I have had great pleasure in reading the latest issue of *WITSReview*. It is excellent. The discussion between Nhlanhla Cele and Professor Phakeng on the pros and cons of ranking universities, and differentiation, made me reflect on what a Wits education gave me. In the 1950s, a group of us studied to become teachers. More than fifty years later we still meet. Most of us remained in schools for our working lives, although some changed direction. None of us would claim to have produced ‘internationally respected research with high impact’... but we certainly benefitted through studying with, and being led by, highly talented students and lecturers. Most importantly, Wits inculcated in us an intellectual curiosity, a love of learning and a discipline in working that has enriched our lives in many ways. The aim for Wits to be ranked in the top 100 universities is noble, and important for the country, but it must not become an ivory tower. Its Bachelor degree courses must be demanding, and its higher degrees research-intensive. Quality is key, but access is also important.

Mark Henning
BA 1956, BEd 1963, MEd (Unisa, cum laude 1993)
(Letter has been shortened. Ed.)

Discovery Chief Executive reveals seven secrets of success

Dreaming and integrity hardly seem characteristics for business success, but Discovery CEO Adrian Gore highlighted these and five others at a cocktail event for 150 Wits Alumni at the Wits Club on 7 February 2013. The Statistics and Actuarial Science alumnus delivered a fascinating talk on the figures and science around longevity and healthcare in relation to the business model of leading healthcare provider, Discovery Holdings, which he founded. The talk by the former marathon-runner and espresso aficionado included anecdotes relating to the other “attributes of success”: Optimism, respecting time, lifelong learning, persistency, and innovation.





Professors Nongxa and Habib during the Q&A session in Boston



Boston



Washington



New York

Habib meets global Witsies

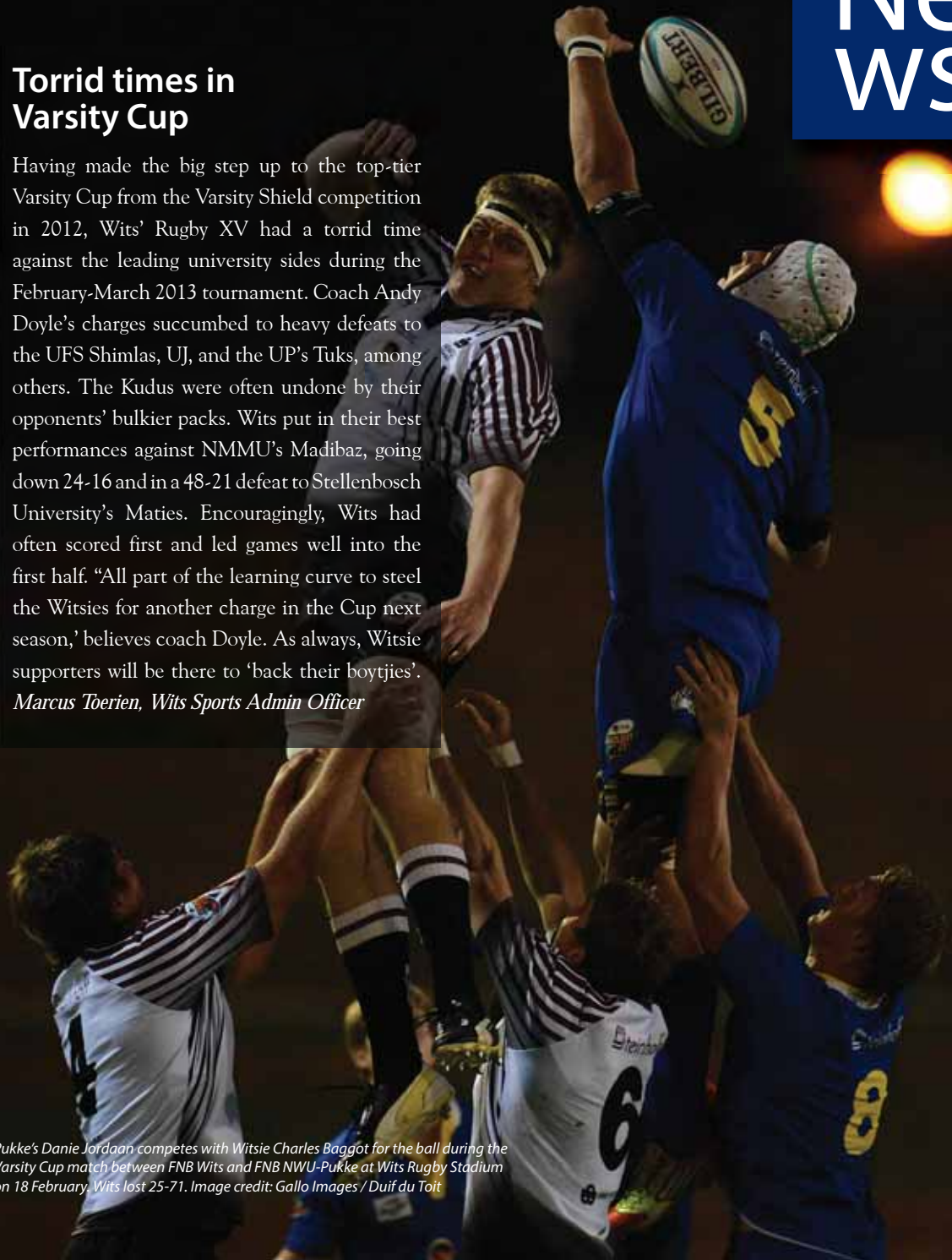
Professor Adam Habib no sooner joined Wits as Vice-Chancellor designate on 1 March 2013 than he was being introduced to Wits alumni in the United States of America by outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Professor Loyiso Nongxa at alumni reunions held in Boston on 7 March, New York City on 12 March and Washington DC on 14 March. Prof Habib used the

opportunity to express confidence in the strategic path Wits had embarked on for 2022 and stressed that there would be continuity at Wits under his leadership. He also expressed pride in the achievements of Wits graduates and spoke on the importance of the global alumni community to the University. Prof Nongxa said he had fond memories of his interactions with alumni around the globe and thanked alumni for their support during his tenure.

Torrid times in Varsity Cup

Having made the big step up to the top-tier Varsity Cup from the Varsity Shield competition in 2012, Wits' Rugby XV had a torrid time against the leading university sides during the February-March 2013 tournament. Coach Andy Doyle's charges succumbed to heavy defeats to the UFS Shimlas, UJ, and the UP's Tuks, among others. The Kudus were often undone by their opponents' bulkier packs. Wits put in their best performances against NMMU's Madibaz, going down 24-16 and in a 48-21 defeat to Stellenbosch University's Maties. Encouragingly, Wits had often scored first and led games well into the first half. "All part of the learning curve to steel the Witsies for another charge in the Cup next season," believes coach Doyle. As always, Witsie supporters will be there to 'back their boytjies'.
Marcus Toerien, Wits Sports Admin Officer

Pukke's Danie Jordaan competes with Witsie Charles Baggot for the ball during the Varsity Cup match between FNB Wits and FNB NWU-Pukke at Wits Rugby Stadium on 18 February. Wits lost 25-71. Image credit: Gallo Images / Duif du Toit





Building better public health

The new building for the School of Public Health opened its doors on 24 January 2013 with an inaugural launch symposium entitled *Building Capacity4Health*. Four hundred delegates attended the two-day international conference, which highlighted expertise within the School and explored means of improving the public health sector contextualised within themes.

The themes included the effect of mismanagement on public health; research and improving health; financing national health; and training new leaders in healthcare. The themes acknowledge the importance of health in relation to the Millennium Development Goals, the deadline for the achievement of which is 2015.

Professor Laetitia Rispel, alumna and Head of the School, said the themes “also highlight the

core purpose of our modern new building – enabling the achievement of good health for all through teaching, promoting learning, knowledge generation and dissemination, and public health leadership.”

The R146-million building consolidates previously geographically disparate research and training divisions, and serves as a regional hub for public health academics and graduates. The School anticipates increasing the number of public health specialists and doctoral students to meet the critical shortage of these in South Africa.



New Director at the Wits Theatre

Renowned theatre personality Gita Pather is the new Director of the Wits Theatre.

Pather's appointment on 4 March 2013 combines her passions for performing arts and education. She has been involved in the management, funding, policy and advocacy of the arts and entertainment sectors for 28 years. She has filled senior posts at PACT, the Windybrow Centre for the Arts, The Playhouse Company and the Market Theatre.

She has mounted hundreds of productions, festivals and concerts, including the South African Women's Arts Festival, now in its 17th year in Durban and

Johannesburg, and the first Arts Administration training programmes.

She is a newspaper columnist, writer and published poet. She holds a BA Honours degree in Drama and English from the University of Durban-Westville and a diploma in Change Management from the University of California, Los Angeles.

"A theatre within a leading university like Wits has a great responsibility to both its students and society at large," said Pather in a statement. "The arts both reflect and challenge the status quo and in these exciting, yet troubled times, the value of a university theatre cannot be underestimated."

Pather replaces Ashraf Johaardien.

Adam Habib

A Bold New Future for Wits

Wits' new Vice-Chancellor designate, Professor Adam Habib, speaks boldly and acts boldly. Many are hoping he is the catalyst to take Wits to the next level as it moves towards its centenary in 2022.



By Heather Dugmore



“Oh good, it’s him” is the feeling many of us get when we see Prof. Adam Habib has been asked for comment on TV. He’s intelligent, outspoken and charismatic – three qualities needed in our country’s leadership to shake things up.

Occasionally he takes us by surprise and says something contrary to his characteristic approach. “Adam, how can you think that!” we address his screen image on first-name terms. We feel we can approach him, reproach him, and that instead of becoming aggressively defensive, which is the national way, he will listen to what we have to say and take the time to engage.

And so it was when the opportunity arose to interview him in person, I hoped that the man I was about to meet was the same man I already know from TV. He is. He is warm and engaging, he generously shares his stash of almonds and pistachio nuts, and he openly discusses everything from his childhood (his mother died when he was 10 and he was raised by two spinster aunts) to the bold actions required to put Wits in the lead.

Here follows some insight into Prof. Habib *the man* and Prof. Habib *the Vice-Chancellor*:

Professor Habib the man

In June this year Prof. Habib is due to take up residence at *Savernake*, the historic residence of all Wits VCs since 1948. Situated on Parktown Ridge, it is a stately, heritage home but it is now in its 109th year and needs restoration.

The issue of leaders and their homes is a sore point

for South Africa and Habib has wisely and astutely avoided the excess trap. Instead he has requested that all restoration be put on hold until he and the team led by Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Finance and Operations Professor Tawana Kupe have properly examined the costs involved “and separated what is necessary expenditure from extravagance”.

Until this is sorted out he will remain in his home in Saxonwold, which he shares with his wife Fatima and their two sons, Irfan (17) and Zidaan (14), both of whom are at Parktown Boys’ High School. “They chose to go there and they are happy there. It’s a good government school,” says Habib, who grew up in Pietermaritzburg, where he attended Woodlands Secondary School in Northdale, matriculating in 1983.

“I lived in Pietermaritzburg for the first 21 years of my life in the Indian part of town, as was the custom under apartheid’s categorisation,” says Habib.

“I was old enough to understand that my mother was dying”

His father Mohammed Habib was a businessman who owned a grocery store but who subsequently moved to Botswana to pursue a business opportunity. This left young Adam in the care of his two aunts Jainab and Kairoon after his mother Kulsum died of breast cancer when he was just 10 years old. “I was old enough to understand that my mother was dying and I still remember the day I asked God to release her because I couldn’t bear to see her suffering any longer. She passed away the next day, which left me with both a sense of relief and guilt that I had somehow had a hand in this,” he recalls.



He's intelligent, outspoken and charismatic – three qualities needed in our country's leadership to shake things up.

Profile

His two aunts already lived in the Habib home and took over the responsibility of raising their nephew. “I grew up pretty much as an only child because my two younger brothers were both born deaf and they went to boarding school for the hearing impaired. Maybe that’s why I talk so much – I speak for all three of us!” Habib, now 47, smiles.

His aunts indulged and over-protected him and felt no one was good enough for him, not even his wonderful wife Fatima, whom he met in his second year at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg (now the University of KwaZulu-Natal or UKZN).

“Fatima was a far more diligent student and would let me use her notes,” says Habib, who switched from a Science degree to a BA in History and Political Science.

His political awareness started at school

His political awareness started at school, where he first learnt about Nelson Mandela and Steve Biko, and where they sang songs like *Kumbaya My Lord*, largely inspired by the civil rights movement in the United States. This intensified at university, where he got involved in the Unity Movement and the Sached Trust, focusing on education and literacy projects for black South Africans and trade unions. Trouble with the authorities inevitably followed, including a short period of detention in solitary confinement.

After Habib graduated with a BA from UKZN in 1987 he headed to Wits to do his Honours degree in Political Science, as did Fatima to do her Honours degree in Industrial Psychology.



We colluded to go to Wits

“We colluded to go to Wits to get away from family pressures as both of our families were opposed to our relationship, offering the ridiculous reason that we originate from different Indian linguistic groups, even though we are all English first language South Africans,” he explains.

Habib made his mark at Wits as a young Trotskyite and co-founder of the Socialist Action Party, with linkages to various worker organisations and the Socialist Party in England. He wanted to become a junior lecturer at Wits but was told there weren’t any opportunities. That took him back to KwaZulu-Natal, where he secured his first academic position at the then University of Durban-Westville (UDW) as a junior lecturer in Politics, and completed his Masters. Fatima also returned and started working in human resources at Deloittes.

