

January 2013 Volume 23

WITSReview

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

University league tables



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

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- > Employment opportunities
- > Vacancies at Wits
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www.wits.ac.za/alumni

An extraordinary legacy and an even brighter future

Welcome to what promises to be an exciting New Year. Having celebrated Wits' 90th anniversary last year, we now start the countdown towards our Centenary in 2022 and the installation of the University's 16th Vice-Chancellor and Principal.



In the past year, we looked back on the extraordinary achievements of Wits over nine decades as one of the world's great universities.

Through the work of the University's academics and researchers, and the achievements of its alumni, Wits has had an enormous impact on the country and indeed the world. As a platform for public and intellectual engagement, and through the activism of its staff, students and alumni, the University has also had a profound influence on society. Teaching and research is the foundation of a university, but the critical role universities like Wits play in strengthening a democratic, free and open society should never be underestimated.

Into the future

Whilst it's important to acknowledge and celebrate past achievements, a university cannot afford to just trade on an illustrious history. It has to continually re-energise and renew itself to keep pace with global progress.

Over the past few years we have witnessed

the most intensive campus infrastructure and building programme arguably in the University's history, as well as the recent launch of world class institutes that will ensure the University's place at the cutting-edge of scientific discovery and knowledge. These developments will carry Wits well into the future and cement its position as a leading university with a global footprint and impact.

As we report in this issue, progress made over the past few years is already beginning to bear fruit as Wits made significant gains in the world university rankings in 2012. This is good news for alumni who benefit from the increased international reputation of a Wits qualification.

Wits has already established an extraordinary legacy and the ground work is being laid to ensure that the best is still to come as the University embraces new opportunities to enhance its stature on the global stage

Peter Maher
Director: Alumni Relations

from the editor

Contents



- 4** Letters
- 6** Social
- 10** **Measuring success:**
A South African university league table
- 16** **Victor Sekese:**
Gaining strength from adversity
- 20** **SKA: Dr Fanaroff & the fantastic machine**
- 28** **Heritage: Wits' Treasure Trove**
- 35** **Wits Choir:**
Celebrating 50 years of song
- 40** **Top Young South Africans:**
Wits alumni amongst SA's best
- 46** Alumni with the Edge
- 49** Alumni with the Writing Edge
- 52** What's on at Wits
- 53** Places to visit at Wits
- 54** Book Reviews
- 57** Obituaries
- 62** **At Wits End:** Craig Wing



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

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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

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Snow in Joburg



Dear Editor,

I love reading this magazine - it's so full of such interesting subjects.

The October issue's photo of the snow delighted me as it brought back to mind an incredible 2 day snow in the 60.

I arrived at Wits in time for the part time early morning lecture i.e. at about 7.30 am having walked- or slithered - from Hillbrow where I lived.

There was no lecturer, no students- clearly no lecture. So I headed off to the office in Fox Street. At the main gate to Wits the traffic lights were off and some poor cop was attempting to direct traffic by hand. Every passing car crawling by had windows open, people leaning out throwing snow balls at him. He was not to be outdone so was gathering snow and throwing balls back at them. Everyone was having fun. Eventually a bus managed to arrive and I headed into town arriving at about 9.30 am to find my first floor office

windows wide open, nearly all the staff outside having a snowball fight against the office people across the road.

I had never seen Joburgers so relaxed, so fun filled, so smiling and laughing- everyone was every other's friend for a morning.

I have been gone from SA for 40 years but this is the first time in all that time that I have heard news of snow in Joburg.

The photos show today's students having exactly the fun I had all those years ago.

Kevin Commins
BCom (Rand) 1967, MBA (Cape) 1972

Congrats and a correction

Dear Editor,

Many thanks for the latest edition of the *WITSReview* which arrived last week. I'm not at all surprised that you again won the trophy for the best External Magazine at the SA Publication Forum's ceremony in September. The October 2012 issue had so many interesting articles and I think it is the best issue ever. I was also pleased to read about the reunions in America and Australia, but I have to say that I was distressed to see that on page 5, I was referred to as "Alan Levy." Not a horrendous error, but disappointing nevertheless.

David Levy (MBBCh 1963) Austin, Texas

Thanks and apology for the error! Ed.

Remember when...



Dear Editor,

I was the 50 000th Wits graduate and obtained three qualifications from Wits over the years, so the institution is close to my heart.

Felicity Steadman (née Wright)
(BA Social Work 1981, BA Hons, HDip
Labour Law)

*Wits currently has about 130 000 graduates.
Send your "Remember when..." to the Editor.*

Prof. Tobias and I

Dear Editor,

I met Prof. Tobias during the second year of my medical studies in 1968. He gave an introductory lecture, then we had our individual photos taken, and didn't see him again for about 3 weeks. When he gave his first formal lecture, he had obviously studied our photos and could recognize every face in the class. In the middle of the lecture, he looked straight at our class rep and asked, "What do you think of that, Foxy De Jager?" Quite naturally Foxy was speechless, as would any of us have been had he chosen us instead of Foxy.

In 2010, Prof. Beverly Kramer, Assistant Dean of Research invited me to be a Diaspora Programme Visiting Professor. Bev arranged an hour with both Profs. Tobias and Allen. We talked about everything from science to medical practice to academic careers to travel and inevitably to politics. He helped assuage my guilt at having left South Africa so soon after

completing medical school. He felt that academic careers called from every corner of the globe and that one ought to grab the opportunities as they presented themselves. Prof. Tobias' last words to me were that I had better get going or I would miss the trip that Bev Kramer had arranged for me to meet Ron Clarke and 'Little Foot' at Sterkfontein. Ron gave me a personal tour of his digs at Sterkfontein: I felt the same awe that I had felt in 1968.

Prof. Tobias lived a long and highly productive life. He influenced hundreds, probably thousands, of medical and other students. I am but one in that multitude. What I can only wish for is that every naïve medical student has the opportunity to meet a Prof. Tobias and aspire to meet the expectations such people stimulate in us. For this, I remain enormously grateful.

Denis Daneman (BSc 1969, MBCh 1973) Professor and Chair, Department of Paediatrics, University of Toronto



(L-R) Profs. Allen and Tobias, and Denis Daneman

(This letter has been shortened. It was published in full in the December Edge e-news at www.wits.ac.za/alumni. Ed)

Social



Clockwise: Founders' Tea, Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Loyiso Nongxa, Faculty of Health Sciences Reunion, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences Prof. Ahmed Wadee Centre: Alumni Reunion in Durban.

Right page, top: Reception in London and reunion at Oxford University.





Reunions in South Africa

Origin of Species revealed at Founders' Tea

Professor Francis Thackeray was the guest speaker at the annual Founders' Tea held at the Gavin Relly Green, West Campus on 22 November 2012. Thackeray is the Director of the Institute of Human Evolution at Wits. His entertaining address focused on Charles Darwin's theories of human evolution and his seminal book, *The Origin of Species*. Thackeray enthralled Founders with fascinating insights about Darwin's maiden voyage to Cape Town and his retraction of his originally derisive opinion about the region. Thackeray also regaled the more than 400 guests with tales of the mysterious 'Piltman hoax', in which English scientists 'constructed' a fossil to suggest that humanity began in Europe. Founders' Tea is held annually for alumni who graduated 40 or more years ago.

Faculty of Health Sciences Reunion

The Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Ahmed Wadee, hosted a reunion for around 100 Health Sciences alumni at a formal dinner

held at the Wanderers Club, Johannesburg, on 19 September 2012. The former Dean of the Faculty, Wits alumnus and UCT Vice-Chancellor, Dr Max Price delivered the keynote address on medical education over 90 years.

Civil Engineering class reunion

The class of 1948 accounted for the largest crop of civil engineers to enter the South African economy in one year. The 54 graduates comprised predominantly of returning World War II servicemen who received bursaries from General Jan Smuts. Alumni Don Walker and Tony Williams have continued to convene informal reunions over the years, most recently at the revamped Wits Club on West Campus on 24 October 2012.

Durban and Cape Town

The Alumni Relations Office hosted reunions in Durban and Cape Town on 31 October and 1 November 2012 respectively to celebrate the University's 90th anniversary. Alumni Relations Director Peter Maher delivered a presentation to 50 alumni at the Elangeni Sun in Durban and to 70 alumni at the Southern Sun Cape Sun in Cape Town.

Proud Witsies in Sante Fe

Front row: Bernard Tabatznik, Joseph Jensen, Julien Hoffman **Middle row:** Martin Colman, Samuel 'Muli' Wolpert, Ian Gross, Hymie Kavin, David Levy, Brian Caplan, Peter Weston, Nathan Levin, David Myers, Michel Rivlin, Mendley Wulfsohn **Back row:** Gabe Koz, Gerald Gilchrist, Edward Melmed, Joseph Blumenthal **Not pictured:** Ralph Green



International reunions

In Kenya, the Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Loyiso Nongxa met 10 alumni for cocktails at the Intercontinental Hotel in Nairobi on 9 October 2012.

