

WITSReview

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- Activism at Wits
- Remembering Phillip Tobias • Madelaine Georgette

"WE AFFIRM IN THE NAME OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND THAT IT IS OUR DUTY TO UPHOLD THE PRINCIPLE THAT A UNIVERSITY IS A PLACE WHERE MEN AND WOMEN WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE AND COLOUR ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN THE ACQUISITION AND ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE; AND CONTINUE FAITHFULLY TO DEFEND THIS IDEAL AGAINST ALL WHO HAVE SOUGHT BY LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENT TO CURTAIL THE AUTONOMY OF THE UNIVERSITY..... NOW THEREFORE WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THIS IDEAL AND TO THE RESTORATION OF THE AUTONOMY OF OUR UNIVERSITY."

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Hamba kahle Prof. Phillip Tobias

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A portrait of Phillip Tobias

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Honouring Wits activism

“Historically, in times of crisis, student activism has been a crucial force for social change.

Students around the world have been at the forefront of movements to promote democracy and human rights. Student movements have toppled powerful dictatorships and military juntas. Student movements have ended wars.

And student activism has often served as the conscience for nations, reminding people in times of turmoil of... the aspirations of all people for justice, dignity, and equality.”¹

Wits University was born into an unjust society of racial segregation and subjugation and from its inception it championed liberal ideals of freedom, democracy and equality. Its founding Principal, Professor Jan Hofmeyr proclaimed that universities, “should know no distinctions of class, wealth, race or creed.”²

With the coming to power of the National Party, battle lines intensified as the State became increasingly oppressive in implementing apartheid policies. Over the generations, countless students and staff were involved in anti-apartheid demonstrations which were increasingly brutally engaged by the state security forces. Many Witsies were beaten, arrested, tortured and some, such as David Webster, paid the ultimate price for their activism.

And so it was an historic moment when, on an icy cold Sunday afternoon on 10 June 2012, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Loyiso Nongxa unveiled a memorial plaque in

the Macrone Mall gardens in recognition of the role played by Wits staff, students and alumni in opposing apartheid.

The plaque, whose inscription reads, “*In honour of all those staff, students and alumni who sacrificed much, fought bravely and raised voices for justice, freedom and democracy in the dark and difficult years of apartheid in South Africa*”, was unveiled under the shadow of a life-size replica of the famous and iconic Affirmation banner, originally erected on the columns of the Great Hall in April 1959.

In poignant and fitting tribute and farewell to Professor Emeritus Phillip Tobias, the replica banner was erected on the day the Wits flag flew at half-mast in honour of this intellectual and humanitarian giant who in many ways symbolised University opposition to apartheid.

Peter Maher

Director: Alumni Relations

Professor Glenn Omatsu, *Resource Handbook, Faculty Mentor Program*, April 2002, California State University, p.1¹
Alan Paton, *Hofmeyr*, 1964, p. 81²

from the editor

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

Cover: Replica of the Affirmation banner originally erected in April 1959. Photo by Vividimages.



Letters to the editor are welcome and can be sent c/o the Office of Alumni Relations or e-mailed to alumni@wits.ac.za



Professor Phillip Tobias

Dear Editor,

As I am sure that you will somehow be paying tribute in *WITSReview* to Professor Phillip V Tobias, who passed away this week, I would like to add my few words.

I was fortunate enough to work as PVT's Research Assistant from 1961 to 1966, in a room adjacent to his office at the old Wits Medical School on Hospital Hill. Apart from the fact that he handed me 'on a platter' the subject to pursue for my MSc thesis, which developed into a PhD ("Blue-eyed Negroes and the Klein-Waardenburg Syndrome") and changed my life-direction, he was a stimulating and inspiring mentor in many ways. He was also a very demanding boss - like when he insisted that his Technical Assistant, Carole Orkin, and I postpone our summer holiday (planned weeks in advance) in order to complete for publication his book on 'Olduvai Gorge'. We couldn't understand why a fossil that had been buried for 1.7 million years couldn't wait another two weeks before being seen in print! But then he mentioned this fact in the 'Acknowledgments', a sign of his basic humanity.

I always read with amazement his long yearly newsletter "Seasonal Bleatings", documenting his travels, meetings, honours placed on his shoulders, etc, over the preceding year.

I remember fondly my years in the Anatomy Department under his leadership, and remained in contact with him through all the years since then, until fairly recently when his health began to deteriorate.

At the risk of using a well-worn cliché, I feel his passing truly symbolises the end of an era for science in South Africa, although his legacy lives on in his many students and former associates, scattered throughout the world.

Jenni Tsafirir (BSc Hons, PhD) Israel

Defending the Open University

Dear Editor,

With regard to the above article (WR April 2012), I recall one incident, which must have been in the early 1950s. The SRC called a protest meeting in the Great Hall. After it started, a group of students in the top right corner of the Hall started yelling, booing and blowing a trumpet. Phillip Tobias, who was speaking at that moment, vaguely waffled. After a minute or so, Sidney Brenner, who was renowned for his academic, but not sporting prowess, and not of a remarkable physical build, stood up and shouted "if you don't shut up I will come and shut you up!". There was an immediate silence and the meeting proceeded with its business without any further interruptions.

Joseph Marcus (MBBCh 1953) New York

Doff your cap to the Mad Hatters 52 years on

Dear Editor,

More than half a century ago, a group of second-year medical students decided to liven up their Anatomy and Physiology classes. They imported bowler hats from the UK and donned these, along with a suit and broly, to lectures once a month.

It caused quite a stir and the group became an integral part of the Medical School culture.

The great man, Phillip Tobias, was so enchanted with the whole concept that he personally gave the lecture on the last Friday of the month at 08:00. This set the tone for the day, which ended with much revelry in haunts such as His Majesty's Cellar and The Phoenix.

Most of the original 10 Mad Hatters, as they were known, reunited in 1997 and again in 2007. Fifty-two years since inception of the "noble order", seven of the original 10 Hatters reunited in May 2012.

It brought back those wonderful days at Wits and how privileged we were to have been at such a won-

derful university. The high standard of education and ethics we experienced has remained with us throughout our lives.

Dr Michael "Moxie" Wright (MBBCh 1965) Simonstown



Old Hat circa 1960: (L-R) Bill Gibson; Fred Kalk; Des Martin; Charlie Morris; Mike Wright; Malcolm Funston; John Pringle; Bruce Henderson.



Still tops in 2012: (L-R) Nev Weston; Bruce Henderson; Malcolm Funston; Denis Beamish; Des Martin; John Pringle; Mike Wright.

"Lights flashing" nightly curfew

Dear Editor,

The two letters about Sunnyside (*WITSReview* April 2012) also brought back many fond memories, but from a College House and Dalrymple Hall male perspective (1966 -1970)! I would like to thank Beverlie Davies for her Sunnyside II notes and offer a minor correction; I have a clear memory that Sunnyside backed onto Jan Smuts Avenue and that Pop's café was on the corner of Jan Smuts and Ameshof and not on Empire Road...

She forgot to mention the "lights flashing" nightly curfew!

Roger Grace (BSc Eng) Vancouver, Canada

Convocation Panel Discussion: Student protest-access-apaty-fear, “dumbing down”, and redefining the struggle

The panel discussion convened by Convocation (that is, all Wits graduates collectively; the largest constituency at Wits) and chaired by Convocation President Professor Mamokgethi Setati kicked off the inaugural session of the three-part “Reflections” event. Setati welcomed around 80 alumni attending the discussion in the Senate Room, Senate House.

She remarked on her position as a black woman presiding over Convocation as one reason to celebrate Wits’ progress. “Wits is open to all and everyone can be a success at Wits,” she said, even a domestic worker’s daughter like herself.

“We criticise Wits because of the expectations we have of it,” she continued, but warned, “trashing Wits is trashing our qualifications”. She appealed to alumni to “make sure we protect Wits’ reputation”. Student leadership at Wits has a particular history, she suggested, before inviting the panellists, comprising former and current Wits student leaders, to

reflect on their time at the helm and the implications of this for Wits in future.

- Education alumna **Linda Vilakazi** was Wits’ first black SRC President in the turbulently transformative period of 1992/3. Vilakazi recalled how she “grappled with the meaning of true non-racialism” as decreed by Nelson Mandela’s instruction that NUSAS and the BSS disband. “We never trusted Wits ... in issues of transition,” she recounted, invoking the “much-hated 11th Floor”. Vilakazi suggested that issues that had catalysed June 16 - a crisis in schooling; economic recession; inequitable access;



Advocate Dali Mpofu (L) *“It is in the essence of democracy under threat that Wits [must] find its space to resist.”* (R) Convocation President and Panel Chairperson **Professor Mamokgethi Setati**.



Linda Vilakazi "Maybe it's time we put on our [academic] gowns and march to the Union Buildings together."

Prof Eddie Webster "Diversity enhances learning" and that "our goal [at Wits] is excellence. I believe this is what we are now producing."

Rosemary Hunter "There is so little of the courage seen at Wits in the workplace."

Tebogo Thothela "Access to university is a boom-gate if you can't afford it."

and an "atmosphere of revolt" - persisted in the present. "Maybe it's time we put on our [academic] gowns and march to the Union Buildings together," she concluded.

• Eminent sociologist and teacher Professor **Eddie Webster** reflected on his 36 years of "teaching two distinct generations at Wits; the one white, the other predominantly black." He alluded to the "two narratives" on Wits' role during apartheid: its role in opposing apartheid and, conversely, its role in producing white professionals who supported the apartheid state. Webster suggested that his experience of Wits was more complex and contradictory than either of these two over-simple narratives. His working life at Wits was grounded in teaching, which he saw as "a form of consciousness-raising

and empowerment, a way of helping people realise their potential as human beings." Wits, he said, had been forced to close its doors to black students in the late fifties and it was the first to force these doors open in the eighties. He concluded that "diversity enhances learning" and that "our goal [at Wits] is excellence. I believe this is what we are now producing."

• Law school alumna **Rosemary Hunter** reminisced how attending her first lectures at Wits "felt like the clouds were parting". As SRC President in 1987/88, she felt her role was "to conscientise white students" and was somewhat bewildered at instructions from the ANC in Harare to "go and party with non-activist students!" Yet it became clear to her that engaging with students on their own turf - "drinking

with mining engineers in the pub” - revealed that they weren’t against the political positions adopted by the SRC at the time; they just felt that the members

of the SRC were too distant from ordinary students. Hunter remarked that student leaders “had the protection of Wits” while battling police, although the Vice-Chancellor and senior leaders of Wits did not always agree with what the students did. She lamented that there is “so little of the courage seen at Wits in the workplace”. She credited her student leadership tenure with providing skills like chairing meetings and empowering others, including those who “sat quietly in the corner during meetings”.

- Alumnus Advocate **Dali Mpofo** recalled “an education beyond academic at Wits”, when he presided over the Black Students Society (BSS) at Wits in 1985/86, the “watermark of resistance against apartheid”. Mpofo recalled, with obvious pleasure, that he had replaced the Wits flag with an ANC banner. He had endured detention and solitary confinement, the conditions under which he completed his studies. The relative autonomy of the University during the State of Emergency “provided a useful platform to keep the struggle alive”, said Mpofo. Wits in the next 10 years faces the challenge of “creeping anti-intellectualism” and a “dumbing down of the national debate”, Mpofo said. He lamented society’s increasing intolerance for political opposition and concluded, “It is in the essence of democracy under threat that Wits [must] find its space to resist”.

- “The more things change, the more they stay the same!” quipped current SRC President **Tebogo Thothela**, adding mischievously that the current student leadership “still party to remain relevant to all constituents”. He suggested that non-racism could not be addressed in the absence of redress. He alluded to issues of class prevailing on campus - “you can’t touch ‘capital’... but when it costs R8 000 to register at Wits but R3 500 to register at UJ!” Thothela indicated that student apathy made it difficult to galvanise support and noted the limited attendance of young alumni. He praised Wits as having “transformed faster than CODESA” but warned “Wits is comfortable”. Access to Wits had improved since 1994 but “access is a boom-gate if you can’t afford it”, he concluded.

Discussion ensued from alumni in the audience. One young alumna countered the student-apaty allegation, saying students nowadays feared risking their qualifications by protesting: “Students are afraid to be critical; there’s too much to lose ... We fear not being able to get our degrees,” she said.

Vilakazi suggested that a “meeting of minds” was needed to address issues such as fees jointly.

Mpofo encouraged students to “fight for political space” and pointed to the “need to create a University that creates thinkers”.

Legal luminary George Bizos made the final comment: “I have heard things here that are not entirely correct”, and invited alumni to “consider [Wits historian] Prof. Murray’s books [*Wits: The Early Years* and *The Open Years*] in judging Wits and planning its future.”



The Affirmation banner of 1959 remains relevant in 2012



The memorial plaque unveiled on 10 June honours Witsies who opposed apartheid



Reflections, Affirmations and Shooting Sardines in a Barrel

By Deborah Minors

A memorial plaque to honour Witsies who opposed apartheid was unveiled at an alumni event on Sunday 10 June. The plaque nestles in a garden on the Macrone Piazza and an Affirmation banner was draped on the pillars of the Great Hall above it for the occasion. The plaque reads:

In honour of all those staff, students and alumni who sacrificed much, fought bravely and raised voices for justice, freedom and democracy in the dark and difficult years of apartheid in South Africa. 10 June 2012.