“It was the late 1980s, early 1990s and UDW was a centre of activism with political meetings being held all the time, including the ANC’s first unbanning conference. The old administration was being overthrown, the university was dramatically changing its profile to a largely black South African student body and the first black VC was appointed,” he recalls.

“We wanted him to be born on South African soil”

The early 1990s also took Habib to the United States on a scholarship to do his PhD in Political Studies at the City University of New York. He and Fatima were married by this time and she spent time with him in New York, returning to South Africa to give birth to their eldest son Irfan in 1995. “We wanted

him to be born on South African soil,” says Habib.

In the years that followed Habib worked as a research director at the Centre for Civil Society at UKZN and at the Human Sciences Research Council, specialising in democracy and governance studies and producing seminal publications, such as the first affirmative action publication, *Racial Redress and Citizenship in South Africa*, which he co-edited.

This year he and Fatima celebrate 23 years of marriage and they are strong role models of the kind of mutual support and freedom a marriage requires when both partners choose to pursue their ambitions. In 2012, for example, Fatima commuted between Johannesburg and Cape Town, spending the week in Cape Town, where she held an executive position in the city’s municipality, and coming home on weekends.

Honing ping-pong skills

Habib and his sons used the time that Fatima was away to hone their ping-pong skills, with Irfan as reigning champion. “Fatima is very tolerant – the ping-pong table is right next to her beautiful dining room,” comments Habib.

Apart from playing ping-pong, he likes to run to keep fit, but of late he has had to pace down to a fast walk, as his knees aren’t what they used to be. “I like to do five or six kilometres in my neighbourhood at a stretch, but it takes time and I don’t always get to it.”

When they can get away, the family love the beach and bushveld. “We make a point of taking a holiday in December when we go and sit on the beach in Durban.” If they have a day or three free during the

“I want to send out a clear signal to all sides of South African society that everyone has a place in our society and at Wits University”



year he enjoys going to Kruger National Park or a game reserve closer to home.

2013 is a big year for the Habibs with Adam's new job and Irfan in matric. The jury is out as to whether Irfan will apply to Wits to study next year; astrophysics is his chosen field. "As your children grow up and go into the world you grapple with the anxiety that they will be safe," says Habib.

"We've encouraged our sons to be as open as possible with us, about everything from politics to emotions to alcohol or drugs. We all know the extent of the problem these days," says Habib, who is a teetotaler by choice; always has been: "Even in the old days when we would spend long evenings in Kippies listening to jazz..." But that's another chapter.

Professor Habib the Vice-Chancellor

We've heard many times what higher education needs. We've read the reports and there have been numerous conferences, workshops and round tables, but where is the bold action?

How about quadrupling your postdoctoral student numbers by paying them good salaries? How about offering 80 Masters students and 40 top PhD students a well-paid "new generation scholarship" for two years, which also guarantees all the PhDs who graduate a job at the university at the end?

That's one of the programmes Prof. Habib initiated at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) in his role as Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, a post that he held for five years, from 2007 until coming to Wits.

This particular programme, which ends in 2014, will inject new academic blood and healthy demographics into UJ. The demographics of the students in the programme are: 70% black, 30% white, 50% women, 90% South African, 10% non-South African.

Everyone has a place in society

"I want to send out a clear signal to all sides of South African society that everyone has a place in our society and at Wits University," states Habib. "We need strong staff irrespective of their colour and we need to be pragmatic about this, not overly ideological. I

am convinced that we can advance equity efficiently while at the same time attracting a new generation that is non-racially constructed. For me none of these goals are mutually exclusive.”

Wits has its own “new generation scholars” programme but Habib says it is not clear how many graduates it produced. “We need tighter management of existing programmes and we will be initiating a range of new programmes that offer custom-made, contextual solutions to substantially increase Wits’ postgraduate and postdoctoral numbers, and its research output. This is part of Wits’ vision to become 50% postgraduate, which I support.”

Research incentives and competitive salaries

Towards achieving this he will be introducing research incentives and competitive salaries for academics to retain and attract the best. “If you want a world-class university you need to support innovative research and pay competitive salaries that offer academics a good middle-class lifestyle in Johannesburg,” says Habib. He will also be leading a PhD drive at Wits towards achieving a greater percentage of academic staff with PhDs.

“We need staff members with PhDs who can supervise the next generation of PhD students and we need to increase the general quality of postgraduate supervision at the University, which is deficient. Even the best academic is not necessarily a good supervisor; this requires specific skills sets that academics need to learn.”

While addressing the University’s academic needs, he will at the same time be addressing the needs of the support staff, the students and the finance office.

Bring everyone together for the common good

Habib has expansively researched and written about how to manage South African universities. “A priority of mine will be to build a university pact between the unions, management and students to bring everyone together for the common good,” he says.

Money is always an object for universities and, in collaboration with the DVC of Finance and Operations, he wants to explore how to manage the University’s money more effectively.

“Universities should be at the forefront of public discourse on the widest range of issues”

Another goal of Habib’s is to raise the public profile of Wits, as he did at UJ. “Universities should be at the forefront of public discourse on the widest range of issues, including education, politics, business, climate change, HIV/Aids, human rights and new technologies,” he says.

There is a view that a Vice-Chancellor should not be so publicly outspoken, but he disagrees. “We need to engage our society, engage our world. This notion that universities are somehow separate from society doesn’t exist anywhere in the world,” says Habib, adding that outgoing VC Professor Loyiso Nongxa has created a strong social legacy on which he, Habib, intends to build, including programmes that attract students from the rural areas.

When we open doors it creates hope in our society

“I would like to introduce a Wits scholarship based on merit for students from the most impoverished schools in South Africa. Research has shown that if you put the best scholars from these environments into a strong, supportive academic institution, they perform well. When we open doors like this it creates hope in our society and it conveys the message that a world-class university is not simply for the rich.”

Habib is publicly vocal about the need to actively uplift the poor in our society. “Empathy for the poor should be part of our humanity and concern for the millions of young people in our country who have no employment or educational prospects should be as big a concern to business as it should be to the government because it is a ticking time bomb. We are all keenly aware of the failures and corruption of government but the business elite need to look equally hard at themselves and realise that their interests and the interests of their shareholders cannot be to the exclusion of the society they live in.”

South Africa has “incredible challenges” to face but there is nowhere in the world he would rather be: “This is where our memories are made; this is home. Home is where, irrespective of our colour or religion or gender, we stand up for our right to be here and commit to working together to ensure a better future for all of us. I look forward to my time at Wits, and I look forward to working together to see how much we can achieve in the decade leading to Wits’ 100th birthday.”



Comments on Prof Habib's appointment

Professor Ihron Rensburg, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg (UJ)

Prof. Habib's appointment is an inspired one. He will bring energy and dynamism to Wits and the lessons he learnt and implemented while at UJ in respect of institutional research development will help him to re-energise Wits' research agenda, which has stalled over the last 20 years. He also brings a passion for social inclusion and equality that should influence Wits' academic project. I am further optimistic that his appointment will see relations between UJ and Wits become warm rather than cordial, resulting in the development of much academic collaboration.

Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, President of Wits Convocation

What do you think of Prof. Habib's appointment as Wits VC?

It gives me great pleasure to offer my congratulations and support to Prof. Habib on his appointment. He is a very gifted man; he is eloquent and passionate, he has a convincing personality and he has invaluable experience in higher education, all of which will serve to put Wits and the excellent work that it does in the public

space. I am encouraged by his unique vision for Wits' future and his commitment to the University's 2022 vision to become one of the top 100 universities in the world. At the same time I am cautious because I wonder whether his identity as a political analyst has the potential to divert attention from the excellent work that Wits does and the work that he will do as Vice-Chancellor and Principal. My hope is that his identity as a political analyst does not earn us, as a University, enemies or perhaps temporary friends. As they say, in politics there are no permanent friends or foes, only permanent interests. What is important is not who the potential enemies or temporary friends are, but rather whose interests he might be serving in his political commentatorship. My view is that the jury is still out on this one. Having said this, there are also definitely advantages to having a VC who is a public intellectual. Prof. Habib is very astute and I am sure he has already thought about how he will use his role as a political analyst to benefit the University.

What do you think he will bring to Wits?

He is astute and he brings a lot of energy and willingness to engage and a much-needed realisation that Wits has to be socially responsive to our national and regional concerns. I am also curious to see what a political scientist and highly respected scholar who cites Karl Marx and Leon Trotsky as his key influences will bring to Wits, which is known internationally for its achievements in science, medicine and engineering.

Do you have any concerns about his appointment?

I do not have concerns, I am just curious to see how he deals with the competing demands in an institution such as Wits: demands for free higher education or reduced registration fees and the need to make sure that the University remains financially sustainable. I know that he has put a lot of work into how to attend to this and perhaps will surprise many. We as Convocation are ready to work with him as he tackles the challenge of balancing these sometimes competing demands.

What do you think he will bring to higher education in South Africa?

I would like to be a fly on the wall at one of the meetings of Higher Education South Africa [the body that represents university leadership] with Jonathan Jansen, Adam Habib, Malegapuru Makgoba and Ihron Rensburg all in the room. If the matter is political I can imagine a heated debate. I think several Vice-Chancellors like Profs. Makgoba and Jansen have managed to challenge not just higher education but the entire country to think critically about education and academia. I suspect Prof. Habib will do the same. I am sure that not everyone will agree with him all the time but he will make his voice heard and earn himself converts.

 Professor Habib's book *South Africa's Suspended Revolution*, which addresses what is to be done to fix South Africa's problems, will be published by Wits University Press in June this year.

Ridwan Mia

Surgeon hero *who saved Pippie's life*

Over the past year the story of burn victim Pippie Kruger has touched the lives of millions of South Africans. The nation applauds Dr Ridwan Mia, the Wits surgeon who saved her life.

By Heather Dugmore



Interview

On 11 June 2012 the medical team led by plastic and reconstructive surgeon Dr Ridwan Mia made history in South Africa when they successfully transplanted skin clones grown from skin cells harvested from two-and-a-half-year-old Pippie Kruger's body.

Pippie had been terribly burnt in an accident at a braai.

"I had no idea how much media attention this would attract. When I was asked if I would mind media participation, which would help Pippie's parents Anice and Erwin Kruger to raise funds for her procedures, I said it was fine but I thought they meant a small column in *The Star*. I couldn't believe all the flashing cameras when I emerged from surgery," says Mia, who studied at the Wits School of Medicine.

Today he is a media celebrity, and gone are the days when you can have a discreet cup of coffee with him without passers-by recognising him. But Mia is unaffected.

"What really warmed my heart and humbled me about this whole experience was how South Africans from all walks of life came forward to help this little girl, either by giving a bit of money or sending her good wishes. For me it was a big lesson in the power of coming together. Everyone – from the medical team to millions of South African citizens – wanted Pippie to pull through and she has," he says.

Her brave struggle won our hearts and we participated in every detail of her story. We felt the immensity of her parents' decision to allow the doctors to harvest skin cells from the 20% of skin on Pippie's



Three-year-old Isabella Pippie Kruger with her mother Anice Kruger and Dr Ridwan Mia.

little body that survived the braai gel explosion. We waited as the cells were flown to Boston for culturing – a process that takes two-and-a-half weeks. We held our breath when the package of skin cultures touched down at OR Tambo and was transported in a race against time across Johannesburg and into theatre – a distance that normally takes 60 minutes was covered in 16 minutes. One week later we sat in silence during the removal of the bandages to see if her body had accepted the cloned sheets of skin.

The first surgeon in SA to attempt this procedure

The medical team led by Mia, who is the first surgeon ever to attempt this procedure in South Africa, could not have hoped for a better result. "We could see a nice, viable layer of skin covering the wound and we could see that 95% of her skin grafts had taken successfully," he explains.



Gallo Images/ Foto24 / Cornel van Heerden

It's a frighteningly delicate process because the cloned sheets of skin placed over the burn wounds are only 5-8 cell layers thick, whereas normal skin has about 500 layers. Only if the sheet of skin starts adhering to the body can it start developing the blood supply it requires to grow, thicken and merge.

For Mia and his team it was a major milestone in the journey they had walked with Pippie because what we didn't see in the media were the six months of anguish leading up to the skin transplant.

"It all started on 31 December 2011, New Year's Eve. I was on 24-hour call when the Netcare Garden City Hospital in Johannesburg contacted me," recalls Mia, who works at state hospitals for the Department of Health in addition to running his two practices at the Sunninghill Netcare Hospital and Sandton Mediclinic, as well as teaching at Wits.

"What really warmed my heart and humbled me about this whole experience was how South Africans from all walks of life came forward to help this little girl"

"I have seen burns this bad but the patients didn't survive"

"They said that Dr Miles Bartlett, the paediatric intensivist on duty, wanted to accept a two-and-a-half-year-old baby with 70% burns on condition that I would agree to take on the child. I agreed and rushed over to the hospital and saw that it was actually 80% burns and she was extremely unstable. I have seen burns this bad before but the patients didn't survive."

The medical team went into overdrive to save Pippie's life. She got through the first day and on day two she showed she was a fighter. "There is no doubt that her fighting spirit significantly contributed to her survival," says Mia.

45 operations

Over the next couple of months Pippie survived five cardiac arrests and had to undergo no fewer than 45 operations to remove the infected, burnt and dead tissue. "The burns were so deep that on a number of occasions I had to stop operating and take a breather. I am trained in trauma and I constantly deal with gruesome injuries but this was extremely bad and the patient was a baby," recalls Mia, who grew accustomed to being called out at all hours, sometimes in the middle of the night, to check on Pippie's wounds, as she was frequently so unstable.



