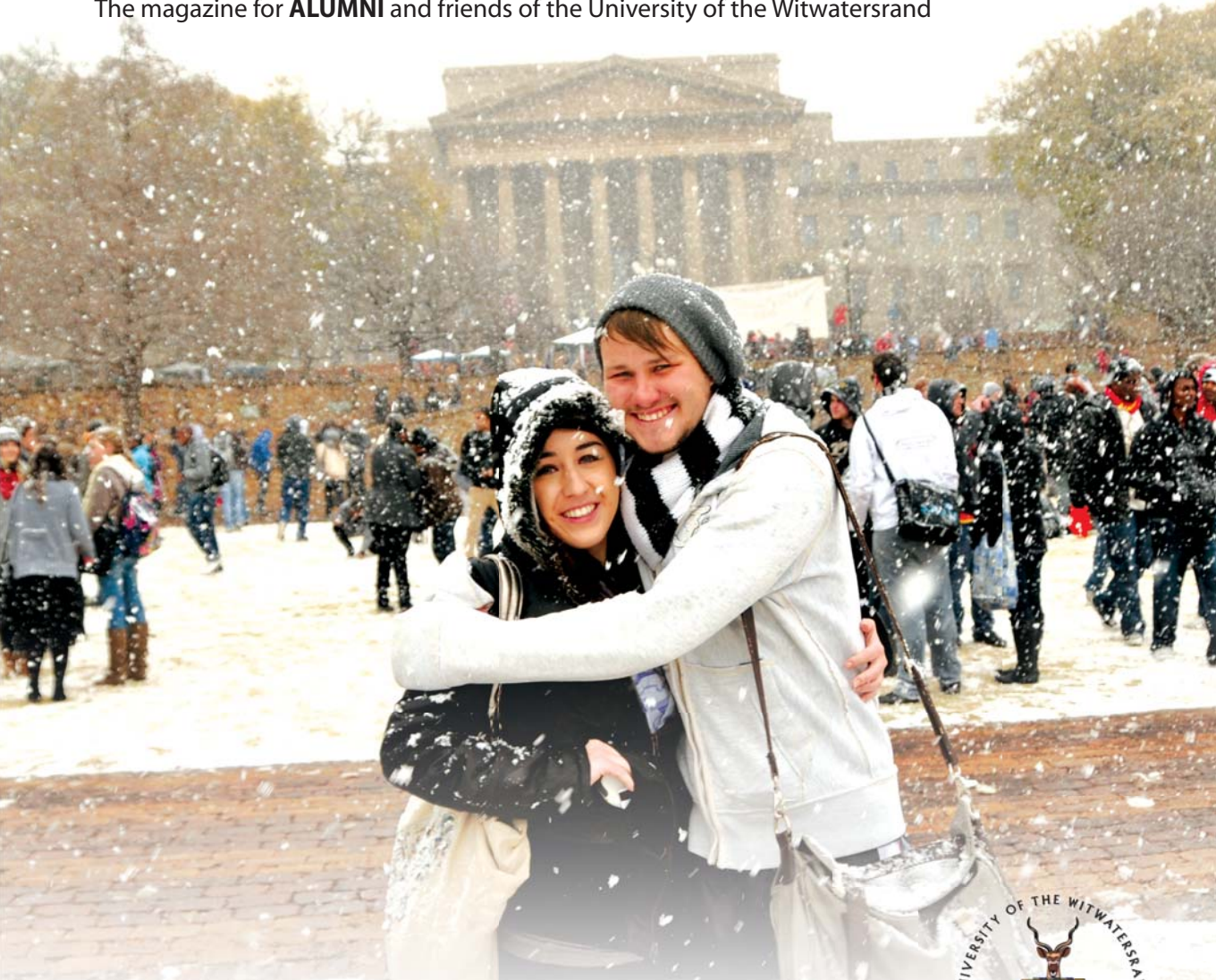


October 2012 **Volume 22**

# WITSReview

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



## IN THIS ISSUE

Wits part-time studies • The Elly Gotz story • Trevor Mundel • Stan Bergman



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- > Campus maps



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# from the editor

## International Wits fellowship

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Wits alumni in the USA and Australia. It was a wonderful experience and I realised how comforting it is to know that you can travel in so many parts of the world and feel warmly welcomed by, and connected to, an international fraternity of “Witsies”.

Many of those I met graduated and emigrated decades ago and so it was extremely heartening that their connection to Wits remains strong. It is vitally important that alumni realise that Wits remains *their* University when they graduate. Students, lecturers and support staff may come and go but you remain a Wits graduate forever. Wits, like any institution, goes through ups and downs and you may not always agree with everything about the University, but this remains *your* Wits and, through the Wits Convocation, you have real influence and a voice at the highest levels of policy-making at the University.

## WITSReview wins award

*WITSReview* has again won the trophy for Best External magazine (smaller budget publications) at the SA Publication Forum’s awards ceremony held in Midrand on 14 September 2012. This is an annual event held to recognise publication excellence in corporate South Africa.

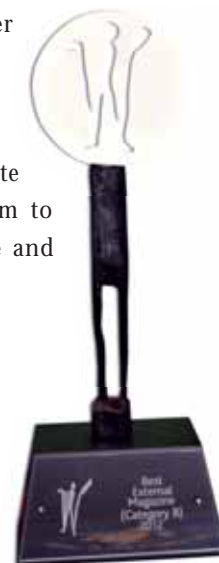
*WITSReview*, which also won the award in 2011, was praised in the assessment report which said the magazine was “unquestionably excellent and

reflected positively on the image of the University.” It went on to say the *WITSReview* was “a high quality and enlightening magazine, with a unique style and personality, beautiful and creative photographs and layout of an extremely high standard.”

These sentiments were also reflected in the results of a recent reader survey where 77% of respondents gave the highest rating of 4 or 5 to the statement, “Does *WITSReview* make you proud to be associated with Wits?”, 80% gave *WITSReview* a maximum rating of 4 or 5 for content, 85% for quality of writing, 81% for design, and 86% for images and photography. Some negative comments were that the magazine is not critical enough and is too concerned with being politically correct.

We remain committed to continual improvement and, together with our newsletter, *The Edge* (which was second runner up in the best electronic publication category) and our website ([www.wits.ac.za/alumni](http://www.wits.ac.za/alumni)) aim to always keep you up-to-date and connected to Wits!

Peter Maher  
**Director: Alumni Relations**



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

**Cover:** A winter wonderland on the library lawns at Wits on 7 August 2012. Photo by Peter Maher



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](mailto:alumni@wits.ac.za)

## WITSReview

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*Kudos to athletes: Around 2000 Joburgers and Witsies completed the second Wits road race, supported by Wits mascot, Kudos Kudu (centre).*

## Joburgers, Wits Alumni and Varsity Kudus hoof it through Parktown

More than 2 000 Joburgers ran the second annual Wits road race from Wits University on Sunday 29 July.

Athletes took to the streets in beautifully balmy winter weather to tackle the 21km and 10km races through Parktown and Westcliff.

A few hundred people completed the 5km Wits intra-campus fun run.

Varsity Kudus and Wits Alumni Relations host the race, which features on the Central Gauteng Athletics calendar.

“The route is relatively tough, starting on Wits West Campus with a long climb up through Parktown to Westcliff - which the 21km runners had to do twice!” said race organiser, Varsity Kudu and Wits alumna Heather Kennedy. “The rest of the route took the

runners out through Parkview and back to Wits.”

A festive carnival atmosphere prevailed at the revamped Wits Alumni Club, where the post-race prize-giving ceremony and an informal braai took place.

Alumni Relations Director Peter Maher said, “It’s encouraging that so many Joburgers participated. This strengthens Wits’ relationship with residents and reinforces the ‘town and gown’ role that Wits plays as an institution in the city and for the city.”

Derocious Makhobalo won the men’s 21km in a time of 1:07:06 and Sarah Mahlangu won the women’s 21km in 1:34:48.

Sibusiso Madiluzela won the men’s 10km in a time of 31:51 and Andronica Mokgotla won the women’s 10km in 41:03.



Alumni reunions in (clockwise from top left) Houston, Sydney, New York City and Austin, Texas.

## Reunions in America and Australia

Hundreds of alumni reunited at dinners and cocktail events held in various cities in America and Australia in July and August 2012.

The Director of Alumni Relations, Peter Maher, addressed reunions in Atlanta, Dallas, Austin, Houston, and New York City from 13-29 July and the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Loyiso Nongxa, hosted reunions in Perth, Sydney and Melbourne from 13-15 August.

In New York, the reunion took place at the SA Consulate where the Consul-General, George Monyemangene (MM 1998) welcomed guests and the Chairperson of the Wits Fund Inc in New York, Stan Bergman (BCom 1972) delivered an address.

In Melbourne, Philip Mayers (BA 1970, LLB 1973) welcomed guests, Rhodes Scholar, Graham Craig

(BSc Eng 1972, MSc Min Eng 1986) reflected on being in the student leadership on campus in the turbulent seventies and Andy Schmulow (BA 1992, BA Hons 1993, LLB 1997) delivered an entertaining vote of thanks. In Sydney, the reunion was held at the spectacular and iconic Sydney Opera House complex.

Dr Alan Menter (MBBCh 1966), Dr Alan Levy (MBBCh 1963) and Professor Martin Colman (MBBCh 1964, MMed 1970) were the respective convenors in Dallas, Austin and Houston.

Many guests expressed an interest in convening regular alumni networking opportunities in their districts and the University will continue to expand its overseas alumni programme to other cities in the USA and Australia, as well as in the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand.



### Phillip Tobias

Dear Editor,

As my mentor for both my undergraduate and graduate education, Phillip Tobias served as the epitome of attainment in his fields of expertise and was a guiding light for my own academic career. His humanitarian activities in fighting for equality in education made him the outstanding anti-apartheid activist that earned him accolades in his native country and around the world. The numerous awards and honorary degrees bestowed upon him by universities and academic societies exemplified the highest esteem in which he was held. His incredible output of scientific publications placed him among the world's leading palaeoanthropologists and an exemplar of outstanding scholarship, placing Wits in the forefront of his field.

His close association with me throughout my 60 years of contact with him, resulting in his writing Forewords to my books, and my Festschrift "From Apes to Angels" in his honour was cemented by his bequeathing to me dedicated books from his estate. This bond is now broken and for which I am deeply saddened. His name will live on in his works, with which I am proud to have been associated. May he rest in peace.

Prof. Emeritus G H Sperber  
(BSc Hons, BDS, PhD, MSc) Edmonton, Canada

### Wits activists

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to see again the three photos from the *Transvaler* of myself, Max and Richard on page 31 of the latest (July 2012) *WITSReview* (in full oratorical flight in front of a packed Great Hall!). Do you know this was the lead article that day and the photos were prominently across the top of the *Transvaler* front page, a stalwart Nationalist Party paper (we never worked out why - the article was accurate and factual in terms of what we said - so you could say almost sympathetic). This was considered a very courageous situation as the three of us had just been released from detention a week or so earlier and we held this meeting in defiance of state intimidation where the three of us spoke as recently released detainees. At that time it was extremely unusual to come out of detention and almost immediately go public with the experience of what had happened (only Witsies could be so bloody-mindedly brave and defiant). The article doesn't mention that I was one of the detainees, but I was at the time General-Secretary of NUSAS and the person in charge of the campaign that got us all detained - namely the first anniversary and commemoration of June 16! I can tell you that mine was the most militant speech. We were pretty scared of being re-detained so we all bolted immediately the event concluded by the back door of the Great Hall and very swiftly left campus.

Prof. Patrick FitzGerald (BA 1976), Johannesburg

# Winter Wonderland

Shrieks of fun during class-time, snowball fights on the library lawns and even an attempt at building a miniature snowman on the Walter Milton Oval. These were some of the unusual scenes at Wits on 7 August 2012 as a few bouts of snowfall transformed the campus into a white winter wonderland.





Photos by Peter Maher





Photo Credit : Greatstock/Blend Images

# *Flexible, affordable, fun:* why Wits **part-time** studies are the perfect fit

*By Camilla Bath*

University education is about more than theses, essays and exams. It's about people: learning from them; interacting with them; growing alongside them. Wits University's part-time programmes give students the opportunity to learn from each other's practical, on-the-job experience while simultaneously delving into the academic theory that forms the foundation of what they do. Part-time studies are also the perfect way to learn something entirely new, be it for work purposes or personal enrichment.

---

## Flexible Study

People striving to succeed in today's working world face more challenges than ever before.

In order to keep ahead of their competitors, professionals must constantly embrace new developments, technologies and ways of thinking. Time is often tight because of work, family and social commitments, leaving little scope for professional development, yet anyone who clings to out-dated methods and knowledge risks falling behind.

and small classes, with career-directed curricula and lectures brimming with in-the-field knowledge. Many of the courses recognise prior learning and work experience - meaning they are geared towards people sharing their skills and knowledge of their work environments. Students are able to capitalise on the practical experience gained by their classmates and receive better support than they would via a distance-learning university.



The Wits Plus Centre for Part-time Studies.

*Part-time degrees, courses and certificates are perfectly suited to the mature professional who simply can't study full time.*

The University of the Witwatersrand offers a contemporary solution to this modern problem. Part-time degrees, courses and certificates are perfectly suited to the mature professional who simply can't study full time. These courses are far more interactive than traditional correspondence courses and are presented by the best lecturers Wits has to offer. The part-time programmes represent the best possible combination of distance and campus learning.

The University offers flexible, affordable and internationally recognised studies through its flagship Wits Plus programme, as well as Wits Enterprise, its Business and Language Schools and the Graduate School of Public and Development Management (GSP&DM). The programmes boast expert lecturers

Wits Plus Director Dr Johan Swanepoel says lecturers and students embrace the idea of being able to interact with one another: "Working with mature students has the advantage of their being able to relate the theory they learn in the classroom to the practical world of work. It becomes a mutually beneficial process, rather than the typical one-way lecturing mode you find in undergraduate classes."

Another major draw card of part-time studies is that students are guided through the course material by an experienced lecturer, rather than being left to struggle through it in isolation. They can also decide when and what they study, attending lectures in the evening or on Saturday mornings and cherry-picking relevant courses from a wide range of options.