Forty alumni attended a reunion hosted by Dr Ian Steadman at Oriel College, Oxford University, UK on 15 October 2012 where they were addressed by Prof. Nongxa and Peter Maher.

Reception in London

On a crisp autumn evening in London on 16 October 2012, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Loyiso Nongxa welcomed UK-based alumni and friends of the University to a celebration of Wits' 90th year and an announcement of key donations to Wits.

The reception, which attracted about 300 guests was generously hosted by Bonhams Fine Art Auctioneers at a private preview of a sale of South African art, and was sponsored by ABSA and Barclays.

ABSA's Head of Investment Banking in Africa and Wits alumnus, Philip Lindop (BCom Hons 1994) used the occasion to announce that ABSA was

donating R25 million to the University over ten years.

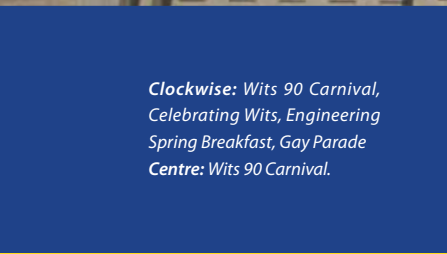
Prof. Nongxa also announced Rothschild South Africa Foundation scholarships for black students studying for an honours degree in a financial discipline.

Medical School reunion, USA

Informal gatherings of Wits Medical School alumni in the USA began in 1989 when Dennis Glauber arranged a reunion of the Class of '49 graduates in Washington. The success of this reunion prompted Bernard Tabatznik to convene an even larger gathering in Virginia in 1999. In 2004, the group met in New York and Julien Hoffman arranged the 2006 reunion in California. Norman Blumberg co-ordinated a meeting near Houston, Texas to which alumni from the 1950s through 1970s were invited. The most recent reunions were open to all interested alumni. Ian Samson hosted the gathering in California in 2010 and Peter Weston convened the most recent reunion held in October 2012 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Celebrations@Wits

Clockwise: Wits 90 Carnival, Celebrating Wits, Engineering Spring Breakfast, Gay Parade Centre: Wits 90 Carnival.



Measuring **success**

A South African university league table

The world has its Ivy Leagues and Oxbridges – recognised as the top universities. Most countries have a few universities that outperform all others. Why should South Africa be any different? Our own league table of universities is long overdue and the good news is that the National Development Plan supports this thinking.



Heather Dugmore discusses the pros and cons of rankings and a differentiated higher education system with Wits Director of Strategic Planning Nhlanhla Cele and Convocation President Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng.

In this era where the pay-off lines “globally competitive” and “world-class” have lost their authenticity through over-use and under-implementation, it is easy to roll our eyes at the call for a differentiated higher education system with world-class universities underpinning South Africa’s global competitiveness. Yet it is necessary to set our cynicism aside and examine afresh why world-class universities are a national imperative.

Wits’ Director of Strategic Planning, Nhlanhla Cele, sums it up: “World-class universities are an embodiment of national strength and competitiveness in a knowledge economy where top-end intellectual capi-

tal is perceived as an article of global strength. These universities showcase the complexity and sophistication of national systems – and every country that sets its growth path and development agenda on knowledge leadership needs such institutions.”

Whether or not we agree with the concept or ideology of world-class universities, this is the way the developed world currently works. It is a system where universities are measured by their ability to attract high-calibre researchers, scholars and students, and to produce internationally respected research with high impact (measured through the citation index).

...every country should also have world-class teaching-intensive universities and world-class universities of technology  Nhlanhla Cele

Countries throughout the world, both developed and developing, including the United States, Australia, Japan, China, India, South Korea, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Malaysia and numerous European Union countries, have all made strategic investments in such universities to support their economic development and global competitiveness. Cele emphasises that South Africa cannot afford to be excluded.

To achieve this requires a lot more than pay-off lines. It requires committed national investment in the development of a differentiated higher education system, where the top six universities, notably Wits, the University of Cape Town, the University of Stellenbosch, the University of KwaZulu Natal, Rhodes University and the University of Pretoria, are strategically developed as research-intensive institutions. In such a system Wits, for example, which is currently 70% undergraduate and 30% postgraduate, would shift to 50/50 and would invest in attracting highly talented students and scholars, and participate in leading edge, applied and blue sky research.

This, Cele emphasises, does not in any way detract from the importance of developing all the other universities (South Africa has 23 in total). As teaching-intensive or technology-based institutions, they play an equally critical role in undergraduate education and skills development for South Africa.

“Both the research-intensive and the teaching-intensive universities would be developed according to their specific strengths and there would be plenty of co-ordinated collaboration and cross-pollination of research between all the institutions to develop the different skills needs of our economy,” he adds.

Yet South Africa has until now neglected to develop strategies of this sort. “The question of how South African universities should be assisted to achieve this goal has been lost in the abyss of political ideological debate and reluctance to differentiate universities, based on the fear of repeating racial demarcations from the apartheid system,” says Cele.

Which is why it came as a rush of hope for many when the National Development Plan (NDP), released by Minister in the Presidency Trevor Manuel in 2011, emphasised that South Africa aims to approach “developed world status” by 2030, not as some vanity of the high-rollers, but in order to grow the number of employed people from 11-million to 24-million by 2030.

“A skilled and capable workforce is essential for decent work, rural development, sustainable livelihoods, public health, reduction of inequalities, and investment in a knowledge-based economy.”

The NDP states that the economy needs to focus on:

- Doubling the annual expansion in high-skills supply and improving education throughout;
- Intensifying research and development spending; and
- Aligning centres of learning to industrial clusters with potential for domestic and global linkages.

It further states that “innovations across state, business and social sectors should start to become pervasive” and that South Africa needs to adopt a far more progressive policy on skilled migrants. This will directly benefit our universities as the Department of Home Affairs will need to make it easier for universities to recruit top research and academic talent from all over the world. This talent, combined with our homegrown talent, will contribute towards South Africa’s global competitiveness.

If South Africa chooses not to follow this path, the skills drain – and shortage – could accelerate and, without attracting new skills, the country’s economic development and global competitiveness could continue on a downward slide. This would impact on academic performance.

“Wits alumni have a vested interest in the status and performance of their institution. As graduates, Wits is our academic brand; a promise to industry and government that we have obtained skills and know-

ledge that make us capable of performing in roles with the highest responsibility and, in some cases, the highest technical complexity,” Cele explains.

“Unlike consumers, Wits graduates cannot simply swap brands if they feel the brand is not living up to its promise. For most graduates, starting again with another university is not an option. What can happen is that future graduates decide to study at institutions that have greater brand presence or prestige.

“To avoid this, every country should have top league universities where irrespective of whether you are black, white, middle class or working class, you have the opportunity to participate in and contribute to the highest level of intellectual capital,” says Cele. He believes that every country should also have world-class teaching-intensive universities and world-class universities of technology. “What has happened to the imagination of our higher education leaders that they don’t see this?”

Professor Mamokgethi Setati Phakeng, who is currently the Vice-Principal of Research & Innovation at Unisa and an Honorary Professor in mathematics education at Wits, is not entirely convinced about differentiation:

“The differentiated higher education system issue is a can of worms that I wish I could avoid,” she says.

“The problem is that if you differentiate certain universities, how do you avoid a situation where all the other institutions land up feeling second best and resenting that they are left to do the donkeywork for the ‘chosen’ universities?”

She believes the kind of differentiated system South Africa needs is where all the universities start specialising in their areas of strength at undergraduate and postgraduate level, such as engineering at Wits or agriculture at the University of Venda.

“This way you will have a good measure of undergraduate and postgraduate students at all the universities,” says Setati Phakeng, who further believes that the former technikon and college system should be revived. “Students wanting to become teachers and nurses, for example, should be able to go to specific institutions to be trained. The same applies to students wanting to learn trades, such as plumbing or electronics. I think it was a political decision to abandon the former college and technikon system but it was not a good one.

“It is extremely important to have these institutions because not all students want to go to university or are suited to academic studies,” says Setati Phakeng. She takes a step further back to basic education. “It is slipping fast and we are not dealing with the people issues of extreme incompetence and mediocrity dominating basic education in South Africa today. We are reluctant to talk about excellence in

the secondary schooling system, yet many of the students whom we want to match up to our world-class standards at university will come from these schools.”

What Wits is doing “really right”, says Setati Phakeng, is targeting high school talent to introduce learners to the university environment while they are still at school. “I think this approach is critical because it helps students to become comfortable with the culture of the university. I know this from my experience of coming from a rural area to do my Honours at Wits. I did my undergraduate degree at the University of Bophuthatswana and it was not easy to adapt.

“To give you an example, I come from a culture where you don’t just speak out in class; you raise your hand and wait for the lecturer to give you an opportunity to speak. But at Wits if you didn’t boldly speak out and make yourself heard, your questions wouldn’t be answered and you would be disadvantaged. These are the subtle details that universities need to think about when nurturing scholars to be able to perform at world-class levels.