“The moment she stabilised we would have to operate, and sometimes we would have to stop operating if she became unstable again. The two main anaesthetists with whom I worked, Dr Hizir Mukaddam and Dr Will Robertson, were both at Wits Medical School at the same time as me, and we all specialised at the same time. I have immense respect for them and for the theatre matron, Sister Tilla Opperman. The whole team showed an incredible amount of composure and exceptional professionalism in extremely tense conditions.”

Medical aid tension

Adding to the tension was the response from the Krugers’ medical aid. “They wouldn’t pay for Pippie’s skin grafts, so money needed to be raised for this. And they refused to pay the participating doctors the normal rate because they saw the operations as repeat procedures, which they were not,” says Mia. He adds that it is unacceptable how doctors have to “frequently deal with people making major decisions

The best person is one who benefits mankind. “For me this is a very big driving force.”

for medical aids who show a lack of understanding of specialist medical procedures and are not necessarily as qualified as they should be”.

“I have had to deal with situations where I am on the phone to medical insurance companies explaining why the patient needs a particular emergency procedure while the patient is waiting on the operating table. This is unacceptable; as doctors we need to concentrate on saving people’s lives.”

Fortunately he does not let it get him down; instead he is determined to do what he can to turn around negative situations. “I believe in remaining positive and overcoming obstacles rather than letting them get the better of me. I think this approach is very important not only for me but for all South Africans because too many negative forces are currently at play in our country. This is our home and we all need to participate in turning the situation around,” says Mia, whose greatest wish is to live in a country where no one is left wanting. “Not just in terms of people’s material needs, but their emotional needs as well.”

Driving force

Muslim by faith, he explains there is a belief in Islam that the best person is one who benefits mankind. “For me this is a very big driving force.”

Accordingly, he finds it hard to turn people away when they are in need of his help, which doesn’t leave much time for a private life. Now 36, and single, he would like to get married and have children

but dating is difficult because he works extremely long hours.

Matchmaker mode

I can't stop myself from slipping into matchmaker mode because this man deserves a wonderful wife. "Islam," he explains, "doesn't stipulate that she has to be Muslim; she simply needs to belong to one of the monotheistic religions – Islam, Christianity or Judaism."

I question him a bit further to find out what a prospective partner would be getting into and I am pleased to report he's not all work and no play. He goes to gym and enjoys horse-riding, travelling to foreign shores, taking a break in Durban and socialising with family and friends.

"I really enjoy Durban and that part of South Africa's coastline," he says. As for foreign travel, both the Middle and Far East appeal to him. "They have fascinating cultures and represent a completely different aspect of civilization to the Western or African approach."

A high number of hand injuries in polo

On the sporting front he wanted to play polo but opted for horse-riding instead, explaining that there are a high number of hand injuries in polo and he cannot take this risk. In his profession he needs extremely sound and steady hands, especially for microvascular surgery and the repair of blood vessels and nerves.

"In microsurgery you are looking through a microscope and you are using tiny instruments and needles to do the repairs. It's very satisfying because the results are good and patients can retain fine move-

ments," explains Mia. He works on extreme cases all the time but says that Pippie was the most medically unstable patient he has ever had to face.

Sixteen months later she is a different little girl

Sixteen months later she is a different little girl, stronger, healthier and showing significant signs of recovery. She is still an outpatient at the Netcare Rehabilitation Hospital in Auckland Park and Mia continues to see her once or twice a week.

The Krugers rented a flat in the suburb of Linden to be close to therapy as they live in Limpopo. Anice and Pippie have been living here while Erwin commutes whenever possible as he works fulltime as a professional hunter.

Pippie inherited her fighting spirit and determination from her parents

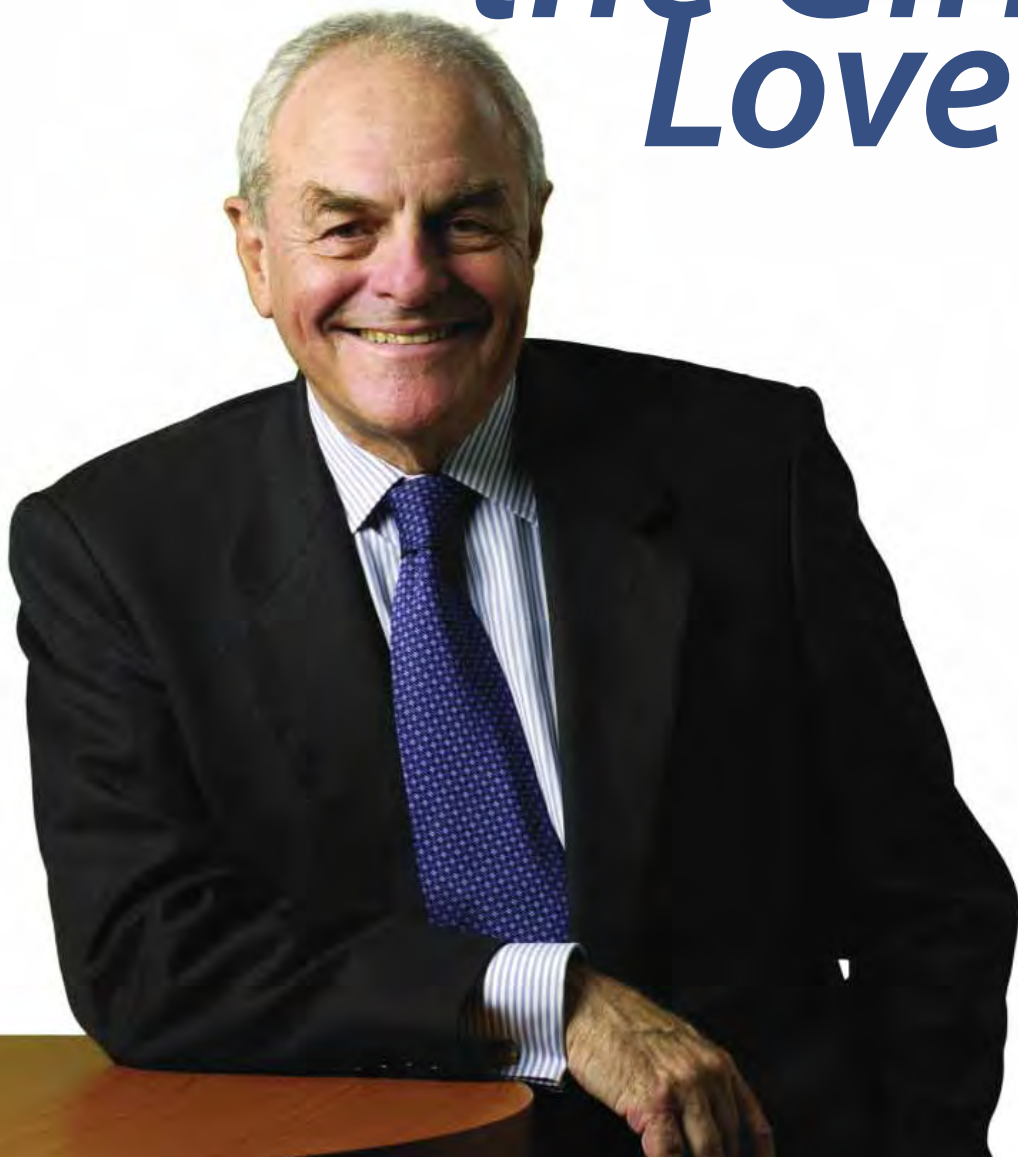
"It's not easy for them as they also have a one-and-a-half-year-old son to look after, but they are unbelievably committed parents and Pippie clearly inherited her fighting spirit and determination from them."

The obvious question is the prognosis for Pippie. "Fortunately she is at an age where her brain is still growing and can compensate for areas that have been affected. Her skin has recovered well and will always have a bit of an irregular pattern, given the severity of her burns, but the results are far smoother and neater than traditional skin grafts. I am very happy with her progress," says Mia. The medical team cannot predict what her total recovery will be but so far she has beaten all the odds and, as he says: "We are full of hope that she will recover much more in time to come."

Profile

Mervyn King

The Boy *the Girls* Love



Professor Mervyn King has forever changed the way businesses worldwide measure and report on their performance, which has directly contributed to the betterment of our planet. He's widely known for this, but what many don't know is that he's the boy the girls love.

King has a BA, LLB, PhD in Law and a Higher Diploma Income Tax, all from Wits.

By Heather Dugmore

“I like parties, people and girls,” said confident, smiling, vital, handsome Mervyn King. All girls? “I like plain girls best. They’ve got life and go in them and are usually the best dancers. The made-up doll type considers that her looks exempt her from intelligent conversation. But an exquisite complexion cannot make up for a dull personality.”

This is what 19-year-old, third-year Wits BA student Mervyn King said in 1956 in a newspaper interview with reporter Hazel Fine. The outcome was an article headlined: ‘*The boy the girls love likes Plain Janes*’.

It was one of many interviews during his shining reign as Wits cheerleader – a highly prestigious position in its day – with King as the one chosen to lead thousands of Witsies in the singsongs, chants and revelry during the hotly contested rugby intervarsity with the University of Pretoria (Tukkies).

Chatty as a blackbird, he told Fine he was mad about “bop” and popular jazz and demonstrated his cheerleading style – a mixture of the splits, back bends, contortionist arm twists and leaps, all the while yelling “Come on Wits ... Wits ... WITS!”

Asked whether he didn't find it embarrassing, he replied: “Not at all. I love it.” And the girls loved him. They crowded around the young King, who was once hidden in a women's residence for the night to stop the Tukkies students from kidnapping him before the big game. He was highly discreet about that night in the women's res, niftily avoiding the wrath of jealous boyfriends.

Gifted student

King sailed through his BA and in 1960 at the age of 23 he achieved seven distinctions in his Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree, for which he studied part-time while doing his articles.

Once again the newspapers were full of smiling images of King and glowing headlines. “Brilliant student”, stated the *Sunday Times*. “Our most brilliant law student of the last 10 years” was how Professor HR Hahlo, Dean of the Faculty of Law at Wits at the time, described King in the article that followed. From the *Rand Daily Mail* to *The Star* to the *Chronicle* in Bulawayo (he is originally from Zimbabwe), King was king.



“My wife Liz says I’m the most travelled person who has seen nothing. All I see is boardrooms and airports.”

Fifty-three years later and at 75 years of age he’s still king, he’s still handsome, he still weighs the same as he did at age 23 and he’s still constantly in the media as the renowned King of King I, II and III. He is the originator of integrated reporting, combining economic, environmental and social performance (the triple bottom line) as the measure of a company’s success. This is now the international standard for global best practice. Which is why King is always on an aeroplane.

As the Chair of the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC), a position he’s held for the past 10 years, he is constantly in a different city for an average of 48 hours. In March he was in Washington, Seoul, Tokyo, Mumbai, Perth ... the list goes on. “My wife Liz says I’m the most travelled person who has seen nothing. All I see is boardrooms and airports,” smiles King, adding that he is at home so seldom these days that “even our dog barks at me”.

Liz occasionally sees her husband of 46 years, but he’s sure she still loves him. “I’m the boy the girls love, remember,” he laughs, then explains that throughout his life he has worked extremely long hours – until midnight most nights, including



Press clippings of Mervyn King during his student days.

weekends, with the exception of a few hours on Sunday afternoons, which was family time.

Little wonder he was appointed a Supreme Court Judge of South Africa in 1977 at the age of 40, and became the youngest Supreme Court Judge ever to resign, two years later. “I crossed swords with the government, so I left.” From here he was invited onto several boards as a non-executive director, which is how he got involved in companies. “I started seeing corporate life both as an advisor and a doer,” he explains.

Corporate governance

Recognising the pressing need for good corporate governance in South Africa and around the world, in 1994 King published the King I Report on Corporate Governance. It emphasised the need for companies to become responsible members of the societies in which they operate. Towards achieving this, it advocated an integrated approach to good governance and encouraged the practice of good financial, social, ethical and environmental practice.

It was before its time but not for long because, as King explains, “by 2000 everyone realised the planet is in crisis; that we are using more resources than the planet can sustain.”

In 2002 the King II Report on Corporate Governance was published.

“In King II we said as a listing requirement companies must do sustainability reporting.” In response, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) requested listed companies to comply with these recommendations or to explain their level of non-compliance.

After the 2001 Enron and 2002 WorldCom corporate accounting scandals, and several others, King II was liberally quoted in the US Congress and aspects of it were adopted by the New York Stock Exchange. In 2006 King was appointed Chairman of the United Nations Committee on Governance and Oversight that produced a governance code for the United Nations.

Sustainability reports

King III was released in 2009 with an enhanced focus on sustainability.

Today, the JSE and stock exchanges all over the world require sustainability reports. Companies of all sizes are also increasingly realising the necessity of including sustainability in their long-term planning. “Companies are the greatest users of the natural assets of Planet Earth, which are finite and diminishing,” he explains. “Water, for example, is now the scarcest commodity on Earth. At the same time, the demand for beneficiated goods is increasing, and the Earth’s population of seven billion will be up by another two billion in 25 years’ time. So it has to be business as unusual for everyone, otherwise welcome to the age of stupidity.”

King is adamant that we cannot rely on politicians to solve the natural resource crisis. “They failed us at Rio and at all these meetings. This puts the responsibility in the hands of companies because the way they behave has a huge impact on society and on the environment,” he says. Which is why integrated reporting is so important, and which is why this approach is now adopted by so many companies in the world, not only because it’s the right thing to do,

“There is nothing more fulfilling than making a difference and contributing to the sustainability of the planet.”

but because if they don't plan sustainably, they will go out of business.