### So what's on offer?

There's a fascinating array of subjects to choose from under the Wits part-time umbrella. The Wits Plus programme offers Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) degrees, as well as certificate courses covering relevant topics such as project management, logistics and supply chain management, labour relations, general management, HR management, marketing, and even specialised courses for the music industry.

Wits Enterprise has a strong focus on the practical work world, listing around 70 short courses related to fields ranging from mining to metalwork and even accredited jewellery courses. The Wits Business School offers the much-coveted MBA qualification, as well as a host of short courses, Masters degrees and PhDs tailored for the modern business person, while the Language School caters for part-time students interested in learning African, Asian and European languages. It also offers the sought-after TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) qualification on an after-hours basis.

The Graduate School of Public and Development Management offers even more certificate programmes and degrees as part of its mission to provide "quality management education for leaders and decision-makers".

### Why part-time?

People choose part-time studies for a range of reasons. For some it's about obtaining a qualification they didn't have the time or money to pursue when they were fresh out of school. Others want to

further their careers or add valuable skills to their repertoires. Many are simply keen to broaden their own knowledge and understanding of the world.

Renee Hoon is an enterprise content management specialist at South African fuel giant Sasol. A young mother and wife, she started her studies at the age of 35, having never attended university. In 2011, she completed her Bachelor of Arts degree through Wits, majoring in psychology and management. Hoon remembers her first few months as a student as being completely overwhelming, but quickly adds that the experience changed her life: "I loved the interaction, coming to classes [and] speaking to the lecturers. It was very time-consuming, but the lectures were of immense value."

Hoon's choice to apply to Wits was motivated by work; she needed to begin her studies in order to be considered for a job opportunity at Sasol. Hoon readily admits she didn't excel at school and had never expected to be able to study further. Thus the prestige of attending courses at the University was of great personal significance to her. "It's amazing that it's so within one's reach," she says. "When I sat down to write an exam in the Great Hall for the first time, I literally felt like crying because it was so momentous for me. It was such an honour to be allowed to do that."

IT specialist Kosheik Chiba, 33, completed his BCom degree through Wits Plus, but his reasons for studying were slightly different: "I did it because I did not have the opportunity when I left school. So for me, it was all about personal enrichment and being challenged."

### Seeing it through

For many of Wits' part-time students, their studies are their first foray into the world of academics. Initially, this unfamiliar territory can seem daunting. After a long day at work or with family, it can also be difficult to stay motivated and focused. "A lot of people see this huge mountain that's going to take forever to climb," says Hoon, who took six years to complete her degree. "They think it will take up all this time. But if you just get past that, it's amazing how quickly the time goes."

Raymond Aitchison, 31, agrees it's tough to take on the extra workload of part-time studies as a professional, but he believes it's worth the effort. "Sometimes it felt like I had two jobs and lots to worry about, but I would not have made it through if I hadn't had the weekly lectures to keep me focused." The demands imposed by part-time studies can be high, especially if you're working or raising a family

at the same time. Lectures take place on a weekly basis and assignments, essays and exams are a basic ingredient of most courses. However, many find that the more structured nature of these courses can be of great benefit.

Chiba explains that one of his main reasons for choosing Wits' part-time programme was the fact that he knew he would be attending lectures: "I find [lectures] easier than studying via correspondence because you know that you need to attend them. It's much easier to keep focus; with normal correspondence, it's just too easy to say to yourself, 'I'll do it tomorrow'." Chiba had tried to study via correspondence before choosing Wits Plus, but he didn't always have the discipline to put in the time needed to complete his courses. "Then when it comes to exam time, it's too late," he says ruefully.

*“They think it will take up all this time. But if you just get past that, it’s amazing how quickly the time goes.”*



Less than two years after obtaining her undergraduate degree, Hoon is hitting the books again in 2012. Only this time, she's studying for a Masters degree via correspondence - an experience she says is not as rewarding: "It's actually horrible. You don't have any resources and there's no one to quickly phone and ask for help. I also miss all the other students. I really think it's a lot easier to study part-time through Wits than to do it through correspondence." Hoon says she enjoyed her experience at Wits so much, she plans to return once she's completed her current studies.

### A family affair

Because of the level of commitment required to complete courses, certificates and degrees, support from family and friends is invaluable to part-time students. The process involves sacrifices from all sides. BA graduate Julie Koekemoer says she couldn't have completed her degree in 2011 without the understanding and support of her family: "Even though they didn't always grasp the pressures and context of my studies, they were all extraordinarily supportive - even when they saw very little of me at times."

Koekemoer is also planning to study further and says while her family doesn't always approve of her having to "disappear for long periods of time" when she has university deadlines, they are still encouraging her to go for it.

Chiba and Hoon had similar experiences of sacrifice during their time at Wits. "When other people were going away for weekends, I had to hand in assignments," remembers Hoon. Chiba also recalls having

to make difficult choices: "It's a big challenge. You have to try to balance it. Sometimes it was easy, but there were times when I had to miss events or spend less time with my friends and family."

But once students (and their families) get through the initial period of adjustment to their workload, many embrace their new academic lifestyles. "We find that once our students have successfully survived and completed their first year, the success rate is quite high," says Swanepoel. "For many of them this is their last chance to get an academic qualification - even if it takes several years to do so." Numerous Wits Plus students will remain motivated even after they complete their studies, often signing up for another course.

Far from being a last-chance saloon, Wits offers a fresh start to those who want to further their studies later on in their lives and careers. The University's extensive part-time programmes are a perfect fit for mature professionals who want to broaden their horizons. Wits knows and understands the pressures that part-time students can find themselves under at work, at home and financially, and so its part-time study options are carefully balanced and tailored to provide an academic experience that is truly flexible, affordable and fun.

For more information on part-time studies, please visit [www.wits.ac.za](http://www.wits.ac.za)



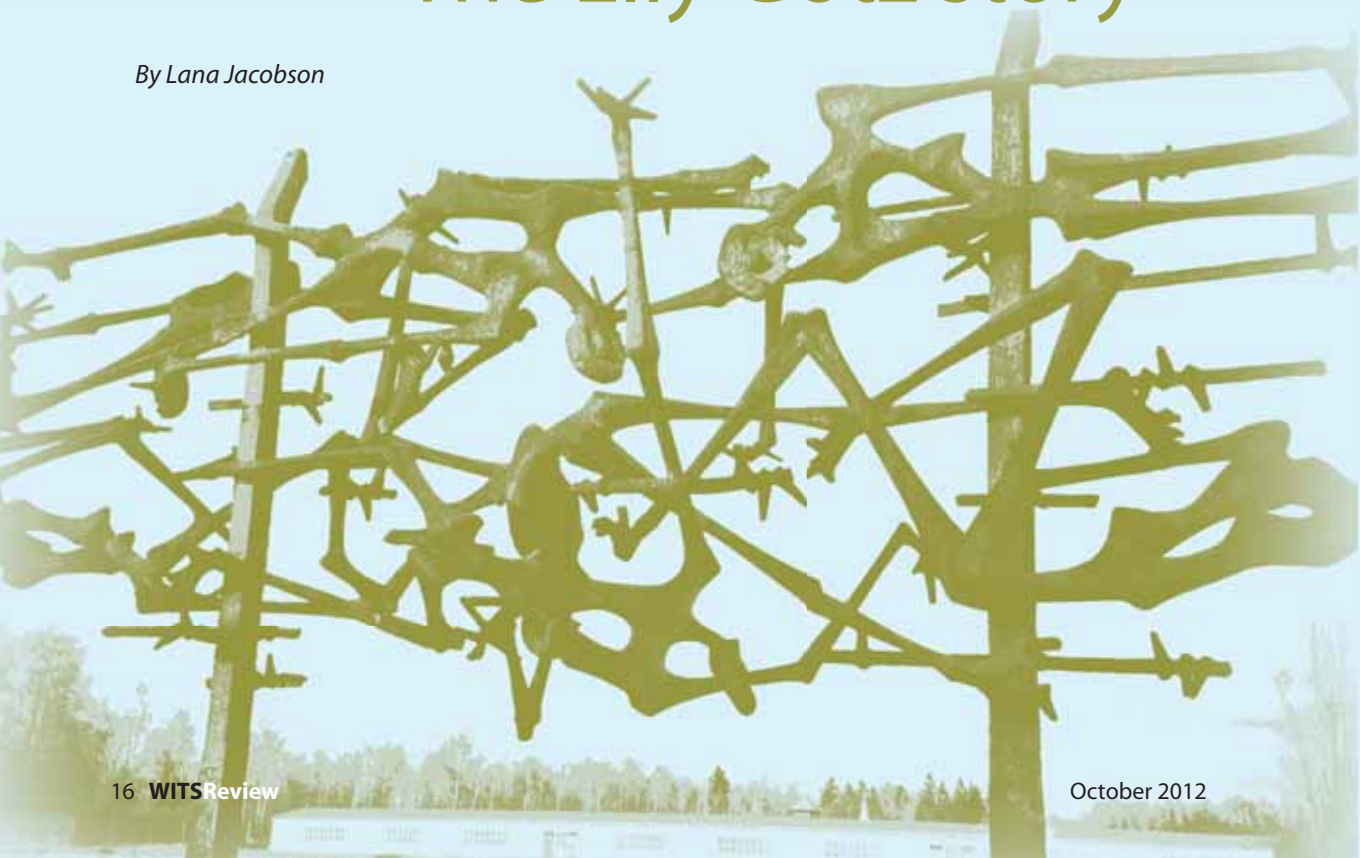
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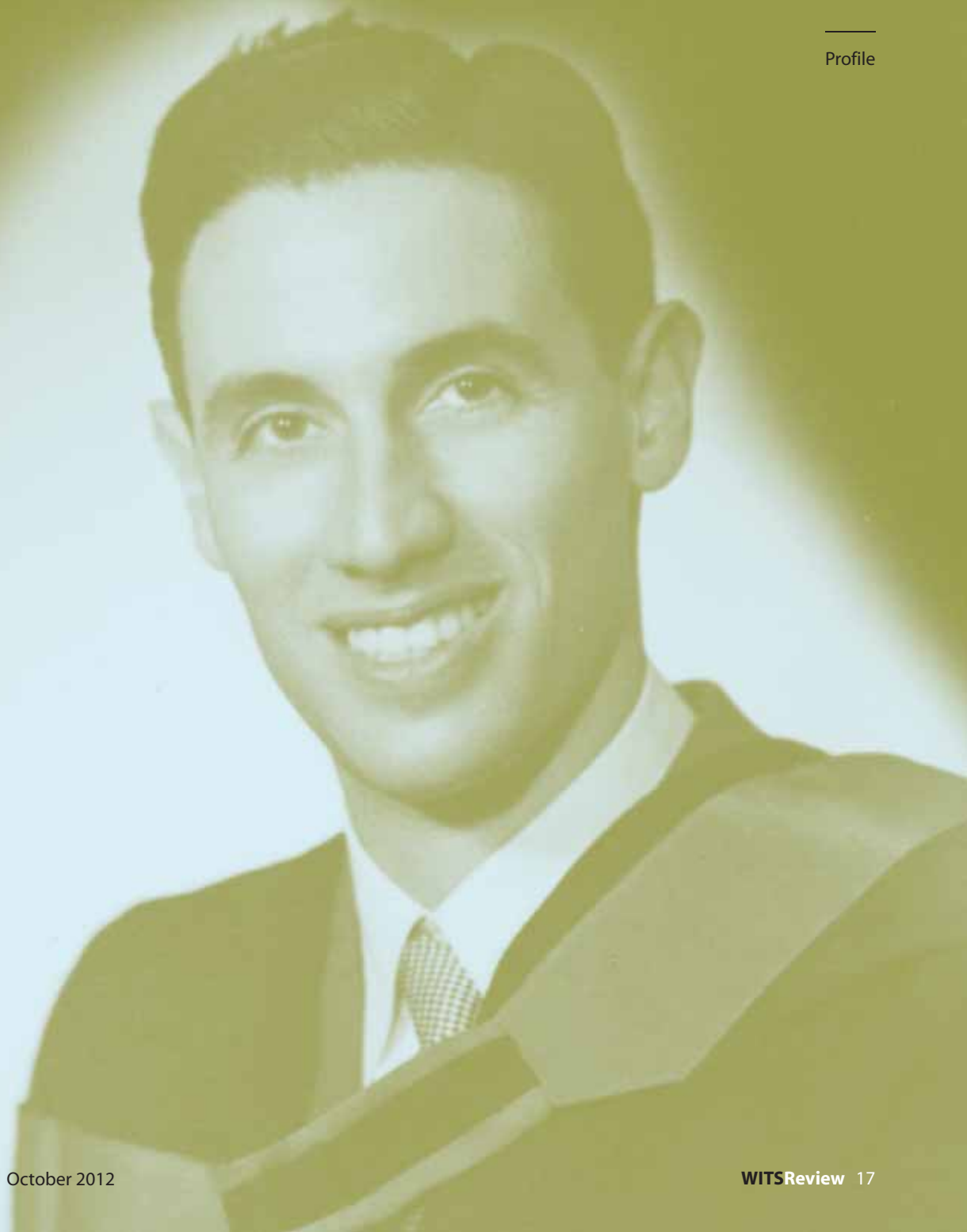
Elly Gotz

# From Dachau to Wits

The Elly Gotz story

*By Lana Jacobson*





There's a sea of faces before him: 125 school children of every colour, united in the Wits SA Institute of International Affairs auditorium.

**E**lly Gotz is on a tour of South Africa as a guest of the United Nations and the South African Holocaust and Genocide Foundation, addressing school children, academics, NGOs, museums and members of the diplomatic corps.

Today's talk is "Returning to Dachau after 65 years". As a Holocaust survivor, Gotz was recently invited by the German government to visit the mass grave site of people who died at Dachau, the Nazi concentration camp.