“So what I am saying is that differentiation needs to take place at all levels, it is not just about being globally competitive. I agree that this is extremely important, but we need to scrutinise how we are measuring this global competitiveness and whether we are paying close enough attention to all the elements that feed into it.”



Wits rises in the rankings



The top world university rankings, including Times Higher Education, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) and Shanghai University, annually list the top 500 out of some 20 000 universities.

Wits' latest QS ranking revealed that the University is on an upward trend, from 399 in 2011 to 363 in 2012.

Wits is also currently ranked between 226 and 250 on the Times Higher system and 301 – 400 on the Shanghai system.

The National University of Taiwan also does a performance ranking of scientific papers that is entirely based on statistics reflecting research productivity, research impact, and research excellence. In the 2012 results, Wits was ranked 197 for Social Sciences, 272 for both Mathematics and Geoscience, and 299 for Medicine.

But why does it matter whether Wits is in the top 100 or top 500 universities? Cele explains:

"In reality no one knows the tangible or visible difference between an institution ranked 500 and one ranked 501, yet that marginal difference displaces institution 501 from the top 500 league. That displacement alone has huge implications for an institution ranked 501 in terms of:

- Funders who want to donate their money to top-league universities;
- Scholars and researchers trying to figure out where to work;
- Students trying to establish where to study;
- Employers planning to recruit the best graduates;
- Governments planning to invest in leading-edge research and intellectual capital;
- Universities exploring partners for research networks; and
- Industries looking for innovative solutions."

Following on this, Wits' strategy is about aggressive internationalisation rather than rankings per se, says Cele. "Wits is not obsessed with the 'top 100 goal' for the sake of it, but sees this goal as a proxy for global excellence. What

matters to the Wits community is that the global reputation of this University, earned through 90 years of research and academic excellence, is preserved, nuanced and carried into the future. It is our global visibility and the impact of our research and graduates that we cannot give away, and the 'top 100' target guides our imagination of the future we want for this University."

While Cele offers a compelling argument, Professor Setati Phakeng believes the measures used in determining the rankings are problematic.

She does not believe that students and academics are as driven by the rankings in their choice of higher education institution as the rankings would have us believe.

"People look at other issues, such as whether the university offers a supportive environment, whether one's academic career can thrive there or not, how workload is allocated, what the salaries and research incentives are like and whether one's contribution will be appreciated.

"Ultimately these issues also feed into the rankings and will reflect in a variety of areas of staff performance such as the research output per academic member at Wits, which has not increased as much as it could have since 2009."

Setati Phakeng feels Wits needs to do more to look after its staff members to make them feel valued and that they have a future at the institution. "Salaries are important but it's not just about money, it's equally about feeling valued and supported by the whole institutional environment, which is what I believe the [2012] academic strike was mainly about," she says.

"I say all these things because I want Wits to thrive. Let me be clear here, if Wits gets into the top 100 universities in the world, I will be over the moon because it is good for me and all the other Witsies, and it is good for the country and good for the continent. But for this to happen transformation needs to start at the ground level, not at the rankings level with proclamations of where we hope to be ranked by 2022."

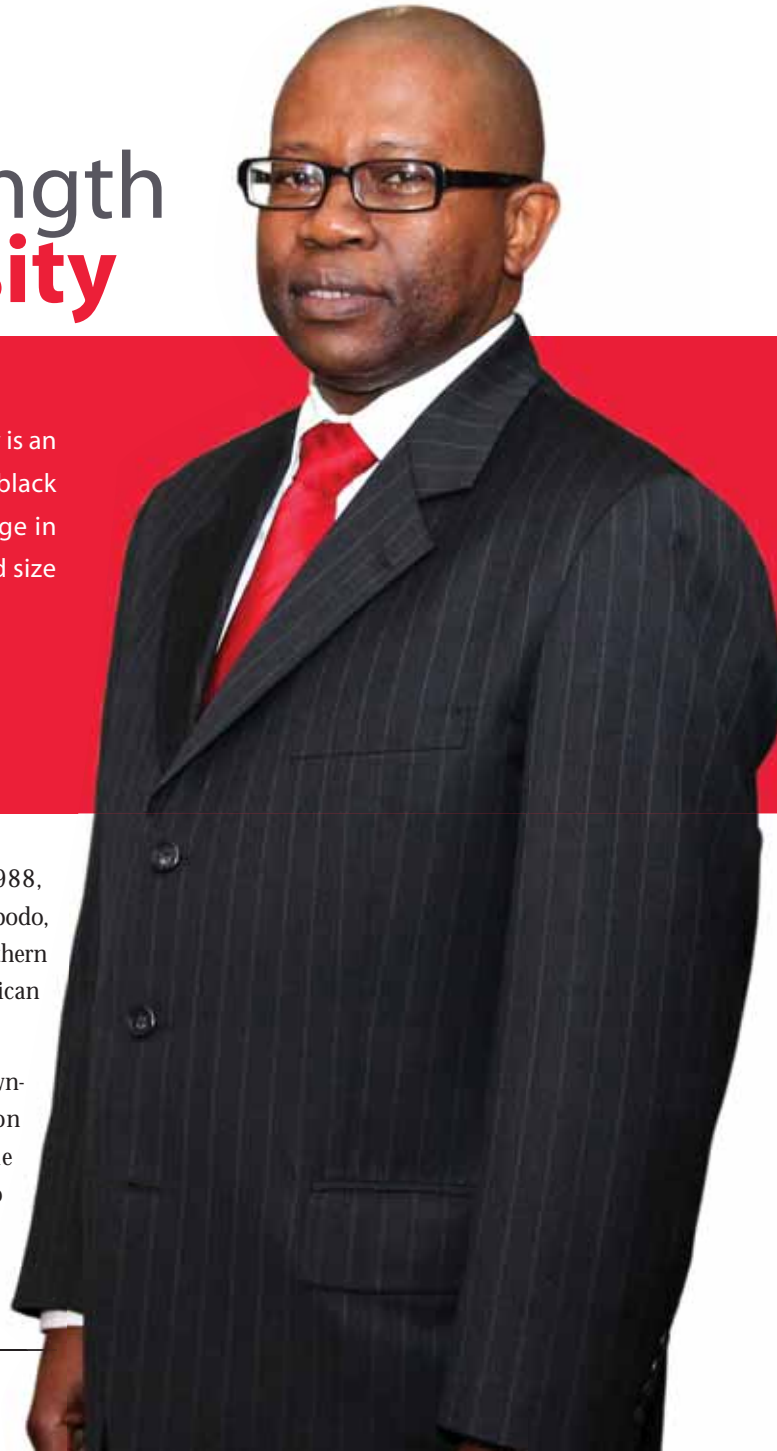
Gaining strength from adversity

Chartered accountant Victor Sekese's story is an epic journey across the great divide that black chartered accountants have had to bridge in the world of finance, where both race and size signalled "Keep Out".

By Heather Dugmore

Sekese is a Wits graduate (BCom 1988, BAcc 1989), CEO of SizweNtsalubaGobodo, the fifth-largest accounting firm in southern Africa, and a board member of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

"Do not write yourself off. I grew up in the township and I went through the Bantu Education system. I was not equipped to deal with the analytic nature of accounting, but I did, and so can you if you are committed. Commitment is essential to overcoming these barriers."



This is Victor Sekese's message to students from schools that are still not providing an adequate education and where good maths and science teachers are in short supply. Without in any way excusing the inexcusable state of basic education in South Africa, he motivates young would-be accountants to take charge of their lives.

Raised in Mamelodi township east of Pretoria, Sekese is acutely aware of the commitment required to get where he is, particularly since he became a chartered accountant or CA in the pre-1994 era, when racism was still so entrenched that companies were reluctant to entrust black accountants with their books.

"They were never blatant about it, but when I did my articles the quality of work that my white peers were given compared to what I was given was extremely telling. I felt I didn't deserve to be treated like this and it motivated me to excel and make a way for myself," says Sekese, who passed his board exams in 1991 during the second year of his articles.

To reach this point Sekese travelled a long road, including submitting many applications for scholarships and bursaries to study at Wits. He succeeded in securing a bursary from Tongaat Hulett, with the proviso that he worked for the sugar company once he had graduated.

"That's what got me to Wits and I studied for a BCom, majoring in accountancy, and working really hard. It paid off and I progressed well while many others in my class from a variety of backgrounds were battling," continues Sekese. Together with a handful of students, he started an accountancy clinic on campus in 1988, to help those from disadvantaged

backgrounds to better handle their studies.

Apart from working hard, Sekese had a natural talent for accountancy, and his interest in becoming a CA was kindled. This required re-negotiating his bursary terms with Tongaat Hulett and the company agreed.

During this time he became active in the Association for the Advancement of Black Accountants of Southern Africa (ABASA), which was established in 1985.

"There were very few black CAs in South Africa when I was doing my articles in the early 1990s and ABASA members were committed to changing this. We arranged bursaries, held conferences and included student chapters," says Sekese. He also lectured and tutored Unisa students in the evenings and on weekends on a voluntary basis through an educational NGO called Sached, and he lectured at Vista University campus in Soweto on a part-time basis. Vista was established in 1981 by the apartheid government to ensure that urban black South Africans seeking tertiary education would be accommodated within the townships rather than at the "white" campuses.