King's dream is to see all companies doing an integrated report, as opposed to the outdated annual report, and he's well on his way to achieving this, with many of the world's biggest companies, including Coca-Cola, Marks & Spencer and HSBC, completely on board.

He is particularly encouraged by the uptake of integrated reporting in South Africa and says our country can be proud that it is leading the world in this area.

“There is nothing more fulfilling than making a difference and contributing to the sustainability of the planet. I believe in what I am doing, which is why I jump out of bed at first light and I'm ready to go.”

Humble beginnings

On the rare occasion he's at home, you'll find him driving across Joburg before 06:00, from his home on Houghton Ridge to his Sunninghill office. Born and bred in Joburg, as a young man he dreamed of living on Houghton Ridge.

“My family lived in a flat in Yeoville and we were certainly not moneyed people. My friends and I used to tell each other that one day we would cross Louis

Botha Avenue, which separates Yeoville and Houghton, and we would live in the lovely houses in Houghton with edge-to-edge lawns. We all lived in flats so we never had gardens, and we didn't have motor cars; we caught the trams,” King recalls.

His father was a bookkeeper and his mother a housewife and he helped to pay for his studies by working as a waiter. “We did weddings, bar mitzvahs, that kind of thing, and I made sure that everyone I served knew I was a poor, struggling student so they gave me good tips.”

Annually he takes a nostalgia drive through Yeoville and Hillbrow to Wits. “A lot of rehabilitation is needed in Yeoville and Hillbrow and I absolutely believe they can be rehabilitated; just look at what's happening in the inner city and Newtown – they're starting to look great.”

Call to action

For rehabilitation to take place requires “determination, intellectual honesty and a mindset change from self-interest and self-enrichment to the interests of the people,” says King. “The essence of intellectual honesty is that you act and make decisions in the interests of the whole community or, in the case of South Africa, all the people in our country.”

The lack of governance and community-mindedness in South Africa impacts negatively on the country, as illustrated by the appalling state of government education. “It is deeply concerning what is happening in our schools,” says King, adding that teaching epitomises the creation of a better society.



Mervyn King chairs the International Integrated Reporting Council, often traversing five cities around the globe per month.

“It’s a very honourable profession to mould young minds and I believe that our teachers have a moral obligation not to go on strike because the result is that the children suffer,” says King, adding that teachers’ grievances should be voiced through administrative channels, which is not happening, so the entire educational and political systems need a mindset change. Will we ever achieve this?

“If I was prescient I would answer that question but I’m not so I won’t,” he smiles – that same smile that had the girls crowding around him in a res one night.

Ever youthful, King says his secret is his passion for

what he does. Also, he exercises daily, he listens to Mozart and he eats fish.

“Mozart is my man – his music is eternal,” says King, who pumps up the Mozart while doing his air force exercises. “I can do them anywhere in the world – press-ups, sit-ups, sliding up and down the wall with my back, balancing on one leg – they work!”

It’s impossible not to ask for one last bit of life advice from the man. “Have a goal,” he states. “Plan how you are going to get there and know that your plan will keep falling apart because no plan is perfect, but keep going for your goal.”



A Tribute to

Professor Loyiso Nongxa Vice-Chancellor and Principal

Professor Loyiso Nongxa steps down as Wits Vice-Chancellor and Principal in June 2013 after a decade of leadership. His contribution towards entrenching Wits as a research-intensive and globally competitive university is inestimable. This photo essay is a tribute to Prof. Nongxa who is held in high regard and with great affection by Wits alumni around the globe.



“Nongxa mended bridges with jaded black alumni, incl special grad ceremony 4 student activists who were unable to celebrate during apartheid. Nongxa became Wits VC during my student days. We’d had 3 VCs -Charlton, Bundy, Reid. Nongxa brought stability & direction.” Trudi Makhaya@trudimakhaya, Twitter.

Protesting with Witsies against the South African government’s failure to issue a visa to the Dalai Lama (5 October 2011)



With the late Prof. Phillip Tobias at the frontline of the Wits protest march against Xenophobic violence (21 May 2008)



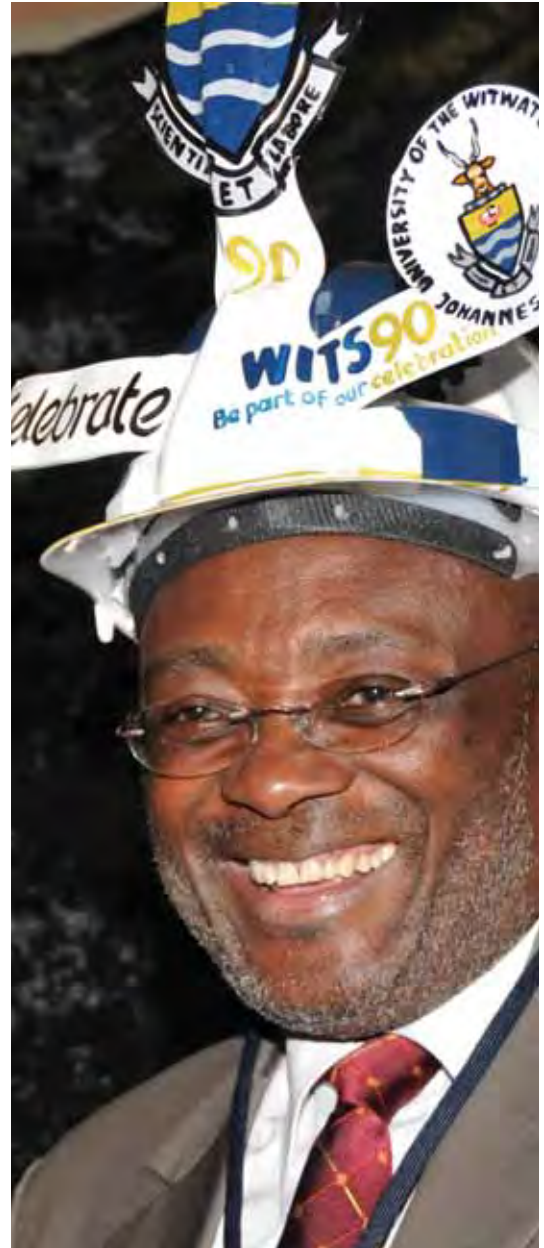
“Our” Vice-Chancellor in academic regalia



Wits' 85th birthday celebrations on the Library Lawns (21 October 2007)



Celebrating the 2010 FIFA World Cup and Wits' role as host to the South African and Dutch teams (22 April 2010)



At the unveiling of The Unknown Miner sculpture in the Chamber of Mines Building (29 March 2012)



Cutting the Wits 90th birthday cake at Welcome Day on the Library Lawns (3 February 2012)



Posing with Alumni Relations staff, (l-r) Justine, Nicole, Purvi, Deborah, Theresa, and Valencia (7 February 2013)



Prof. Nongxa and Rivonia Trial legal alumni George Bizos and the late Arthur Chaskalson view original Nelson Mandela papers preserved at Wits Historical Papers Archive (19 May 2010)



The Targeting Talent programme prepares academically excellent but socio-economically disadvantaged high school learners for tertiary education



Wits Rugby win the 2012 Varsity Shield (16 May 2012)

“Knowing Prof. Nongxa was an inspiration to all of us. Indeed, a very humble and kind elder. I would meet him and he would smile and advise that I should take further studies – Phd. I am fond of this African intellectual and elder who represents hope for all of us. Live long Prof Loyiso and continue to follow your name. We will never forget you!”
Siphumeze Mndze, LinkedIn.



"A great principal, was at Wits for 5 years and Nongxa has been an inspiration to us rural graduates. He would greet students around the campus with a smile and very humble and accessible. A great leader indeed, I wish him all de best."
Thulani Tshabalala , LinkedIn.

The first African Rhodes Scholar (1978) at Balliol College, King's Cross, Oxford University



With Wits alumnus Jules Browde, 90, at the Wits Fund Inc. fundraiser and awards ceremony in New York, USA (8 May 2012)



With alumna Dr Nolwandle Mashalaba at an alumni reunion in Gaborone, Botswana (13 April 2012)

Alumni Achievers

By Deborah Minors

JM Coetzee

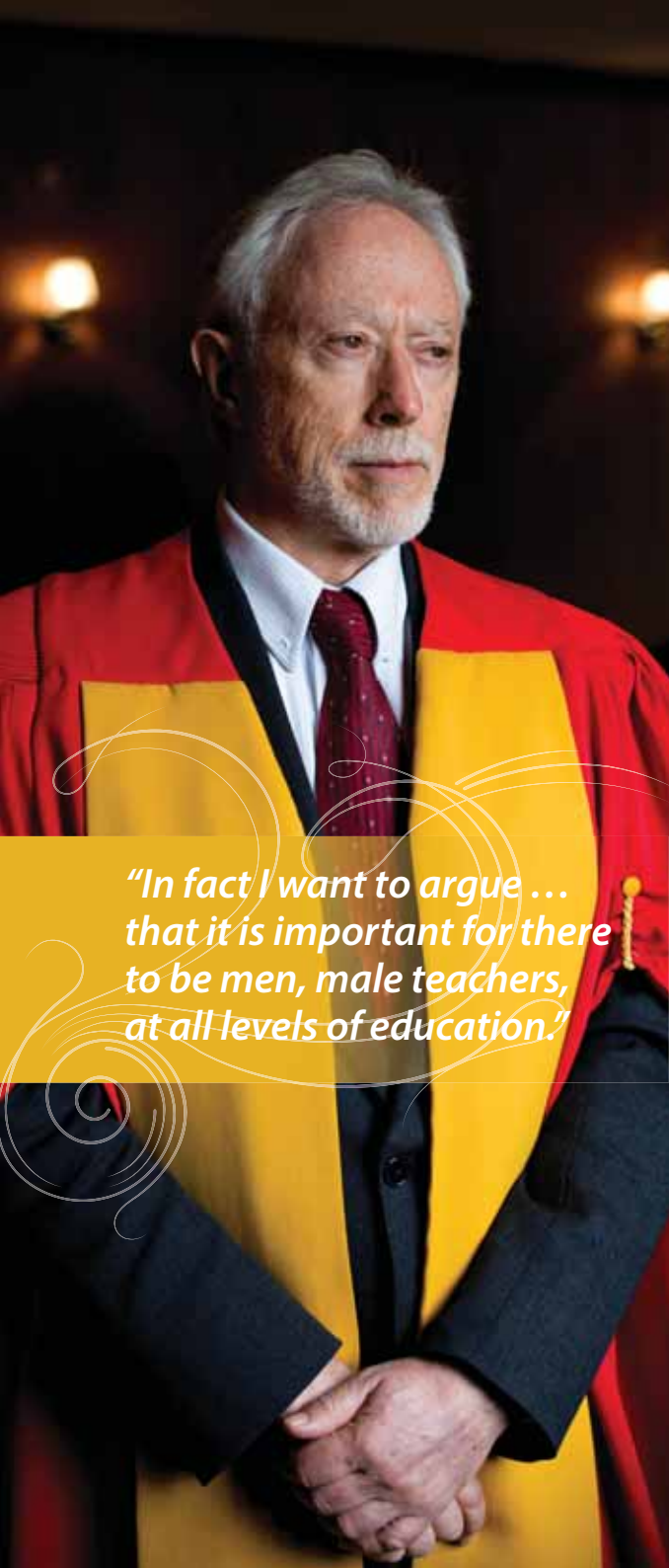
Novel address by Nobel Laureate

Nobel Laureate JM Coetzee has added an honorary Doctor in Literature degree from Wits to his formidable collection of awards. The University bestowed a DLitt on the eminent novelist at a graduation ceremony in the Great Hall on 10 December 2012.

Delivering a keynote address in the Great Hall that delighted some and perplexed others, Coetzee appealed to male graduands in particular to consider careers in teaching. “It is not a good thing for education to fall too much in the hands of one sex,” he said. “In fact I want to argue ... that it is important for there to be men, male teachers, at all levels of education.”

Coetzee recalled how he first encountered a male teacher only at the age of 11. While acknowledging the role of his female teachers, he said the occasional presence of a male in the classroom would have contributed to a “fuller” experience.

He alluded to “the social lesson that a child might learn from being taught sometimes by a man” and to the benefits of the profession to graduands themselves: “The children who will be in your care will be real people from whom you will learn much,” he said.



“In fact I want to argue ... that it is important for there to be men, male teachers, at all levels of education.”

Professor John Maxwell Coetzee, 73, is a novelist, essayist, literary critic, linguist and translator. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in December 2003. He is only the second South African to have won this award after Nadine Gordimer, an honorary Wits alumna, received it in 1991.

Considered a literary giant because his novels “explored the discursive undercarriage of fiction under conditions of colonialism and apartheid”, Coetzee was “the first significant exemplar of the postmodern turn in South African fiction”, according to his Wits citation.

Coetzee’s debut novel, *Dusklands* (1974), “set South African writing on a wholly new and exhilarating course”, contends his citation. Other acclaimed novels include *Disgrace* (1999) and *Life and Times of Michael K* (1983), both of which won the Booker Prize, Britain’s highest honour for fiction. Coetzee was the first author to have won this award twice.

Coetzee was born in Cape Town on 9 February 1940. He holds Honours degrees in English and Mathematics from the University of Cape Town, as well as a Masters degree (1963). He was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Texas, Austin, which awarded his PhD in 1968 on *Computer stylistic analysis of the works of Samuel Beckett*. He worked as a computer programmer for IBM in London from 1962 until 1965. He taught English Literature at the State University of New York from 1968.