A clutch of around 50 alumni - seated cinema-style outside the Great Hall and

huddling around burning braziers that icy June afternoon - witnessed the unveiling by Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Loyiso Nongxa.

Indicating the Affirmation banner behind him, the VC alluded to the original banner, displayed on 16 April 1959, which affirmed the University's "commitment to the idea of a university open to men and women without regard to race or colour". Since democratisation in the 1990s, he said, Wits had "had the chance to reflect sometimes in very painful ways on its past, as well as its future role in a democracy".



(Top) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Yunus Ballim addressed alumni at the unveiling of the memorial plaque. Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof. Loyiso Nongxa (above) paid tribute to alumni who opposed apartheid



(Top) Young musicians from the Soweto Marimba Youth League (L) Alumni await the unveiling of the memorial plaque on the Macrone Piazza (Far left) Film maker Lieza Louw introduces her documentary 'Shooting sardines in a barrel'

Along with the unveiling, the “Reflections on Wits at 90” programme featured a Convocation panel discussion and the premiere of a documentary about apartheid protest action at Wits from the 1950s through the 1980s, recounted by some of those who were there.

The ‘Reflections’ event unwittingly became a swansong of sorts. Not only did it coincide with the month of Youth Day (16 June), commemorating the Soweto Uprising, but Wits palaeoanthropologist Professor Phillip Tobias had died some 48 hours earlier, aged 86.

Tobias was to have been a central figure at ‘Reflections’, which acknowledged Witsies who had protested against apartheid. As President of the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS), he had led one of those protests: the famous 1957 march down Jan Smuts Avenue, during which academically clad scholars strode purposefully bearing banners. One of these was the defiantly inspiring Affirmation banner.

The Affirmation featured in the documentary *Shooting Sardines in a Barrel*, which premiered at the ‘Reflections’ event. This film forms the creative component of arts alumna Lieza Louw’s PhD. She describes the film as “a praise poem dedicated to the many men and women who challenged the National Party government, and at times the University, voicing their opposition to apartheid”.

In the film, Louw interviews alumni such as architect Alan Mabin, former national Health Minister Barbara Hogan, former Democratic Alliance leader Tony Leon and Wits DVC: Academic, Professor Yunus Ballim. The former Wits Registrar Derek Swemmer has his say, as do arts Professor Anitra Nettleton, legal luminary Dali Mpfu and Nelson Mandela’s counsel in the Rivonia Trial, George Bizos.

Around 150 alumni and guests enjoyed canapés and socialising after the premiere and browsed the exhibition on display in the Great Hall foyer, where memorabilia, books and T-shirts bearing iconic images were on sale.

State-of-the-art Wits Science Stadium launched

The launch of the Wits Science Stadium on 7 June was a bittersweet occasion, preceded as it was by the death of the esteemed palaeo-anthropologist - and Stadium benefactor - Emeritus Professor Phillip Tobias just hours earlier.

The small gathering of around 50 donors, government officials, Science and Engineering Faculty members and journalists rose blanket-clad against icy winds to observe a moment of silence, after Professor Francis Thackeray from the Institute of Human Evolution delivered a eulogy.

Returning to the official programme, Wits Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Loyiso Nongxa said that facilities such as the Science Stadium created an “enabling and nurturing environment” conducive to learning.

The Science Stadium will enhance the University’s capacity to produce science, engineering and technology graduates and researchers by accommodating up to 3 400 students. It includes 1 500 lecture seats, more than 1 000 laboratory seats and 750 tutorial

rooms, and world-class laboratory and teaching and tutoring facilities.

“Infrastructure is central and critical to the Wits experience,” the Vice-Chancellor emphasised.

The then Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Professor Hlengiwe Mkhize, congratulated Wits on its “well-managed infrastructure projects” and urged the University to share its expertise with others who were “not in good shape”.

The Department, which had contributed R40-million to the Science Stadium, had around R3.8-billion allocated for infrastructure at universities over the next four years, Mkhize said, a portion of which would “entrench [Wits’] research culture and give Wits the edge”.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Advancement & Partnerships, Professor Rob Moore concluded by naming the donors and acknowledging the role of the architects and Wits stakeholders in establishing the Stadium.



Wits Art Museum paints promise of Braamfontein renaissance

The much-anticipated Wits Art Museum (WAM) opened spectacularly on 19 May to reveal a priceless collection of African art. Hundreds from the Joburg “artist-ocracy” gathered to marvel at the transformation of a petrol station at the corner of Bertha and Jorissen Streets in Braamfontein into an architectural triumph that now houses some 9 000 extraordinary pieces.

Spanning more than seven decades of South African and African art, the collection includes bronze sculptures by Sydney Kumalo, oil paintings by Irma Stern, pencil drawings by JH Pierneef, charcoal drawings by William Kentridge, photography by David Goldblatt, oil paintings by Robert Hodgins and wooden sculptures by Nelson Mukhuba. The spirit of unknown artists lingers in carved wooden headrests from Limpopo, masks from Nigeria and beadwork from the Eastern Cape, some dating back to 1900.

Senior Curator Julia Charlton - a Wits Fine Arts alumna - and Special Projects Curator Fiona Rankin-Smith were instrumental in WAM materialising after

a decade of concerted fundraising, designing and planning. The opening exhibition *WAM! Seeing Stars* - on until 18 August - not only reflects the diversity of classical and contemporary African art but is also a tribute to the multiple donors who enabled the R40-million makeover. WAM boasts exhibition areas roughly the size of a rugby field, state-of-the-art climate-controlled storage facilities built to international standards, teaching, learning and research facilities - and a coffee shop.

WAM’s architects Nina Cohen, Fiona Garson and William Martinson, all alumni from the Wits School of Architecture, won a national competition to design the museum, for which they also won the architecture category in the 2012 Absolut VISI Designer of the Year Award. A striking aspect of the museum is the transparent peripheral walls that enable views into the exhibition space from the street outside. With its sophisticated glass exterior, stark white curves, undulating stylish lines and imposing pillars, WAM has raised the bar and elevated Braamfontein to a district in which one can live, work and play.

The Unknown Miner recalls Wits' mining roots

Since the establishment of Wits' predecessor, the South African School of Mines, in Kimberley in 1896, the University has had inextricable links with mining. The unveiling of a remarkable three metres-tall bronze sculpture, *The Unknown Miner*, outside the renovated Chamber of Mines Building on 28 March 2012 paid tribute to Wits' mining history and to Johannesburg's miners.

The Dean of Engineering and the Built Environment, Professor Beatrys Lacquet, accepted the donation of *The Unknown Miner* from Louis Wald, the son of sculptor Herman Wald (1906 –1970), on behalf of the University.

Wits Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Loyiso Nongxa announced the launch of the Wits Mining Research Institute in July 2012, one of six institutes that aim to catapult the University into the top 100 worldwide by 2022.

The unveiling formed part of a Wits 90th event attended by Chamber of Mines Chief Executive Bheki Sibiyi and former Chief Executive of AngloGold Ashanti and National Planning Commissioner Bobby Godsell, who delivered the keynote address.

Godsell said that South Africa had pioneered the deepest-level mining in human history and alluded to Wits' role as a "thought leader" in mining. He

said that Wits had "the biggest and best mining engineering department in the English-speaking world", which, together with the University of Pretoria, enrolled more first-year mining engineering students than Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the US.

Godsell described *The Unknown Miner* as "a bit tardy" and providing inadequate recognition of the "enormous human cost" that mining had claimed in South Africa. He suggested that a monument akin to the Vietnam War Memorial, which bears the names of 50 000 American troops, would better honour the unknown miners.

Four of the National Planning Commission members were Wits alumni, Godsell said, indicating the NCP's close links with the University. Wits should craft its vision of leadership to drive "social cohesion of all elements of society" and "an active, empowered, fervently patriotic citizenry", he said, calling for "new kinds of Africans and South Africans [who] move beyond colonialism and racism".

History of *The Unknown Miner*: Mining magnate Harry Oppenheimer commissioned Wald in the late 1950s to create two memorials to celebrate the achievements of his father, Sir Ernest Oppenheimer. One memorial is composed of five miners and forms the Diamond Diggers Fountain installed in Kimberley in 1959. *The Unknown Miner* is a cast of one of these five miners. It now stands at the east entrance of the newly renovated Chamber of Mines Building, which partially houses the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment.



90 years of creativity crammed into WALE 5.0

The fifth Wits Arts and Literature Experience (WALE) exploded across campus from 9 - 12 May. The traditional WALE Parade down Jorissen Street in Braamfontein featured orange afros, 12-foot dancing puppets, picketing people and a merry marching band, all of whom splashed colourfully and noisily onto the Library Lawns, around which flea-market stalls, smells and sounds collided.

WALE 5.0 featured a packed programme by Wits staff, students and alumni in the liberal arts incorporating established and emerging stars in the dramatic arts, film, music, literature, theatre and dance. More than 40 diverse artistic items enlivened Wits campuses and Braamfontein, enticing the public to whom all events were accessible.

WALE founder and champion Professor Tawana Kupe, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, said, “The experimental element is an integral part of WALE. We want to encourage students who experience the impact of WALE to go into their communities and initiate arts and culture projects and festivals.”

In a nod to the WALE 5.0 theme “90 Years of Creativity at Wits”, the festival featured free concerts daily on the Library Lawns, resplendent with state-of-the-art audiovisual setup and featuring the likes

of Dramatic Arts alumna and songbird Laurie Levin and world-renowned poets Kei Miller and Staceyann Chin.

The John Moffat Building housed photography exhibitions including the “My Wits” staff and alumni competition hosted by the Wits Transformation Office and Alumni Relations, and the “Capturing aspects of transformation at Wits” student photographic competition.

Nedbank Chairman Dr Reuel Khoza delivered the Inaugural Khabi Mngoma Memorial Lecture, named for honorary Doctor of Music Professor Khabi Mngoma, who deeply influenced African music throughout his career as a leading academic and cultural activist. The lecture featured Mngoma’s former student, Dr Siphon Nzimande, in conversation with Mngoma’s daughter, music alumna Sibongile Khumalo. The Gauteng Choristers performed and a photo exhibition *On the Life and Times of Khabi Mngoma* was on display.

Off campus, the Wits Art Museum finally revealed its treasure trove of more than 9 000 objects of African art to the public, through the *WAM! Seeing Stars* opening exhibition.



Wits Rugby defeated CUT to clinch the Varsity Shield and a place in the 2013 Varsity Cup



Wits Rugby, mascots and University representatives at the hand-over of the Varsity Shield

(Right) Devin: The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof. Loyiso Nongxa congratulates Wits Rugby captain, Devin Montgomery (Far right) The Vice-Chancellor holds the Varsity Shield triumphantly



Touchdown for Wits Rugby Boytjies in Varsity Shield

The Wits Rugby Club clinched a place in the prestigious 2013 Varsity Cup when “the Clever Kudus” beat defending champions Central University of Technology 19-17 in the 2012 Varsity Shield final in Bloemfontein on 3 April.

Wits Rugby captain Devin Montgomery presented the Varsity Shield Trophy to Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Loyiso Nongxa at a ceremony outside the Great Hall on 16 May and Voice of Wits campus radio broadcast the proceedings live.

A few hundred Witsies sporting blue Wits rugby jerseys and waving Wits flags gathered at the Macrone Piazza at lunchtime. Addressing the supporters, Montgomery said, “Varsity Cup is a huge step for us, but it is a challenge that we look forward to. Three years ago, who would have thought we would be in this position? We have made big improvements over the last couple of seasons and the Club is very proud of where we are.”

The new Director of Sports, Size Vardhan, Wits Registrar Kirti Menon and Dean of Students Prem

Coopoo spoke briefly about advancing sport at the University.

The Varsity Shield Wits Rugby team were: 15 Blake Dismore, 14 Josh Durbach, 13 Bronson Lange, 12 Ryan Odendaal, 11 Riaan Arends (vice-captain), 10 Kyle Peyper, 9 Brent Crossley, 8 Jason Fraser, 7 Devin Montgomery (captain), 6 Thato Mavundla, 5 Charles Baggott, 4 Rinus Bothma, 3 Phakamilu Zuma, 2 Piers Cooper, 1 Katlego Kgame.

Substitutes: 16 Peter van Biljon, 17 Oliver Rochat, 18 Sam Peters, 19 Heinke Hartdegen, 20 David Turnbull, 21 Nkululeko Gamede, 22 Zunaid Kock, 23 Juandre Kirkham.

Head Coach: Andy Royle

As part of Wits Rugby development, Wits will host the University Sports South Africa (USSA) Rugby Tournament from 2 – 6 July. Thirty-four university teams will compete, including one visiting team from the University of Namibia. All games take place on one of Wits’ four rugby fields and entry is free.