On completion of his articles in 1992, he was due to work in his bursary time for Tongaat Hulett, when BMW SA offered him a job as divisional financial manager. The motor company managed to convince Tongaat Hulett to accept financial compensation for Sekese's bursary.

"I worked at BMW for a year but the corporate environment didn't suit me. I missed the excitement and daily challenge of the audit profession," he explains. "I had to do something about it because I firmly

Victor Sekese

believe that your work needs to give you enjoyment and fulfilment.”

BMW agreed to let him pay back his bursary money in installments and, at the beginning of 1994, that landmark year for South Africa, he joined Ntsaluba Inc – the first black accounting firm in Johannesburg.

“It was a defining moment for us and a **major victory** for black auditors as it was the first time we had secured an assignment of this magnitude and complexity; one that could prove our **intellectual capability**,”

“I’d worked closely at ABASA with Sango Ntsaluba, who was the principal of the firm. He became a role model for me and helped me a lot.”

Ntsaluba Inc’s offices were in Main Street in downtown Johannesburg and its client profile included NGOs funded by foreign donors and black professionals, notably doctors and lawyers, whom it helped with their books and tax matters.

After 1994, however, the foreign donors started closing the taps on many NGOs; their rationale was that the fight for democracy had been won.

“As we all know, it was far from it, but it forced us to rethink our strategy as a firm because we were losing a significant percentage of our client base. At the same time the market was not yet opening doors for us.”

Teaming up with other members of ABASA’s Practitioners Forum, they created an audit company called APF Inc in early 1995. After lobbying various stakeholders for work, including the Office of the Auditor General, government and state-owned companies, they were offered an opportunity by Transnet, which presented the biggest audit in the state-owned company space. APF Inc was appointed joint auditors to Transnet with Ernst & Young, one of South Africa’s “Big Four” audit firms. The other members of the Big Four are Deloitte, KPMG and PwC.

“It was a defining moment for us and a major victory for black auditors as it was the first time we had secured an assignment of this magnitude and complexity; one that could prove our intellectual capability,” recalls Sekese. “There were a lot of sceptics and we had to go the extra mile to ensure we succeeded, which we did, surprising everyone.”

This signalled the start of significant transformation in the profession, and APF Inc evolved to become a national company, SizweNtsaluba, VSP in late 1995. “Sizwe Nxasana, currently the CEO of FirstRand, was our first CEO and, as a medium-size firm, we secured top clients, including MTN, Stanlib and the South African Reserve Bank,” says Sekese, who succeeded Nxasana in 2006.

But just when it looked like the tide had turned for

them in the new democracy, the market changed with the emergence of the broad-based black economic empowerment scorecard. “It should have worked in our favour; instead, a disturbing trend emerged where the largest firms started showing favourable scorecards on paper. They would then be granted major audits and they would subcontract us. We were regressing from being a firm in our own right and we needed to address this.”

Which they did, by sitting down with another medium-size black-owned firm, Gobodo, and merging in June 2011 to become SizweNtsalubaGobodo – the fifth largest accounting firm in Southern Africa.

As a member of what is now the “Big Five” the firm offers auditing, management, IT and taxation consulting and forensic auditing. It also offers actuarial services, introduced in January 2013, and is sole auditor of Denel and Transnet, the latter over a period of five years at a value of more than R60-million annually.

“We have been awarded these audits not because we are a black firm but because we have capacity and experience, we are agile, we are excellent at what we do and we are quick to respond to new challenges,” says Sekese. The Transnet account, for example, was a baptism of fire. Transnet, he explains, needed to raise US\$1-billion for its expansion programme and his firm had to sign off the audit in 2012.

“We claim our share in the success of this because international investors usually want to see the Big Four signatures and they saw our signature and were still prepared to offer not just \$1-billion but \$8-billion.”

Since the merger the 1 000 staff members of SizweNtsalubaGobodo have been working hard to grow their presence in all of South Africa’s nine provinces, as well as in Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania, Ghana and Nigeria. Approximately 80% of the staff members are black.

The number of black CAs in South Africa has grown over the years to over 6 000 today. “This is still not nearly representative of the 36 000 CAs in the country but we have come a long way, and, together with the SAICA, the profession is doing a lot to improve this,” says Sekese. He has also continued his work with ABASA and is the past President of this association.

Numerous black students over the past 27 years have benefited through the ABASA Bursary Fund while the establishment of ABASA’s Nkuhlu Subvention Fund works to ensure that the historically disadvantaged universities secure quality lecturers to facilitate SAICA accreditation. In 2009 the University of Fort Hare received full accreditation from SAICA as a result of this initiative.

“I am happy to say that the atmosphere in the market has also changed, and our accountants are entrusted with top accounts.”

So where to from here?

“We are working on our Africa strategy – extending our footprint across the continent and acquiring other firms to increase our capacity. Put it this way, our 2011 merger was just the beginning,” says Sekese.

Dr Fanaroff



Dr Fanaroff & The Fantastic Machine

The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) is the biggest scientific project Africa has ever undertaken. The man who was instrumental in making it all happen and now leading the project in South Africa is Wits alumnus Dr Bernie Fanaroff.

By Heather Dugmore



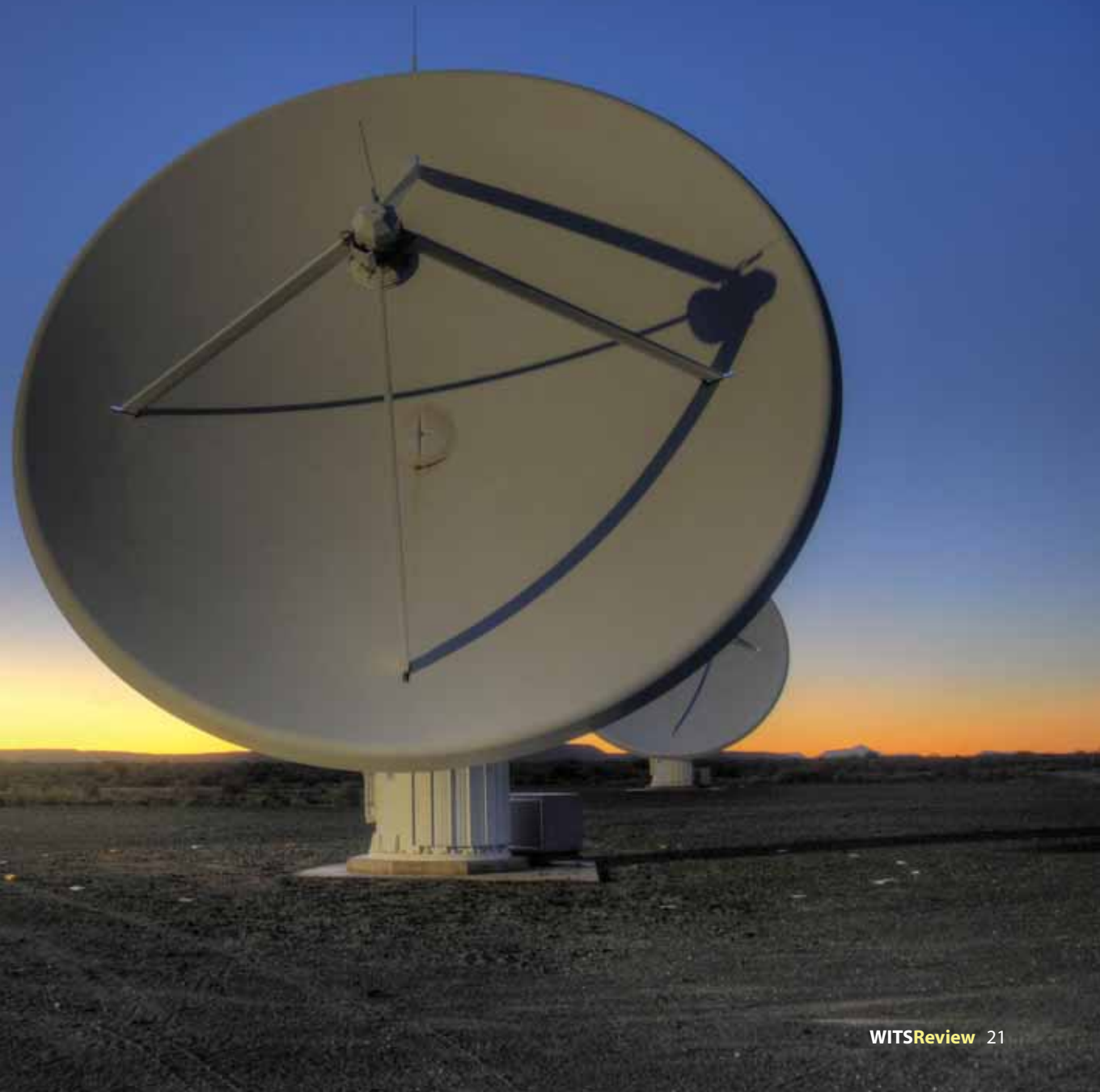




Photo: Maik Wolleben

The arid landscape of Carnarvon in the Northern Cape, where the SKA radio telescope is being built, is watched over by quiver trees. Sentries from another time, these silent giants date back to the ancient world of the Khoisan and still further back to an age before any human footprints passed this way.