He begins, "I am not here to tell you a tough story about survival, but rather to explain how vital it is to learn tolerance of others. Most humans are prejudiced against cultures different from their own. But we must overcome this type of ignorance. I will demonstrate how easily humans can create genocide, especially in difficult times - people can be hypnotised by a leader who speaks well. I urge you all to be aware, and always vote against a government that allows and encourages discrimination and hatred.

"We have to understand that hatred of others is not a way to advance oneself. We can achieve remarkable feats, we can fulfil our dreams, or we can achieve murder. Everybody said it could never happen again after Hitler's Holocaust of the Jews. It does, time and again. It happened in Rwanda, Sudan, Yugoslavia and Cambodia."

His mind goes back six decades ... He is a 20-year-old refugee on a student visa at Wits, studying electrical engineering. He is building a float for the impending RAG carnival. He smiles to himself. Back then, the University was abuzz about RAG. At first he didn't know what they were on about. To the sombre foreign student, grappling with a foreign language and country, it took some explaining before he understood that RAG was the annual Wits carnival, a highlight of every student's University career, and not a fuss about a piece of cloth as he literally translated it. His technical expertise was needed to help construct a huge float called Dreams in the Clouds.

He remembers building castle shapes, using lots of cotton wool for clouds, and wearing a Spanish shirt.

Life is bittersweet. Behind the heady days at Wits lay nightmares of torture he had endured.

He was born in Lithuania in 1928, the son of Julius and Sonja Gotz, an accountant and surgical nurse respectively. The family enjoyed a cultural life. At that time, the city of Kaunas where they lived hosted opera, theatre and art, and many people spoke Yiddish, Russian, German and Lithuanian.

Gotz was 13, and remembers harbouring dreams to fly an aeroplane and become an engineer. He had his uniform ready and was prepared to begin high school when Germany invaded Poland. As tanks rolled through the cities, all Jews were told to wear a yellow star and forced to walk only in the gutters, never on a pavement.

They were rounded up and forced into ghettos; a family of four lived in one small room.

‘ I am not here to tell you a tough story about survival, but rather to explain how vital it is to **learn tolerance** of others. Most humans are prejudiced against cultures different from their own. ’



“We had to hand over all valuables, including rings, cameras, art and books, of which the Germans kept strict records. But my father managed to sneak a pile of books into a space in the ceiling,” Gotz tells his audience.

On 29 October 1941, 28 000 people were rounded up in a field in Kaunas. Ten thousand were randomly selected, marched to the prison called Fort 9 and shot. Their bodies were buried in pits.

Gotz’s best friend and his friend’s entire family were shot in the back of their heads.

For Gotz, life settled in the ghetto. Children aged 12-15 attended trade schools, and from the age of 15 everybody was put to slave labour for 12 hours each day.

With Gotz’s love of electronics he chose metalwork and blacksmith classes, trades which later saved his life. He became an instructor a year later.

Between classes, when the weather was warm, he would remove the slats in the roof where the books were hoarded. “I read all the German and Russian classics, and became fluent in both languages. To this day I know Pushkin off by heart. I loved Dostoevsky ... Tolstoy.” This became his high school education.

By 1944, there were only 8 000 survivors and they were told the ghetto was being liquidated.

To the Gotz family this meant certain death, so they hid in a basement room, covering the entrance with a cupboard. They made a pact: if discovered by the Germans they would commit suicide. Sonja neatly laid out syringes she had stolen and a formula which when injected immediately stopped the heart. These she had stolen from the hospital where she worked.

After three days without food or water, the family heard soldiers come down the stairs and kick in the coal shed door and the door of the room opposite.

6 **My own freedom was tinged with sadness and guilt.** I knew how cruel and misguided prejudice is. The injustice affected me very badly. 9

“There is nobody here,” they said, and passed on by.

After five days, the family crept out slowly to witness the Jews being marched towards a train. The Germans were relocating them to Dachau. The Gotz family joined the queue, where women and girls were separated, dispersed and relocated elsewhere, where indescribable horrors awaited them.

The carriages were so crowded that people lay on top of one another, and they were given no food or water. One after another during the four-day journey they died.

In Dachau, the survivors subsisted; 60 000 crammed into a camp equipped to accommodate 24 000 people, 50 to a room.

Inmates were given striped pyjamas and put to manual labour building a giant underground factory for bomber planes. They were given a slice of bread and a small bowl of soup daily. Hunger occupied their every moment, day and night.

His technical training earned Gotz an inside job working at the pumps, with his father as his assistant. Most of the outdoor labourers died of cold, hunger and exhaustion.

Every day the barracks were littered with more dead bodies; men dying of disease and starvation.

Lice ate at them, typhus raged, there were no bathing facilities, indeed no water with which to wash. The outside taps were frozen.

Gotz’s father lay on a bed where the last inhabitant had just died. He was too weak to get up and queue for his slice of bread. Miraculously, at that moment a cry of liberation arose. “The Americans are here!”

When Gotz told his father the news, the only response he could muster was a weak whisper. “Have you got the bread for me?”

Seventeen years old, six feet tall (1.8m) and weighing 70 pounds (32kg), Gotz was hospitalised together with his comatose father for six months and nursed to recovery.

Eventually, they traced Sonja, miraculously alive, having survived surgery for an abdominal wound sustained in a bomb attack.

Free, healthy and living in a displaced persons camp in Germany, Gotz was taught radio repairs and became a radio technician.

Determined to become an electrical engineer, he saved parcels of food given to survivors by the United Nations and sold them to pay for University fees.

He applied to Munich University, wrote a complicated entry exam and passed.

The family desperately wanted to leave Germany, but where could they go? The British would not allow Jews into Palestine. Canada’s and America’s doors were closed. However, the Norwegians took in 900 Jews, including the Gotz family.

It took Elly three months to learn Norwegian, while he worked as a radio technician by day and studied for his matric by night.

Elly's father had a wealthy relative in South Africa, who urged them to come so that he could help fund Elly's schooling. At the time Jan Smuts, then Prime Minister, said, "They will crucify me in Parliament if I let in even one Jew to South Africa."

Gotz tells his spellbound audience, "So my family ended up in Zimbabwe (then named Rhodesia). I was 19 years old and had to learn English and write my matric, which I managed within a year. Maths and physics were easy, but English was more challenging.

"I applied for and was granted a student's visa for South Africa to study engineering at Wits University in 1949. I finally got my wish to study electrical engineering.

"Everything was a wonder. I thought the Wits campus was huge, but when I toured the grounds today, I realise by comparison how small it must have been back then.

"But, even though apartheid was not yet enforced by law, South Africa was virulently racist at that time. My own freedom was tinged with sadness and guilt. I knew how cruel and misguided prejudice is. The injustice affected me very badly. I protested as much as I could, but I was on a visa; I had to ensure I was not expelled - that I graduated as an electrical engineer.

"In 1953 I graduated, returned to Zimbabwe and worked in the battery radio industry, which was very

profitable. After marrying Esme, my South African wife, I went into electronic plastic welding. We had three children and decided, together with Esme's entire family, to emigrate to Canada in 1964 due to the unacceptable political situation.

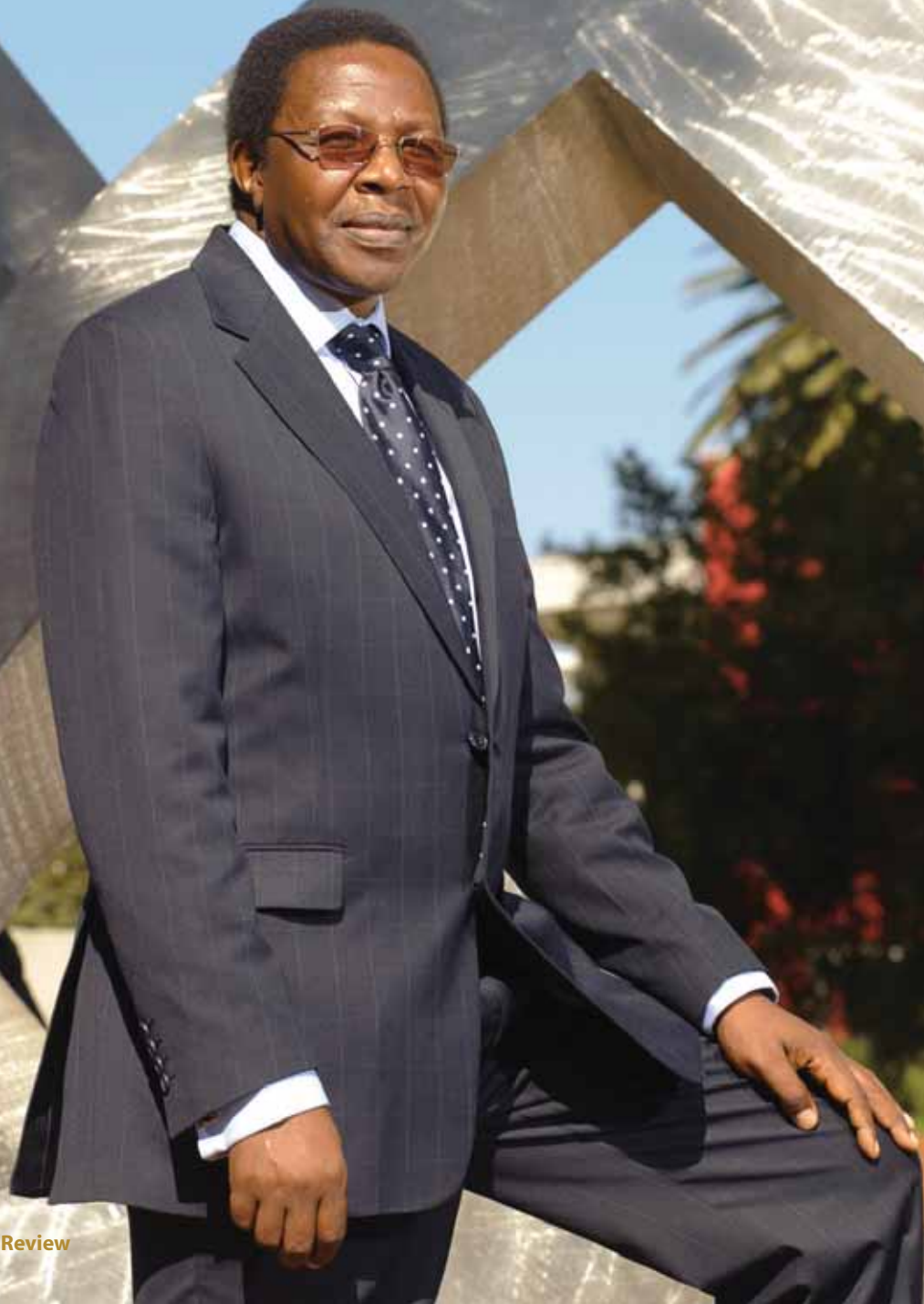
"My engineering degree was perfect for my future business career in North America, where we, with other family members, began a plastics manufacturing company, which over the years became very successful with a second factory in Chicago."

Gotz managed to fulfil his desire to fly an aeroplane, became the pilot of his own small plane, and later earned glider pilot wings. "Gliding is the poetry of flight," he says.

"I started to speak on the Holocaust to schools and universities with the objective of teaching political awareness.

"Wits is a magnificent institution; almost an entire academic city, with well kept parks and beautiful art exhibitions. I visited Wits Engineering Faculty and was overwhelmed by all the buildings. To think that I graduated without ever using a computer now seems amazing. I remember on the last lesson before graduation, Professor GR Bozzoli, my mentor and hero, apologised that we had learned nothing about transistors, which had been invented a short time before the new age of computers."

Imbued with a sense of pride, he thinks: "Today South Africa is a nonracial, democratic country, how I always imagined it should be. I have come full circle, and life couldn't be more perfect."



In February this year Professor **Nqosa Mahao** took up his post as the Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management at Wits. Prior to this he was Executive Dean of the College of Law at the University of South Africa (UNISA). He talks to Heather Dugmore.

# Getting past differences

“**G**oing to Scotland to do my Masters in Law at the University of Edinburgh was one of the best choices I ever made in my life,” says Professor Nqosa Mahao, who is originally from Lesotho and has a PhD from the University of the Western Cape.

“That Scottish experience turned a young boy who grew up in a village in a small country in Africa into someone with a global outlook who is self-reliant and far more broad-minded on a whole range of issues. It goes without saying that I suffered a bit of a culture shock at first because it was such a different environment from what I knew, with people from so many cultures and subcultures,” he explains.

Coming from a conservative African society, his eyes were opened, among other things, to women behaving in a far more liberated fashion. “Where I come from you wouldn’t find a woman walking alone at night to a pub as a matter of course, whereas

in Scotland women feel free to do this and to talk to whoever is there.”

Another culture shock for the young Mahao was to see gay and lesbian meetings being held openly, with everyone welcome to attend. “You’re taken aback at first, but then you process it and you realise it’s simply a different side of life.”

He learnt yet another side of life from one of his supervisors in the Law Faculty, Zenon Bankowski, a self-proclaimed anarchist. “I was always on the radical side of politics but I never imagined that anyone would proudly proclaim himself to be an anarchist, particularly in law, because it goes against the very notion of conventional law. But there was Zenon Bankowski, an extremely intelligent guy in the Law Department, having written highly insightful books on the subject. The whole experience was so uplifting,” says Mahao.

Unbeknown to him, Bankowski was known to Lesotho's late King Moshoeshoe II, who studied law, philosophy and political science. What would a king and an anarchist have in common? Mahao discovered on his return home.

"When I completed my Masters I was invited to the royal palace in Lesotho to present a paper and I had occasion to speak to King Moshoeshoe II. Zenon had told me that a gentleman once visited him who had mentioned he was the King of Lesotho. I wanted to know if this was true and King Moshoeshoe II confirmed it. He told me he had read Zenon's books and that he had travelled to Scotland to meet him out of curiosity."

Mahao describes King Moshoeshoe II as "intellectually adventurous, a social democrat and a difficult, learned man on the left of the political spectrum, which is an unusual place for a king." His reign ended in 1996 when he was killed in a road accident. He was succeeded by his son, King Letsie III, who is currently reigning and who did his undergraduate degree at the University of Lesotho at the same time as Mahao.