Alumni reunite in Africa, America



Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof. Loyiso Nongxa with alumni in Gaborone, Botswana

Wits Alumni Reunion Dinner GABORONE

B O T S W A N A

Around 100 alumni and friends descended on the Gaborone Sun Hotel in Botswana on 14 April for a free reunion dinner. Representing an eclectic mix of “founders” who graduated 40 or more years ago and young professionals, the alumni were enthusiastic and receptive to the message of the Vice-

Chancellor and Principal, Professor Loyiso Nongxa. He presented an overview of the University’s latest achievements and developments, and invited alumni to retain and strengthen their ties with their alma mater. Alumni Relations Director Peter Maher emphasised that alumni have a stake in maintaining the quality of their Wits qualification, which they hold for life, and encouraged their participation through “time, talent or treasure”. Alumni enjoyed photo opportunities with the Vice-Chancellor and socialised late into the night.



WASHINGTON

BrandSA in Washington, D.C. sponsored an alumni reunion at South African homegrown franchise Nando’s at 1210 18th Street, Washington, D.C. on 22 May. BrandSA’s Simon Barber and Wits Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Advancement & Partnerships Professor Rob Moore hosted the event, which 22 alumni attended.

“Nando’s in Washington has a marvellous wine-bottle-lined function room available for small gather-

ings - especially Witsies hungry for SA culture, wine, engagement, food, arguments and camaraderie!” reported Wits Development & Fundraising Director and alumna Clare Jeffrey, who also attended. “All this was delivered with a great deal of enjoyment all round. Challenging questions were posed and answered, proud recollections were recounted and applauded, business cards were swapped and promises were made to visit the campus.”



NEW YORK

(Left) Honorary alumna, architect **Denise Scott Brown**. (Centre) Vice-Chancellor **Nongxa** (2nd from left) with Wits Fund's **David Schneider** (l) and **Stanley Bergman**, honorary alumnus **John Chalsty** and former Chief Justice **Margaret Marshall**. (Right) New York alumni at the Wits Fund event at University Club, New York City

The University of the Witwatersrand Fund, Inc. (Wits Fund) hosted a fundraiser dinner and awards ceremony in New York City at the elegant University Club building on Fifth Avenue on 8 May. Senior Sotheby's executive and arts alumna Jennifer Roth was Mistress of Ceremonies at the event, which celebrated Wits' 90th anniversary and for which alumni contributed \$300 each. The event honoured the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Loyiso Nongxa, and four US-based distinguished alumni:

All images courtesy Jeffrey Vock Photography

- Science and commerce alumnus **John Chalsty**, Chairman, USA Advisory Board, The Mandela Institute
- Legal luminary the Honourable Margaret Marshall, former Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court
- Eminent architect, planner and educator **Denise Scott Brown**
- Legal alumnus and Wits Gold Medallist **David Schneider**, Wits Fund Vice-Chairman and former senior executive of The Coca-Cola Company.

The Good News revealed at alumni business breakfast

South Africa ranks 50th out of 142 countries in the World Competitiveness Report and our banks are number two globally in corporate governance. Steuart Pennington, Chief Executive of the website *South Africa - The Good News* shared these and other encouraging statistics at an alumni business breakfast held at the revamped Wits Club on 19 April. Pennington's presentation, *South Africa's changing global competitiveness - better or worse, the devil is in the detail* debunked some of the "dysfunctional

narrative" accepted as "conventional wisdom" about South Africa. He countered much-touted unemployment, inequality and poverty lore with economic statistics, all of which are contained in the book, *SA - The Good News*, with contributions from 170 South African experts across sectors. Pennington said that SA is "the best example of a society that celebrates diversity" and encouraged the 45 alumni who attended to "celebrate the good and confront the bad" in this country.



Dr Baves Kana



William Kentridge

1. Dr Baves Kana (BSc 1997, BSc Hons 1998, PhD 2002) was one of 28 researchers out of 760 applicants to receive an International Early Career Scientist Award from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in the USA. Kana, 37, was one of just two South Africans awarded the \$650 000 each researcher received, to further his research into tuberculosis (TB). Kana is Senior Research Scientist and Head of Unit in the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence for Biomedical TB Research at Wits and the National Health Laboratory Service. His research interrogates Latent TB Infection, with which an estimated two billion people

worldwide are infected. These individuals carry a 10% lifetime risk of developing active TB, which will eventually require chemotherapy and continue to burden society if unattended.

2. The American Philosophical Society elected artist **William Kentridge** (BA 1977, honorary DLitt 2004) as an international member on 20 April 2012. Kentridge's election to the Society's Class of the Arts, Humanities and Leaders in Public and Private Affairs recognises his contribution to "promoting useful knowledge", which is the purpose of the Society established by Benjamin Franklin in 1743.



Prof Mary Scholes



Dr Lars G Svensson

Kentridge is one of fewer than 10 international members elected annually and one of just 175 worldwide. Since 1900, more than 240 Society members have received the Nobel Prize. In 2010, Kentridge received the Kyoto Prize, Japan's equivalent of the Nobel Prize. His unique and pioneering approach to combining ink and charcoal drawings with animation and filmmaking has garnered international acclaim. *Image credit: Marc Shoul (2012)*

3. Professor **Mary Scholes** (BSc 1977, BSc Hons 1978, PhD 1988) in the School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences received the Silver Medal from the South African Association of Botanists at the Association's annual congress in February 2012. The award recognises outstanding research and contributions to advancing botany in South Africa. Scholes has contributed significant research in the area of nutrient cycling in natural and modified systems, as well as global climate change. In May 2012, Scholes was the first woman elected as Chair of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry.

4. Wits benefactor Dr **Lars G Svensson** (MBBCh 1978, MMed 1983, PhD 1986) was elected to the Council of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery in November 2011. The Association is a prestigious academic body for the advancement of education, research, and training in cardiac and thoracic surgery. Its members are the world's foremost cardiothoracic surgeons, with a proven record of distinction. Eligibility depends on meritorious contributions to existing knowledge about cardiothoracic disease and its surgical treatment. Svensson is a professor of surgery at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case University, Ohio, where he directs the Aorta Centre, Marfan Syndrome Clinic and Connective Tissue Disorder Clinic. He is also Director of Quality Outcomes and Process Improvement for Cardiothoracic Surgery.



Johnny Clegg

President Jacob Zuma



Prof John Dugard

5. South African President Jacob Zuma awarded National Orders to four Witsies at the Presidential Guest House in Pretoria on 27 April 2012. National orders are the highest awards that a country can bestow on its citizens. Ten other Witsies previously received these awards in categories ranging from the arts to law.

- Musician and Wits benefactor **Johnny Clegg** (BA 1976, BA Hons 1977, honorary DMus 2007) received the Order of Ikhamanga (silver) for bridging African traditional music and other music forms, for promoting the release of political prisoners and for promoting tolerance during apartheid through his multiracial bands Juluka and Savuka. “The White Zulu” has sold more than 5-million albums over three decades. The Order of Ikhamanga acknowledges excellence in arts, culture, literature, music, journalism and sport.
- An advocate of South Africa’s Supreme Court, Professor **John Dugard** (honorary LLD 2004) received the Order of Baobab (gold) for his contribu-

tion to human rights law and international law. Dugard was Dean of the Wits School of Law in the 1970s and he founded the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, which he directed for 13 years. He participated in developing the Constitution and Bill of Rights in post-apartheid South Africa. Between 1997 and 2011, he was a member of the United Nations International Law Commission, a special rapporteur on diplomatic protection, and an *ad hoc* Judge in the International Court of Justice. The Order of the Baobab, which pays tribute to distinguished service, recognises Dugard’s inestimable contributions in human rights law and international law, his excellence as a South African legal ambassador, and his legal authority in South Africa and abroad.

- World-renowned mining engineer Professor **Daniel Krige** (BSc Eng 1938, MSc Eng 1950, DSc Eng 1963, honorary DSc 2011) received the Order of Baobab (silver) for achievements in mining engineering and for pioneering geo-statistics, a branch of statistics focusing on space or space/time data



Prof Daniel Krige

sets. The related technique of “kriging” is named after him. Krige, 92, was Professor of Mineral Economics at Wits from 1981 until 1991, before which he was Anglovaal Group financial engineer. After graduating in 1938, he worked at Anglo Transvaal, where he gained experience in surveying, sampling and ore evaluation. Later, in the government’s mining engineering department, he designed the uranium pricing formula for the contracts that led to the establishment of South Africa’s uranium industry in the 1950s. During this period Krige began his groundbreaking work in the application of mathematical statistics to the valuation of new gold mines, thus originating the field of geo-statistics, which attracted international attention. Krige also holds honorary degrees from the Universities of South Africa, Pretoria and Moscow. The South African Presidency awarded him the Order of Meritorious Service (Class 1: Gold) in 1988. In February 2010, the United States National Academy of Engineering elected Krige as a Foreign Associate, one

of the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer. Krige is the first and only engineer from Africa to have been elected. He continued to consult privately to mining companies until 2011.

- An eminent virologist in the Wits School of Pathology, Professor **Barry Schoub** (MBBCh 1967, DSc Med 1992) received the Order of Mapungubwe (silver) for exceptional achievement in the field of virology. Schoub is a world-renowned expert who advises the World Health Organisation on its programmes related to polio, measles, influenza and other infectious diseases. In 1977, Schoub was the first recipient of the James Gear International Post-doctoral Fellowship. He was a Fogarty Fellow at the National Institutes of Health in the USA. In 1978, aged 33, he became the first Professor and Head of the Department of Virology at Wits. Schoub has directed the National Institute for Virology and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases. He was founding Chair of the National Advisory Group on Immunisation of South Africa and founding President of the African Virology Association. He advises the Poliomyelitis Research Foundation and the South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative. Described as a “vaccine guru”, Schoub wrote *AIDS & HIV in Perspective*, a book at the forefront of HIV vaccine development. In the 1990s, Schoub served the International Scientific Advisory Committee, the International Congresses of Virology and the International AIDS Congress. He has published more than 280 scientific publications and 16 chapters in books. *The Journal of Infectious Diseases* presented him with a Festschrift - a volume of writings by different authors presented as a tribute to a scholar.



Gold Medal for Wits Fund alchemist

David Schneider

It wasn't just that David Schneider revamped the University of Witwatersrand Fund, Inc (Wits Fund) to the extent that close to R40-million flowed into the University's coffers, but also his long-term sustained efforts to enhance the international reputation of his alma mater that contributed to his earning the coveted Gold Medal.

By Deborah Minors

The Wits Council established the Gold Medal, which is only awarded in exceptional circumstances for “noteworthy contribution to the University”. The Gold Medal recognises services provided to the University that strengthen its capacity to benefit from philanthropy, and honours people of distinction who have been important to the life of the University.

Legal alumnus David Schneider received the Gold Medal from the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Loyiso Nongxa, at a gala dinner held at University Club, New York, on 8 May 2012. The Wits Fund event both celebrated the University's 90th anniversary and honoured the contributions of selected US-based Wits alumni, including Schneider, to society.

Schneider was born in Johannesburg on 10 January 1932. Older siblings inspired his pride in Wits. He completed an LLB at Wits in 1958. He and his wife, music alumna, June, left South Africa in 1977, as they were critical of apartheid. They settled in the United States and became citizens in 1983.

The Coca-Cola Company had been Schneider's sole employer in the US. He joined the company's legal division in Atlanta in the '70s and, just over a decade later, transferred to New York and into executive management. From 2007, Schneider was senior consultant to the Chairman of the The Coca-Cola Company. Schneider retired in 2012.

Schneider says, “A powerful influence in my decision to become involved with the Wits Fund in the



Wits Fund Vice-President and Executive Director David Schneider addresses alumni in New York on receipt of his Gold Medal awarded by the University.

USA is my 36 years of service with The Coca-Cola Company, where it has been my good fortune to be steeped in a corporate culture that stimulated and inspired commitment and generosity.”

His diverse and extensive legal and corporate background gave Schneider insight into the potential of the Wits Fund and the need for action to preserve and extend the Wits brand in the US.

“The Wits Fund’s development and growth would not have been possible without its Board members - Stanley Bergman, John Chalsty and John Teeger,” comments Schneider. “They enabled my efforts and they also set high standards. Above all, they gave me the most precious of all gifts - their names, trust and confidence.”

The written motivation for Schneider’s Gold Medal indicates that he took over as Executive Director of the Wits Fund and promptly corrected issues affecting the credibility of the Wits name in the US.

In addition, his activities for the Wits Fund included quality administration, contact with US-resident Wits alumni, maintaining a website, running numerous successful events, and, above all, fundraising.

The motivation continues: “His success is reflected in the fact that David has played a major role in Wits obtaining in excess of US\$5-million in aggregate

from [US-based donors]. Over R10-million has been transferred to the Wits Foundation by the Wits Fund Inc since David has been managing the Fund, with a further amount exceeding R25-million, facilitated by David ... bringing total income received by the University, due to David’s efforts, to R35.9-million.”

Today Schneider is Vice-Chairman of the Wits Fund and remains committed to its work of helping sustain the University’s globally competitive standards of excellence in learning, teaching and research. Initiatives at the University that the Wits Fund has supported include the School of Law, School of Public Health, The Mandela Institute, scholarships, the art galleries and libraries.

“Wits Fund’s mission is to gain the support of generations of alumni like me barely aware of the cost of their education and never a thought to becoming a donor to their alma mater,” says Schneider. “I remain committed to Wits and hopeful that the American model of alumni giving and generosity will continue to help the cause of the Wits Fund in the USA.”