Coetzee returned to Cape Town – and his Alma Mater – in 1970 and a lengthy academic career followed. He held various professorial posts at UCT for almost 30 years, and at the University of Chicago,

Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University and Stanford University. He retired in 2002 and emigrated to Adelaide, Australia.

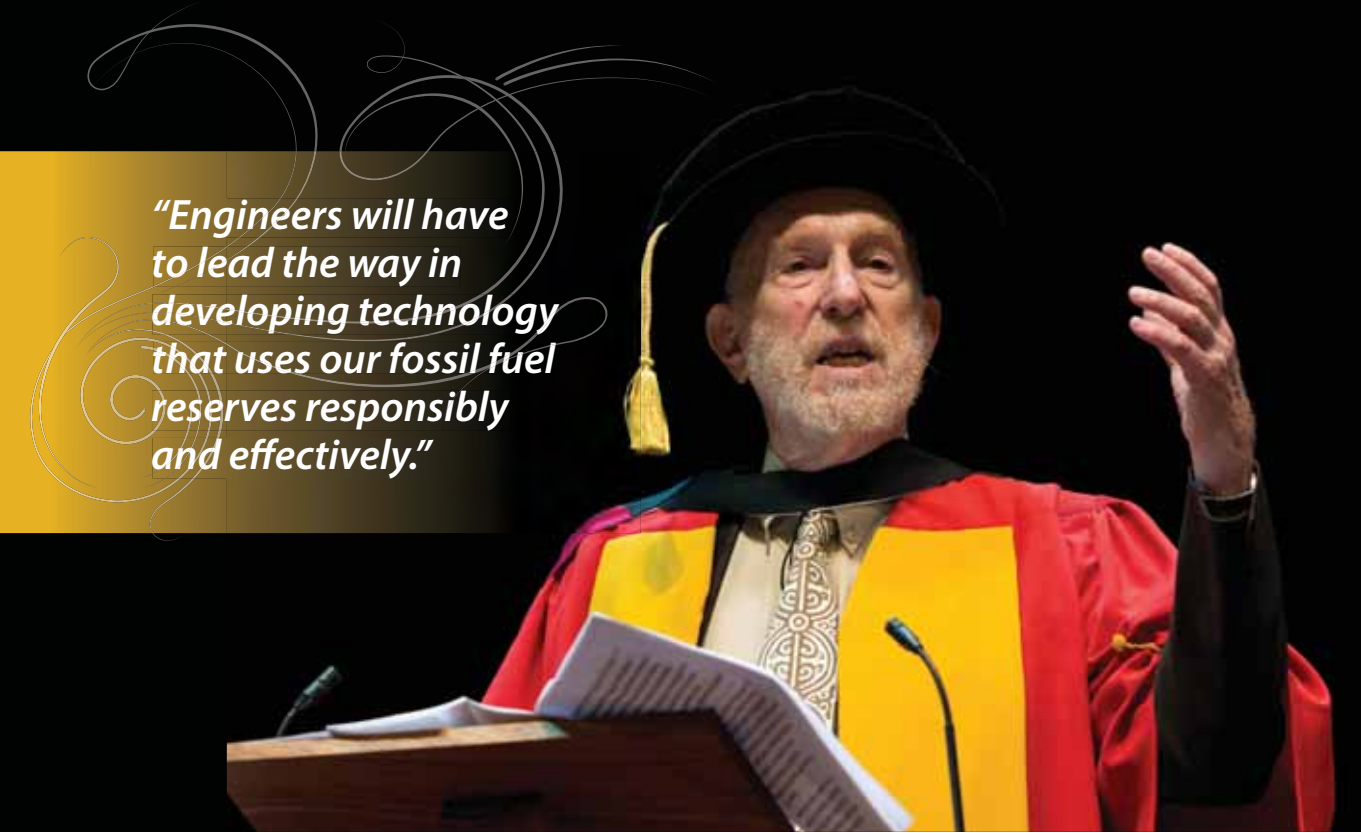
His Wits honorary citation concludes: “Coetzee has resolutely defied convention and created alternative modes of seeing and writing. In doing this, his work has resituated the human subject in ways that have drawn the attention of writers, critics and philosophers in almost every corner of the world that he, as a writer, has re-imagined in significant and remarkable ways.”

Professor David Glasser **Engineering energy efficiency over four decades**

Professor David Glasser has served Wits University for close to half a century. In recognition of his inestimable contribution as a teacher, researcher and globally eminent academic in the field of Chemical Engineering, the University awarded him an honorary Doctorate in Engineering on 12 December 2012 at a graduation ceremony in the Great Hall at which he delivered the keynote address.

“Long ago humankind tamed fire,” began Glasser in his speech to Engineering graduates. “[This] was a monumental stride forward, because it showed us that we could unlock the energy stored in chemicals. In this case, the chemicals were those in wood, and their energy was turned into light and heat.”

Glasser elaborated that taming fire enabled people to influence their environment consciously; heat, light, warmth and cooking became possible. Later, fire could change materials, enabling brick-making,



“Engineers will have to lead the way in developing technology that uses our fossil fuel reserves responsibly and effectively.”

smelting and weaponry. Chemical energy ultimately manifested as machines that could do the work of people.

“Unfortunately we have been profligate with our reserves of [energy], and we are seeing signs that we are running out of them,” warned Glasser. “[Furthermore] by releasing the products of combustion (carbon dioxide) into the atmosphere, we are changing the climate ... Engineers will have to lead the way in developing technology that uses our fossil fuel reserves responsibly and effectively.”

Glasser’s fascination with energy may well have evolved from his early research into the spontaneous combustion of coal and coal wastes in mines. His pio-

neering work in developing tests to check the liability of the mined material for spontaneous combustion continues to influence current approaches to dealing with this phenomenon in South Africa and abroad.

Glasser’s research into improving equipment and process efficiency to reduce carbon dioxide emissions has been groundbreaking. He has held a National Research Foundation A-rating for decades, has published more than 100 papers, notably in the journal *Science* and the *American Institution of Chemical Engineers* journal, and has four patents under review.

Arguably Glasser’s most profound contribution to chemical engineering is his establishment of the Centre for Material and Process Synthesis (COMPS) at

Alumni Achievers

Wits, which he co-founded with long-term research partner, Professor Diane Hildebrandt. This research group has distinguished itself through undertaking groundbreaking studies and quickly making the commercial aspects available to industry. COMPS research has enabled the establishment of a pilot coal-to-fuel plant in Baoji, China.

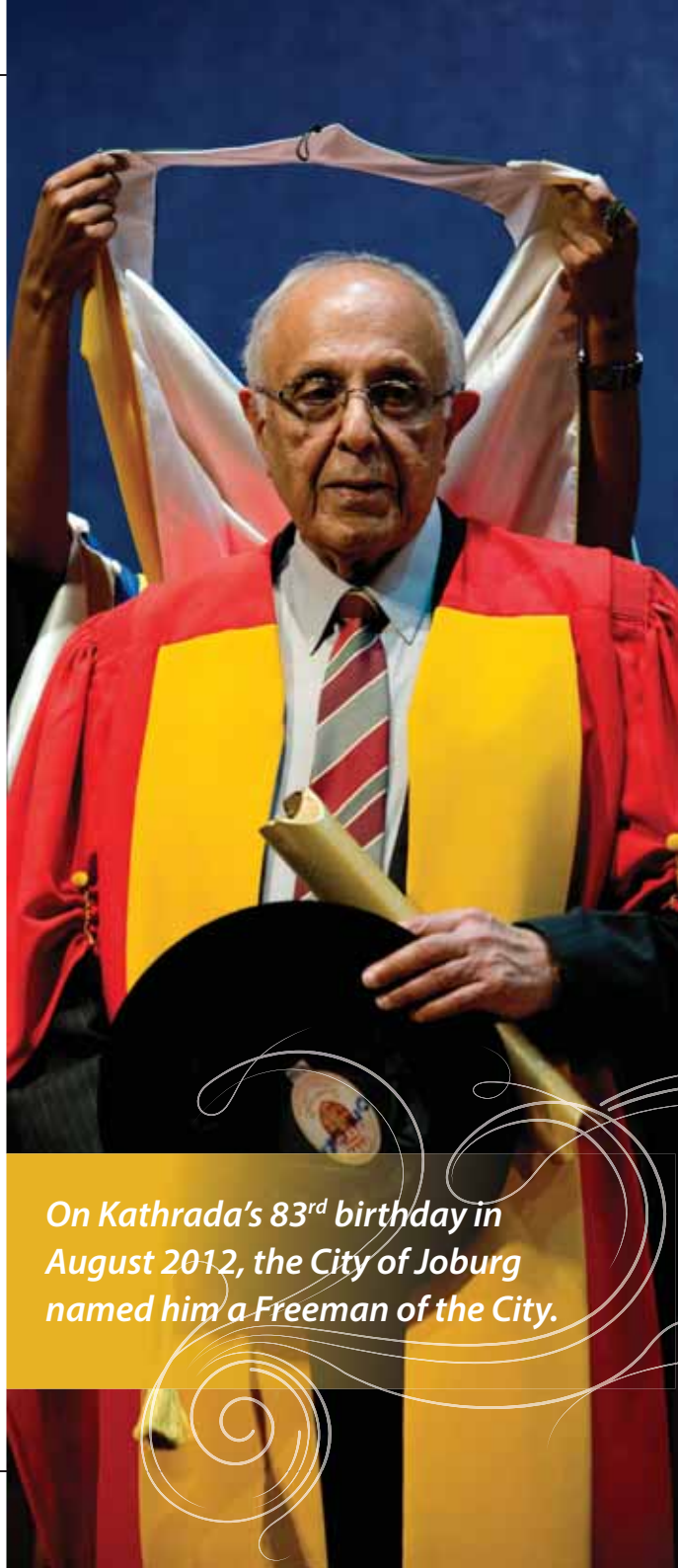
Glasser's formidable research credentials notwithstanding, his honorary degree recognises his invaluable contribution to Wits University as a teacher and administrator. He has served as Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, on the Wits Council, and as Dean. He was instrumental in driving academic development programmes aimed at increasing the number and throughput of black students in the faculty.

Glasser retired in 2004 but he continues to teach, publish, and help supervise research students.

Ahmed Kathrada **Wits honours liberation veteran**

Liberation struggle veteran Ahmed Kathrada received an honorary Doctorate in Literature from Wits at a graduation ceremony on 11 December 2012 in recognition of his sacrifices for democracy in South Africa over 50 years. Delivering the keynote address in the Great Hall, Kathrada invoked the memory of anti-apartheid comrades to emphasise that graduates take responsibility for upholding the Constitution.

Kathrada mentioned his "brief association" with Wits when he enrolled in 1955 before "succumbing to the attraction of an overseas visit ... to descend into



On Kathrada's 83rd birthday in August 2012, the City of Joburg named him a Freeman of the City.

the army of drop-outs.” He dedicated his speech to “distinguished scholars” more extensively associated with Wits, including alumni Chief Justices Ismail Mahomed and Arthur Chaskalson, advocate Joe Slovo, journalist Ruth First and Chancellor Dikgang Moseneke.

Kathrada would later earn three Bachelor degrees during almost 27 years’ incarceration as a political prisoner. He holds Honours degrees in History, Criminology, African Politics and Library Science from the University of South Africa.

Ahmed Mohamed “Kathy” Kathrada was born in the former Western Transvaal on 21 August 1929. He came to Johannesburg in 1937 to attend Newtown Indian Primary. His political involvement began in 1941, aged 12, when he joined the Young Communist League, influenced by freedom movement leaders Dr Yusuf Dadoo, and Moulvi and Yusuf Cachalia.

He joined the Communist Party of South Africa and was a founding member of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress. He worked at the Transvaal Passive Resistance Council when the South African Indian Congress launched the Passive Resistance Movement. This initiative opposed the 1946 Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act. His involvement in the Defiance Campaign against Unjust Laws (1952) resulted in a charge for violating the Suppression of Communism Act, a suspended sentence and a ban against attending gatherings.

Kathrada led the Youth Action Committee, which coordinated the youth wings of the African and Indian Congresses. In working to promote joint action between the Congresses, he encountered the

likes of Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu.

In 1955, Kathrada helped organise the Congress of the People, which proclaimed the Freedom Charter. Arrested again in 1961 for serving on a strike committee that opposed Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd’s plan to declare South Africa a Republic, he began operating underground after enduring house arrest for 12 hours a day in 1962.

Kathrada and other underground leaders were arrested at Liliesleaf Farm in 1963. At the Rivonia Trial, he was charged with organising the military wing of the African National Congress and sentenced to life imprisonment. He spent 26 years and 3 months incarcerated. Kathrada was 60 years old when released on 15 October 1989. He took posts on the ANC’s National Executive Committee and in Parliament, and chaired the Robben Island Council.

In 1992, the ANC awarded Kathrada its highest honour, *Isithwalandwe*, in recognition of outstanding contribution and sacrifice to the liberation struggle. By the turn of the century, Kathrada held honorary degrees from the Universities of Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Kentucky and others. He published *Memoirs* (2004) and *A Simple Freedom* (2008), among others. The Ahmed Kathrada Foundation was established in 2008 to promote non-racism through dialogue.