Mahao also met his South African wife Pumela Xundu there. "Thousands of students came from South Africa to study at the University of Lesotho in those days. It was a small but cosmopolitan university, and several well-known South Africans studied there, including Tito Mboweni and Njabulo Ndebele."

Mahao became head of the Department of Public Law at the University of Lesotho in 1996, Dean of the Faculty from 1999 to 2001 and Pro

Vice-Chancellor in 2000. He was subsequently appointed Executive Dean of the Faculty of Law at the Mafikeng campus of the North West University. His UNISA post followed.

During 2004 and 2005 he did a postgraduate diploma in conciliation and arbitration through a cohort of universities, including Cape Town, Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

"The programme was funded by the International Labour Organisation and the Swiss government. Its aim was to introduce mechanisms similar to South Africa's CCMA dispute resolution system (introduced in 1994) to the rest of southern Africa, including Botswana and Swaziland," explains Mahao, who helped set up the cohort when he was Dean of Law at the University of Lesotho, in collaboration with the Deans of Law at the Universities of Cape Town and Namibia.

A proponent of equity in the courts, he explains that these dispute resolution mechanisms do not give primacy to technicalities, as frequently happens in the conventional courts. "They're aimed at getting directly to the heart of issues and expediting resolutions to avoid long and costly court cases. They are also accessible to ordinary workers as they don't pay for the service."

Mahao is well suited to Wits, which, as he says, "prides itself on being a liberal institution". At the same time he recognises this brings with it certain difficulties when getting people to follow a vision "because everyone has to buy into your vision, which can make it far more difficult and time-consuming to manage".



As Dean I will be emphasising the **culture of research** throughout the five schools in my Faculty and strengthening our competitive research edge. ”

Part of Mahao’s vision as the new Dean is to help address the crisis in higher education in South Africa and the rest of Africa. He terms it “the crisis of relevance of education and that of the aging cohort of knowledge producers”.

“As Dean I will be emphasising the culture of research throughout the five schools in my Faculty and strengthening our competitive research edge. In this office I am not an academic, I am a business person. The more PhDs, postgraduate programmes and publications we have, the better it is for our international rankings and the overall quality of education at Wits.”

It is of concern to Mahao that much of the research being produced is by older academics, from 50 to retirement age. “There was a hiatus period when South African universities were not sufficiently nurturing academics to become good researchers. Hence the old guard is producing much of the research, and, as they start exiting the system, we need to ensure the baton is passed to the younger generation.”

Mahao also believes the current retirement age at Wits of 65 may need to be reviewed and extended. “We cannot afford to lose the intellectual production and memory of our older academics,” says Mahao, who recommended that the retirement age at the University of Lesotho be extended to age 70 while he was Pro Vice-Chancellor there. It was accepted.

Adding to this challenge, the Faculty at Wits has had a high turnover of deans and heads of schools in the past 10 years, which has affected continuity.

“Do you think these books will help you study medicine?” she asked. I shook my head and she said, ‘Then you know what you need to do.’”



“We need to get out of this mode and develop a stable leadership that can take a hard look at what needs to be changed.”

At 55 he has demonstrated his dedication to his profession, and fulfilled his late father’s wish that he should make a career in law.

“It’s curious how these things turn out,” says Mahao, whose son Mahao Mahao (18) is currently studying law at Rhodes University. “I didn’t want to put any pressure on him to study law, but that is what he has chosen, whereas when I was his age I didn’t have a choice. From the age of seven my father told me I would be a lawyer because I would always deliberately play the contrarian. He was convinced that I was far too argumentative to work for any employer.”

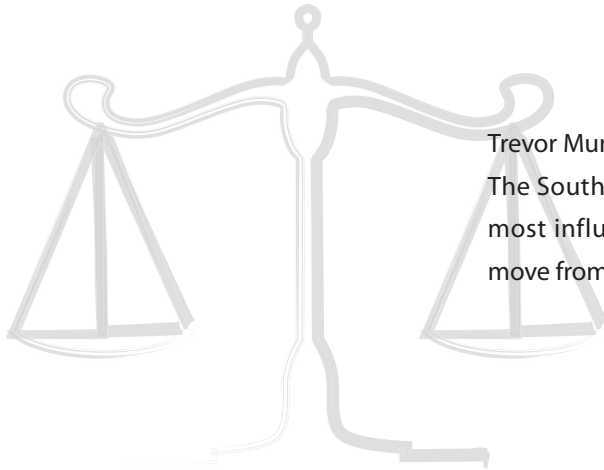
By the time Mahao got to university his father had passed away and he told his mother that he intended to study medicine. “At that point she led me to a large metal trunk in our home and told me to open it,” he recalls. “In the trunk was a pile of law books that my father had bought for me through the years, which my mother had safely stored until I was ready to go to university. ‘Do you think these books will help you study medicine?’ she asked. I shook my head and she said, ‘Then you know what you need to do.’”

The story has great pathos because by the time Mahao enrolled for law the books were outdated. “But I read them anyway and some were very fascinating,” says Mahao, who, with hindsight, is pleased he did law.

“I’ve had a wonderful career because of law and there have been so many serendipitous links. For example, in one of the books on interesting legal stories that my father bought for me, it describes a case where a certain medical doctor, a Dr Smith, had improper relations with his patient and was struck off the roll.

“It fascinated me at the time but I didn’t think about it for years, until it came up again while I was working on a project with a team from the University of Lesotho and the University of Edinburgh. Through the project I met the famous writer Alexander McCall Smith, who is also a professor of medical law, and who invited me to his house for dinner in Edinburgh one evening. During the course of the conversation he told the story of his grandfather, a certain medical doctor, a Dr Smith...”

# Balancing the healthcare scales



Trevor Mundel's new mission is to keep humanity healthy. The South African-born doctor has assumed one of the most influential positions in world health, making the move from big-money pharmaceuticals to philanthropy.

*By Camilla Bath*

**A**s the new President of the Global Health Programme (GHP) at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, he has some of the world's major killers in his sights: HIV and Aids, polio, malaria and tuberculosis.

Mundel, 51, says he hopes to use his role to balance the scales between rich and poor: "My fundamental goal is to address the huge inequalities in global health. Why should a poor child not have the same access to basic healthcare ingredients like vaccines and nutrition as a child from a wealthy family?"

The former head of drug development at Novartis is charged with turning ideas into reality at the world's largest transparently operated private foundation: ploughing funds into research and development to create medicines that will save lives.

He will be working with around 600 organisations and individuals in world health, which rely on billions of dollars in grants from the foundation. On his wish list are a host of new and more affordable drugs and hopefully, one day, a vaccine for malaria.

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Trevor Mundel

Mundel is a qualified physician, mathematician and philosopher, an academic combination that puts him at an advantage in the health sector: “I do believe the study of philosophy can give one a certain balance in decision making and problem solving,” he says. “But even more important to me than philosophy was the insight I gained into dynamical systems via my graduate studies in mathematics.”

These are among the talents that US software billionaire Bill Gates and his wife Melinda are harnessing. “As I started to understand Bill and Melinda’s genuine and deep commitment to fighting polio, rotavirus, and other diseases of the poor, I started getting more and more excited,” says Mundel. “I was humbled by their confidence in me. I was also anxious to get started right away.”



“I was **humbled** by their confidence in me. I was also anxious to get started right away.”

Melinda Gates and Trevor Mundel talk with mothers in the waiting area of ICDDRBs field office, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Image courtesy of ©Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation/Prashant Panjari

The term “dynamical system” refers to a collection of objects that interact with each other over time, according to fixed rules. Mundel sees the GHP itself as a large and complex example of this: “These systems all have a complexity and an unintuitive set of behaviours,” he explains, “and they can be puzzling without a background in mathematics.”

Contractually, Mundel was obliged to wait a few months before being able to move from Novartis, where he had been the company’s Global Head of Development for over three years, between 2008 and 2011. The change in career meant a change in continent for Mundel and his family, from Basel in Switzerland to Seattle in the US.



Trevor Mundel meets with a family outside of Dhaka, Bangladesh, January 2012.  
Image courtesy of ©Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation/Prashant Panjari

6 ...as much as he plans to support South Africa, he is also watching closely to see what solutions the country comes up with by itself. 9

It also meant a shift in focus.

At Novartis, Mundel had overseen scores of clinical projects, translating science into medicine with a reported annual budget of around \$3-billion at his disposal. He and his team were pioneering a rich “pipeline” of profit-driven invention.

One of his proudest achievements was shepherding the development of Gilenya, the world’s first significant treatment for people with multiple sclerosis (a devastating neurological disease) that could be taken orally. He was also pleased with his work on the development of the antibody Ilaris, originally excluded as a treatment for gout: “It’s now used for a rare genetic condition known as CAPs [a group of auto-inflammatory syndromes that can be life-threatening], which probably only directly affects a few thousand families in the world. To me it demonstrated the principle of targeted drug development in the clearest possible way. To contribute to bringing an entirely novel and effective therapy to patients is a rare opportunity.”

Mundel explains that the exercise of putting together an effective drug programme involves many different disciplines and skills, from high science to basic project management and logistics. Add to that the issue

of maintaining the multifunctional teams involved (often for years at a time), and one ends up with a very complex system indeed. Mundel says nursing this kind of process through to a successful conclusion gave him the greatest satisfaction at Novartis: “There is nothing more thrilling than to see one of these complicated beasts gradually winding its way through the labyrinth of obstacles, knowing that it’s headed towards bringing something really beneficial into being.”

As a young student, Mundel had to navigate his own personal labyrinth, initially unsure of which scientific path to follow. Born in Rustenburg and educated in Johannesburg, he started at the University of the Witwatersrand in 1979. He was (and still is) a science fiction fan, tempted by physics and palaeontology, but somehow always conscious of a calling in medicine.

During his first few years at Wits, studying towards a medical degree, Mundel was also inspired by an academic hero. He remembers being struck by the passion and intellect of legendary palaeontologist Phillip Tobias: “He came into the anatomy dissection hall late one night and spent a full 30 minutes with my small dissection group explaining to us the meaning of the single word ‘stereognosis’ [defined as the ability to perceive and understand the form and nature of objects using the sense of touch]. He actually tried to persuade me at the time to divert from medicine into palaeontology. I was almost trapped by that fascinating area after visiting the Sterkfontein caves and meeting experts in the field.”

Four years into his studies, Mundel began an academic adventure that eventually put him on an unconventional path. He proposed and was encouraged to take a sabbatical from medicine, designing what he terms “a most unusual BSc curriculum” in experimental physiology. “I greatly appreciated the openness I found to doing things differently,” he says. “I doubt whether many other institutions would have been as flexible.”

### On the verge of a revolution

Being a student at Wits during the height of apartheid was one of the most intense experiences of Mundel’s life. As the regime moved to stifle the liberation struggle in the 1980s, students and faculty members around him were detained with no explanation: “There was always the sense of being on the verge of a revolution. There was relentless police action around the campus and there were also countless rumours about who was actively involved and who was under suspicion.” As the effects of apartheid manifested in South Africa’s deeply divided society, working in some of the country’s teaching hospitals became increasingly difficult. “The social breakdown and the destruction of family life were most visible to me on those long weekend calls in the chaos of the ER at Baragwanath Hospital [in Soweto],” he recalls.

But Mundel says he also experienced uplifting times at Wits: “The University always had a strong programme in Community Health and the rotation I had was to a small mission hospital. I visited clinics in some of the most remote and impoverished parts of the country and that had a lasting impression on me.”

After a very focused period studying medicine and science at Wits, Mundel decided to push himself further out of his comfort zone, determined to explore a broader range of subjects. He graduated from the University of Oxford in the UK with an MSc in mathematics, philosophy and logic in 1988, having won a Rhodes scholarship to the prestigious institution. He went on to complete his PhD in mathematics at the University of Chicago in 1995.

Three years later, Mundel was appointed Director of Clinical Research at Parke-Davis, a subsidiary of pharmaceuticals giant Pfizer. At the turn of the millennium, the parent company selected him as its head of experimental medicine. Another three years on, Mundel made the leap to Novartis.

His origins in South Africa remain important to him, but he is hesitant to lavish special attention on this country. He believes that, while the contrast between the wealthy and the poor here is “as stark as anywhere”, South Africa has an extensive health and research infrastructure that counts in its favour. It also has many people with skills in crucial areas.

Thus, he says, as much as he plans to support South Africa, he is also watching closely to see what solutions the country comes up with by itself. He’s interested to see if any future solutions might also be of use in other parts of the world.

Mundel’s beginnings have thus also become a part of his end goal in global health: “Seeing this kind of situation first hand can numb you to the terrible injustice of it all,” he says, “or it can motivate you to do something about it. This has been the effect on me.”



(left) A view of the western side of the Yale Telescope building taken sometime in the 1940s. (right) The Yale Telescope building taken on its completion in 1925. (far right) A fisheye image of the Yale telescope taken in 2002 at the Mount Stromlo Observatory site in Australia. This is the telescope housed in the Yale Telescope building at Wits before its transfer to Australia in 1952. Image courtesy of Wikipedia.

# The Yale Telescope Building



Yale Road, together with the M1 motorway, forms the boundary between East and West Campus. Yale Road derives its name from a long-standing association of Wits with Yale University in the field of astronomy. For over 25 years Wits was the location of the Yale Southern Station, an observatory set up for pioneering research into the southern hemisphere's skies. Today the only legacy and reminder of that association is the quirky and utilitarian Yale Telescope building that once housed the station's skilfully engineered 26-inch telescope. The building is one of the earliest on campus, dating from the early 1920s, and a heritage asset.

*By Katherine Munro and Brendan Hart,  
School of Architecture and Planning*

The Yale Telescope building is located within the new built environment precinct of the School of Architecture and Planning and the School of Construction Economics and Management. This precinct comprises the 1959 John Moffat building and its 1980s extension, the new Construction Economics and Management building, designed by Michael Scholes Architects and due for completion later this year, and the Yale Telescope building. The Yale building is protected by the last remaining original eucalyptus trees on campus and forms the slightly awkwardly placed western boundary of the precinct. It now houses workshops and a darkroom with a few academic offices and storage rooms on three narrow floors. There have been alterations through the years, but the building's scientific and historical significance demands appreciation. It awaits restoration and possibly a new purpose.