The Gold Medal is a fitting acknowledgement for an alumnus who “has used his personal standing and his network in a selfless way to support his alma mater”.



Impatience for change:

THE 1976 - 1981 ERA OF ACTIVISM AT WITS

The 1970s at Wits were a time of mass meetings, all-night vigils, marches, arrests and security police spies. The decade ushered in the June 16 uprisings and the era of Africanisation, when the SRC and the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) took a long, hard look at what it meant to be South African and how to contribute to an African future. It was a time of protest music, culture and art, a time when you could feel the impatience for change.

By Heather Dugmore

In this, the last in our series on activism at Wits; we profile three former Wits SRC Presidents, Richard De Villiers, Max Price and Norman Manoim, who were also leading members of NUSAS in the 1976 - 1981 era.



1976 - 1981

Protests at Wits

Richard De Villiers

Wits SRC President 1976/77

Current: Director of Human Resources at Village Main Reef Mines

Richard De Villiers was appointed Wits SRC President in the heat of the June 16 uprisings in 1976. It would be hard to find a more challenging student leadership position.

“I was sitting in my SRC office on the morning of June 16 when reports of shootings and terrible trouble in Soweto started filtering through via the black staff at Wits,” De Villiers recalls. “We realised something extremely serious was going down and we immediately called an emergency mass meeting. In those days we would paint notices about mass meetings, all-night vigils and lunchtime speakers on the wall outside the Students’ Union building. Situated right next to the canteen, it was very visible and great numbers of students would attend.”

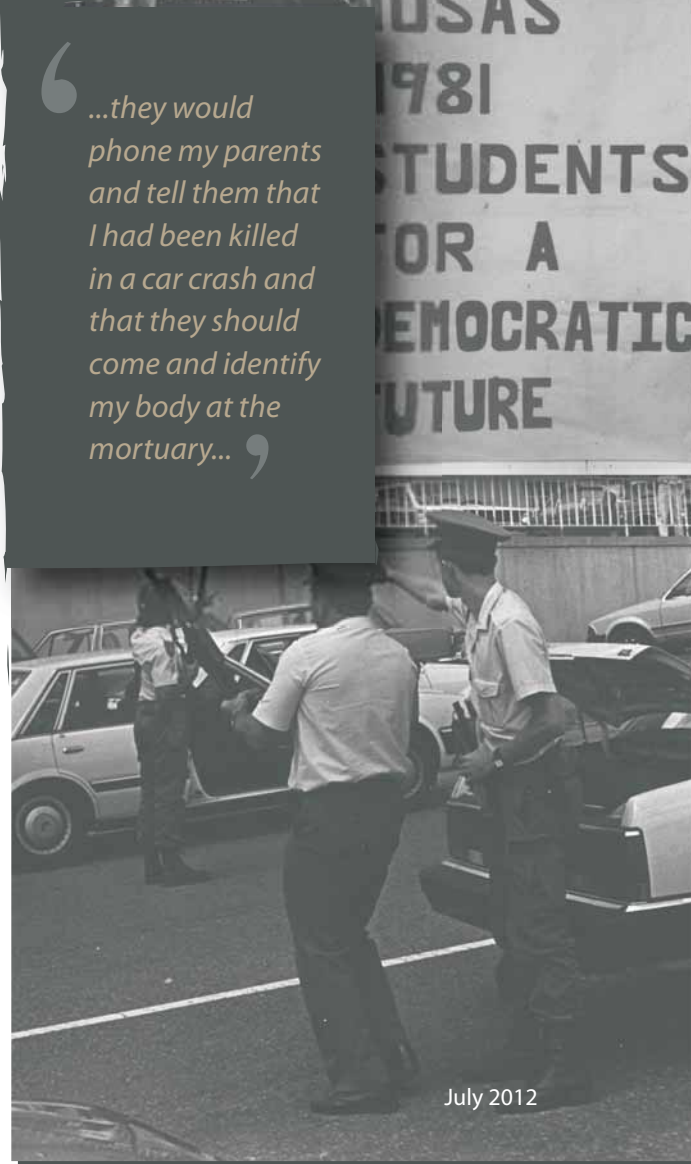
This meeting was different. School children in Soweto had thrown down the gauntlet to the apartheid government and life would never be the same.

“People were coming forward and saying that the people in Soweto were rioting and children were being shot,” says De Villiers. “We had access to Jan Smuts Avenue and a large group of students headed into the streets to protest against police brutality. Braamfontein was already full of police and they tried to stop us with dogs and teargas. It was chaos.”

The reports coming through from Soweto became increasingly alarming. Undeterred by the police, the students attempted to march to John Vorster Square



“...they would phone my parents and tell them that I had been killed in a car crash and that they should come and identify my body at the mortuary...”



police station. They were intercepted on Queen Elizabeth Bridge and dispersed by baton-wielding riot police.

The Soweto riots were broadcast internationally by various TV networks and nationally by the SABC as TV had just been launched in South Africa. Like all the other networks it screened graphic coverage from Soweto and other affected townships.

“The following day we called for a student boycott of classes on campus in solidarity with the protesting school children. A large number of liberal and leftist students responded to the call,” continues De Villiers. Because of this, tensions ran high on campus between the liberal and leftist students on the one hand and the conservative or right-wing students on the other, who objected to the boycotts and accused the SRC and its followers of being communists who were jeopardising their future.

By 1976 campus was teeming with security police and a large number of students had their studies paid for by the state in exchange for infiltrating the SRC and NUSAS, De Villiers explains. “Among them were Craig Williamson, Derek Brune, Andrew Hardy and Miles Conway. You didn’t know whom to trust. Miles Conway presented himself as ultra left and headed our student press, where we printed anti-government pamphlets and publications. On June 16, when the police were clashing with the students in Braamfontein, he climbed onto the roof of a police car and told the students to return to campus because the police were bashing them up. Footage of him as a student hero went round the world and he was one of us, yet he turned out to be

a police informer. Derek Brune was Vice-President of the SRC; Andrew Hardy was treasurer of the SRC; Craig Williamson was treasurer of NUSAS, so they all knew exactly what was going on and, as a result, student leaders were persistently victimised.

“For example, they would phone my parents and tell them that I had been killed in a car crash and that they should come and identify my body at the mortuary,” says De Villiers. “My Mom was sickly and my Dad was furious with me for getting involved in politics, so it was difficult to handle.” De Villiers’ image didn’t go down well either. Like most leftist students, he had long hair and wore jeans or corduroys and t-shirts. “In fact I had one pair of green corduroys which I wore to campus every day, so it was fairly easy to cast aspersions not only on my politics but also on my cleanliness,” he adds.

In 1977, ahead of the first anniversary of June 16 and the year that Steve Biko was killed, De Villiers as SRC President and Max Price as SRC Vice-President were detained in solitary confinement along with three other NUSAS members, Joel Bolnick, Peter Lachman and Auret van Heerden. The security police justified this on the grounds that they were “a threat to state security”. One of the triggers was a series of pamphlets produced by Wits students carrying the banner headline “Institutionalised Violence” that had become popular in Soweto. The pamphlets linked the violent reaction against apartheid to the institutionalised violence inflicted on the majority of South Africans through the pass laws and education systems that actively deprived people of access to services and opportunities.

“At John Vorster Square they took me to the 10th floor, as was their custom. I was pushed to the open window and ordered to look down on where I was told [the anti-apartheid activist and teacher] Ahmed Timol had landed when they pushed him out. Of course, our treatment was nothing like what they did to our black counterparts,” says De Villiers. “They wanted information on underground activities. I wasn’t involved in any at the time. I only made contact with the ANC underground after I joined the ANC in 1978 when I was doing my Honours in Industrial Sociology.”

Detaining the NUSAS Five had the opposite effect to what the security police had wanted, and there were massive protests on Wits campus on June 16 1977. The protestors were predominantly white. Black students were still very much in the minority at Wits as they had to get ministerial approval to study there.

Black students who belonged to the South African Students Organisation (SASO), a Black Consciousness movement, were targeted by the state, and SASO was banned in October 1977. The subsequent Black Students Society (BSS) kept a lower profile on campus because many of the black students did not want to put their studies in jeopardy.

During this era white leftist students assumed a more radical ideological position, with NUSAS aligning itself with worker and communist movements around the world, while adding an Africanisation component.

The Africanisation campaign saw a reappraisal of the position of white South African students in

relation to their concept of nation and culture, and a questioning of the Eurocentric nature of white South African culture. Black students had sown the seeds of the Africanisation campaign during their split from NUSAS in 1969 when they called on their white counterparts to prove their commitment to a future in Africa, as Africans.

In the 1970s this led to the white student Left lobbying for a reorientation of university courses towards a more progressive and African content. An example of the success of this was the establishment of the African Literature Department.

“We called it ‘Education for an African Future’ and we demanded changes to the curriculum to make it more appropriate to living in a developing country. We looked at everything from the kind of diseases being studied at Medical School to establishing legal aid clinics,” says De Villiers, who remains as committed to participating in an African future today as he was then.

In his capacity as the Director of Human Resources at Village Main Reef Mines, he says: “I try to ensure that we practise good corporate responsibility; we treat our employees fairly, we respect our employees’ elected leaders in the unions and we don’t pollute the environment. I have a good relationship with the National Union of Mineworkers, and a reputation for being a progressive manager, which stems, in part, from my student past and from some of the progressive reforms I helped implement in the mining industry. I am committed to staying in South Africa and helping to make a contribution towards the non-racial democracy we envisaged in the 1970s.”

Max Price

Wits SRC President 1977/8

Current: Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town

“An important focus during my time of office was to expand student consciousness about what it means to be living in South Africa – a Third World, predominantly black country situated in Africa. As part of this, we needed to understand the role and future of the white intellectual middle class in South Africa,” says Dr Max Price, who was a medical student at the time and who took over from Richard De Villiers as SRC President in 1977.

“Studying medicine we came face to face with poverty and the determinants of ill health and how the apartheid system created health inequalities, which included the university.”

University-implemented apartheid in the medical faculty dated back several decades, explains Price. “In anatomical pathology, for example, black students were not allowed to observe or participate in post-mortems on white patients; they could only participate in post-mortems on black patients. Professor Phillip Tobias ensured this practice changed when he became Head of Anatomy at Wits Medical School in 1959, but apartheid persisted in other areas for several decades.

“In my clinical years, for example, while white medical students had exposure to the wards at both the Baragwanath and Johannesburg hospitals, black students were restricted to the wards at Bara. They also had to get ministerial approval to study at Wits and they could not stay in white areas,” continues Price.



“During my time as SRC President I was sent a parcel bomb in the form of a cassette.”



All this was strongly politicising and, as De Villiers discussed, led to the student Left demanding changes to the university's apartheid-perpetuating practices and to its curricula, to make them more appropriate to living in a developing country. Some progress was made, such as the development of the Department of Community Medicine in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

At the same time, the white student Left increasingly realised their power to help change society lay in using their skills and education off campus. This became the rationale for the establishment of the Student Wages Commission and the labour campaign, which gained momentum through the 1970s and focused on wages and poverty, calling for the unionisation of black workers who were not allowed to unionise. This contributed to the formation of the black labour movement.

"We also participated in a range of volunteer activities, such as providing free tuition in disadvantaged schools and helping to build schools and clinics in rural areas during the university holidays," says Price. "And we committed to conscientising the broader white community by presenting political views and alternatives in contrast to apartheid."

All this was against the backdrop of strong opposition from the right-wing lobby on campus, the pervasive campus spy network that De Villiers discussed, and terror tactics by the security police.

"During my time as SRC President I was sent a parcel bomb in the form of a cassette. The note said it had come from a certain bookshop but it raised my suspicions, particularly when I checked with the

bookshop and they had no record of it," says Price, who then asked his father, a radiologist, to x-ray it. The x-ray revealed the bomb inside.

The security police also left a series of dead cats on the gates of the house where he stayed and ambulances would arrive at his parents' home saying they were looking for him as he had been attacked and needed to be taken to hospital.

"My parents supported the values for which we were fighting but they wanted me to get out of politics, as did many of our parents. That wasn't going to happen, because we were young and we didn't have to worry about losing our jobs or taking responsibility for a family. Instead, we were driven by the force of camaraderie in the fight against injustice," says Price. "It was a highly motivating and stimulating time when we made as many black friends as white friends and we moved in circles and communities that crossed the barriers and geographies that apartheid had created.

"To a large degree this was lost after 1994, and the cause that brought students together to fight for a better society gave way to the ANC government's honeymoon period, when people felt 'this is our government and we mustn't undermine it by being too critical'. Today that period has passed and we are beginning to see some social and political activism returning to South African campuses," says Price, who went into the field of health policy because of his student experience.

In 1988 he joined the Centre for Health Policy at Wits and in 1992 he became its Director. He was Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Wits from

DIE TRANSVALER, WOENSDAG 20 JULIE 1977



MAX PRICE: „Aanhouding sonder verhoor is 'n sielkundige aanslag deur die polisie.“ PATRICK FITZGERALD: „Dis 'n wapen, om alles teenstrydig met die Regering te vernietig.“ RICHARD DE VILLIERS: „Ek het 'n swart aangehoudene gesien, maar die wet verbied my om oor sy toestand te praat.“

MAX PRICE: "Detention without trial is a psychological assault by the police", PATRICK FITZGERALD: "It's a weapon to destroy anything opposing the government", RICHARD DE VILLIERS: "I saw a black detainee, but the law forbids me to talk about his condition".