On Kathrada’s 83rd birthday in August 2012, the City of Joburg named him a Freeman of the City, where he now lives with his wife, former Minister of Public Enterprises (and Wits Arts alumna) Barbara Hogan, in Killarney. ■

the edge

Alumni with



By Deborah Minors

Johnny Clegg



Iconic South African musician **Johnny Clegg** receives an Honorary Doctor of Music degree from the University of KwaZulu-Natal on 16 April 2013. Dartmouth College in the USA also awarded Clegg an honorary degree in June 2012, months after he received the Order of Ikhamanga from the South African Presidency on 27 April 2012. Clegg is a Wits Anthropology and Politics Honours alumnus, and an honorary Doctor of Music. His career in entertainment spans more than 30 years. “The White Zulu” anti-apartheid activist is renowned for his energetic live performances and his signature sound, which blends African, Celtic folk and rock music. On 27 March 2013, Clegg performed the first solo South African act ever at The Royal Albert Hall with his show, *A South African Story*.



The International Skeletal Society awarded pathologist Professor **Leonard B. Kahn** its Founders Medal at their annual meeting in Rome, Italy, on 9 September 2012. An illustrated

lecture, *Art and the Skeleton*, in his honour, accompanied the award. Kahn is a Wits Medical School alumnus who completed his residency in Pathology at UCT. He left South Africa in 1977 for a pathology professorship at the University of North Carolina. His career has focused on musculo-skeletal pathology. He chaired the programme committee of the International Skeletal Society from 1991 until 2010. He is currently Senior Pathologist at the North Shore Long Island Jewish Medical Health System, where he was Chairman of Pathology until 2010. He is a fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists in London.



The American Society of Nephrology named Professor **Nathan W. Levin** the recipient of the Belding H. Scribner Award in November 2012. The award recognises “outstanding

contributions that have a direct impact on the care of patients with renal disorders or have substantially changed the clinical practice of nephrology”. Levin is a Wits Medical School alumnus who pioneered dialysis and renal transplantation in South Africa. He emigrated to the USA in 1957 and founded the Renal Research Institute in New York in 1997. He is an attending physician at Beth Israel Medical Centre, a professor of medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and chair of the Research Board of the Renal Research Institute.



Anthea Moys

Alumna **Anthea Moys** is the first recipient of the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Performance Art. Moys holds a Masters degree in Fine Arts from Wits and her work focuses on structured play in the public sphere. She stages collaborative performances that aim to foster thematic connections between different communities and the spaces they inhabit, for example, security guards at an art gallery. Moys has performed group shows in South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, London, Australia, Miami and Berlin. In 2009, as the winner of the Brait Everard Read Award, she staged her first solo show in South Africa. She has completed a residency programme at Monash University, Australia. She currently lectures Creative Development at the Vega School of Brand Leadership.

Alumni with the edge

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Maryland, USA, presented biochemist Dr **Steven Soldin** with the Clinical Center Director's Award on 17 December 2012.



The former lecturer in Physiological Chemistry at Wits received the award as part of the Diagnostic Mass Spectrometry Group. Bestowed in the Patient Care category, the award acknowledges Soldin's role in developing new mass spectrometry tests that promote research, enhance patient care and reduce costs. Soldin is an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University and Senior Scientist in the NIH Clinical Center's Department of Laboratory Medicine. He oversees the mass spectrometry section of the clinical chemistry service. Among others, he has won the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry's Alvin Dubin Award for distinguished contributions to the discipline.

Wits Medical School alumnus Dr **Roy Zent** took up the post of Vice-Chair for Research in the Department of Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Centre, Nashville,



Tennessee, on 1 March 2013. This strategic planning role will entail identifying focus areas for building scientific programmes that leverage strengths within the department. Prior to this appointment, Zent was an Associate Professor in the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension, Departments of Medicine, Cancer Biology, and Cell and Developmental Biology. Zent participated in the Wits Faculty of Health Sciences Alumni Diaspora Programme in 2010. This initiative comprises a speaker-seminar series of invited alumni. The programme aims to strengthen the Wits Health Sciences alumni network, stimulate research collaboration and networking, and help establish co-operative and exchange partnerships with international institutions.



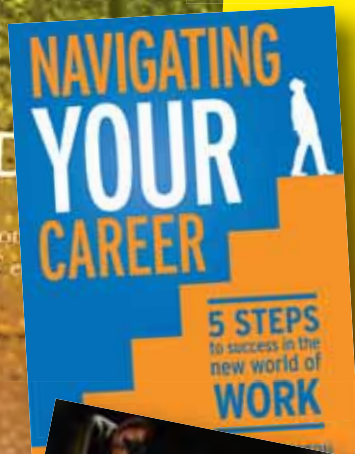
the writing badge

Alumni with

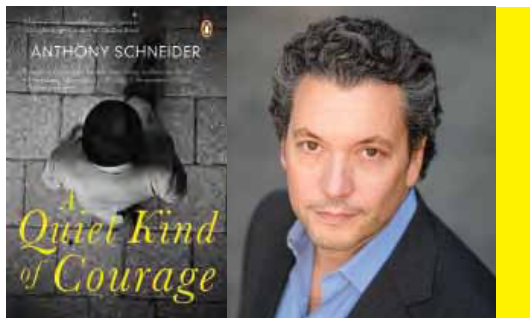
A Quiet Kid of Courage

Compiled by Deborah Minors

April 2013



2013 Review



FICTION

***A Quiet Kind of Courage*, by Anthony Schneider**

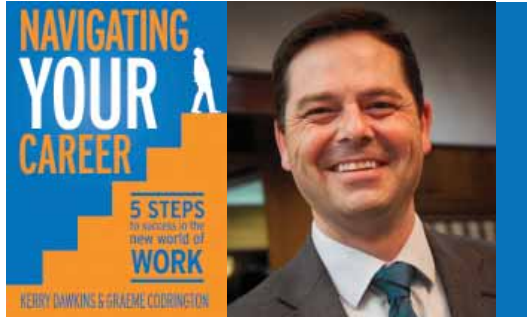
Anthony Schneider holds a degree in creative writing and lives in New York. *A Quiet Kind of Courage* (Penguin, 2012) was presented at the Chalsty Teaching and Conference Centre in the Wits School of Law on 15 March 2013. The book is a fictionalised account of what it was like to be an active member of the ANC in the 1960s. Protagonist Henry Wegland is an 83-year-old South African living in New York. In his youth, he attended Wits where he studied Law, met people who influenced his life and developed his sense of morality. Henry meets his best friend, Dick Dunningham at Wits and together they get involved in the ANC. Through Henry's memories we encounter Joe Slovo, Nelson Mandela and Rusty Bernstein in a story about family, forbidden love, guilt, betrayal and sacrifices. Nobel Laureate and honorary Wits alumna Nadine Gordimer has acclaimed the book, calling it "A depth, a synthesis of human contentions, intellect, emotions, self-searching, fully realised ... a work of the meaning of exile."



NON-FICTION

***Zest: A Celebration of Good Schools and Good Teachers*, by Mark Henning**

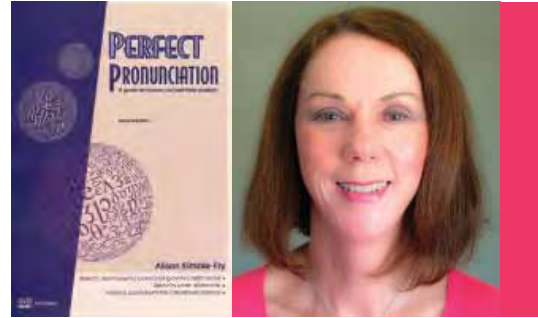
Mark Henning holds BA and Education degrees from Wits. He lectured at the Johannesburg College of Education (JCE – now Wits School of Education) in the 1960s and later served as Headmaster of St Stithians College and as Vice-Principal of Sandringham and Edenvale High Schools. He was founding editor of *Independent Education*, National Director of the Independent Schools' Council and Vice-President of the World Confederation of Private Education. He received the JCE's Gold Medal in 1998 for "commitment and dedicated service to education". 'Zest' is the quality that leads to happiness, according to the philosopher Bertrand Russell, and Henning similarly contends that zest is an essential quality in good schools and good teachers. *Zest: A Celebration of Good Schools and Good Teachers* (Otterley Press, 2012) appears at a time when education in South Africa is under fire. Yet hundreds of schools actually function well. With a preface by eminent educator Professor Jonathan Jansen, *Zest* celebrates those whom Henning encountered and, more importantly, the community they create.



SELF-HELP

Navigating Your Career: 5 Steps to Success in the New World of Work, by Dr Graeme Codrington

Wits Accountancy alumnus Dr Graeme Codrington is an expert on the new world of work. He runs a company that helps organisations prepare for the disruptive forces that will shape their industries in future. He holds postgraduate degrees in Business Administration, Sociology, Theology/Philosophy and Youth Work. Codrington co-authored the best-sellers *Mind the Gap* (2011) and *Future-Proof Your Child: Parenting the Wired Generation* (2008). He co-authored *Navigating Your Career* (Penguin, 2012) with career development expert Kerry Dawkins. This book aims to help plot a course through an employment landscape that is both competitive and challenging but abounds with potential. *Navigating Your Career* suggests that if your objectives are clear and your strategies to position yourself sound, then there are ways to find your dream job. It all starts with a radical mindset shift, according to the book: treat your career as a navigable journey and then follow the five steps for lifelong job satisfaction. However, this is not a quick-fix solution; hard work and focus are required.



Perfect Pronunciation: A Guide for Trainers and Self-Help Students (2nd Ed.), by Alison Kimble-Fry

English is the international *lingua franca* and those who speak accented or “second language” English are frequently at a disadvantage. This observation prompted speech pathologist Alison Kimble-Fry to combine her knowledge of speech patterns, learned at Wits while studying Speech and Hearing Therapy, with corporate expertise in Human Resources from Wits Business School. She left HR in banking to establish a voice improvement clinic focusing on accent change. Kimble-Fry was born in the UK and lived and worked in South Africa. Now based in Sydney, Australia, she is ideally located to understand issues around accent and pronunciation. The second edition of *Perfect Pronunciation*, first published in 1991 and now updated, with accompanying DVD, teaches how to improve the clarity and quality of English pronunciation. Using the ClearSpeak training method, the book outlines a total training model that is holistic and multi-sensory. It recognises that changing an accent involves both analytical and intuitive mental agility.

What's On at Wits



REUNION

Lesotho Alumni Reunion

Date Friday 12 April | **Time** 18:30

Venue Lesotho Sun Hotel, Hilton Road, Maseru, Lesotho | **Cost** LSL80 | **Details** +27 11 717 1091 or justine.dangor@wits.ac.za

TALKS

Dr Graeme Codrington and the New World of Work

Accountancy alumnus Dr Graeme Codrington is a futurist, author, and speaker. He runs a company that helps organisations prepare for the disruptive forces that will shape their industries in future. He will speak on the topic of the New World of Work at an Alumni Networking Cocktail, hosted by the Wits Alumni Office.

Date Thursday 30 May | **Time** 18:00

Venue Wits Club & Alumni Pub, West Campus, Wits University | **Cost** R120 | **Details** +27 11 717 1093 / Purvi.Purohit@wits.ac.za

AJ Orenstein Memorial Lecture: *Dust, Disease and Politics on South Africa's Gold Mines*

Professor Jock McCulloch of the International Development Programme, School of Social Science and Planning, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia delivers the 2013 AJ Orenstein Memorial Lecture, entitled *Dust, Disease and Politics on South Africa's Gold Mines*. The lecture is CPD accredited.

Date Wednesday 10 April 2013 | **Time** 18:00

Venue Auditorium, Wits School of Public Health Building, York Road, Parktown

ART

The Robert Hodgins Archive at WAM

The Robert Hodgins Print Archive was established in 2007 when the renowned artist and namesake donated 400 prints from his personal collection to Wits Art Museum. This exhibition presents a selection of the finest examples from the archive of the late artist – he died in 2010 – with works dating from 1971 to 2009. The theme of the works differ but all display the artist's critical and historically informed engagement with the human figure. Works in progress, artist's notes and process materials are included, as is a catalogue.

Date Until 7 April 2012 | **Time** WAM is open to the public from Wednesdays – Sundays, 10:00 – 16:00
Venue Wits Art Museum, corner Jorissen and Bertha Streets, Braamfontein

DOCUMENTARY

People vs The State of Illusion

There's a saying that "you can't teach an old dog new tricks" but is that true? Can people change, or change for the better? In the documentary film, *People vs. The State of Illusion*, former trial lawyer Austin Vickers leads the viewer through the fictional trial and conviction of Aaron Roberts.

Aaron is a single father who has struggled with life since his wife died. Some bad decisions lead to his arrest and conviction for manslaughter. This tears Aaron away from his daughter, which leads him to a very dark, angry place in his emotional and spiritual life.

Through a panel of expert witnesses who dissect the behaviour, beliefs and challenges of human nature, Aaron has the opportunity to take a horrible situation and use it for growth – or stay in the mire he has created for himself. Vickers himself delivers a one-hour talk after the film.

Expert witnesses

Dr Joe Dispenza: Neuroscientist, author and international speaker | **Debbie Ford:** Life coach, *NY Times* bestselling author | **Dr Thomas Moore:** Psychotherapist, *NY Times* bestselling author | **Dr Candace Pert:** Former NIH Chief of Brain Neurochemistry, author

Date Friday 26 April for one night only! | **Time** 20:00
 | **Venue** The Wits Theatre, Station Street, Braamfontein | **Cost** General admissions R250 pp, Wits students and staff R180 pp (promotional code: WS)
Enquiries savannah@savannahsteinberg.com

MUSIC

WitsMusic in the Faculty of Humanities, School of Arts, presents three separate performances by *WitsMusic* staff, postgraduate students and new initiates.