South Africa's successful bid to host the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), led by Wits physics graduate Dr Bernie Fanaroff, is only the latest example of the scientific world's interest in the opportunities offered by the southern hemisphere. The focus of this article is the story of an earlier era and the important work undertaken by the Yale astronomers who worked at Wits, a story that is better known in the United States than in South Africa.

Until urban development and city lights changed what could be seen in the sky at night, the Highveld was an ideal location for astronomical observation. The Union Observatory, established in 1903 on the koppie that would become the suburb of Observatory, was the centre of southern double

star ('binaries' to astronomers) astronomy. Under the leadership of the astronomer RTA Innes, with a 26½-inch refractor purchased by the Union government as the primary instrument, the observatory's achievements signalled to the world the quality of the research conditions in Johannesburg. It was in this way that the Yale Southern Station came to be located in the Wits University grounds and operated from 1925 to 1952.

“The words “Yale Telescope” were cast into the lintel above the north door. The resultant building is an odd combination of English tradition, American inventive design and South African practical adaptability.”

The Yale Southern Station was the initiative of Frank S. Schlesinger, director of the Yale University Observatory from 1920 to 1941. He was a pioneer in the trigonometric parallax method and the use of photographic plates in astronomy to determine the relative distance of stars from the Earth, and he wanted to extend the parallax survey to the south celestial pole in a special observatory designed for this work.

Schlesinger had first heard about the “unusually promising astronomical conditions” of the Highveld from Sir David Gill, who had been the royal astronomer at the Cape from 1879 to 1906. Through his friendship with Prof. RA Lehfeldt, the first professor of economics at Wits, Schlesinger met the principal of the new university, Sir William Thomson, and



decided to establish the Yale Southern Station on the fledgling Wits campus rather than at the Union Observatory site.

Schlesinger arrived in Johannesburg on 8 February 1925 and ground was broken for the telescope building only 10 days later, on 18 February. Meanwhile the mounting for the instrument was shipped by freighter from New York to Cape Town and then by rail to Johannesburg, a journey of about 11 000 km. The completely assembled telescope was set on its two piers by 20 May 1925. The observatory was opened on 22 June 1925 by the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII), who was coincidentally in Johannesburg during his Empire tour of South Africa.

An article in the *Rand Daily Mail* (23 February 1925) reported that the telescope would only partially be used by students but it was hoped that the Yale

observers would act at lecturers. Wits Council chairman Sir William Dalrymple commented, “[W]e believe it is a great thing to bring the Yale University and the Witwatersrand University into touch and co-operation.”

The Yale Telescope building was described in some detail by Schlesinger. The building is 48 feet (15 metres) long (in the north and south direction) by 18 feet (5.5 metres) wide (in the east-west direction). The total height is 46 feet (14 metres). The telescope was to be used only in or near the meridian or line of longitude and therefore did not need a manoeuvrable dome typical of an observatory. Access to the sky is obtained by a double pitched roof that slides away in two halves from a central peak, one half to the north and the other to the south, on a pair of iron trestles. This wide opening of the roof enabled pointings of the telescope to be made from 55 degrees north to 55 degrees south. Wide

double doors on the first floor opened outwards to the north and south, allowing the telescope to reach greater zenith distances and extending the possible observations to 76 degrees to the north and the south. The sensitivity of the instruments inside meant that the climate in the building needed to be controlled. There are windows on the east side of the building only; the lack of windows on the west is to prevent penetration of afternoon sunlight and the heating of the telescope. The line of Eucalyptus trees (planted circa 1920) added further protection against the sun. Today only two of these original trees remain.

The design of the building was a case of form following function. The pitch of the roof enabled it to slide open. The structure of external walls was made of off-shutter concrete columns and beams with buttresses to the east and west adding additional strength. The interior walls were lined with raw brickwork with an air cavity (for climate control) and then an external skin of rectangular precast cement blocks cast on site by Barrows Construction, designed to resemble ashlar Portland stone, which was fashionable at the time in Regency towns such as Bath or Cheltenham in England. Similar blocks were being made for the Great Hall, which was also being built at the time. The words "Yale Telescope" were cast into the lintel above the north door. The resultant building is an odd combination of English tradition, American inventive design and South African practical adaptability. The speed of construction, the practical utilitarian design and coincidental choice of materials suggests that no architect was involved. The design was probably imported by

Schlesinger. He said it was economical and efficient.

The Wits Council committed itself to the construction of a single-storey residence, offices and photographic workshop for the director of the Yale Southern Station. This was about 20 metres east of the telescope building. The architects of this small house were Cowin and Williamson. The Council minutes for 1925 record an expenditure of £2 416.10.0 for the building, which was within the £2 500 budget. This home-cum-working space served, after the closure of the observatory, as the home of the Wits Music Department in the 1960s and 1970s before becoming the postgraduate club. It was unfortunately demolished in the 1980s to make way for the John Moffat Extension, designed by Herbert Prins. It was only through Prins's insistence that the Yale Telescope building itself was saved. The building was by that stage the home of Revel Mason's archaeological research unit, contributing to another pioneering scientific research project.

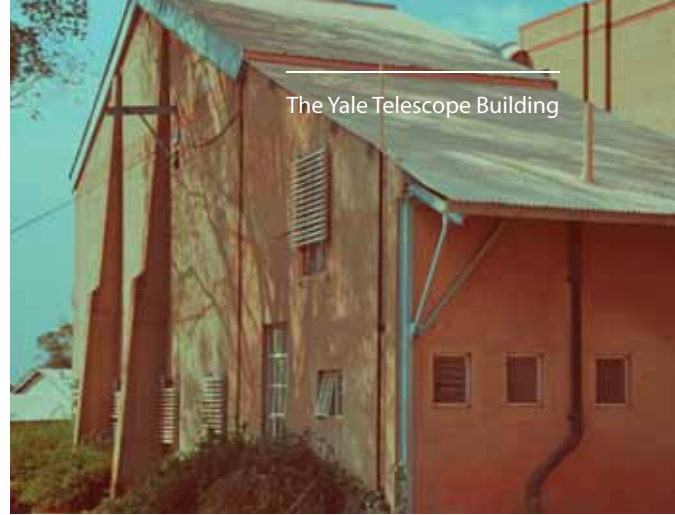
The location of the astronomy research station was a fairly remote, quiet, undeveloped corner of the campus in the 1920s. Yale Road was then an unnamed perimeter road on the eastern edge of the Agricultural Society's show grounds. The gum trees lining the road offered welcome shade and parking off the thoroughfare that linked Parktown West and Braamfontein, connecting the then newly surveyed Empire Road to the north with the Show-ground Road (now Enoch Sontonga Drive) and Jorissen Street to the south. It was on Schlesinger's suggestion that it was named Yale Road.

In 1925 the American astronomer Harold Alden

(1890-1964) accepted the post of astronomer and director at the Yale Southern Station. He and Schlesinger spent a month testing the optical and mechanical parts of the telescope. Alden set about taking the thousands of photographic sightings and plates that the station was set up for. He held the post for 20 years, with his family growing up on the Wits campus. In 1945 he returned to the University of Virginia in the USA, where he became Professor of Astronomy and director of the Leander McCormick Observatory. Alden built his academic reputation on the measurements of stellar parallax, the proper motion of stars and long period variable stars, observed using the Yale Telescope at Wits. In his honour the crater Alden, on the far side of the moon, is named.

The post of astronomer was then filled by Cyril Jackson. The Southern Station was now jointly sponsored by the universities of Yale and Columbia and began to be used for more varied observations. Jackson moved to Australia and to Argentina in the early 1960s, following the changing structure of the Yale-Columbia programme. He later retired to his farm, Hilltop, near Haenertsburg in Limpopo.

In 1952, after operating for over 25 years, the telescope of the Yale-Columbia Southern Station was closed. The completion of the station's programme, and the increased light and pollution in Johannesburg, made conditions for observation unfavourable. The 26-inch refractor was relocated to Mount Stromlo Observatory, 10km west of Canberra, now being associated with the Australian National University of Canberra. Jackson travelled with it to Australia to ensure its safe arrival. Sadly the venerable



The Yale Telescope Building

A recent view of the Yale Telescope building.

telescope, which had been a working instrument for nearly 80 years, was destroyed in a bush fire on 18 January 2003.

In spite of the loss of its telescope and purpose, the Yale Telescope building survived while other buildings were demolished to make way for newer developments on the campus. Though new floors were added into the volume designed to house the telescope and the sliding roof was fixed into place, it remains distinctive.

The close proximity of the Planetarium building to the north underlines Wits' pre-eminence in South African astronomical studies. It dates from 1960 and was championed by applied mathematician and astronomer Prof Arthur Bleksley. The Planetarium, with its distinctive dome, has its front door on Yale Road. Under the leadership of the director, Dr Clare Flanagan, it conducts an important outreach programme for Gauteng schools. For many young people it is the first introduction to the University campus, often planting the seed of higher educational aspirations and the love of science. ■



# student PHOTO COMPETITION

The Wits Transformation Office hosts an annual student photographic competition, the aim of which is to visually reflect transformation at Wits. The following photo essay is a selection of the 2012 competition entries, the theme of which was *Illuminating Change*. Photographs had to capture the spirit of transformation on campus and convey an understanding of what the University means to its community.