It's a world that SKA SA Project Director Dr Bernie Fanaroff has come to know well. A world that reminds us we live on a planet and in a universe that has witnessed far more than we will ever know. It is a fitting location for this "fantastic machine", as Professor Sergio Colafrancesco, SARChI SKA Chair in the Wits School of Physics, calls the SKA.

"This fantastic machine will allow us to study how and where the very first structures in the universe were formed," Colafrancesco explains.

Far larger and approximately 50 times more sensitive

than present-day radio telescopes, it will probe further and deeper than ever before. It will take us back over 13-billion years to the beginning of time as we know it, and help to answer some of science's most far-reaching questions, including: What is dark matter? What is dark energy? Are we alone?

"It will allow us not only to understand the physics and the evolution of the universe and its structures, but also to follow the route of the first structures and fill in the gaps lacking in our current understanding of cosmic history," Colafrancesco elaborates. "It will also allow us to study new aspects of astrophysics, like the origin of extremely high-energy particles, cosmic jets, black holes and the structure and evolution of magnetic fields in cosmic structures."

This fantastic machine is the biggest scientific project Africa has ever undertaken, and the man who was instrumental in making it all happen and now leading the project is Fanaroff, who has been



“The longer-term goal of the SKA project is to build South Africa into a leader in science and technology.”

Photo: Dr Nadeem Oozeer

working on getting it to this point for the past nine years.

“With the site bid completed we are going into the more intensive work of finalising the design and technology of the telescope,” says Fanaroff in a voice as calm as a quiver tree in the moonlight. “A large amount of construction is going on at the Carnarvon base site now and we already have seven dishes up and running. We are using them as a learning prototype and doing science with them.”

He is as excited as everyone else about the project but he keeps his feet on the ground as it is up to him to steer the SKA to success – from helping to secure funding, to ensuring its construction is on track, to guiding the socio-economic and educational benefits and collaborations that are part of the project.

Scientists, engineers and industry partners from around the world are participating in the SKA pro-

ject, for which money will be raised from multiple international funding agencies and countries.

The cost of the SKA project is quoted at R15-billion. “Actually we expect that it will land up being more like R25-billion, and then there are the operational costs of about R2-billion a year,” explains Fanaroff.

Now based in Cape Town at the SKA head office in Pinelands, this Joburger is missing his home city, where he lived for 64 years. He studied physics at Wits and graduated in 1970 with a BSc Hons in Theoretical Physics, followed by a doctorate in radio astronomy at Cambridge, which he received in 1974. He worked as a radio astronomer for a number of years and is renowned in astronomy circles for a breakthrough he and British astronomer Julia Riley made in 1974 in an extremely important classification of radio galaxies, called the Fanaroff-Riley classification.

Capable of wearing many hats with his quiet brand of clout, Fanaroff was also a trade union leader for 15 years, and the first Director-General in the RDP Ministry under Jay Naidoo. The list goes on, but let's leave it at that and focus on the giant cosmic fish he now has to fry with the SKA on his hands.

“In addition to the design, technology and finance side, we're currently working on the hosting and funding agreements, as well as on the completion of the MeerKAT (SKA's precursor) and associated infrastructure.”

Fanaroff and his team would naturally have preferred to win the whole bid, but he says they're happy to be the major player, with the two most important components of the SKA in Africa: the 2 500 satellite dishes and the mid-frequency aperture arrays. Australia will host the hundreds of low-frequency antennae.

“It shows great confidence in Africa,” says Fanaroff, adding that the longer-term goal of the SKA project is to build South Africa into a leader in science and technology.

The influence of the project extends way beyond radio astronomy. It will catalyse technology and green energy development, data transport, software and computing. It is also expected to stimulate skills development, employment and economic growth in South Africa.

“We can't solve all of South Africa's problems,” he smiles, “but what we can do is provide a pipeline that produces the astronomers and

engineers that are required for the project.” The project has already provided 425 grants for MSc and PhD research directly related to the physics, astronomy and engineering aspects of the SKA. Of these, 375 have been awarded for study in South Africa to undergraduates in physics and engineering, and for the training of technicians.

“Our support for undergraduates studying physics and engineering focuses on black and women students, because we weren't getting sufficient numbers of these students into the postgraduate programmes,” Fanaroff explains.

The other 50 grants are for students from other African countries – many have now started astronomy courses at universities in their home countries.

The SKA's 2 500 satellite dishes will be positioned across Africa: 1 800 at the Karoo site and the rest in Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar and Mauritius. The SKA South Africa project is also working with several other African countries on the AVN, or African Very Long Baseline Interferometry Network, which aims to convert redundant satellite communications dishes for astronomy.

On the post doctoral front the SKA project is supporting research in South Africa for a number of researchers from local and international universities. Wits and the other South African universities that are



“A few years ago you could buy a house there for R65 000; now these same houses are selling for R800 000 and there aren’t any available.”



Artist impression courtesy SKA Africa

Square Kilometre Array

involved in the SKA and hold SKA Chairs are collaborating in the research.

The SKA project also has a technician-training programme and is working with the Durban University of Technology and the Further Education and Training College in Kimberley to train technicians to work on the project. “We will have an immense need for technicians and artisans. The FET College in Kimberley is training people from the Carnarvon/Williston/Van Wyksvlei area in artisan skills. The first group has graduated and most of them will be employed at the Karoo site, working on various aspects of construction: from bricklaying and electrical work to plumbing. The minimum qualification for the FET College is a matric, and we have now taken a second, larger group to Kimberley for training.”

To boost the science and mathematics ability of learners at schools in and around Carnarvon, the SKA project is supporting the science and mathematics teachers, and it has provided a science and computer lab. “Good maths and science teachers can secure a job anywhere, which makes it difficult to convince them to take up posts in such a remote area, but we are managing, which is starting to make a difference to the numbers of science and maths matriculants,” says Fanaroff.

The SKA project aims to employ as many South Africans as possible. A large contract to build 64 MeerKAT dishes as a precursor to the SKA that was recently awarded, includes a commitment from the company, Stratosat, that at least 75% of the construction will be done in South Africa,

I love the quiver trees, the Succulent Karoo biome and the vastness and quietness of the area.



Photo: Nakkie van Wyk/www.gannabos.co.za

with accompanying skills transfer. Stratosat will also have a corporate social investment programme in the Carnarvon area.

The MeerKAT telescope, comprising 64 dishes, will be completed by 2016; the SKA will be completed by 2024. Ten international scientific teams, which include South African scientists, have been allocated time for large surveys on the MeerKAT, and they are helping to develop the software tools and all the other aspects the surveys will require.

Human capital and human collaboration is essential to the project's success. This includes the farming community around the SKA core site.

Fanaroff says they have been involved in protracted discussions with the local communities and farmers. One of the issues is communication. While the SKA will be looking back to the beginning of time, communication links for people living on farms in

the Carnarvon/Williston/Van Wyksvlei area are poor.

“The farming communities here used to have a fixed line service from Telkom but this has largely collapsed,” Fanaroff explains. “A few of the farmers have mobile phone connections, usually with a poor signal, but the requirements for protection of the radio environment in the area will in the future restrict the use of cellphone access. To resolve this issue, we’re working with the farming communities and the telecommunications operators on alternative communication technologies.”

A benefit of the SKA to farmers is that it will certainly take precedence where shale gas fracking is concerned. “The Minister has specified that any mining or fracking activities that interfere with the telescope will not be permitted,” Fanaroff says.

The SKA project has also increased the value of

property and land in Carnarvon, and triggered a B&B boom. “A few years ago you could buy a house there for R65 000; now these same houses are selling for R800 000 and there aren’t any available. We have had to build construction camps to supplement the B&B offerings, which have significantly increased in number. They’re all full,” says Fanaroff, who greatly appreciates the area. “I love the quiver trees, the Succulent Karoo biome and the vastness and quietness of the area.”

Taking in all this vastness and the leagues of outer space that the SKA will explore, Fanaroff is filled with the wonder and magnitude of it but he does not believe there is a God out there making sure we’re not alone.

“I’ve been an atheist since the day I was born,” he says. “I’m interested in science, not religion.”

Asked whether he doesn’t at least question what happens when you die, he replies: “You die.” And this finite ending, without any reassurance of heading for heaven, doesn’t make him feel insecure. “I don’t often feel insecure,” he states. He is not being arrogant, he’s just being straightforward, which is how Fanaroff is. “The one thing that gets to me is I hate travelling and I do it a lot. I am insecure about missing flights.”