1996 to 2006. He has had a significant impact on community and population health in South Africa, and spearheaded a series of curriculum transformation initiatives, including the establishment of the Centre for Rural Health at Wits and the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics.

Looking back at his student years now that he is the head of a university, he says: "I wouldn't change a thing. Many of the experiences I had and skills gained in student government and politics have turned out to be an excellent preparation for the other leadership positions I have occupied."

Norman Manoim

Wits SRC President 1979/80

Current: Chairperson of the Competition Tribunal and part-time lecturer in Competition Law at Wits

"Stepping onto campus in the late 1970s was quite alienating for me at first," says Norman Manoim, who studied law at Wits. "Quite a few students had been influenced by the hippie and counterculture era. They had long hair, wore jeans and were uninhibited around sex and drugs. In contrast, I had just come out of the army; I had short hair and wore smart trousers and a collared shirt."

Protests at Wits

The army had raised many political questions for Manoim and he wanted to get politically involved, but the students opposing apartheid, black and white, were fairly exclusive about whom they accepted in their ranks.

“The white student Left was influential beyond its numbers, with several hundred students at Wits and several thousand across South Africa. They were suspicious because of the proliferation of campus spies and it was not easy to be accepted in their ranks, especially if you dressed conservatively,” Manoim explains. “The black students were at the height of Black Consciousness and they organised themselves separately from the white student bodies and boycotted SRC or sporting activities on campus. Their rationale was that Wits was part of the apartheid system. It was a difficult space because we were supposed to be striving for a non-racial society.”

Manoim stuck to his dress code but he grew his hair and found his route into student politics through the student newspaper *Wits Student*, of which he became the business manager, and through his older brother Irwin, who was also at Wits and politically involved.

“Our issue as white students and members of NUSAS was to work out our place in the struggle. Post-1976 we got the clear message that we were no longer the vanguards of change because we came from a privileged background and class,” says Manoim.

“We had to re-orientate ourselves, as Richard and Max have explained, to prepare for an African future and to develop educational skills that were relevant to an African country.”

“I remain an optimist for South Africa because we have gone through many dark times and I believe in the resilience of this country and its people...”

As a law student Manoim contributed by taking a course run by the Legal Resources Centre, during which they served at law clinics for people who could not afford legal fees. Senior anti-apartheid legal pioneers such as Arthur Chaskalson supervised.

“The Africanisation orientation had a far more limited appeal to students because while we still held hotly contested debates and mass meetings on campus, the overall thrust was far more cerebral and lacked the ‘glamour and romance’ of the confrontational politics of the late 1960s and early 1970s,” continues Manoim.

Which doesn’t mean the era was without high drama. In 1981 the South African flag was burned on Wits Campus after an anti-Republic Day mass meeting. On this 20th anniversary of the republic, it was once again emphasised that the majority of South Africans had no reason to celebrate.

This was regarded as treason by the government and then prime minister PW Botha warned students that they would rue their actions. Sammy Adelman (1981 Wits SRC President) and Andrew Boraine (1981



Police were a constant presence on campus during the volatile late '70s and early '80s.

NUSAS National President) were arbitrarily banned without any opportunity to defend themselves in a court of law. Student support for their leaders grew as a result of this repression, expressed in demonstrations, music, art and culture.

“Quite a number of Wits students lived in Hillbrow, Bellevue and Yeoville, which were powerful hubs for alternative, anti-apartheid music, culture and art. It was a very exciting time because Johannesburg was a city in transition with black people in our social network living illegally in places like Hillbrow. It goes without saying that there was constant police presence and harassment but we could feel the impatience for change.”

The same feeling permeated the 12-hour Free People’s Concert held at Wits every year. This unique, non-racial outdoor concert, for which Wits had to get a permit, featured the rising stars of the anti-apartheid generation, including Johnny Clegg and Sipho Mchunu.

It was the antithesis of the separatism between black and white student movements at the time.

Impatience for change

This persisted until the launch of the United Democratic Front and the End Conscription Campaign, when black and white anti-apartheid activists came together and combined their strengths in one of the most non-racial movements in South African history. It gave the country hope that a non-racist future was possible.

“I remain an optimist for South Africa because we have gone through many dark times and I believe in the resilience of this country and its people,” says Manoim, adding that universities play a powerful role as critical institutions of our society, whatever the power struggles are at the time.

“At Wits I learnt to think strategically, to deal with political issues and to play to my strengths. I’m concerned that we aren’t seeing students today engaging sufficiently in the national and international issues of our time. I hope they haven’t lost their idealism about a better world, and I would like to see them taking on the challenges of freedom of speech and poor people’s issues. I would like to see them debating about what they can do to contribute to a better South Africa instead of simply wanting a well-paid job.”

Thirty years since he graduated from Wits with his BA LLB, Manoim continues to contribute to a better South Africa. “I have always had a commitment to this country and I feel strongly about people staying,” he says. “Those who leave have their own reasons for leaving and I respect their personal decisions, but I believe it is important that people who have benefited from the country should give back to it in whatever way they can.”

Wits staff & alumni

PHOTO COMPETITION & EXHIBITION 2012

The Alumni Office's inaugural photographic competition, in association with the Transformation Office, took place during the Wits Arts and Literature Experience (WALE) from 9 – 12 May. Alumni and staff submitted photographs reflecting the theme "My Wits" – images at or about the University that indicate what Wits means to entrants.

By Deborah Minors

A selection of the 60 entries received was exhibited in the John Moffat Building on West Campus during WALE. A panel of judges in the fields of photojournalism and design selected winning entries in gold and silver categories.

The winners were announced at a prize-giving ceremony held at the exhibition on 11 May. **Igor Rodionov** won first prize in the gold category for his unusual and captivating photograph of the Great Hall reflected in an eye, entitled *Inceptive Muse: One of 130 000 students that graduated at Wits from its inception gazes back at the Great Hall*.

"It's great to be recognised for my photography," Rodionov said at the prize-giving. He explained that in trying to capture the winning image, he

and the person whose eye he photographed - both mathematical statistics and actuarial science alumni - battled for 20 minutes to get the angle exactly right. "So much for applied maths!" he quipped.

Other gold category winners were mining engineering alumnus **Claude Cunningham's** nostalgic 1960s *Car Wash Rally*, architectural graduate **William Martinson's** *Central Block: Solid Foundations* and mechanical engineering alumna **Claire Pelsler's** *Reflections of the Future* and *Wits: Bridging the Old and the New*.

Silver category winners included • Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor **Yunus Ballim's** *Great Hall* • Architectural alumnus **William Dewar's** *East Campus* • School of Arts

Wits through the *eyes of Witsies*

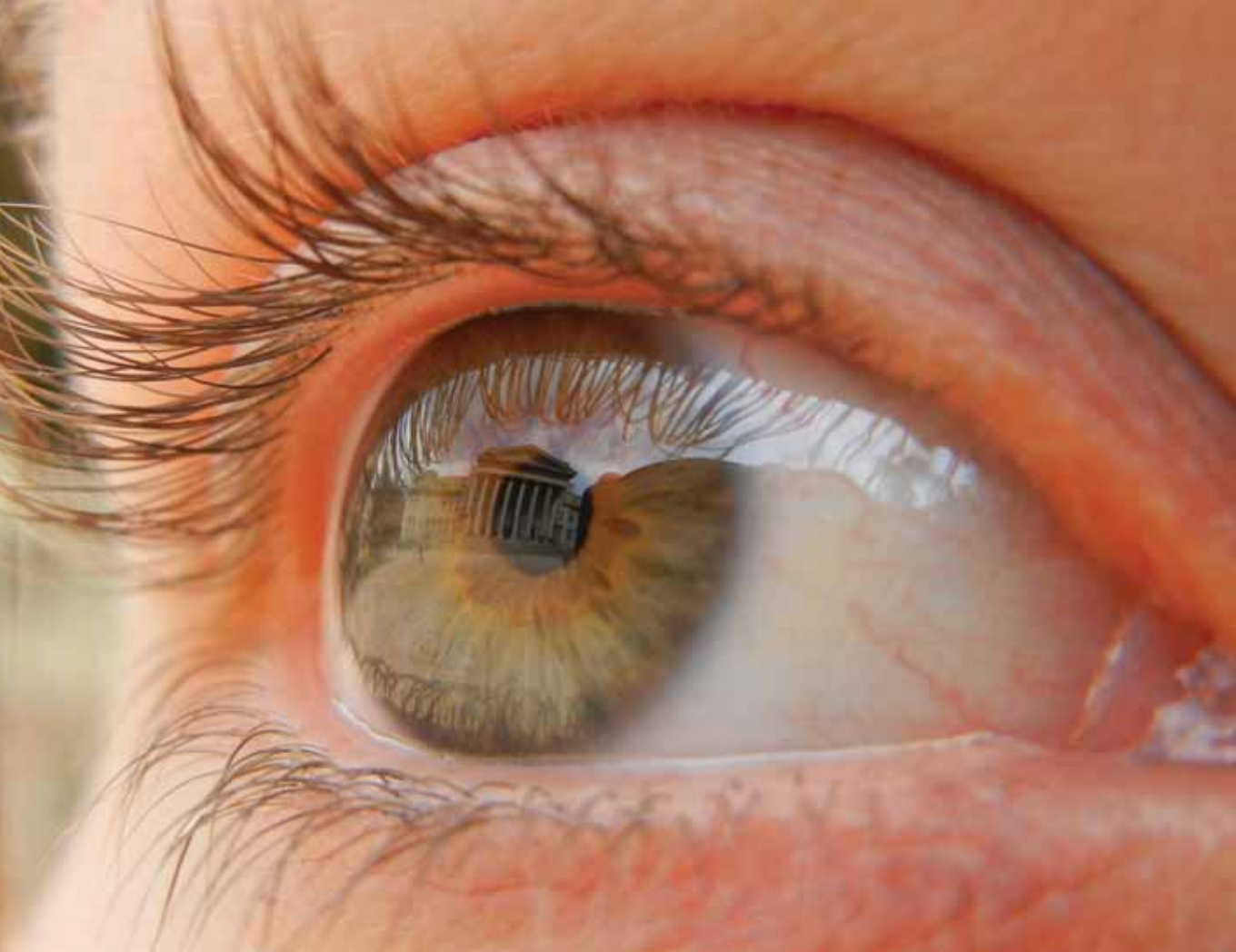


secretary **Maria Marques Fiandeiro's** *Reflections* • Arts graduate **Ainsley Haag** for *Reading* • Architectural technician **Henryka Czekanowska Hayes's** spontaneous image of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Loyiso Nongxa, in *VC: Long Service Award* • Mechanical engineering alumnus

Keith Sandrock's quirky *Noble Kudu Specimens*, including mascot Kudos Kudu • Arts alumna **Irene Spanellis's** *South West Engineering Building* • Dr **Craig Symes's** *Aloe ferox and Residence* • Drama alumna **Mary Anne Wright's** *The Stage*.



(L-R) Alumni Relations Director, Peter Maher and silver category winner Dr Craig Symes. Winner of the first prize in the gold category, Igor Rodionov. Gold category winner Claire Pelser. Silver category winner, School of Arts secretary Maria Marques Fiandeiro.



Igor Rodionov *Inceptive Muse*





Claude Cunningham *1960s Car Wash Rally*



Claire Pelser *Wits: Bridging the Old and the New*



William Martinson *Central Block: Solid Foundations*



Irene Spanellis *South West Engineering Building*



Mary Anne Wright *The Stage*



Maria Marques Fiandeiro *Reflections*



A Just Society



A Gift of Peace and Reconciliation

Madeline Georgette

Katherine Munro and Natalie Knight

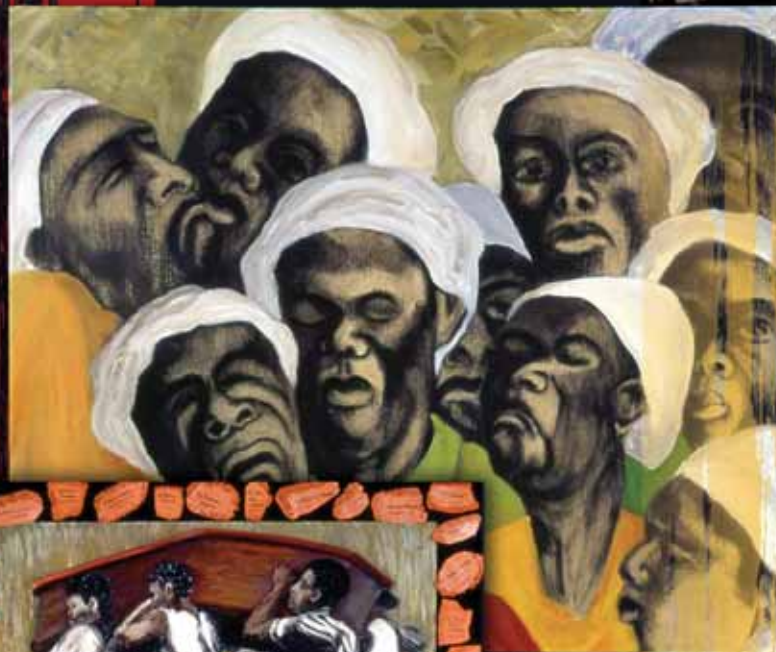
Wits recently received a most generous 90th birthday gift. Madelaine Georgette, an American-South African artist and economic analyst, has donated a series of works of art relating to South Africa's history and recent past. The body of work comprises 48 mixed media paintings and will be exhibited as *A Just Society* at the Origins Centre from 2 August - 24 September, forming part of the Wits 90 calendar of celebrations. Georgette will be delivering a lecture on her works and a walkabout is planned.