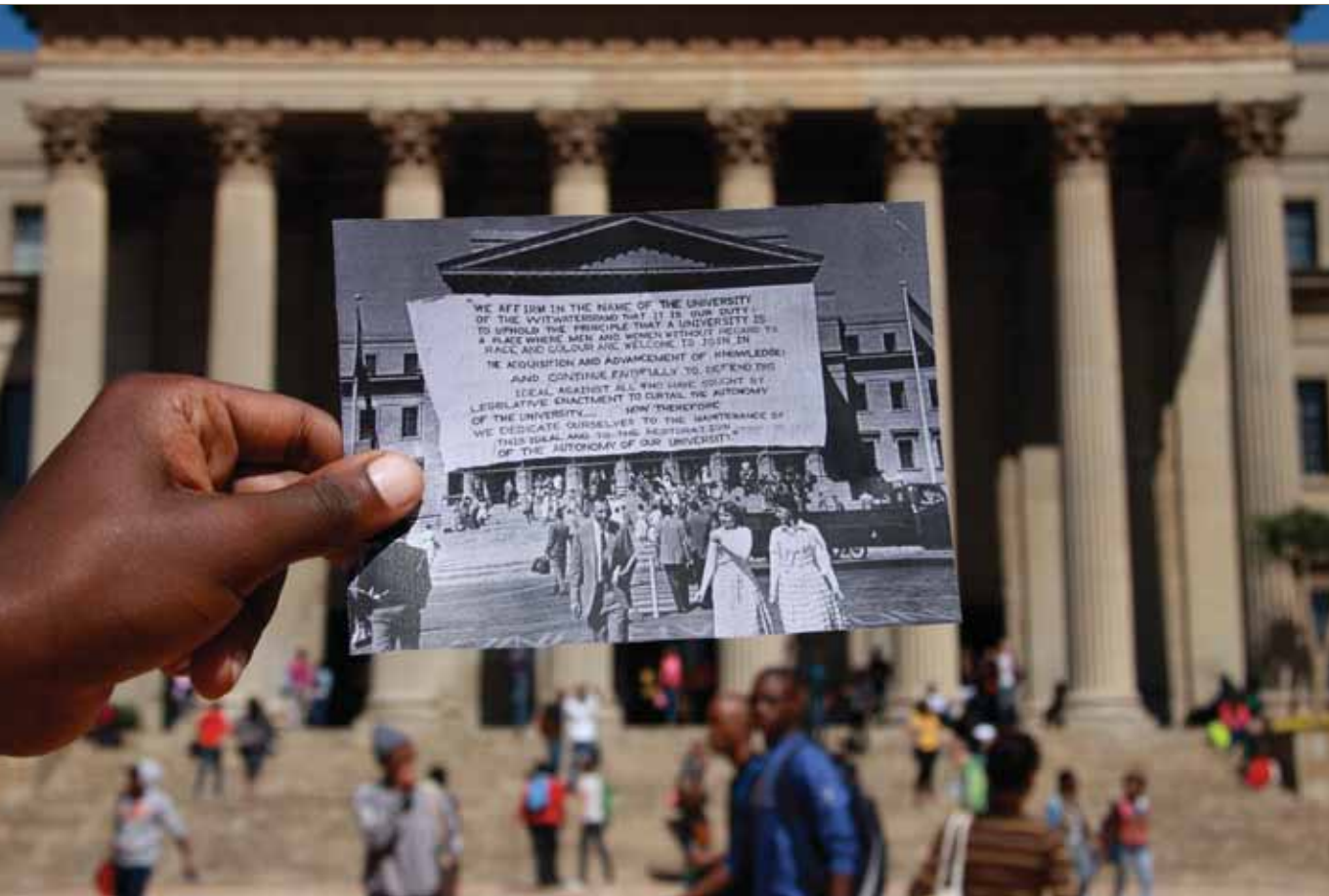
# Transformation at Wits



Nabeela Arbee



Jay Correia Caboz *Early Riser*



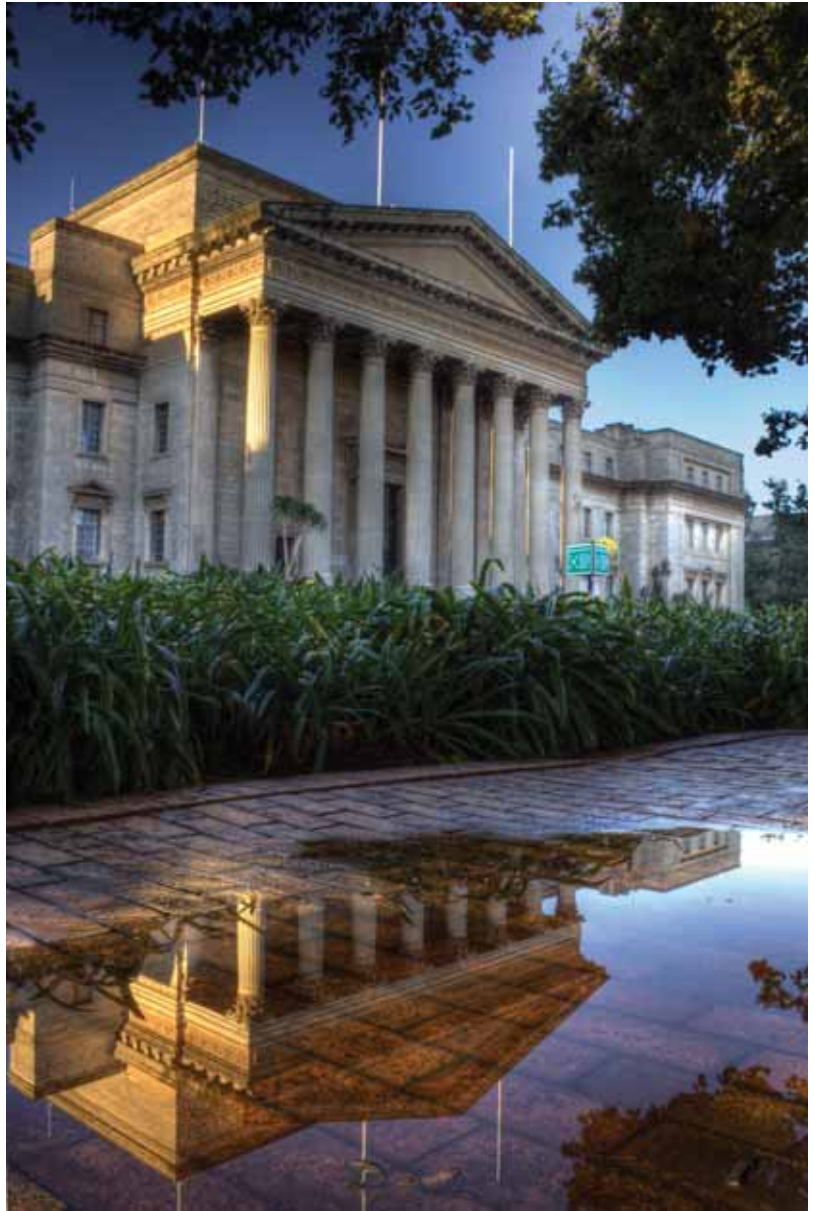
Tiisetso Murray *We've come a long way*



Ricci Goldstein *Man's two best friends*



Hemisha Bhana *More than meets the eye III*



Graeme Allan Hitchman *Reflections*

# Alumni with the edge



Professor Ken Boffard



Bernard Seeff



1. Renowned trauma surgeon Professor **Ken Boffard** has published the third edition of his *Manual of Definitive Surgical Trauma Care* (Hodder Arnold, 2011), which the British Medical Association “highly commended” at an awards ceremony on 13 September 2012. Boffard is Professor and Head of Surgery at Wits and at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital. He has chaired the International Association for Trauma Surgery and presided over the International Society of Surgery. The American College of Surgeons awarded him honorary fellowship in October 2011 “for his great contributions to the care of injured and ill patients in his native South Africa and his work in research, teaching, leadership, and patient care”.

2. The World Presidents’ Organisation (WPO) appointed mechanical engineering alumnus **Bernard Seeff** as its international Chair in November 2011 until 30 June 2013. The WPO is the graduate group of the Young Presidents’ Organisation (YPO), a not-for-profit, global network of young chief executives who envisage becoming “better leaders through education and idea exchange”. A former Wits SRC member (1974/5) and YPO member since the 1980s, Seeff is the first South African to chair the WPO internationally. He previously chaired YPO and WPO chapters in Johannesburg and was a member of the YPO International Board of Directors. Previously managing director of Symo Corporation prior to its sale, Seeff is now an industrial and commercial real estate investor.



Paul Emmanuel



Professor Glenda Gray



Rabelani Dagada

3. Fine Art alumnus **Paul Emmanuel** participated in the Dak'Art Biennale of Contemporary African Art held in Dakar, Senegal from 11 May to 10 June. Emmanuel was one of 42 artists selected from 21 African countries. Emmanuel is a Zambian native resident in South Africa. He was the first recipient of the prestigious Ampersand Fellowship, which recognises talented emerging South African artists and offers them a residency in New York. He uses various media – installation, printmaking, drawing, photography and film – to reveal layered visions concerned with his identity as a white male living in post-apartheid South Africa.

4. Canada's Simon Fraser University (SFU) awarded an honorary doctorate of science, *honoris causa*, to Professor **Glenda Gray** in June 2012. Gray is the Director of the Wits Perinatal HIV Research Unit. SFU lauded Gray's "pioneering work in the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission and her visionary leadership."

5. The Computer Society of South Africa (CSSA) elected commerce alumnus **Rabelani Dagada** to its executive council, which named him President, at the AGM in July 2012. The CSSA is a 50-year-old professional society representing and promoting information and communications technology (ICT) and professionals. Dagada has served as CSSA Vice-President for the past two years and chaired the Gauteng Chapter. He specialised in Information Systems at Wits and is currently completing a PhD in Information Systems at Unisa. He works as a development economist and has authored books in the fields of e-learning, "technopreneurship", telecommunications and information systems. He won the 2008 ICT Visionary Award "in recognition of foresight and achievement in transforming business by adopting and implementing leading-edge technology".



Hilton Israelson



Professor Yahya Choonara



Professor David Glasser

6. The American Dental Association installed Wits dental alumnus and benefactor **Hilton Israelson** as a trustee in October 2011. A periodontal and implant specialist, Israelson is serving a four-year term, representing Texas. The ADA Board formulates and reviews policies and programmes and makes recommendations to the ADA's governing body, the House of Delegates. Israelson is a past president of the Texas Dental Association and the Dallas County Dental Society Dentist of the Year in 2006. He received Presidents' awards from the Texas Dental Association and the Texas Society of Periodontists. He practises privately in Texas and is an associate clinical professor in the Department of Periodontology at Baylor College of Dentistry, Dallas.

7. Wits scientists scooped two prestigious prizes at the NSTF-BHP Billiton 2011/12 Awards hosted by the Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor, on 21 June 2012. The awards recognise excellence in science, engineering, technology and innovation (SETI):

- Pharmacy alumnus Professor **Yahya Choonara** won the TW Kambule Award, bestowed "to an emerging researcher for an outstanding contribution

to SETI through research and its outputs – over a period of up to six years after the award of a PhD or equivalent in research". Choonara is a Professor of Pharmaceutics and research manager at the Wits Advanced Drug Delivery Platform. He is known for his contribution to the development of new commercialisable pharmaceutical products that focus on prototyping novel and advanced drug delivery systems to provide superior treatment of infectious, hereditary or lifestyle diseases.

- Wits Professor **David Glasser** received the highest accolade, the lifetime achievement award, bestowed upon "an individual for an outstanding contribution to SETI over a lifetime". Glasser is a Professor of Chemical Engineering and Director and co-founder of the Centre of Material and Process Synthesis (COMPS) at Wits. He is recognised internationally for groundbreaking research in design and reactor theory, and synthesis processes that produce energy from waste. His work is used in most international textbooks and his ideas are widely used to produce more efficient and less polluting plants. He co-founded COMPS for the sole purpose of applying technology to promote clean and sustainable industrial practices.

# Caring about people for business success

By Heather Dugmore

**S**tan Bergman and I have a scheduled telephone interview for 08:15 his time New York, 14:15 our time South Africa. Shortly before the appointed hour his PA calls and says: “You have a scheduled appointment with Mr Bergman but...”

Waiting for the “could we schedule it for another day” and feeling that familiar blend of annoyance and disappointment, I am pleasantly surprised when she says “Mr Bergman would like to know if you can give him 10 minutes’ grace”. Ten minutes – how beautifully considerate. In this age when punctuality is too often regarded as old-fashioned, I like him already.

I don’t know why he needed the 10 minutes. It really doesn’t matter; what matters is that Stan Bergman had already proved his people skills and professionalism before the interview started.



Caring about people is the formula for success, says Wits alumnus Stan Bergman, who heads a US\$9-billion company in New York.

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6 I strongly believe the more you give, the more you get back. I'm not talking about getting back financially, I'm talking in terms of the inspiring people you meet and the enriching experiences you have. 9

And when it did, it came as no surprise that this Wits alumnus, who heads a US\$9-billion a year Fortune 500 company called Henry Schein, has built the business on a maxim he learnt from his mother: Care about people. "She taught me that if you treat people how you want to be treated, things work out," says the man who is frequently asked by Wall Street reporters and financial analysts to share the formula for his company's success.

"They expect me to respond with some kind of GDP multiplied by this or that, but my answer is always the same: it's all about caring about people. The most successful, enduring business people and leaders in the world are the ones who care about people."

Bergman believes in giving and caring. He gives of himself, he gives to education, the arts and communities worldwide, and he looks after the 15 000 staff members in 26 countries who collaborate to make a success of Henry Schein – the world's largest distributor of dental, medical and animal health products and services to 775 000 customers representing over one million practitioners worldwide. Which is why Henry Schein is a Fortune Most Admired Company ranked No.1 overall in its industry and No.1 for social responsibility, global competitiveness, quality

of management, quality of products and services, and long-term investment.

"I strongly believe the more you give, the more you get back. I'm not talking about getting back financially, I'm talking in terms of the inspiring people you meet and the enriching experiences you have," says Bergman, who has also given to Wits. As Chair of the Wits Fund Inc in New York, he has been extraordinarily generous in supporting Wits and the Wits Fund (as have other US-based alumni). "I received an amazing education at Wits and I would not have been able to function at the level I do without this," he says, adding: "I certainly wasn't a great student but I learnt a lot."

Bergman graduated with his BCom in 1972, his Certificate in the Theory of Accounting in 1973. He is a Chartered Accountant (SA) and Public Accountant (NY).

Now 62 years of age, he fondly recalls his student years, when he shared an apartment with his friend Ivan Saltzman in Greenside. In 1978 Saltzman established what is now the leading South African pharmacy chain, Dis-Chem, "from nothing" and still heads it and lives in Johannesburg.

Henry Schein, going back 80 years, also started as a one-man show, when in 1932 Henry Schein borrowed \$500 to open a pharmacy in Queens, New York with his wife Esther. That small pharmacy grew into the giant it is today. Bergman and his team (among whom most of the top executives have been with the company for over 20 years) can take the credit for this. He joined Henry Schein in 1980 and became CEO in 1989.



Stan Bergman addresses guests at a recent Wits Fund awards dinner held in New York city.

At that time the business was doing \$250 million a year. “We’ve grown,” he says.

Bergman today is a true New Yorker. He shares an apartment with his medical specialist wife Dr Marion Bergman, a Wits alumna (MBBCh 1974), on the 87th floor of an apartment block on 1st Avenue, across the road from the United Nations building. “It’s wonderful – we have a 300-degree view, but it’s not for those with a fear of heights.”

It’s worlds away from the small apartment at the bottom of Nugget Street in Johannesburg that he and Marion shared when they were first married. “Our rent was R50 a month and I had just started my first job as an accountant in 1974 on a salary of R350 a month.”

It’s also worlds away from the African bush, which is his favourite destination. “Sunrise in the African bush – nothing to beat it,” says Bergman, who retains strong ties with South Africa and other countries in Africa, notably Tanzania. He and Marion, through Henry Schein’s global social responsibility programme, have refurbished the only dental school in Tanzania. Marion is now deeply involved in oral health policy there.

The Bergmans have also significantly supported medical education in South Africa. In the 1990s they were energetic members of an organisation called Medical Education for South African Blacks (MESAB), which provided approximately 7 000 scholarships for South African medical students.

Marion was the treasurer and served on MESAB's board. "The current Dean of Health Sciences at Wits, Professor Ahmed Wadee, worked closely with us on this," says Bergman.

Their philanthropic drive has been passed on to their two sons. Their younger son Eddie (32), who serves as the Executive Director of the Africa Travel Association (the leading public-private partnership committed to advancing tourism to the African continent), co-founded Miracle Corners of the World – a non-profit organisation which empowers young people in Africa to become positive agents of change in their communities ([www.miraclecorners.org](http://www.miraclecorners.org)). Their older son Paul (33), who recently joined a private equity firm in Latin America specialising in agri business, has been involved in agriculture-related businesses in Africa, Latin America and Asia for more than 12 years.

Both sons have strong ties with South Africa through their parents, their studies and through friendships formed with South Africans. Paul met a number of South African students who were at the University of Pennsylvania at the same time as him. He also did research at Wits for a BEE study he was doing during his degree. Eddie got involved in Africa House at New York University, and both have visited South Africa several times.

Stan and Marion left the country for political reasons in 1975. "From the 1990s we started visiting South Africa fairly regularly again," says Bergman, who grew up in Port Elizabeth and has a strong association with the Karoo.

"I had asthma as a young kid and my parents would

send me to a sheep farm called Doornfontein near Cradock during school holidays from the age of five. The hot dry Karoo climate was considered beneficial and I think it worked because my asthma went away."

It was here that he first honed his people and business skills. "The Bowen family who owned the farm had a little concession store – mainly canned foods, sodas and some candy – and I would run it when I was there," he recalls. "I knew what I was doing because my parents had a department store in Port Elizabeth," says Bergman, who was a natural at commerce – he started a stamp trading business and traded shares from a very young age.

Between his family's business and the farm store he learnt how important people are, not only to business but also to community life. "On a farm there's obviously a pecking order between the owners and the staff but everyone lives closely together, and I learned about different cultures and mixed with everyone on the farm. I loved my time there, and I have strong memories of learning to ride horses and listening to Mrs Bowen, who was an opera singer, playing the piano and singing to us in the evening."

Both Stan and Marion love the opera and one of the many boards on which Stan serves is the Metropolitan Opera in New York. His favourite opera is Verdi's *La Traviata*, which he makes a point of seeing at least once a year. He's converted many of his staff by booking opera tickets for them. Clearly it permeates the culture at Henry Schein because opera is what I heard when, precisely 10 minutes later, Bergman's PA phoned me back and kept me on hold for a few seconds before transferring me.