Dates

WitsMusic staff | Tuesday 16 April
WitsMusic postgraduates | Tuesday 7 May
WitsMusic initiates | Tuesday 21 May

Time 19:30 | **Venue** The Atrium, South West Engineering Building, East Campus, Wits



THEATRE

The Tragedy of Julius Caesar

Nine final-year graduating students combine their theoretical and academic research into questions regarding drama, theatre and performance, with creative experiment around Shakespeare's classic political tragedy. The play portrays the 44BC conspiracy against the Roman dictator Julius Caesar, his assassination, and the defeat of the conspirators at the Battle of Philippi. The play is a powerful commentary on leadership, political idealism, issues of ethical accountability and betrayal.

Date 14 – 24 May 2013 | **Time** 19:30

Venue Wits Amphitheatre, The Wits Theatre Complex, Station Street, Braamfontein

DANCE

Detours Festival

Curated by Joni Barnard and Jane Crewe, *Detours* is a festival that aims to tackle and investigate avenues in movement composition, inspiring a re-visioning of the body in performance. *Detours* focuses on the work of students and young professionals and ranges from solo, through ensemble, to collaborative work.

Date Wednesday 15 May – Saturday 18 May 2013

Time 19:30 | **Venue** Wits Downstairs Theatre and The Nunnery, The Wits Theatre Complex, Station Street, Braamfontein

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



Keep up to date with what's on at Wits at www.wits.ac.za/alumni/events

Adler Museum of Medicine

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

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

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
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

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
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

Wits Theatre Complex

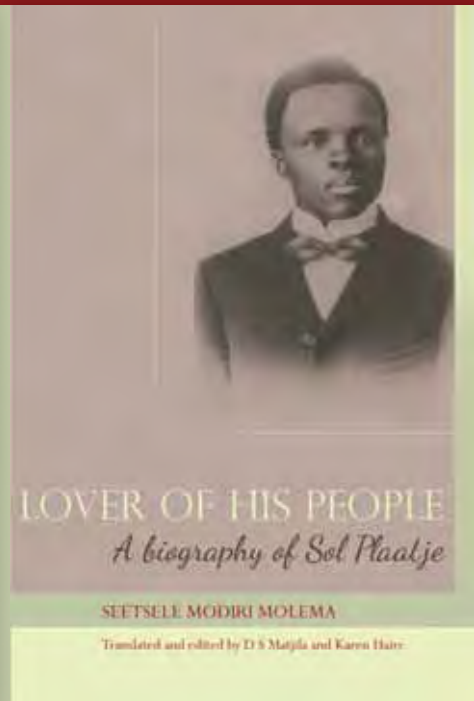
East Campus, Wits University, Performing Arts Administration, 24 Station Street, Braamfontein, Johannesburg
Tel +27 (0) 717 1376 | **Email** Catherine.Pisanti@wits.ac.za
Hours PAA reception hours, 08:00 - 16:00, Monday to Friday
Cost varies according to programme | **Tickets** 073 725 7381
www.wits.ac.za/WitsTheatre

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
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

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

Book Reviews



Wits alumni qualify for a 20% discount on all Wits Press books if bought directly from the Wits Press Office on the 5th Floor, above the Wits Art Museum, University Corner Building, corner Jorissen and Bertha Streets. Cash or credit card only. Office hours: Mon-Friday 9am-4pm



**Orlando West, Soweto:
An Illustrated History**

by Noor Nieftagodien and Sally Gaule
Wits University Press, 2012

Orlando West has a significant urban history. For many it is synonymous with the struggle history of Soweto and most specifically the role of its people and its high school children in the 1976 student uprising. Vilakazi Street was the home of two Nobel Prize laureates, Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu.

During 2010-2011 Dr Noor Nieftagodien of the Wits History Department and the History Workshop was commissioned by the Johannesburg Development Agency to produce an oral local history of Orlando. This work is the product of that project. The work rises above the amateur quality of so many community histories and makes a significant contribution to the history of Soweto and Johannesburg in the quality of the writing and the synthesis of the research. It is enhanced by the inclusion of many black and white historical photographs together with current colour photographs in a photo essay.

The work falls into two parts. The author of the 10 chapters on the history of Orlando, Nieftagodien, has pulled together the interviews of over 40 long-term residents as they tell the story of the origins of the township, its evolution through the urbanising decades, the start of the uprising and the follow-through to real change and revolution. Sport, schooling, religion, work, family and social life are all dimensions discussed with the interviewees. Memories flow in the strong individual voices of citizens as they speak as proud citizens of Soweto.

There is a helpful map of Soweto and a basic bibliography for further reading.

The second part of the book is the photo essay by Sally Gaule of the Wits School of Architecture and Planning. This is a supplement to the oral testimony. Gaule is known for intimacy and insight in her photographs of both people and landscape. The mentoring of a young resident of Mzimhlophe formed part of this project, and Sakhile Mthabela and Gaule undertook the photography as they walked the streets of Orlando. They were often spontaneously invited into the homes of the people they met. The warmth and the hospitality of the encounter is captured in the images of a transitory moment of life in different seasons and at different times of the day as the light changed. The project also gave rise to a documentary on the history of Orlando and an exhibition of photographs was held there.

The book lacks an index and there is no explicit link between the first section and the photographic essay. A short biography of the interviewees would have enriched the text and while the well-chosen black and white photographs capture time and period, photographs of the interviewees could have enhanced the documentary evidence. The historian in me wants all photos to be labelled and dated in the photo essay. This work will appeal to visitors (as it is a superior souvenir) and Africana collectors as well as Johannesburg people. It is a book that has an instant message of hope and offers an invitation to visit Soweto.

Reviewed by KA Munro, School of Architecture and Planning



 ***Lover of His People – A Biography of Sol Plaatje***

by Seetsele Modiri Molema, translated and edited by DS Matjila and Karen Haire. Wits University Press, 2012

Sol Plaatje was a giant South African in his work as an interpreter and translator, doughty political fighter, writer, linguist and editor. His Boer War diary, written during the siege of Mafeking, gives a unique African perspective of surviving that war. It was he who moved the motion to establish the South African Native National Congress, as the ANC was then called, at its founding in 1912 and became the first secretary general. He was an active voice in mobilising opposition to the 1913 Native Land Act. Plaatje was a member of the ANC deputation to raise consciousness in England and wrote *Native Life in South Africa* during the voyage. His combative journalism gave him a powerful voice.

This biography of Plaatje was written in Setswana in the 1960s. One needs to know something about him for the book to add value to one's store of knowledge, and it will appeal most to Plaatje enthusiasts. Nonetheless it is a slight but important addition to the biographical literature. It is slight because it is more of a memoir than a critical or scholarly biography. It is important because it brings to an English readership an archived, little-known Setswana manuscript written by Seetsele Modiri Molema, who knew and admired Plaatje. Setswana was Plaatje's mother tongue.


The work has been translated and edited by DS Matjila and Karen Haire. They have added an introductory essay about the manuscript and the

context for this particular biographical study. The manuscript comprises fewer than 90 pages but three supplementary chapters of extracts of Plaatje's writings in English and Setswana (translated into English) and some information on Molema add depth. The editors have provided a framework of chapter notes explaining perhaps unfamiliar terms or places and contextual information. There could be more biographical information about the contemporary people mentioned in the text. A bibliography usefully lists all other biographies to date.

The appeal of the Molema text is its warmth, humanity and affectionate portrait of Plaatje. In this it has something of the feel of a long funeral oration, but also highlights that Molema was himself an important contributor to South Africa's literary and cultural heritage.

The book is meant to reach beyond a scholarly audience and could well be a useful historical and literary teaching text. Although written in the 1960s, and a voice of its time, it touches on many issues that are as topical today as they were then – such as gender, historical interpretation and the future of African languages. Some unusual black and white photographs of Plaatje and his world add interest. It is fitting that Wits University Press has published this work in the 100th anniversary year of the ANC. It also draws attention to the important Plaatje archives in the Wits Historical Papers.

Reviewed by KA Munro, School of Architecture and Planning





Obituaries

Compiled by Deborah Minors

Wits University fondly remembers those who have passed away

Hrbar, Andrzej 'Andrew' (1947 - 2012)

Andrzej 'Andrew' Jan de Nagy Koves Hrbar died on 27 December 2012 of complications following a bone marrow transplant. He was 65. Hrbar was born on 25 November 1947 and educated at Parktown Boys' High. He completed his military conscription in the Naval Gymnasium in Saldanha Bay and the Naval College in Gordon's Bay, where he achieved colours for shooting. He rose to the rank of Sub-Lieutenant. He studied Architecture at Wits, where he met his wife, fellow architect Anne Ellis Brown. The couple moved to Plettenberg Bay in 1975 and established an architectural firm. Hrbar practiced architecture successfully for almost 40 years, often opposing developments that compromised the environment. He was active in his community as a councillor and as a member of the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI). He retired in 2011 and fatefully contracted aplastic anaemia the next year.

Yodaiken, Ralph



Anatomical pathologist Professor Ralph Emile Yodaiken died at home in Bethesda, Maryland, USA on 22 December 2012, after a long illness. He was 88.

He was born in Johannesburg on 22 August 1925. He aspired to practise medicine but had to work in his

father's motor business as a youth - always wearing gloves as protection for his future as a surgeon. At 17, he joined the Irgin Zvi Leumi (National Military Organisation in Israel) and volunteered in the Israeli Army. Dispatched to Italy, he helped train and smuggle Jewish concentration camp refugees to fight in Israel. He fought in the War of Independence and returned to South Africa afterwards to study medicine at Wits.

At Wits, he served on the Medical Council of the SRC and edited the Medical School newsletter, The Auricle. He graduated in 1956 and lectured in Pathology at Wits until 1963. That year, he and his wife, Wits Medical School alumna Professor Naomi Baumslag Yodaiken, emigrated to the US to escape apartheid.

Yodaiken became a Professor of Pathology at Emory Medical School in Atlanta, Georgia, and at George Washington University Medical School. Before retiring, he was a director in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. He donated his body to medical science.

Lonsdale, Brian (1936 - 2013)



Brian Grenville Lonsdale died on 30 January 2013, from melanoma. He was 77. Lonsdale was born on 3 March 1936 and matriculated at Vereeniging High School. He studied Electrical Engineering at Wits and graduated in 1957. Lonsdale went to the UK and worked

at engineering firms Plessey and Marconi. He established his own business and remained in England for most of his life, but occasionally visited South Africa, France and Turkey. He met and married Mary Chambers in England, and dedicated the next 52 years to caring for her - she was wheelchair-bound having been diagnosed early in their relationship with multiple sclerosis. Ironically, Lonsdale himself suffered a stroke in 2010, which confined him to a wheelchair. His wife survives him, as do his two daughters and six grandchildren.

Dimitriou, Christos (1924 - 2012)

An Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Wits for some 30 years, Christos Dimitriou died on 22 September 2012 after emergency surgery the month prior. He was 87.

Dimitriou was born on 15 December 1924 in Alexandria, Egypt to Greek parents. He trained in the Cape, South Africa, as a navigator for the Royal Hellenic Air force in the early 1940s. He studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Glasgow - a deliberate choice, as the traditional shipbuilding city



appealed to his initial interest in marine engineering. He graduated with honours in 1951, excelling in mathematics. He returned permanently to South Africa to work.

Early in his career, Dimitriou designed air conditioning installations for Thermotank. He joined the Wits School of Mechanical Engineering in 1958. In association with the Chamber of Mines, he did groundbreaking research into the nonlinear behaviour of mine hoist catenaries (cables). The South African Institution of Mechanical Engineering published the research, which engineers and scientists continue to reference today. The research stimulated postgraduate studies and the development of an experimental facility in the School.

Dimitriou was at Wits full-time from 1958 to 1990, with a sabbatical in the 1960s at the Chamber of Mines. He then returned to Wits for a further nine years part time.

In retirement, Dimitriou participated in maths and science education in local schools, motivated by the country's need for engineers and scientists.

Li, Tingye (1931 - 2012)

A pioneer of optical fibre communications and light-wave technology Dr Tingye Li died of a heart attack on 27 December 2012 in Utah, United States. He was 81. In July 2011, Li returned to South Africa for the first time in 60 years to accept an honorary

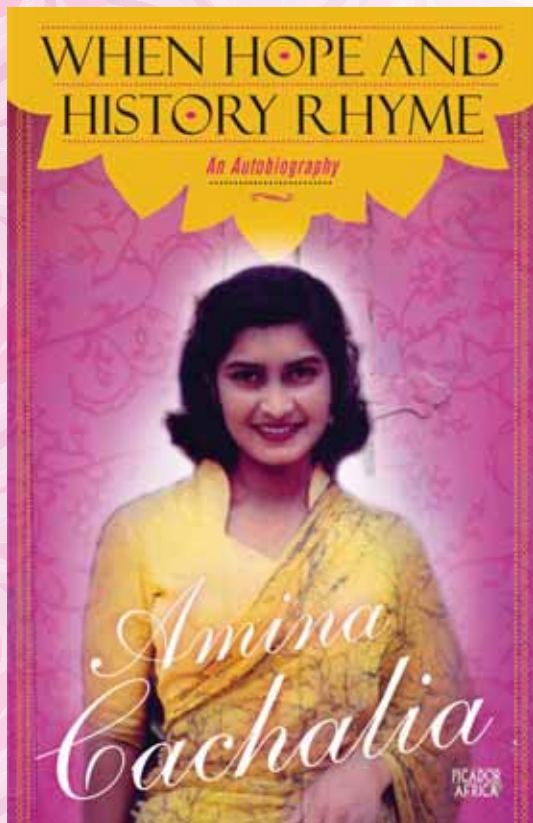


degree in Engineering from Wits, where he had earned his undergraduate degree in 1952. Li's research in the field of lasers and opto-electronics increased the speed of optical communications 100-fold, a development fundamental to the foundation of the Internet and contemporary digital communications.