Between flights all over the world, journeys to the Northern Cape and the universe on his shoulders, Fanaroff has little time to himself. When he can snatch a few hours or days he enjoys going to the theatre, visiting the game parks and the Garden Route and walking his dog. And so it is that on a calm Cape Town afternoon, you might spot the man behind the fantastic machine walking his border collie along the esplanade. ■



Artist impression courtesy SKA Africa



Buffalo Society Mask 1940



Life and Death Masks

Wits' Treasure Trove

The Wits Arts Museum was the host of the Wits90 Treasures exhibition in September and October 2012. Linking past to present and celebrating Wits' heritage, it brought together an unusual selection of treasures from the many museums, libraries and galleries at the University. These were shown off to excellent effect in the fine new spaces of the art museum. It was an exhibition to excite and enthrall visitors, alumni and friends of Wits.

By Katherine Munro

Photos: Erna van Wyk

The 2012 Wits calendar launched the concept of Wits being a treasure house with its theme of objets d'art, artefacts and items from Wits collections. This set curators thinking about the range and reach of Wits treasures, from the Taung Skull to photographs of historical significance. Curators of the different collections at Wits were invited to contribute a selection of their most important assets. The response was overwhelming and the idea of Wits being filled with treasures had instant and wide appeal.

Fifty-five objects were on display, narrowed down from a selection of several hundred suggestions. Not all collections could be included. Nonetheless, each treasure exhibited threw light on some aspect of our history, our society and the many strands of cultural identity. Collectively they helped us to think about mankind's existence, why we are here on the southern tip of Africa and why we are a significant University. There was a subtext of institutional identity as we celebrated another dimension of the best of Wits but with meaning for a wider South Africa.

Together these objects gave a sense of the extraordinary diversity of disciplines nurtured at Wits. We gained an insight into what, through the decades, was thought important enough to save, study and treasure. The interconnectedness of objects important to science

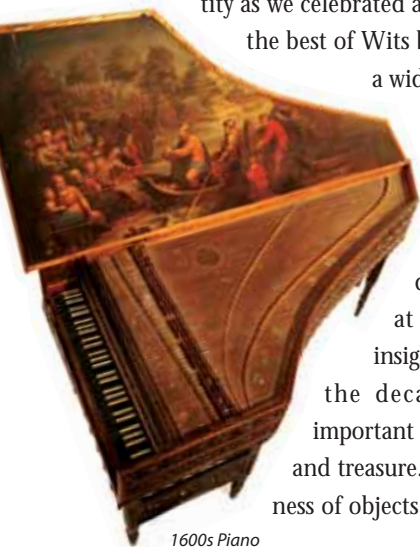
and the humanities was evident. The eclectic mix of artefacts reminded us that this is what a great university is about. By bringing objects together, new associations and links between disciplines, cultures and roots are made. A treasure may not be intrinsically valuable but become valuable through association, or what Anita Nettleton calls "intellectual journeys of discovery".

The exhibition raised debates at Wits as to what we should collect, how we set about collecting treasures and the latest trends in conservation and display. Often it is chance survival or an individual's passion that has preserved the past.

The exhibition also opened a window onto the extraordinary museums at Wits and invited further exploration of the unknown corners of the campuses. At the same time, viewing the exhibition encouraged a new way of looking at objects by reflecting on whether and why they are treasures, what purpose they serve and what insights they offer.

The Rock Art Research Institute contributed several San stone paintings. The Institute for Human Evolution thrilled the viewer with the Taung Skull and *Australopithecus sediba*. Also on show was the original newspaper report of 1925 describing the discovery of the Taung Skull, one of South Africa's greatest contributions to the study of human evolution. We celebrate through these objects the work of great scholars such as Raymond Dart and Phillip Tobias.

Among the oldest treasures on display were clay tablets dating from the third millennium BC, from Ur of the Chaldees. Then we shot forward in time to a 13th century breviary or prayer book in Flemish



1600s Piano

1.



1. Collection of pass books oldest dating to 1905 2. Polar bear skeleton 3. The Iron Lung Both Cabinet Respirator 4. Breviary 13th Century 5. Slave register 1874

“intellectual journeys of discovery”

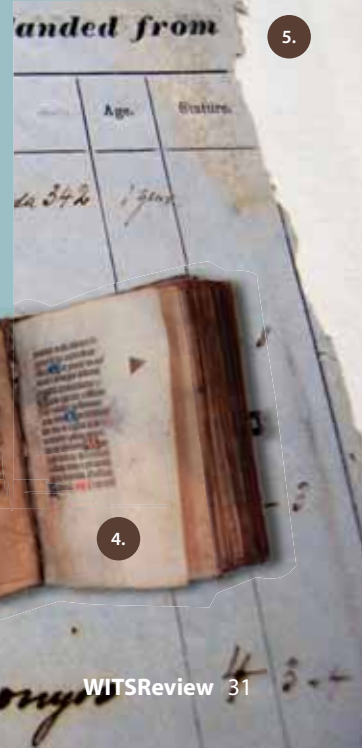
2.



3.



5.



4.

Gothic script on vellum. A 16th century Geneva or “Breeches” Bible is a landmark in the language and history of bible making. Emperor Theodore’s psalter, a book of psalms, in the ancient language Ge’ez, is a parchment manuscript from 17th century Ethiopia. It must have been a rare treasure in the Orthodox church at least until 1868, when a punitive expedition was mounted against the emperor.

Many of the works on display were concerned with discovery and exploration. An 18th century astronomer’s notebook, that of Abbé Nicolas Louis De La Caille, reminded us of the deep roots of South African astronomy and that there is a historical line from 18th century observation in the Cape to the Southern Yale Telescope on the Wits Campus. The rare late 17th century African map by a Venetian cartographer reminded us that the William Cullen Library is the home of an extraordinary Africana map collection.

Historical manuscripts, a letter, a diary, a commemorative postage stamp, a hand-written recipe, were on display, all seemingly ephemeral items but all of priceless importance. They introduced us to the life and works of historical figures such as Sol Plaatjes and David Livingstone and the struggles against the 1913 Land Act. Documents and photographs relating to Nelson Mandela and Robert Sobukwe linked different strands in the liberation movement.

Johannesburg history came to life in the early photographs from the Barnett collection and a register of mining accidents at Simmer & Jack in the early 1930s. The first recording of *Nkosi Sikelel’ iAfrika* as a

hymn by British Zonophone Company, in 1923, was also among the treasures.

The Life Sciences Museum and Biodiversity Centre contributed indigenous medicinal seeds, plants and fruits from the Moss Herbarium and the Zoology Museum. Models of chick embryos and limpets have survived as teaching aids from the 1920s. A 1633 edition of *Gerard’s Herbal*, illustrated with woodblocks, was popular for disseminating knowledge about useful plants in England and was donated to the Herbarium in the 1950s. The work *Genera Plantarum*, by the father of taxonomy, Carl Von Linné, is still used as a work of reference. A collection of dried fruit beetles dating from the early 20th century gave a time-capsule view of the natural habitat of early Johannesburg.

Phineas, the wooden sports mascot sporting a tartan sash, will be remembered by Wits athletics and rugby supporters. This was a trophy for fun raids and capture and is usually visited in the Wits Archives in Senate House.

The Wits Art Museum had to choose its contribution from a collection of 10 000 works of arts and objects. A recent acquisition is the Dumile Feni scroll on paper, running to 530cm, made by the artist in exile in London in the mid-1970s. Another fine exhibit, gracing the front of the exhibition catalogue, was a mask of the “Buffalo Society” of the hunters of the Luba Kingdom in the Congo, carved by a professional hunter.

Herbert Baker architecture blueprints of the plans for the Union Buildings, dating from 1905, indicated the early planning for South Africa as a colonial

1.



2.



3.

Wits' Treasure Trove

*Continuation of the diary
Siege of Mafeking*

1. Postcard of Chinese mine workers 1900-1910 2. Music box 3. Sol Plaatje's diary during Siege of Mafeking 1899 - 1900 4. Australopithecus Sediba on display 5. Rivonia Trial Indictment, Charge Sheet with Ariel photograph of Liliesleaf Farm 1963 6. Selection of pamphlets related to the Rivonia Trial 7. Phineas - the University Mascot

4.



5.



6.



7.



Heritage

dominion with an administrative government complex for Pretoria in grand colonial style. In addition, the School of Architecture contributed visionary but functional drawings by Douglas Calderwood for the planned Witbank experimental township, completed in 1960 for the National Building Research Commission.

The Anatomy Museum selected a somewhat macabre set of life and death face masks. They were from a collection of masks of over 1 300 African people, assembled by Wits' anthropologists. A polar bear skeleton donated by the Johannesburg Zoo spoke for the 1 500 comparative animal skeletons acquired since the 1920s by the museum for teaching and research.

An iron lung and photographs of a blue asbestos tailings dump reminded us of the struggle against diseases such as poliomyelitis in the 1950s and more recently asbestos-related diseases. The Brenthurst clamp splint, made in South Africa, recalled the pioneering work of Jack Penn in reconstructive surgery during the World War II.