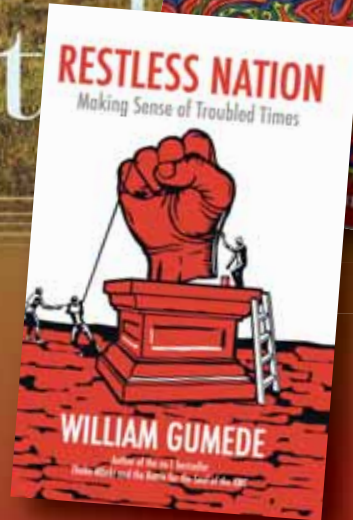
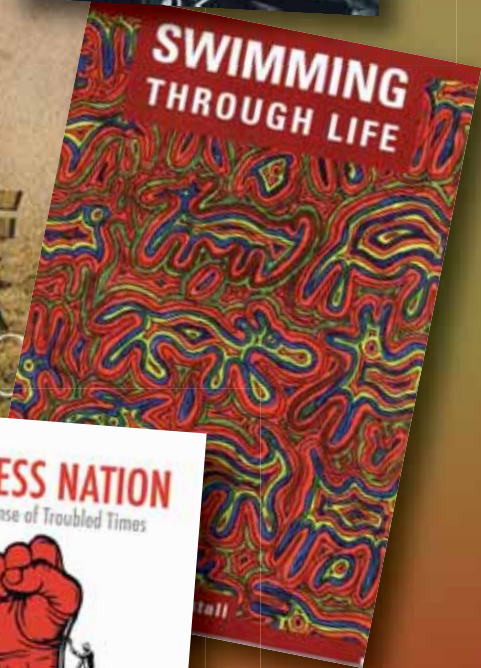
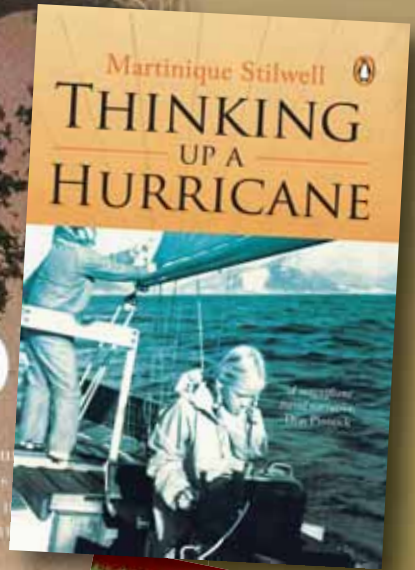
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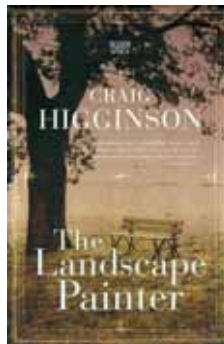
## The Landscape Painter

Compiled by Deborah Minors

October 2012



WITSReview 51



### NON-FICTION

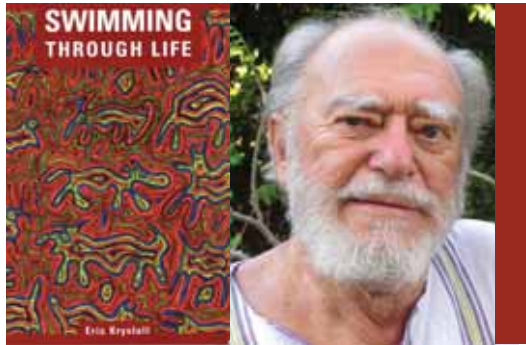
*Restless Nation: Making Sense of Troubled Times*, by William Gumede

Politics alumnus William Gumede is an Associate Professor of Public Development Management at Wits. He was previously deputy editor of *The Sowetan* and now contributes to *The Guardian* (London). His book *Thabo Mbeki and the Battle for the Soul of the ANC* (2005) was a best-seller. With the national conference of the African National Congress imminent, Gumede's latest offering, *Restless Nation* (NB Publishers, 2012), is timely. This compilation of national and international commentaries explores how the rainbow nation has become a restless nation. Gumede investigates issues around service delivery and corruption, self-interested ANC leadership battles, attacks on the Constitution, black economic empowerment limitations, racism and moral bankruptcy. *Restless Nation* not only criticises but also offers solutions to our unique challenges. It is essential reading for those who need reminding of what is at stake in President Zuma's battle for continued dominance of the South African political power complex.

### FICTION

*The Landscape Painter*, by Craig Higginson

Craig Higginson is the literary manager of Joburg's Market Theatre. He holds three Wits arts degrees, including a Masters in creative writing. A critically acclaimed novelist and playwright, Higginson won the 2011 UJ Prize for South African Writing in English for *The Landscape Painter* (Picador Africa, 2011). Set in London in 1947, the book tells the tale of an elderly painter, Arthur Bailey. His new neighbour, the young Felicity, stirs memories that compel him to recall, in haunting detail, a forgotten narrative. As a young, brilliant landscape painter, Arthur travelled to South Africa in 1898 in pursuit of his best friend's sister, Carwyn. Her subsequent shocking betrayal has haunted him for 50 years. During Arthur's increasingly intimate introspection, a tale of obsession, betrayal and hope emerges and he must ultimately confront Felicity. This historical novel traverses the gold-crazed streets of early Johannesburg, the epic Anglo-Boer War battlefields, and the austerity of post-war Britain.



## MEMOIRS

*Swimming Through Life: The Abiding Optimism of an African Development Worker*, by Dr Eric Krystall

*Swimming Through Life* is the self-published memoir of arts alumnus Eric Krystall, 84, a development expert involved in family planning and anti-AIDS efforts in his adopted country, Kenya. Part One, “Upstream South-North”, includes a chapter dedicated to Krystall’s time at Wits in the 1950s. The aspirant history teacher’s political activism took root on campus, where he opposed apartheid. Pivotal to his Wits experience was the annual Wits Arts Festival, the committee of which he chaired. Krystall left South Africa for further study in the UK and then the USA, where he participated in the civil rights movement in the 1960s. Part Two, “Downstream North-South”, recounts Krystall’s return to Africa in the 1970s. He settled in Kenya and pioneered controversial new approaches to population studies. The memoir reveals “how the inner workings of the global aid and development community have changed as the earnest ideals of the early years are overtaken by cynicism and self-interest”.

*Thinking Up a Hurricane*, by Dr Martinique Stilwell

Wits Medical School alumna Dr Martinique Stilwell sailed around the world with her parents and twin brother from the age of nine until she turned 16. The Stilwell family set off boldly in 1977, determined to become part of a community of sailors and adventurers who spend more time on the ocean than they do on dry land. The family faced real danger from the elements and at first had to live more by their wits than their skills. *Thinking Up a Hurricane* (Penguin Books SA, 2012) is a travel narrative recounting Stilwell’s true-life gypsy childhood. This coming-of-age memoir, recounted from a child’s point of view, is a story of physical and emotional adversity, of family dysfunction and the ties that bind, and of the shackles and exhilarating freedom of growing up different. Stilwell now lives on dry land in Cape Town, where she works as a doctor.

# WHAT'S ON? at wits



## UK REUNION

**15 October** | Oxford reunion  
@ Oriel College, Oriel Square, Oxford University

**Enquiries:** Justine Dangor  
justine.dangor@wits.ac.za | 011 717 1091

## SA ALUMNI REUNIONS



**7 October** | Durban reunion  
@ Southern Sun Elangeni, 53 Snell Parade

**1 November** | Cape Town reunion  
@ Southern Sun Cape Sun, Strand Street

**Enquiries:** Justine Dangor  
justine.dangor@wits.ac.za | 011 717 1091

## ALUMNI EVENTS



**15-19 October** | 'My Wits' Staff  
and Alumni Photo Exhibition  
@ Senate House Concourse, Wits

**Enquiries:** Purvi Purohit  
purvi.purohit@wits.ac.za | 011 717 1093



**22 November** | Founders' Tea  
@ Gavin Relly Green, West Campus, Wits

**Enquiries:** Justine Dangor  
justine.dangor@wits.ac.za | 011 717 1091

**Open now until 6 January 2013** |  
Rise and Fall of Apartheid:  
Photography and the Bureaucracy  
of Everyday Life | an exhibition curated  
by arts alumnus and Head of History of Art  
at Wits, Rory Bester @ International Centre of  
Photography, New York, USA

**Enquiries:** info@icp.org or 212 857 0045

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

# PLACES TO VISIT at wits

## Adler Museum of Medicine

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

## Planetarium

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

## Wits Rural Facility

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

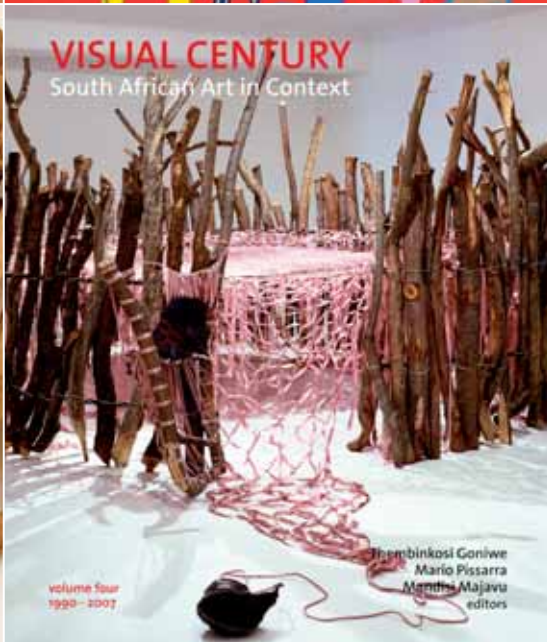
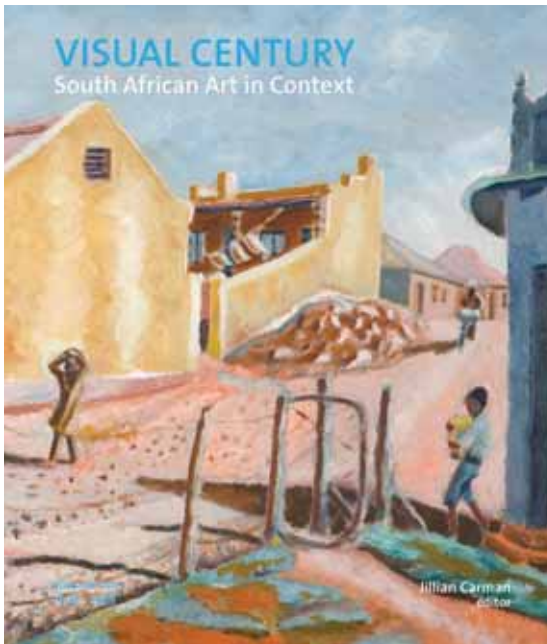
## Wits Theatre Complex

East Campus, Wits University, Performing Arts Administration, 24 Station Street, Braamfontein, Johannesburg | **Tel** +27 (0) 717 1376 | **Email** [Catherine.Pisanti@wits.ac.za](mailto: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](http://www.wits.ac.za/WitsTheatre)

Keep up to date with what's on at Wits at  
[www.wits.ac.za/alumni/events](http://www.wits.ac.za/alumni/events)

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





# Book Review

## Visual Century: South African Art in Context 1907 – 2007

Directed by Gavin Jantjes (Wits University Press, 2011)

This handsomely boxed set of four volumes is the product of a massive project initiated and directed by Gavin Jantjes, a South African artist who has spent much of his professional life in exile in Europe. Mario Pissarra was the Editor-in-Chief. It is perhaps the most ambitious art publication of the Wits University Press.

Veronica Klipp, Director of Wits University Press, commented: “We have never done anything like this before; it is the WUP’s first big art project and took us four years to produce.” A project of this size places the WUP in a new publishing-house league. The work is structured around themes and chronological periods, with over 30 contributors researching and presenting a total of 35 essays. The common theme is a reassessment of the past 100 years of art from a post-apartheid and a far more racially inclusive perspective.

Each volume has its own editor: Jillian Carman (Volume 1), Lize van Robbroeck (Volume 2), Mario Pissarra (Volume 3) and Thembinkosi Goniwe, Mario Pissarra, and Mandisi Majavu (Volume 4). Each volume repeats the preface by Jantjes, but each has an individual foreword, an introductory contextual chapter and themed essays by individual contributors who are artists, poets, activists, writers, curators and academics. The mix of backgrounds

of South African and international authors makes for a multiplicity of perspectives, and art scholars reach out to other disciplines, such as social anthropology and architectural history. Each essay can be read independently, but collectively the breadth of coverage over the four volumes presents an important reassessment of the visual arts through a long century. An academic approach means that all the contributors are given brief biographies, all chapters are comprehensively referenced and the footnotes appear as very readable side notes on each page of text. The index for each volume is thorough and independent of the other three volumes. Each volume presents a section of “timelines” for the period covered in the volume, providing a historical context for South African and world art.

It is a work that is encyclopaedic in scope, but it is not an encyclopaedia or a dictionary of the arts or artists. It complements the work of Esmé Berman (*Painting in South Africa*) and Grania Ogilvie (*The Dictionary of South African Painters and Sculptors*). I see little point in the repetition of the preface, as the four volumes hang together and the boxed presentation means that one would not wish to purchase only one of the volumes. I attended the launch workshop in November 2011 and was disappointed that the participants appeared to be very largely art historians. While these volumes enable art historians to address their colleagues, serious collectors of South African art, students, art museums and commercial galleries will all find these volumes of value.

It is a prestigious project which has received support from the Department of Arts and Culture (the former Minister, Pallo Jordan, is the author of the first volume's foreword), the Foundation for Arts Initiatives, the Africa South Institute and the University of the Witwatersrand. The logo of each body appears at the front of each volume and all are to be congratulated in having the confidence and the vision to sponsor a project of this type. It is an expression of confidence in multiple new beginnings in art. New assessments of old themes are undertaken with some surprising and interesting fresh insights.