Away with Afrikaans

Georgette is a Wits alumna who lived in South Africa for the first 26 years of her life. She studied Fine Arts at Wits in the 1960s for a year. She currently lives in Seattle, USA and has maintained her links with South Africa. The works have been inspired by the artist's response to the trauma of apartheid and its consequences, and include the themes of apartheid, personal suffering and society's attempts to deal with the consequences of the past in the present. The theme of truth and reconciliation draws together Georgette's vision of a new South Africa.

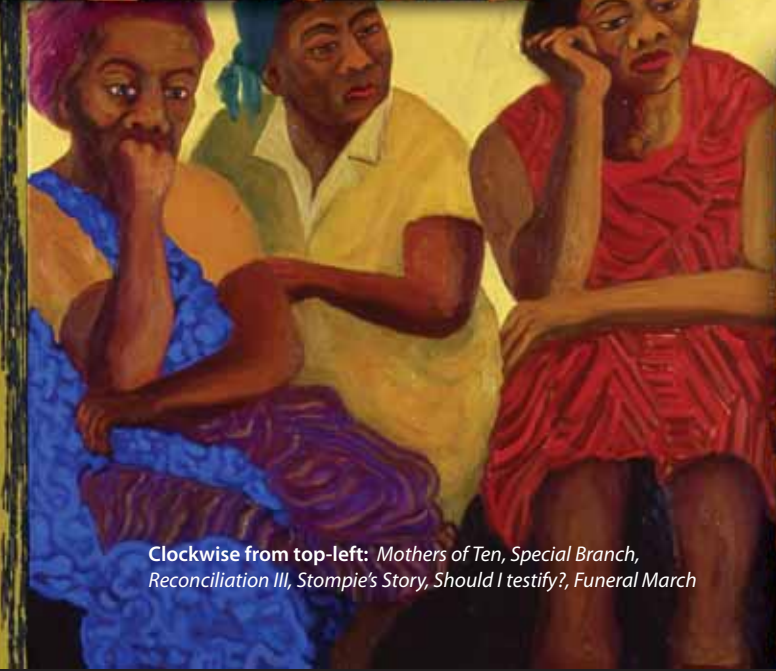
The artworks on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) were supported in part by public grants in the United States. Each of the works in *A Just Society* and later the entire body of work was exhibited throughout the greater Seattle area and Portland. They seek to educate and explain the South African past to American audiences and at the same time give the viewer the opportunity to reflect on their own society's history. Georgette explains that she seeks to explore South Africa's attempt to come to terms with its past during the years of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.



Some cases it was necessary to
act by killing them. This was
which effective action could be
activists in a war situation.
in the normal court structure



[Jiboniso Mafiso]
Testimony to
TRC about
the
of
[Jiboniso Mafiso]



Clockwise from top-left: Mothers of Ten, Special Branch, Reconciliation III, Stompie's Story, Should I testify?, Funeral March



Georgette felt that Wits was the obvious choice to become the recipient of the gift and wished to recognise the role that the University had played as a site of protest against apartheid.

In 2011 she decided that a permanent home for this specifically themed collection should be found in South Africa. In her view, the visual narration and interpretation of the work of the TRC belongs to this country. She approached Natalie Knight, the art curator of the West Campus contemporary art collection, with the proposal to donate all 48 works that make up *A Just Society* to the University of the Witwatersrand. Georgette felt that Wits was the obvious choice to become the recipient of the gift and wished to recognise the role that the University had played as a site of protest against apartheid.

Possibilities II

Lecturers and students had made sacrifices in the fight against racism. They spoke, wrote, researched and protested with passion, courage and honesty through decades of resistance.

The donation of a collection preserves its artistic integrity and its value as a historical record. The artist divided the project into four different phases, each with its own series of artworks: Apartheid; The Impact on Women and Children; The Institutional Arrangements; and The Concepts of Truth, Justice and Reconciliation.

In 2011 Knight visited Seattle and was able to view the Madelaine Georgette artworks. She recommended to Wits that they would make a superb addition to the campus art collection. Knight was unable to meet Georgette in person at that time, but interviewed her on Skype with a webcam.

The works have now been shipped from Seattle by the artist and arrived in March this year.

It was with considerable excitement that the crates were unpacked and the works could be viewed on home ground.

The collection has been accepted by the Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management and many of the works will become part of the West Campus collection, while others will be on permanent exhibition elsewhere at Wits. Landi Dreyer, Business Manager of the Faculty, has made it a condition of the distribution of the artworks to other part of the campus that all works should be accessible and visible to students, staff and visitors. The integrity of the collection will be maintained via the catalogue and book on Georgette's works which will be published to coincide with the exhibition at the Origins Centre.

Georgette's work has been shown in solo exhibitions in the United States and in France and she has participated in international exhibitions in Spain, Russia, Austria, Germany, France, Greece and

Switzerland. She has received a number of awards and has illustrated the writing of Gillian Slovo. Her work is displayed (often in series) in a number of universities and galleries in the United States.

Georgette says her own family history, her roots and her emerging political consciousness shaped her development as an artist. "My hope is that my art can be a catalyst to motivate people to take positive action. For the TRC project to increase awareness of the effects of racism and to inspire people to work peacefully towards the resolution of conflict; and for my current series on Climate Change to stimulate action to protect the environment and to help preserve the earth as we know it."

These works form a powerful historical narrative and are being presented with a unique opportunity to remember, to analyse and to reflect on our past and Wits' role in those turbulent decades of the late 20th century.



Truth IV





Phillip Tobias

humanist, Witsie, giant of science

World-leading authority on the evolution of humankind, anti-apartheid activist and a stalwart of Wits University for more than 50 years, Professor Phillip Vallentine Tobias died in hospital in Johannesburg on 7 June 2012 after a long illness. He was 86.

By Deborah Minors

Tobias was buried in the Jewish section of West Park Cemetery on 10 June, the day a plaque dedicated to Witsies who opposed apartheid was unveiled outside the Great Hall beneath the Affirmation Banner, at a Convocation and alumni event, “Reflections on Wits at 90”.

Poignantly, Tobias appeared in the documentary screened at the event - which he was to have introduced - to recount his experience of apartheid protests at Wits since the 1950s. In it, he recalls how he was pelted with eggs during the 1957 protest march. He defiantly and indefinitely retained the stain on his academic gown.

Tobias was born in Durban, South Africa on 14 October 1925. His parents divorced when he was young. The death of 15-year-old Tobias’s older sister from diabetes reportedly drove him to study genetics and medicine. His sister’s doctor had advised that no one in South Africa then was adequately knowledgeable about genetics to explain his sister’s demise. Tobias resolved to change that.

Through his extraordinary blend of expertise in the fields of biological anatomy, genetics, palaeo-anthropology and archaeology, Tobias pioneered findings in the origins of humanity and scientifically debunked race-related policies. He was a humanist who loved people and a humanitarian devoted to the prospect of a democratic South Africa. He loved cricket, tea, camping with his students at excavation sites, travelling, books and theatre.

An astounding alumnus

Tobias held six degrees from Wits - including an hon-

orary degree - in science and medicine respectively. He first studied histology and physiology in the late 1940s and later medicine, earning a PhD in 1953 for his thesis *Chromosomes, Sex-Cells, and Evolution in the Gerbil*, which was his first book.

He pursued postdoctoral studies abroad in the mid-1950s, working in Physical Anthropology in the Duckworth Laboratory, Cambridge, the Departments of Anatomy, Human Genetics and Anthropology at Chicago University, and in the Department of Anthropology at Michigan University.

He established the Institute for the Study of Man in Africa at Wits in 1956 and took up the post of Professor and Head of the Department of Anatomy and Human Biology in 1959, posts he held until his retirement in 1990. He completed his doctorate in science, on hominid evolution, at his alma mater in 1967.

Tobias served variously as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Honorary Professor of Palaeo-anthropology and Professor of Zoology. In 1994, he became Professor Emeritus of Anatomy and Human Biology, and Honorary Professorial Research Fellow in Anatomical Sciences. He is the only person to have held three professorships at Wits simultaneously.

Phillip’s famous fossils

Tobias developed an interest in palaeo-anthropology as a medical student in the 1940s, under the mentorship of the anatomist Professor Raymond Dart, who had famously made the first discovery of a hominid in Africa, the “Taung Child” (*Australopithecus africanus*), in 1924.



(L) Tobias examines slides in preparation for a lecture (R) Tobias with catalogue entry StW53: A cast of an ape-man cranium from Sterkfontein

Tobias's first archaeological experience in the early 1940s was excavating at Rose Cottage Cave, Free State, with Berry Malan and another Witsie, James Kitching. Armed with this experience, the 21-year-old Tobias launched an archaeological excavation into Mwu's Cave, in what is now Limpopo Province, in 1947, after he "found a few [Middle Stone Age] flakes on the surface of the cave floor" while visiting the site with botanist Brian Maguire. The cave subsequently yielded thousands of Middle Stone Age stone tools.

Tobias's name is synonymous with the past 45 years of research and excavation of the Sterkfontein Caves, where over a third of all known early *Australopithecus* fossils have been found. Tobias was associated at various levels not only with *Australopithecus africanus* (which includes the Taung skull and "Mrs Ples") but also with *Zinjanthropus* ("Nutcracker Man") and *Homo habilis* from Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania.

Tobias authored more than 1 000 publications and his scholarly contributions garnered numerous accolades. These include dozens of honorary degrees from universities locally and abroad, the lifetime achievement award from the National Research Foundation and the Charles R Darwin Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Association of Physical Anthropology. He was nominated three times for a Nobel Prize.

South Africa's most decorated scientist, Tobias received South Africa's Order for Meritorious Service from the South African Presidency. After Tobias's death, President Jacob Zuma issued a statement: "We have lost a renowned scientist, a scholar and a unique human being. Our country remains eternally proud of his work." Former President Thabo Mbeki said at Tobias's funeral that his legacy was "too important and too durable to be forgotten".

Race classification legislation “scientifically invalid”

Tobias was studying medicine at Wits when the National Party apartheid architects assumed power in South Africa in 1948. As President of the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) at Wits, Tobias galvanised one of the earliest protests against racial segregation at universities, the 1957 protest march, which the Affirmation Banner commemorates.

In May 1961, Tobias delivered a public lecture, *The Meaning of Race*, in which he showed the lack of scientific support for the apartheid race-based policies. “The scientific truth about race runs counter to some or all of the assumptions underlying or influencing the race policies of this country,” he said.

Tobias argued that population variation was genetic, a view contrary to the race classification policy, which claimed racial differences resulted from chromosomal inequalities. This pseudoscience was fundamentally eugenic: the idea of manipulating human reproduction to “improve” the species by allowing only those with “desirable” genes to reproduce - as practised in Nazi Germany against Jews.

After democratisation in 1994 Tobias was central to negotiations on behalf of the new South African government to have the remains of Saartje Baartman - a Khoisan woman paraded naked as the “Hottentot Venus” in freak shows in Europe in the 19th century - repatriated to South Africa from Paris.

Most recently, Tobias publicly protested against xenophobia, government’s initial HIV/AIDS policies

and government’s failure in granting the Dalai Lama a visa to enter South Africa.

10 000 “children”

Tobias never married or had children. He regarded the more than 10 000 students he taught over 50 years “in some way” as his “children.” Formerly an Associate Professor in the Wits School of Anatomical Sciences, Ron Clarke confirms that Tobias had his photographer produce small portraits of each of his second-year medical students at the start of term. Tobias would display the photographs on large boards in his office and dutifully memorise every name and face so he could address them personally in class. Wits Professor of Archaeology Lyn Wadley said, “Prof. Tobias had an incredible memory, especially for people.”

In Part I* of his biography, *Into the Past: A Memoir* (Picador, 2005), documenting his first 40 years and dedicated to the people of Africa, Tobias wrote:

“I have taught over 10 000 students, and all of those are, in some small way, like my children. So it is not a genetic legacy that I leave, but rather a cultural one, orally transmitted through education, the value of which cannot be over-emphasized. I like to believe that I have given something valuable to every one of them, and I can tell you quite honestly that almost every one of them has given something very valuable to me, and I remember them as my own family.”

* Part 2 of Tobias’s memoirs, *Tobias in Conversation*, was published in 2011.

Wits University fondly remembers those who have passed away

Boden, John Charles (1940 – 2012)

A stalwart of Sandton and its emergency rescue services for 30 years, Dr John Boden (MBBCh 1965) died in Sandton Mediclinic on 29 February 2012. He was 72. Born on 21 September 1940, Boden matriculated from St John's College. At Wits Medical School, he was one of the students enlisted to help the wounded after the 1963 John Harris anti-apartheid bombing at Johannesburg Park Station.