A mid 19th century brass binocular microscope from the Adler Museum of Medicine stressed the importance of close scientific study in the many laboratories on campus and highlighted the evolution of instruments. A medicine chest belonging to the Rev Cyril Bulwer was an essential tool in missionary work well into the 20th century.

The Wits Geology Museum exhibited some fine mineral specimens, including pyromorphite, gypsum, kermesite and pyrite crystals.

The Adler Museum of the History of Music exhibited some unusual early musical instruments, such as the 1587 clavictherium, a vertical spinet, a German harpsichord, also from the 16th century, and an 18th century dulcimer. The decorative detail, carved angels, inscriptions, lettering and painted landscapes on the wooden frameworks were a visual delight.


The exhibition brought together contributions that could easily be moved and displayed in the glass cases. The treasures have now been returned to their permanent collections but a catalogue (compiled and edited by Anitra Nettleton) is available, as is a video recording of the exhibition on a memory stick. There are also many more large treasures in the museums around Wits.

Wits museums and centres such as the Origins Centre, the Planetarium and the Kitching Dinosaur Gallery were all open to the public on Heritage Day 2012 and it is hoped that this will become an annual Wits open house heritage celebration.

Wits90 Treasures showed that Wits has been enriched through the donations of many past benefactors and scholars. Wits welcomes future donations to its museums and collections as the University has the capacity to study, interpret, preserve and conserve.

The curators and directors are all to be congratulated on a fine team effort. This exhibition was the first step towards showcasing Wits in its centenary year, 2022.

Katherine Munro is Honorary Associate Professor in the School of Architecture and Planning



WitsChoir



Celebrating 50 years of song

“We are really working on our brand – we want to get away from the staid reputation choirs often have.” So says Dalene Hoogenhout, the conductor of Wits Choir. But she needn’t worry about being thought staid – the choir is vibrant, diverse and passionate.

By Lucille Davie

In fact, if you want to audition, make sure you bring along plenty of passion to qualify for a place in one of the country’s best choirs. But don’t expect to make the cut easily. The last round of auditions saw 80 people apply, but only 16 took their place in the line-up.

The choir recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, and it was a rousing, joyous occasion with many cherished memories and anecdotes. The Wits Great Hall’s roof nearly lifted to the voices of 50 years of singers, filling the stage with their grey hair, jeans and youthful exuberance, singing *Gaudeamus Igitur* and *Ingonyama*. Then the present choir lined up and sang a 50-year repertoire, ranging from *Moon River* to *You are the Sunshine of My Life*, *Someone Like You*, *Ek Slaan My Oë Op* and *Ulalele Ma*.

Choristers from every decade since 1962 were invited to come up on stage and recount their memories of their time in the choir. All agreed – they were immensely happy times.

The choir has, over the decades, nurtured voices from 17 countries around the world – Japan, the US, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Mexico, Benin, Swaziland, Botswana, Malawi, Kenya and Mozambique, among others.

Hoogenhout has been the conductor and trainer for 18 years, taking the choir from singing traditional Western songs to a repertoire that is “cutting-edge African music”.

“We are promoting the talent of composers in South Africa,” she says. Next year they will be performing four pieces written especially for the choir by South African composers, commissioned by the Southern African Music Rights Organisation.

This is why Wits University’s bosses are pleased with the work the choir is doing. “They are so appreciative of what we do, they realise it’s a huge marketing tool for the University,” she adds. A recent tour to KwaZulu-Natal elicited applications to study at Wits.



She pays tribute particularly to Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Yunus Ballim for his support. Constitutional Court judges Edwin Cameron and Dikgang Moseneke are big fans too.

“The choir is one of the treasures of Wits,” enthuses Ballim. “It stands for the welcoming culture that Wits wants to stand for. In the world of university choirs, Wits Choir puts us already in the top 100 universities.”

The Wits Choir is open to everyone, regardless of whether they are or have ever been a Wits student. At present the ages range from 18 to 40 and members include an actuary, a lawyer, an engineer and a doctor, and only three music students. And, smiles Hoogenhout, no matter how busy they may be, they never miss a rehearsal.

She stresses that when on stage, the choir members are competing with themselves, comparing themselves to their previous performances. This is why she doesn’t enter the choir into competitions. “It is all about comparing yourself to yourself.”

It’s about friendships too. Says 22-year-old Matumelo Mothupi, who is studying linguistics and sign language at Wits: “We’re a family, it’s not just a group of people coming together to sing, this is my second family.” She says it’s almost like therapy. “I want to remain in the choir for a very long time.”

Hoogenhout has a three-month probation period for newcomers. Some people feel threatened by the closeness of choir members, by the passion on display.

“You have to bare your soul on stage. You can’t perform if you can’t show the emotion of the music.”

This is the criterion by which she assesses the success or failure of a performance. “You have to sing from the heart; it’s about how you move your audience,” she explains.

And they move in other ways too. Singing songs means moving to the words. Hoogenhout says the movement is very natural to her. When adding new songs to the repertoire she breaks them down into layers: the words, the music, the movement. Members master one layer, then move on to the next.

Hoogenhout has had many good times with the choir. The tours they’ve done – to the US and Canada, the Czech Republic, Argentina, Namibia, Kenya, and the Seychelles. The Grahamstown festival tours, and tours around the country.

They sang the anthem at Helen Suzman’s memorial service, where Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu was in the audience. “He jumped up and ran to me and said: ‘You’re wonderful!’.”

Wits Choir

The choir has sung for Nelson Mandela three times, and received his praise. He was standing talking to the members when Hoogenhout walked over and asked him if he wanted to conduct the choir. He responded in characteristic fashion: “I will do the dancing.”

The choir is self-sustaining, getting only Hoogenhout’s salary and their base, Choir House, from Wits. They perform at all the Wits graduation ceremonies, and do charity events, choir workshops and paid performances. They have sung with choirs from around the world, and been on stage with national and international stars including Loyiso Bala, Skwatta Kamp, RJ Benjamin, Five Men Three

Missing and Dear Reader. The choir has recorded five albums.

Hoogenhout is herself a Wits alumna and former Wits Choir member. She sang in choirs at school and has, over the years, sung in three choirs. She says with a laugh that if she wasn’t conducting the Wits Choir she would have aspired to be a jazz singer. She conducted her first choir at the age of 18 and taught, among other choirs, The Duke of Cornwall Singers and the Boys’ College Choir of St Stithians College for 12 years, leaving an excellent legacy for some 450 boys.

She is often invited to adjudicate at choir festivals, and present workshops and master classes.



“You have to **bare your soul** on stage. You can’t perform if you can’t show the emotion of the music.”



“You have to **sing from the heart**; it’s about how you move your audience”

She continues her own education by attending courses on choral conducting, both at home and abroad. She teaches in the Music Department at Wits, and believes fervently in education. “The basis of everything I do is education. I wanted to be a teacher from the age of five.” She says she wants to “grow people to feel confident, to make a success of their lives”.

Forty-year-old Cameroonian Regina Osih, a choir member for two years, says Hoogenhout tries to instil skills in management and build responsible members. “She transfers skills that are not purely music related.”

Hoogenhout insists on various committees – marketing, communications, project planning, charity performances, petty cash, finances – which run the

choir, and also gives members those additional skills. Osih, who is a doctor, says choir practice is gruelling, with up to 10 hours in rehearsals a week. “It’s a lot of work but I feel so great when I leave Choir House. I feel refreshed and rejuvenated.”

Osih echoes a feeling that no doubt many in the choir feel: “[Hoogenhout] is very gifted, very talented. She has a passion for showcasing the richness of African music.”

The choir sings songs from across Africa, often with disagreements on pronunciation. These disagreements are solved by bringing in language experts. But Hoogenhout wouldn’t have it any other way. “The work of the Wits Choir is in South Africa – with excellence through diversity, in multi-languages, backgrounds and ages.”



*Top L-R: Charles Douglas, Musa Kalenga, Nothando Migogo, Heather Wilmot
Centre L-R: Andrew Barrett, Tumelo Malekane, Kieron Jina
Bottom L-R: John Oliphant, Baveshe Kana, Megan Russell, Fulufhelo Nelwamondo.*

Images: Mail & Guardian



Young Wits alumni among South Africa's best

Twelve of the young South Africans featured on the *Mail & Guardian's* 2012 list of 200 Top Young South Africans are Wits alumni. The annual feature identifies independently nominated South Africans, younger than 40, in various categories "for doing extraordinary things" in their fields.

By Deborah Minors

BUSINESS & LAW

Charles Douglas, 36

Partner: Bowman Gilfillan



Charles Douglas holds a Masters in Law from Wits. He has been a partner at law firm Bowman Gilfillan since 2007. The Supreme Court of New South Wales in Australia admitted him as an attorney during a secondment there from

Bowman Gilfillan in 2005. Douglas specialises in mergers and acquisitions, and capital markets. His expertise lies in energy and mining transactions and he directs the firm's renewable energy practice area. Most notable is Douglas' experience in broad-based black economic empowerment transactions. A R7,3-billion empowerment transaction he brokered for SABMiller earned him the 2009 DealMaker of the Year Award. Douglas was originally a Fine Arts student and is working towards a solo exhibition.