The strength of the volumes is that they set new directions and new pathways and interpretations for viewing the visual arts of the past century in South Africa. Most importantly these studies build bridges between the country's diverse cultural backgrounds and audiences. The work offers a framework and a context for understanding and interpreting the arts. It broadens the canon of what should be regarded as collectable in South African art and will encourage museums and galleries to see new opportunities in collecting, preserving, presenting and educating in this field. The topics covered include: tradition and modernity, representations of white nationalism in the decoration of public buildings, and re-evaluating traditional art. Primitivism in South African art, race and art, formalism, exile and migrancy in art are other themes. A key question is the political purpose and intent of art and the extent to which art became a vehicle for political resistance during the apartheid era. The impact of cultural boycotts, reaching international audiences and forming new

identities were aspects of the new trends in South African art.

There are several contributions in each volume that are absorbing. For example, in Volume 1, I particularly liked the chapters by Federico Freschi (analysis of the decoration of public buildings), Jillian Carman (on art museums and national identity), Elizabeth Rankin and Lize van Robbroeck (on the formative influences on early black artists). However, across the four volumes, there is some repetition and it is difficult to follow the work or development of a particular artist – but then no artist has been singled out for individual treatment. Some may be disappointed that the wide coverage of the visual arts has not been thrown wider to include decorative arts or applied arts; others may feel that depth has been sacrificed to width of coverage and the multiplicity of themes.

The work is a triumph as a co-operative project and celebration of creativity. It presents analysis, interpretation and reflection at a particular moment in time. Of course it will date in scholarship but it is likely to remain as a magisterial effort and work worth consulting and simply enjoying over time. The many illustrations will give delight as all volumes are richly illustrated with quality colour plates, and many photographs and illustrations of art works appear for the first time.

The work has been well received since publication, with over 800 copies sold since November. We are delighted to announce that Wits alumni, staff and students may purchase the set directly from the Wits University Press at a 20% discount. (Contact Wits University Press tel +27 11 717 8700/1 or see website [www.witspress.co.za](http://www.witspress.co.za).) Alumni outside South Africa will be billed for postal charges.

**KA Munro, Honorary Associate Professor, School of Architecture and Town Planning**

# Obituaries

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

### **Dorfman, Ronald (1923 - 2012)**

An Emeritus Professor of Pathology at Stanford Hospital, Dr Ronald Frederick Dorfman died on 15 June 2012 after a short illness. He was 89. Dorfman was a renowned surgical pathologist who, along with Dr Juan Rosai, identified a particular lymph node condition now known as Rosai-Dorfman disease. Dorfman contributed to the development of the subspeciality of haematopathology, a branch of pathology focused on diseases of the haematopoietic, or blood-forming, cells.

Born in Johannesburg on 14 March 1923, Dorfman graduated from Wits Medical School in 1948 after completing military service during World War II. He pursued further study in England and Scotland, becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists. He returned to Johannesburg in 1955 to continue his training at the South African Institute for Medical Research, and married fellow Witsie Zelma that year. From 1959 to 1962, he lectured in pathology at Wits.

The Dorfman family relocated to the US in 1963 when he joined Washington University, Missouri. In 1968, he was appointed to establish and co-direct the Surgical Pathology Service in the Department of Pathology at Stanford University School of Medicine. He held this post for nearly 35 years until his retirement in 1993. That year, the US Canadian Academy of Pathology invited him to deliver the prestigious Maude Abbott lecture. A Professor of Haematopathology Chair was endowed in his name in 2004.

Dorfman's colleagues described him as "kind, generous, conscientious" and "a gentlemanly, compassionate and deliberate man who loved golf, wine and food." He enjoyed opera, photography and travel, and was an avid reader and a devoted family man.

**Reinecke (née Heinzelmann), Diana (1949 - 2012)**

Arts alumna Diana Reinecke died at home in Randburg of thyroid cancer on 26 February 2012. She majored in English and French at Wits, where she was involved in the Wits Choir and Drama Society. She was lead vocalist and guitarist in the folk music group The Fellows and later joined a worship group for which she wrote music and lyrics.

Reinecke completed professional English teaching qualifications after graduating. She married a fellow Witsie, arts alumnus Jan, in 1969. She taught English at a high school in Benoni on the East Rand for 15 months before interrupting her career in 1973 to give birth to the first of four children. The family moved to the Eastern Cape in 1979 where Reinecke resumed teaching English, returning to teach in Johannesburg in 2000.

In 2004, aged 55, Reinecke made a dramatic career change into property. After six successful years of selling property in upmarket Joburg residential areas, she intended to begin writing. Undaunted by the diagnosis of cancer in 2010, Reinecke travelled to China after surgery to visit her grandchildren. With more than 60 years of excellent health behind her, she faced the diagnosis bravely. A devoted mother and grandmother, she had an outgoing personality characterised by a *joie de vivre* blended with sound practical wisdom. Deteriorating health could not quench a brave spirit, which remained strong to the very end.

**Subotzky, George (1952 - 2012)**

Arts and music alumnus George Isaac Subotzky died on 3 July 2012 from muscular neuron disease. He

was 60. Subotzky was previously the Executive Director: Information and Strategic Analysis at the Centre for the Study of Higher Education, a specialist centre of research, analysis and teaching in higher education policy located in the University of the Western Cape. An associate professor at the University of South Africa (Unisa), he was the co-recipient of Unisa's National Association of Distance Education and Open Learning in South Africa Excellence Award in 2009, for his development of a conceptual model for understanding and predicting student throughput and retention at Unisa.

Born 27 May 1952, Subotzky attended King David School Linksfield for his entire school career from 1958 until becoming head prefect in 1969. An online tributes page established after his passing reveals Subotzky as someone "who without overt intention influenced us all". He was a talented artist and an accomplished cellist who also wrote a rock opera. He enjoyed jazz music and early on exhibited a sophisticated appreciation for music, suggesting a musical career was imminent. He taught at Cape Town's Waldorf School after graduating, where he was passionate about his choir, which performed at the city's Cathedral.

Subotzky however pursued an academic career exploring models and strategies in higher education in Africa. He published extensively and delivered presentations worldwide. His school peers write of an "advanced maturity ... obvious even in the early years", of his "superior intellect ... and thinking way ahead of his time". Wits Sociology Professor Edward Webster recalled, "George went on to play an important role in developing educational policy

in post-apartheid South Africa. I remember sharing a platform with him at a workshop on the new Sector Education and Training Authority. He was highly respected and successfully translated his early idealism into innovative and practical policies in his later life.”

#### Van Eeden, Kalvyn (1930 - 2012)

Medical School alumnus Dr Kalvyn Schoeman van Eeden died on 12 April 2012, aged 82. He was born in the Northern Karoo on 28 February 1930. He graduated from Wits in 1952 and entered general rural practice for three years. He married Marina in 1957 and then pursued further studies in the UK. He worked in hospitals in England, including Taplow Hospital, where he focused on rheumatic diseases. He became a member of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in 1960. He returned to South Africa to serve a three-year registrarship at Groote Schuur Hospital and then entered private medical practice in Pietersburg, then Northern Transvaal, meeting a great need for healthcare services there.

Van Eeden retained an academic approach and kept abreast of new medical developments. He was a founder member of the Soutpansberg branch of the Medical Association of South Africa (MASA) in 1961, its President in 1970 and an associate founder member of the College of Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 1971. He served as a MASA branch councillor for 46 consecutive years and his specialist practice spanned 48 years. He retired in April 2011 when diagnosed with cancer.

Van Eeden maintained a lifelong appreciation of

literature and poetry and an interest in non-medical sciences. He was “an illustrious son of the Karoo, a fine gentleman, a talented doctor, a courageous man, a loyal and inspirational head of his extended family”.

#### Visser, Gert ‘Gerrie Langman’ (1941 - 2012)

The quantity surveyor who worked on the Roodepoort Civic Centre, Gert Petrus Visser died on 26 June 2012 after a short illness. He was 71. Born in Krugersdorp on 3 July 1941, Visser stayed at the Cottesloe Mens’ Residence when he joined Wits. He was musically inclined and a natural leader and organised the Cottesloe Freshers’ Concert and supported the cheerleading at the Wits-Tukkies intervarsity rugby. He was a loyal patron of “The Dev” (the Devonshire Hotel) in Braamfontein.

Visser was a long-term Krugersdorp (Mogale City) town councillor and mayor of Krugersdorp in the city’s centenary year. He was a Round Tabler and, in his 30s, was instrumental in driving the admission of black South Africans into the Round Table. He joined the African National Congress in his final years on the Mogale City Council.

He was a Rotarian and President of the Krugersdorp Rotary Club, in which capacity he was involved with the Sterkfontein Caves and worked with the late Professor Phillip Tobias.

Visser suffered a stroke more than a decade ago, yet taught himself to speak and read again and then helped others similarly afflicted.

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**WITSReview** relies on the Wits community to keep us informed of alumni deaths. Please send obituaries to [alumni@wits.ac.za](mailto:alumni@wits.ac.za)



# The art and science of modelling

The stock phrase for beautiful people “there’s so much more to him/her” certainly applies to Mr South Africa Andrew Govender who holds a BSc (2009) and a BSc Hons in Actuarial Science (2010) from Wits and who works as an actuarial consultant at an auditing firm in Johannesburg.

*By Heather Dugmore*

### **What attracted you to actuarial science?**

I'm Indian, right, and I got six distinctions in matric so it was a toss-up between medicine and actuarial science. I was going to study medicine but I have this entrepreneurial side to me, inherited from my Dad who owns a few businesses, so I decided actuarial science would work better for me from a financial point of view.

### **What does an actuarial scientist actually do?**

The best way to try and explain it is that whereas accountants analyse existing financial data, we try to make financial sense of the future and do predictive modelling and forecasts for anything from five to 30 years – for insurance or investments or pensions.

### **What was it like studying at Wits?**

I love Wits and it was my home for many years. It was very intimidating at first. As a first year I found myself in a room with 180 other students – the cream of the crop – each one cleverer than the next. I realised this was a completely different world to school where I was very confident of my academic side. That confidence quickly faded because the course was really difficult, especially as I was doing a double major in Statistics and Actuarial Science. I was no longer getting the A grades to which I'd become accustomed. It taught me to knuckle down. At first I would attend parties every Friday, but this soon stopped and I realised that if I wanted to pass I had to head straight for the library after lectures, including Fridays.

### **You also do modelling. Does this side of your life and your title as Mr South Africa not attract teasing at work?**

When I won Mr South Africa (and Mr India South

Africa before that) the media clippings were passed round the office, which was fun, but yes, it can be rather embarrassing in a highly corporate environment. But I don't take it too seriously and mostly my colleagues have only had nice things to say. Some told me they think it's cool that I have this other interest.

### **Why are you even interested in modelling or Mr South Africa when you have such a good career?**

I enjoy the two sides of my life. Mr South Africa and modelling has given me such good exposure; suddenly people know who I am, which has given me the opportunity to make a difference. I've started the Andrew Govender Book Club in collaboration with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, where individuals, companies and organisations donate books and we distribute them. It bothers me that children aren't reading nearly enough, and my aim is to get many thousands of books into all nine provinces, with a focus on schools in economically impoverished areas. Children's potential cannot be realised without books, which is why I found the textbook non-delivery so unacceptable. Distributing books should be par for the course, and I hope to help demonstrate this. That's the one side. On the other side: the exposure also gets me invited to all the biggest, most glamorous events of the year as a VIP with plenty of press coverage, which helped me land a role in a South African movie.

### **How do you cope with a fulltime job and all the functions and events you have to attend as Mr South Africa?**

It's quite demanding. But you see I have a twin brother (Edwin) and a lot of people confuse us.

So I'm thinking of asking him to attend some of my events...wouldn't that cause a scandal! Maybe I need more scandal; I've heard there is no such thing as bad press (laughs).

**What does Edwin do and is he also a model?**

He works in IT and he's not at all interested in modelling or entering Mr South Africa. It's not his thing whereas I've modelled since the age of 16 when Heads Model Management spotted me in a shopping mall. It's one of the biggest modelling agencies in South Africa, right there in Braamfontein near Wits.

**How is it that you and Edwin have such English names?**

We have two older brothers and an older sister with Indian and English names, which is quite a mouthful. By the time our parents got to us they dropped the Indian names.

**Is your father not disappointed that you haven't gone into the family businesses?**

Fortunately my two older brothers and my sister are both in the family businesses, so Edwin and I were let off the hook.

**What kind of training do you do for Mr SA?**

I don't really like going to the gym but when I'm in training I go four times a week and do weightlifting for an hour, taking very short breaks between each session so that it doubles as a cardio workout. I don't believe you need to do more than that. I think getting in shape is 40% training and 60% diet. If you eat healthy, clean food you will achieve your goals far faster and your body shape will change. For breakfast I have a protein shake and oats. For the rest, it's the usual lean meat and vegetables, and I eat six meals a day. I also eat good carbs like brown

rice and oats but no white bread or white pasta and no sugar. Plus I drink lots of water and green tea. It's far from what I love eating, which is pizza and ice cream but us Indian guys have to work hard at getting into shape because we're either very skinny or we have beer bellies.

**Do you get a lot of attention from admirers?**

(Laughs) I do, I get so many tweets and FB messages - mostly from women but also from other Indian guys saying I've inspired them to enter Mr South Africa. I'm the first Indian guy to win it in the 20 years it's been running despite there being so many Indian people in South Africa - it's the largest Indian population in the world outside India.

**Are you single?**

I am, which is good for my career right now, but if I met the right woman I'd definitely date her.

**What qualities would make her the right woman?**

Someone who is very much in control of her life, career-orientated, a good head on her shoulders, a great personality, great looks.

**Is there a woman alive who fits the bill?**

Yes, Charlize Theron (laughs). I was an extra on the set for her Sun International advert - she was right there in front of me - and I wanted to talk to her but we were told not to because she's the star. I could kick myself; I should have spoken to her anyway. Now I'll have to go to LA to find her. At the same time I'll see if I can get into the movie industry. Making movies is a childhood dream of mine, which is why I'll be entering Mr World in Scotland in a few months' time. If I can win this title it will get me the exposure I need to go to Hollywood with some credentials. ■

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