After graduating, Boden became head of Casualty at Johannesburg General Hospital. He began practising privately in Cramerview and later Bryanston shopping centres from 1969. He moved his practice to the new Sandton Clinic in 1975, where he participated in the first surgery performed there. Boden lobbied for greater co-operation between Sandton medical personnel and emergency medical services, and pioneered the training of paramedics. He served in violence-stricken Johannesburg townships during the tumultuous 1980s, and designed and implemented a pioneering mobile clinic.

Arguably Boden's greatest contribution was his role in developing and training the Sandton Emergency Services Volunteer Services, a corps that grew into the largest in Africa and in which Boden served as Chief Medical Officer. Boden was named the Sandton Citizen of the Year in 1987 in recognition of his contribution to ambulance, paramedic and emergency services.

He retired from general practice in 1998 but continued to serve as ad hoc Medical Officer for ER24 until his passing. His brothers, Roger (BArch 1966, DipTRP 1973, MUD 1979) and Robert, and three sons - one of whom is a Wits alumnus - survive him.

Dubovsky (née Ellman), Annette (1920 – 2012)

One of the University's oldest and proudest alumnae, Annette Dubovsky (BA 1939) died in Bloemfontein on 28 March 2012. She was 91, just one year older than Wits itself. Dubovsky served as secretary of the Bloemfontein Wits Alumni Chapter from its inception. She credited the University as a primary influence in her life, emanating from when her father, Joseph Ellman, graduated from the

University's predecessor, the School of Mines, in 1912. He became a Professor of Engineering at Wits in the 1940s.

Born in Johannesburg on 26 October 1920, Dubovsky attended a convent school, where, to her constant amusement as a Jewish woman, she won Best New Testament Scholar. She studied English and History at Wits and then taught at St George's Grammar School in Cape Town after graduating. She married Dr Henry Dubovsky in 1945. The couple lived in Durban and Adelaide, Eastern Cape, before settling in Bloemfontein in the late 1960s. Here Dubovsky became editor of the children's page and reviewed books for *The Friend* newspaper, which Nobel literature laureate Rudyard Kipling had helped establish.

Dubovsky immersed herself in the cultural life of Bloemfontein, attending concerts and lectures. She was an active member of the Bloemfontein Repertory Society for many years, taking part in numerous performances. An accomplished orator, she frequently delivered public addresses at cultural events. She was a member of the University of the Third Age (U3A), an international organisation that aims to educate and stimulate retired people who continue to pursue lifelong learning.

Dubovsky combined her interest in cookery with writing, and published a cookery book. She was philanthropic and donated proceeds of the sale of her cookery book to charity. She was active in the Free State Society for the Blind and several other Bloemfontein charities, including a small home for people with special needs, for each of whom, until

very recently, she baked a birthday cake. Her final bequest included a generous amount to the two men who delivered her copy of *Volksblad* every day.

Stephenson, Peter (1927 – 2012)

Dr Peter Stephenson (MBBCh 1952) died in hospital in the UK on 8 April 2012, aged 84. He had Parkinson's disease and motor neurone disease. Born in East London, South Africa on 28 May 1927, Stephenson began his medical training at



Johannesburg's Baragwanath Hospital, where he met his wife. The couple went to England in 1955 for him to pursue postgraduate qualifications. As consultant physician in Gateshead, Stephenson established the first diabetes unit. His support of the British Diabetic Association empowered and benefited the local diabetic population. He retired from the National Health Service in 1991 but continued to work in research. For 15 years, he was the Medical Director for the Hexham and Newcastle Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage. His wife, five children and seven grandchildren survive him.

Zylstra, Brian Anton (1935 – 2012)

Philanthropist and Wits benefactor Brian Zylstra (BCom 1957) died in hospital in Sydney, Australia, on 6 April 2012, aged 76.



Zylstra and his wife, Dorothy (BA Hons 1963), received the University's Gold Medal in 2007 for their sustained support of Wits. The couple's contributions through the Skye Foundation have supported the development of the

arts, sports, research and development at Wits since 1987. More than 170 students and numerous projects have benefited from endowments totalling about R18-million. These include the Vice-Chancellor's Discretionary Fund, the University Foundation, the Office of Alumni Relations, the Academic Endowment Fund, the RW Charlton Fund, and an art commission for the William Cullen Library.

Zylstra served as Governor of the University of the Witwatersrand Foundation from 1995 until 2003. He was a member of the Wits Executive Committee of Convocation in 1998, when he funded the establishment of *Arena* magazine, the precursor to *WITSReview*.

Born in Kimberley, Northern Cape on 20 November 1935, Zylstra attended school in Parow, Western Cape. At Wits, Zylstra excelled at rugby and captained Wits' First XV team, earning Transvaal

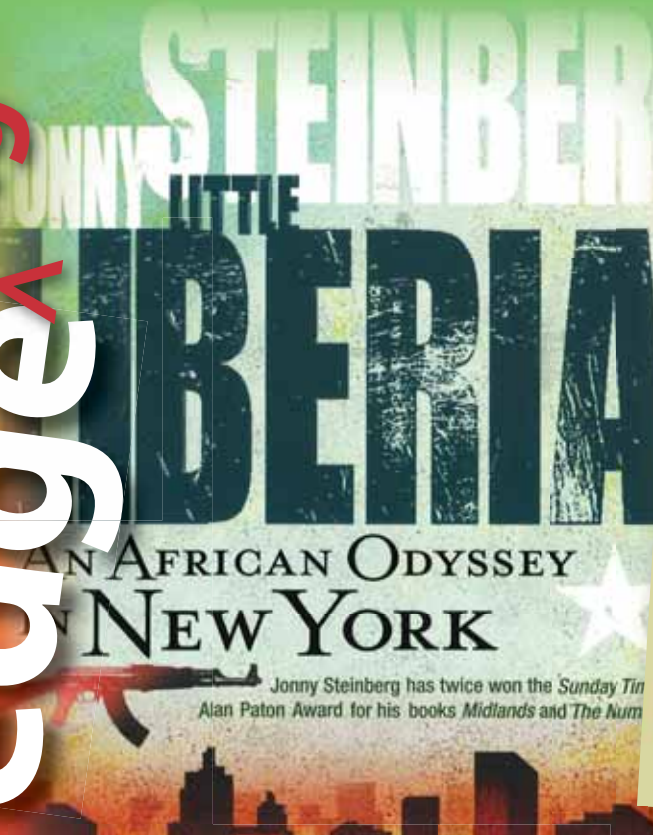
colours and Wits Full Blue. He married Dorothy after qualifying as a chartered accountant and the couple then spent two years in the UK, where Zylstra worked as a management consultant. He joined AMCOR on their return to South Africa in 1961. Zylstra co-founded Skye Products (Pty) Ltd, in the cosmetics and hairdressing industry, in 1964. Following a successful listing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in 1969, the company delisted due to market volatility at the time. Zylstra aggressively restructured and diversified the firm to reassert its vigour.

Skye Sports Bursaries were established at Wits through Skye Products in 1987. These rugby bursaries were extended in 1989 to include athletics and hockey. The Skye Chair of Dramatic Art was established in 1996 and continues to benefit the School of Arts.

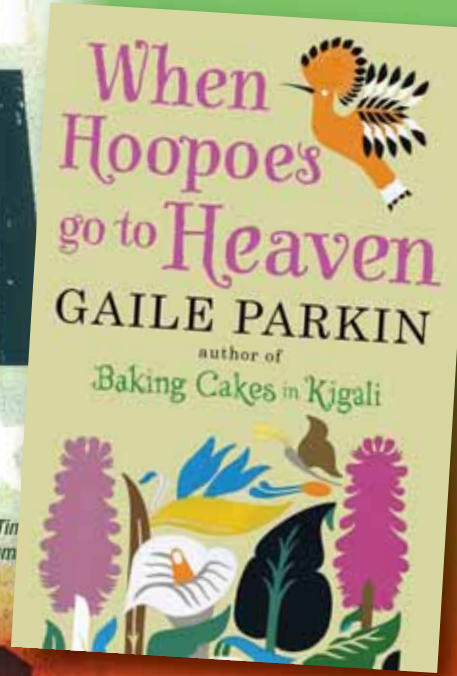
Skye Products (Pty) Ltd was sold in 1997 and the Zylstras – and their three sons – redirected their philanthropy through the Skye Foundation and the Skye Charitable Trust they established. These trusts provide scholarships to candidates nominated by local universities, based on outstanding achievement. The students who have benefited include rugby Springboks and several Olympic athletes. The Skye Foundation endures with Zylstra's family at the helm.

WITSReview relies on the Wits community to keep us informed of alumni deaths. Please send obituaries to alumni@wits.ac.za

the writing
gadget

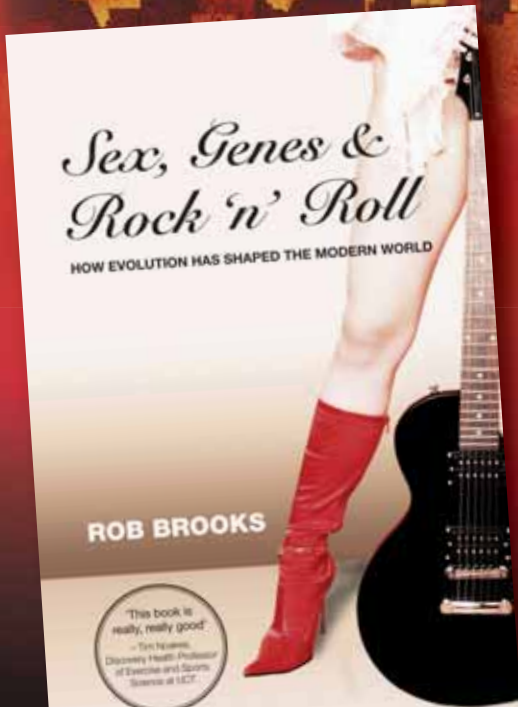


Jonny Steinberg has twice won the *Sunday Tin* Alan Paton Award for his books *Midlands* and *The Num*



When Hoopoes go to Heaven
GAILE PARKIN
author of *Baking Cakes in Kigali*

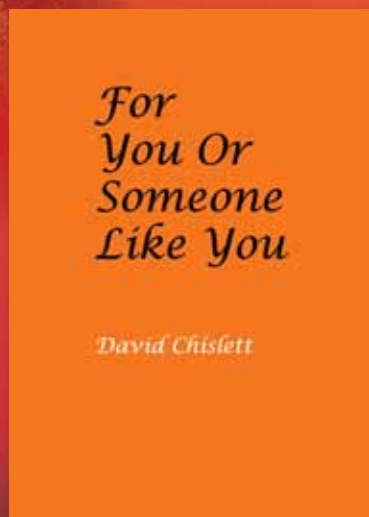
Alumni with



Sex, Genes & Rock n' Roll
HOW EVOLUTION HAS SHAPED THE MODERN WORLD

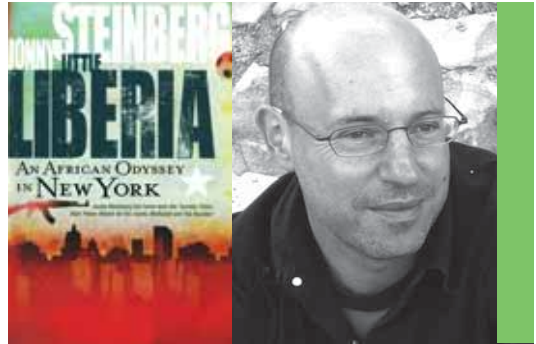
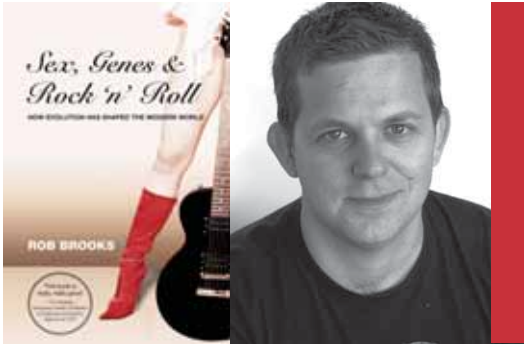
ROB BROOKS

"This book is really, really good"
-Tim Noakes, Distinguished Health Professor of Exercise and Sports Science at UCT.



For You Or Someone Like You

David Chislett



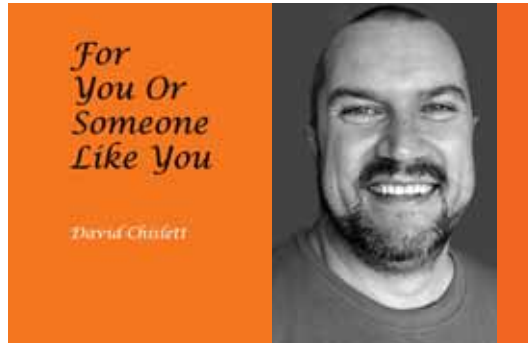
NON-FICTION

Sex, Genes & Rock 'n' Roll - How Evolution Has Shaped the Modern World, by Rob Brooks

Why are people getting fatter? Why do so many rock stars end up dead at 27? Ever wondered why left-handed batsmen excel at international cricket? Rob Brooks (BSc 1992, BSc Hons 1993, PhD 1996) is Professor of Evolution and Director of the Evolution and Ecology Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. In his book *Sex, Genes & Rock 'n' Roll - How Evolution Has Shaped the Modern World* (UCT Press, 2012), which he launched to a capacity crowd at his alma mater on 23 May 2012, Brooks argues that the origins of these 21st century problems can be found where the ancient forces of evolution collide with modern culture and economics. Brooks has authored more than 100 scientific papers, mostly on how sex and reproduction influence the lives of animals and humans. The Australian Academy of Science awarded him its Fenner Medal in 2010.