Li was born in Nanjing, China in 1931. He lived in Canada and the United States prior to studying at Wits, and returned to the US to complete his PhD (1958) at Northwestern University, Evanston. He joined Bell Laboratories (now AT&T) in New Jersey in 1957, where he remained until his formal retirement in 1998.

Over forty years in the fields of lasers, optical fibre (light wave) communications, microwave antennas and satellite communications, Li made fundamental contributions to optical science and communications engineering. Arguably his most significant input was in the field of optical fibre communication. He was instrumental in developing the world's first 'amplified wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) transmission system'. He explored the use of 'optical amplifiers' in his WDM system, the use of which revolutionised light wave communications. It increased the speed at which optical data could be transmitted 100-fold – the highest rate available at the time. This shaped communications systems in the modern information society, including the Internet.

Cachalia, Amina (née Asvat)



Struggle stalwart Amina Cachalia died in Milpark Hospital, Johannesburg on 31 January 2013, aged 82. Cachalia was one of the “golden circle” of legendary anti-apartheid activists, who had counted Nelson Mandela among her close friends.

Cachalia received a Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa* from Wits in 2004 – the first Indian woman to do so – in recognition of her lifelong opposition to apartheid and towards advancing the empowerment of women.

The University hosted a memorial service in the Great Hall on 9 March 2013. Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe delivered a tribute, as did Cachalia’s children, Ghaleb and Coco, and her grandchildren.

Motlanthe said that the struggle defined Cachalia and that her personal and political lives were not separate. Her parents, Fatima and Ebrahim Asvat, had been politically active, notably in the first passive resistance campaign with Mahatma Gandhi in 1907. Cachalia and her husband, Yusuf, came from a “golden generation” of activists, said Motlanthe, who leave a “living legacy” that remains globally relevant today.

Amina’s son, Ghaleb, said at the memorial that the family had received tributes after her death, mainly from young women, some of whom had never met his mother. He said Cachalia had been “a midwife of the birth of freedom in this country”.

Cachalia was an activist who was fluent in Afrikaans, diminutive in size, and who exiled her children to protect them from apartheid, but who resolutely sustained family ties despite banning orders and imprisonments. Cachalia’s daughter, Coco, said at the memorial that she recalled regular letters, phone calls and taped recordings from her mother while she, Coco, was exiled in Swaziland and London. Her mother “treated people with considerable care”, she said.

Cachalia’s grandchildren at the memorial recounted personal recollections of “Mamma”, including

Amina Cachalia

“for her lifetime contribution to the struggle for gender equality, non-racialism and a free and democratic South Africa”

anecdotes about her insistence on hygiene, and the weekly family lunch ritual. Described as “a constant” who brought the family together, she instilled in her family determination and courage. She had “the gift of ultimate self-control” and “was the type of person who would not give you what you want, but what you need,” her grandchildren said.

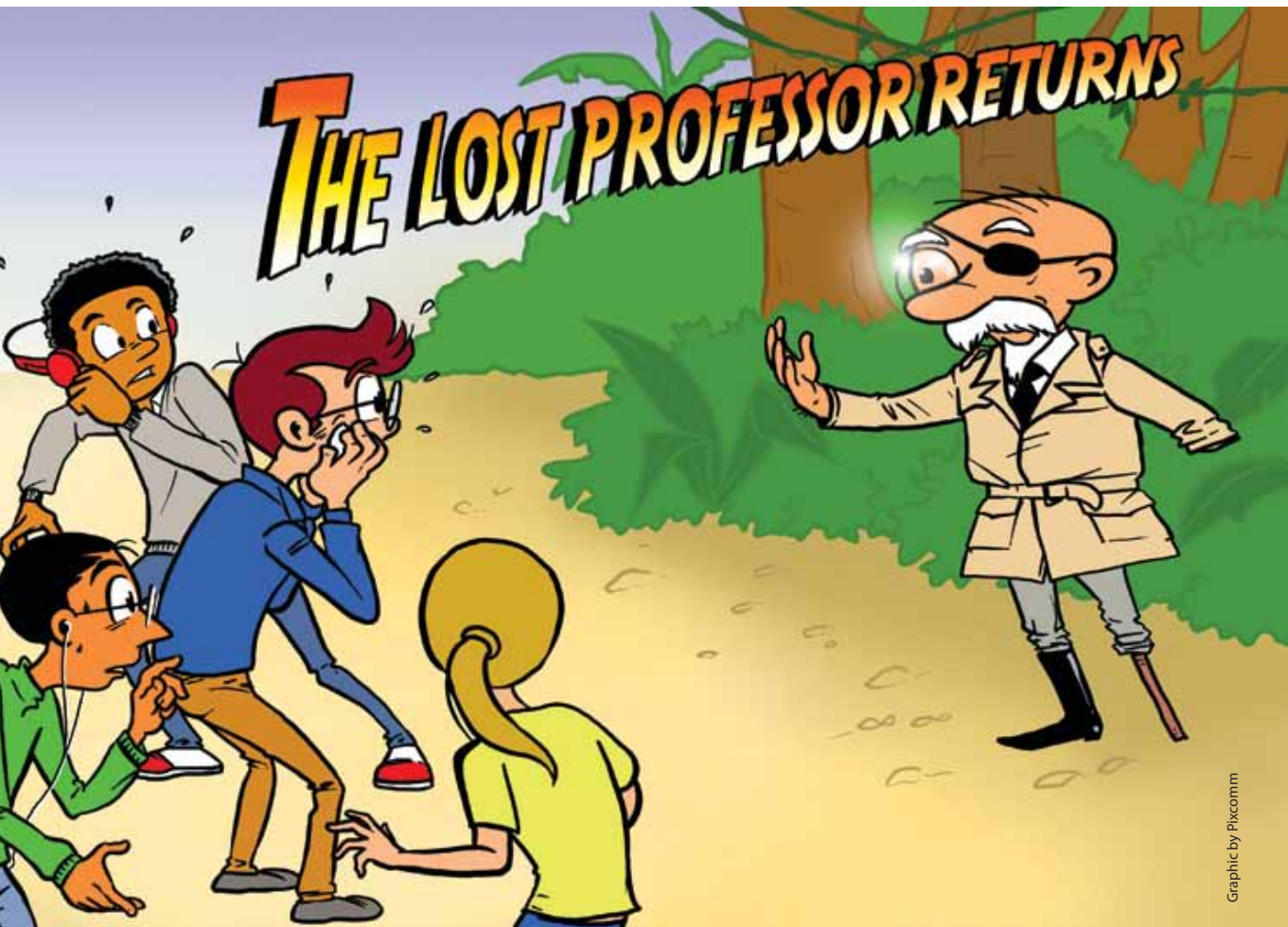
Amina Asvat was born in Vereeniging on 28 June 1930, the ninth of 11 children. Born prematurely and with a congenital heart condition, she was not expected to live beyond 12 years. She went to school in Durban, inspired by her elder sister’s participation in the resistance movement there. Cachalia returned to Johannesburg in 1947 and worked as a teacher and in a garment factory, experiences that highlighted the importance of financial independence. Cachalia founded the Women’s Progressive Union in 1948 to foster this.

In the 1950s, she was an active member of the Peace Council and was politically active in the Indian Youth Congress, the Indian Congress and the Federation of SA Women.

She was one of the 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria in August 1956 – despite being pregnant at the time – to protest against the imposition of pass laws on black women. She was imprisoned in 1952, banned from 1963 until 1980, and spent 15 years under house arrest.

After democratisation in 1994, Cachalia was offered a seat in the National Assembly by inclusion in the ANC’s list. In 2004, she received the Order of Luthuli from the South African government “for her lifetime contribution to the struggle for gender equality, non-racialism and a free and democratic South Africa”. Most recently, she served in an executive capacity in organisations and groups focusing on empowering women, protecting children and rehabilitating the disadvantaged.

“Of all Amina Cachalia’s distinctions and achievements, the greatest is her identity, lifelong, active in past and present, as a freedom fighter, now needed as much, believe me, in the aftermath of freedom as in the struggle.” (Nadine Gordimer, *Where Hope and History Rhyme*, 2012)



Graphic by Pixcomm

What's in a beginning? I studied at Wits from the late 1960s. Despite the worst prognosis offered by a career psychologist on my potential, I am now a senior professor.



By Keyan G Tomaselli

The psychologist claimed that I was too stupid to go to varsity, I should be a soldier. He must have read my SADF file. While some exiled themselves to avoid conscription, my tactic was to play stupid doing my nine months' basic. While a Wits student, being among the "sick, lame and lazy", doing office work on Tuesday nights for my regiment, I was pleased to read that I had passed my module in "Pretending to be Stupid 101" with an A.

During these enforced nights at headquarters I would routinely scour the file of a Wits lecturer who was also drafted. I sanitized it of indications of his dissent, unauthorised absences from parades, non-regulation hair length, and the illegal wearing of underpants under the kilt. Ken Jubber, then a junior lecturer in Sociology, was a particular thorn in the side of Transvaal Scottish. He had wanted out of service because, he insisted, he was a communist, and therefore untrustworthy.

Ken told Transvaal Scottish that he had transferred to UCT. He was thus removed from the regimental register requiring his shiny boots and short hair at monthly parades. But one day he was arrested when addressing a Wits protest march on Jan Smuts Ave. The sergeant major's name was eerily spelled like that of a famous fossil skeleton found by Robert Broom at Sterkfontein Cave. He went ballistic when he saw Ken's pic in *The Star*, his sporran flapping about in his own wind. The sergeant major cut out the incriminating evidence and put it in Ken's file. I removed it, as I did all other incriminating evidence against Ken. They never did work out why Ken's file was always so scanty and why they could never nail him.

Ken responds, "That person is now a historical character, like the rest of the characters you refer to in this piece."

My Wits days were the best. Wits was relatively small, and many academics were real characters. A surveying professor, Gordon Lauf, was nicknamed Chalkie as he bore an uncanny resemblance to the *Giles* comic book character. The Classics professor always wore a flowing black academic gown, while the crusty old Geography professor, Stanley Jackson, riveted students with his animated descriptions about pockets hot of air "going up, going up" (into the atmosphere) – otherwise known as the adiabatic lapse rate. Geology professor TW Gevers, who if I remember correctly had lost a leg, an eye, and half an arm during his many explorations of wildest Africa, would have put present-day *Survivor* contestants to shame. No recovery crews, no medical help, just him and his bewildered students crashing through the forests, the deserts and the mountains. He always lost a few students *en route*, he told us. Geomorphologist Margaret Marker, who never lost anything, but whose car did hit a sheep, would have given Gevers a run for his money. No insurance or law suits to worry about then.

Man, those were the days of real professors and real students. Not for them the self-absorbed namby-pambies of today's reality TV or the over-taught cellphone-distracted preening sissies who want their lecturers to do their work for them. Student support and teaching aids were in their infancy; only the tough survived into second year; the rest simply voted themselves off the set and deregistered.

One lecturer who criticised a student at the back of the class for not taking notes drew forth the retort, “But sir, you are reading directly from page 195 of the textbook. Why do I need to take notes?” An Economics student was manhandled out of the classroom by the professor, who was incensed at his lack of attention. One or two new arrogant professors with very important imported PhDs sometimes used students as proverbial footballs. They’d brutally harangue and harass us students in graduate seminars while they were trying to score points against their colleagues. One professor would routinely drag underperforming students physically by the ear and chuck them out of the department.

Those were the days when professors were professors and could mete out necessary punishments without consequence and turn boys into men and girls into women. We grew up tough and toughed out such professors. Nowadays, now that we are the professors, we are all emasculated by human rights legislation and students who are easily offended. Softly softly we creep around now. Everyone has rights and no-one admits contingent obligations.

After working in the film industry, I returned to the new School of Dramatic Art as a lecturer, then in Lawson’s Corner, the one with the revolving restaurant. An irascible historian would hold forth and the construction labourers who were refurbishing the building would recite Shakespeare as the lifts went up and down, up and down as the lifts often would not stop or doors open. “To be or not to be?” was their refrain, offered almost as a chorus. The call and response could be heard going up and down, up and down, whether one was in the lifts with the

workers or waiting on the landings for the lift to stop.

The School of Dramatic Art was exhilarating. I felt like a character in the TV series, *Fame*. The students were extraordinarily creative, even crazy, manic and delightfully unmanageable. They changed Johannesburg’s world of performance art. The then principal, Prof DJ du Plessis, had hoped that the School would “have a civilizing influence on campus”. Fat chance.

My father lectured in Architecture at Wits. I grew up in the John Moffat Building. This is how I met the irrepressible Franco Frescura, now at UKZN. Franco as a student had formed the Anti-Ugly League as a standing committee of the Council of Architectural Students in his efforts to rid the campus of some unsightly huge flower pots designed by Prof John Fassler and donated by departing Vice-Chancellor Ian McCrone. It is rumoured that McCrone’s very popular successor, known affectionately as Boz (GR Bozzoli), was summoned by the Prime Minister to account for some of Franco’s antics.

Those were the days when students really cared about the greater good. And many of them paid a price for their anti-apartheid activism. The rest got drunk at Rag and intervarsity rugby matches.

And so, all good reminiscences must come to an end. Going down.

Keyan G Tomaselli is a Wits graduate, having obtained all his degrees and a few bruises from this institution. He is employed at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.



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