Little Liberia - An African Odyssey in New York, by Jonny Steinberg

After graduating from Wits, Jonny Steinberg (BA 1992, BA Hons 1993, MA 1996) won a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford University, where he is now a research associate in criminology and teaches African Studies. He is the only author to have twice won the Sunday Times Alan Paton Award for Non-Fiction. His book *Midlands* won in 2002 and *The Number* in 2004. Steinberg's latest book, *Little Liberia - An African Odyssey in New York* (Jonathan Ball, 2012) is on the short list again this year. *Little Liberia* explores through narrative journalism the complex dynamics of Liberian refugees in their stronghold in Staten Island, New York. Steinberg spent 22 months there immersing himself in the lives of Liberian archrivals Jacob Massaquoi and Rufus Arko. Steinberg's access to and experience of the heart of the community allows him to describe the more subliminal and covert impact of Liberia's civil war on its displaced people.



POETRY

For You or Someone Like You, by David Chislett

The winner of the Wits Ernst van Heerden Creative Writing Award in 1998, David Chislett (BA 1994) launched his debut poetry collection, *For You or Someone Like You*, in June 2012. The launch incorporated spoken-word, story-telling and guitar accompaniments. Comprising 90 poems selected from around 400 that Chislett posted daily over 18 months to the social media site Facebook, the publication is unedited. The result is a collection that is “dense, tense and image-rich that tackles what it means to be alive in the 21st century in South Africa”. Chislett is a Johannesburg-based author, speaker and consultant. Previous publications include short story collection *A Body Remembered* (2009) and *1,2,1,2: A Step By Step Guide to the SA Music Industry* (20yearsentence, 2010), based on his entertainment industry experience as a publicist, promoter, manager and artist.

FICTION

When Hoopoes go to Heaven, by Gaile Parkin

Born and raised in Zambia, Gaile Parkin (MA 1983) escaped the corporate rat race to move unencumbered through Africa, consult independently on educational and gender issues, and write. She holds degrees in linguistics (Rhodes University) and in gender and international development (University of Warwick). Her second novel *When Hoopoes go to Heaven* (Atlantic Books, 2012) is set in Swaziland. Although a stand-alone novel, it features characters from Parkin’s debut novel *Baking Cakes in Kigali* (Atlantic Books, 2009), which was set in Rwanda and translated into 16 languages. *Hoopoes* is narrated by 10-year-old Benedict. He loves his new home in Swaziland, where he can revel in the lush garden, escape his anxieties and plan a better world. But there are things in Africa that a small boy can’t fix. Parkin’s books touch on social ills informed by her time in Africa, but deliver lightly.

WHAT'S ON? at wits



REUNIONS REUNIONS REUNIONS REUNIONS

Celebrating Wits 90
International Alumni Reunions 2012

UNITED STATES

- Atlanta, Sunday 15 July
- Dallas, Tuesday 17 July
- Austin, Wednesday 18 July
- Houston, Thursday 19 July
- New York City, Thursday 26 July

Enquiries: justine.dangor@wits.ac.za

- New Mexico, Santa Fe,
Tuesday 2 - Friday 5 October

Enquiries: Dr Peter Weston pweston@gmail.com
or Dr Martin Colman mcolman@UTMB.EDU



AUSTRALIA

- Perth, Monday 13 August
- Sydney, Tuesday 14 August
- Melbourne, Wednesday 15 August

Enquiries: justine.dangor@wits.ac.za



UNITED KINGDOM

- London, 16 October
- Enquiries: justine.dangor@wits.ac.za

SA ALUMNI REUNIONS AND EVENTS

- Wits² Kudus Road Race, 21km/10km Road Race and 5km fun-run, 29 July

Enquiries: purvi.purohit@wits.ac.za

- Faculty of Health Sciences Reunion Dinner, Research Day and Postgraduate Expo, Johannesburg. Tuesday 18 - Friday 21 September

Enquiries: poovy.govender@wits.ac.za | +27 (0) 11 717 2555

- Sunnyside Residence Reunion (1980 - 1984), Saturday 15 September

Enquiries: Olga Chappel | tysons@telkomsa.net
or Beth Moore | Beth@tiniebez.co.za

- Durban Reunion, 7 October
- Cape Town Reunion, 4 November
- Founders Tea, 22 November

Enquiries: justine.dangor@wits.ac.za



Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations for more information about alumni events: [+27 11 717 1091](tel:+27117171091) or alumni@wits.ac.za

CAMPUSEVENTS

Until Saturday 21 July

William Kentridge's *Universal Archive (Parts 24 – 37) Exhibition*

The David Krut Workshop has painstakingly carved William Kentridge's original small ink drawings on old dictionaries into linoleum plates to create prints. Parts 24-37 of Kentridge's *Universal Archive* linocuts will be on display until 21 July.

David Krut Projects, 140 Jan Smuts Avenue, Parkwood, Johannesburg





Until Sunday 19 August

WAM! Seeing Stars Opening Exhibition

This opening exhibition of the Wits Art Museum celebrates the priceless collection of more than 9 000 pieces of African art, and features classical and contemporary African artists.

Wits Art Museum, Corner Jan Smuts Avenue and Jorissen Street, Braamfontein |
Enquiries: www.wits.ac.za/witsartmuseum | +27 11 717 1365



Wednesday 19 September

Faculty of Health Sciences Research Day & Postgraduate Expo

This Faculty of Health Sciences premier research event promotes research collaboration and enables staff and students to share their research results across disciplines. Comprising oral presentations and posters, the event demonstrates how Wits researchers are “transforming life through research excellence”. The event previously attracted up to 1 000 participants.

Details: www.witsresearchday.co.za | +27 11 717 2023 | Moraba.meela@wits.ac.za.

Monday 22 – Tuesday 23 October

International Corporate Governance Conference

The Wits School of Accountancy hosts the International Corporate Governance Conference (ICGC) themed Much ado about nothing or strategic value added? The ICGC aims to stimulate research into all aspects of corporate governance and provides a platform for established and emerging researchers to share and review each other's work. The conference includes a postgraduate colloquium.

Wits Alumni Club, West Campus, Wits.

Enquiries: enquiries.governanceconference@wits.ac.za

Cost: R1 500 for presenters from SA institutions and US\$250 for other delegates



PLACES TO VISIT at wits

Adler Museum of Medicine

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

Linder Auditorium

Wits Education Campus, 27 St Andrews Road, Parktown, Johannesburg | **Tel** + 27 (0) 11 717 3223 | **Email** facilities.wec@wits.ac.za | **Hours** Varies according to programme | **Cost** Varies according to programme | www.wits.ac.za/linder

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 to 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 entrance** (until 13:00 only) Adults R190, Children R110 (4-14 years) www.maropeng.co.za

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 to 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 province
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 to 16:00, Monday to Friday | **Cost** Varies according to programme | **Tickets** 073 725 7381 | www.wits.ac.za/WitsTheatre

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

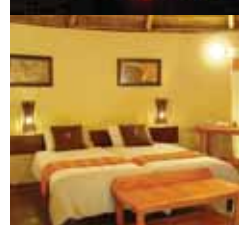
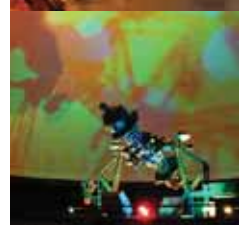




Photo: Mesia Gumedé

Lance Claasen on:

Life at Wits, Talk Radio, travel & Chip Channing

Lance Claasen studied Drama at Wits and graduated with a BA (DA) in 1997. Now 39, he is the head of Talk Programming at Kaya FM, one of South Africa's most popular radio stations, based in Joburg. His alter ego is Chip Channing, a demotivational speaker who writes a blog on bad advice for the workplace and how to ascend the corporate ladder without bothering to climb.

By Heather Dugmore

What brought you to Wits?

I am one of the rare Capetonians who left Cape Town to come and study at Wits, which was the only university at the time offering a full range of options in the Dramatic Arts, including acting, scriptwriting and directing. I have always been more interested in directing than acting. I have no overwhelming desire to be on stage.

How has directing helped you in your career?

I direct my staff of presenters and producers because putting out the best current affairs story of the day is all about offering the best performance to our listeners, including getting a variety of personalities and experts to participate in our shows. We frequently call on Wits in this regard.

What was Wits like when you were a student?

It felt like an extension of Parkhurst. Transformation politics was the order of the day but black students were still in the minority and most of the black, white and coloured kids didn't mix much. I did because I fit in everywhere. Residences like Braamfontein Centre and Esselen Street were completely black. I stayed in the Esselen Street residence and weekends were rather boring because there wasn't much to do and we didn't have cars. Thank goodness we always had free tickets to the shows at Wits. Braamfontein is far more hip and happening now – it's become arty. The Shell garage where we bought chips is now the Wits Art Museum.

How is it that you fit in everywhere?

It's a decision I made. I didn't want to be pigeon-holed and I knew I would be part of a minority

on campus, so I got on with it and made friends irrespective of colour. My best friend at Wits was a crazy white guy from the East Rand called Matthew Ribnick who was also in the Drama School. He went to the navy and was a sailor before coming to Wits. He used the money he earned in the navy to pay for his education. What was funny was that he acquired the strongest coloured accent in the navy, which was 80% coloured, mostly from the Cape Flats. How I met him is I walked into the Drama School one day and I heard this strong coloured accent. I looked around, presuming I'd see one of my cousins; instead there was this white guy speaking with a Cape Flats accent and he wasn't putting it on. I slipped into Cape Flats lingo and asked from where the hell he came. We became friends straightaway. Today, Matthew is one of South Africa's best writer/actors, and much of his work is about integration and interaction in South Africa.

You write your blog as Chip Channing.

Tell us about him.

Chip Channing is a demotivational speaker. His interests are office politics, exploitation, deceit and corruption. He's a bad ass. I started writing my Chip Channing blog a year-and-a-half ago when I noticed how many people are unhappy in their jobs. I opted to use people's disgruntlement as a source of extra income, offering all the wrong advice, including "how to pass the buck properly", "how to write a CV that is almost honest" and "why stealing a colleague's ideas is in their best interest".

How is stealing a colleague's ideas in their best interest?

Because you are teaching them that if they do not stand up and advertise their accomplishments, then somebody else will.

Are you a pleasant boss?

Yes, my staff BBM me all the time and tell me so! My approach is to give them deliverables and then let them get on with it. I believe they will do their job well. My role is more of a custodian than a micromanager. If you hire talent, let talent be. I don't believe in autocratic management. As Chip says, when you are working for a fascist boss you don't ask what is right for the country or the customer, you ask "will my boss be happy?"

What gets your listeners going?

On our lifestyle show the phone rings off the hook when we talk about relationships and cheating. Listeners also respond incredibly strongly to the daily battles that parents face. For example, we ran a show and special day for mothers whose children have special needs. Some of these mothers have to wash and shave their 19-year-old sons. They feel so isolated from society and they never have time to themselves, so we gave them a day off, where they got massages and goody bags. It's part of our ethos of caring for our listeners.

Looking back 15 years, is there anything you would change about your time at Wits?

Yes. I would have acted on my secret crush on Mathapelo Kgoleng, who was in Drama School at the same time as me and is now in TV production. She auditioned for a play I was directing titled

Zooman and the Sign by Charles Fuller. She got the part. Years later we discovered we both had secret crushes on each other but neither of us did anything about it other than keeping in contact. Fortunately we finally got together when I was transferred from Cape Talk to 702 in 2004 to produce Tim Modise and I returned to Joburg. We got married in 2007.

Name something that works for you as a couple.


We both love travelling around South Africa and we do that really well as a couple. If we're going to Cape Town, we'll take five days getting there, stopping at all sorts of places along the way, such as Sutherland and the Valley of Desolation outside Graaff-Reinet, which is the most amazing place I've seen. We want to go everywhere – we want to see giant Baobab trees and the Namaqualand flowers in spring. We are also planning to go further afield to Mozambique, Botswana and abroad. There's so much we want to do together but we have such busy lives that we're both fighting clocks and we also want to have children at some stage.

What do you hope to achieve as a radio producer?

I hope to achieve Kaya FM's ethos of inspiring in our listeners a feeling of freedom – of speech, thought and political activity. These freedoms for which South Africa fought so hard are currently under threat. But I have hope because we have institutions like the Public Protector and the media, which are prepared to look danger in the face.

How would you feel if there was a painting of you, naked, at the Goodman Gallery?

I'd know that if I've reached that kind of profile I must have accomplished something!



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