Musa Kalenga, 28

Group Head: Digital Marketing at Nedbank

Youth strategist and entrepreneur Musa Kalenga is not just a marketer, but also the youngest Chartered Marketer (SA) in Africa. After graduating from Wits with a Commerce degree in Marketing and Advanced Management (2009), he founded youth marketing agency Monatefellaz and later headed experiential marketing agency IHOP WORLD. He participated in advising Ghana's National Democratic Party on its branding and strategy for the 2009 presidential campaign. In 2008, he received an unprecedented three nominations for the Black Business Quarterly Awards and *Sunday World* hailed him as a "marketing fundi". He presents his own television shows *The Kalenga Touch* and *One Day Entrepreneur*. He joined Nedbank in 2012.



Nothando Migogo, 30

Managing Director: Dramatic, Artistic and Literary Rights Organisation (DALRO)



Nothando Migogo took the reins at DALRO in August 2011. The organisation aims to protect the copyright of authors, artists and publishers. Migogo is using her Wits Law degree to guide DALRO into the digital age

in line with developments in copyright management. Previously tasked with ensuring that photocopied (and otherwise reproduced) copyrighted material was under licensed control, DALRO in the 21st century must harness the Internet to develop content while remaining relevant to its rights holders. Migogo is the strategic mastermind driving this vision. “The space in which we exist...is inevitably changing and we need to...continue to provide relevant solutions to both our rights holders and licensees,” she said.

Heather Wilmot, 30

Director: Norton Rose South Africa

Heather Wilmot holds a Law degree (*Cum Laude*) from Wits. She is a litigator who specialises in aviation. Her niche expertise enabled her to expand the aviation practice at law firm Norton Rose, of which she became a Director in 2010. Wilmot



envisages a network that will unite the aviation industry in Africa. To this end, she co-founded the global Aerial Network and produced the documentation that provided an overview of South Africa’s aviation industry. In 2012, she co-ordinated the first African Aviation School, a conference for 100 African delegates across the industry. The *International Who’s Who of Aviation Lawyers* named her a leading aviation lawyer that year.

Craig Wing, 32

Head: Small Business Marketing at Google South Africa

A self-confessed “engineer by qualification, entrepreneur by passion, Googler by spirit”, Wing develops content for small business Internet users and educates these users on the business benefits of the Internet.



Before he joined Google in July 2011, he had earned two Engineering degrees from Wits and an MBA in entrepreneurship from Babson College, USA, and started three companies. His first company, selling software for partially sighted children, evolved from the Wits Innovation and Entrepreneurship Office, which commercialises student projects. His other companies were an entrepreneurship consultancy and a clean-tech start-up. Named a World Economic Future Global Shaper, Wing won the Ashoka U Changemaker award in 2010 and *Destiny Man* named him one of “40 men under 40 years to watch” in 2012.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Andrew Barrett, 33

Co-founder: Siyakhula Education Foundation



Andrew Barrett co-founded the Siyakhula Education Foundation (SEF), which works with computer-training centres in Ivory Park

and Diepsloot informal settlements in Johannesburg, to deliver computer literacy training. Siyakhula - meaning "we are growing" - also supports Ikamva Youth, an initiative that helps township learners improve their exam results and access university. Through SEF, Barrett aims to create enduring solutions in the lives of the impoverished, through enabling access to education. His philanthropy may well be informed by the three degrees he holds in Philosophy, including a Masters, from Wits, and a Social Entrepreneurship certificate from the Gordon Institute of Business Science. GIBS awarded Barrett and SEF its Best Action Learning Project Award in 2010.

EDUCATION

Tumelo Malekane, 27

Principal: LEAP School, Ga-Rankuwa

Tumelo Malekane opted out of the corporate rat race to fulfil a personal commitment to the greater good. He left his high-flying job in finance to become a teacher and "be a positive influence in children's lives". Malekane holds a BSc in Actuarial

Science from Wits. He abandoned the commercial pursuits of corporate finance in 2010 to join LEAP Schools, a group of independent secondary schools that focus on mathematics and science. Two years later, Malekane became one of the youngest principals in the country, when he took the helm at the LEAP School at Ga-Rankuwa.



POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

John Oliphant, 30

Principal Officer and Head: Investments and Actuarial at Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF)



Before John Oliphant earned BSc degrees in Actuarial Science and Mathematics of Finance at Wits, he was President of the SRC Students' Education Programme. Seven years later, he heads the largest pension fund in Africa. Oliphant is driven

by the knowledge that 350 000 pensioners rely on him to invest their money responsibly. It's his job to ensure that the fund achieves maximum returns with minimum risk. He drives the GEPF's responsible investment policies and he established the South African network of the United Nations-backed Principles for Responsible Investment. He reports to Parliament but understands that his actual employer is the pensioner.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Bavesh Kana, 37

Head of Wits Node: Department of Science and Technology/National Research Foundation Centre of Excellence for Biomedical TB Research



Dr Bavesh Kana holds three degrees in Biochemistry and Genetics from Wits, including a PhD (2004). He was one of 28 researchers out of 760 applicants to receive an International Early Career Scientist Award from the Howard Hughes Medical

Institute, and one of two South Africans awarded the \$650 000 each researcher received, to further his research into tuberculosis (TB). Kana's research interrogates latent TB infection, with which some two billion people worldwide are infected. These individuals carry a 10% lifetime risk of developing active TB, an affliction that eventually requires chemotherapy and will burden society if unattended. Based on Kana's further research, the Weill Cornell Medical College invited him to assist a leading TB research group there.

Megan Russell, 30

Lecturer in Electrical Engineering at the University of Johannesburg

Megan Russell holds Electrical and Biomedical Engineering degrees from the University of Cape Town and a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Wits (2011). Her research led to the development

of an artificial larynx (voice box), which literally restores the voices of laryngectomy patients. Russell's groundbreaking engineering works by calculating the patient's intended words based on an analysis of the way the tongue connects with the palate. The technology enables the generation of pre-recorded words that sound like the patient's voice. Russell presented her now-patented artificial larynx project at an international congress in Beijing. She was a finalist in the 2011 UJ/Group 5 Excellent Women in Engineering and Technology competition.



Fulufhelo Nelwamondo, 30

Competency Area Manager: Information Security at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)



Dr Fulufhelo Nelwamondo is a computational intelligence and pattern recognition specialist at the CSIR. He holds a degree in Electrical Engineering and a PhD (converted from a Masters) in Computational Intelligence from Wits. He is the youngest South African ever to have received the Harvard-South Africa Fellowship. Nelwamondo researched an algorithm that increases the rate and efficacy of matching partial fingerprints. His work in the field

of artificial intelligence, specifically developing techniques to interpret corrupt data in online polls, has won awards. An extension of this research enables effective computer modelling on the spread of HIV. He is widely published and is a Visiting Professor at the University of Johannesburg.

ARTS & CULTURE

Kieron Jina, 27

Performance artist and lecturer in the Wits School of Education



Kieron Jina is a performer, teacher, dancer, choreographer, activist, director, cinematographer and video editor. He holds degrees in performance studies from Wits where he won the Richard Haines Prize in 2009. His Masters degree incorporated

physical theatre, theatre as activism, education and therapy, and experimental filmmaking. He joined the University staff in 2009 and lectures Movement Studies in the School of Education. Jina “uses performance art to tell personal stories that, underpinned by activism, explore societal themes and challenge stereotypes in an effort to captivate, activate and

alter audiences’ minds.” He co-founded the *Stash the Suitcase Collective*, which seeks new inspiration, experiences and collaborations locally and abroad. In November 2012, he represented South Africa at a choreographic residency in Réunion Island.

Six Wits University staff members also featured on the list:

Arts & Culture:

- **Donna Kukama**, Performance artist and Lecturer in the School of Arts
- **Zen Marie**, 32, Artist and Lecturer in the School of Arts
- **Bailey Snyman**, 34, Dancer, choreographer and Lecturer in the School of Arts

Business & Law:

- **Kasturi Moodaliyar**, 35, Associate Professor: Competition Law in the School of Law

Education:

- **Dr Kelly Gillespie**, 36, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology

Health:

- **Desmond Kegakilwe**, Clinical Quality Improvement Mentor in the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute

L-R: Zen Marie, Dr Kelly Gillespie and Desmond Kegakilwe.



edge



Dr David Koloane

Dr Elza Miles

the

Alumni with

Dr David Koloane

One of Africa's most pre-eminent artists and socio-cultural activists, David Nthubu Koloane received an honorary doctorate in Arts at the Wits Faculty of Humanities graduation ceremony in June 2012. Described as a "distinguished and inspirational artist" and a "living pioneer", Koloane has consistently pursued a social justice agenda that promotes black South African artists. Traversing multiple roles in the art world and society, he has contributed significantly as an intellectual thought-leader, critic, mentor and curator. He co-founded The Gallery in Jeppestown and the Federation Union of Black Artists (FUBA) in the 1970s, and the Bag Factory in Fordsburg, all of which were instrumental in giving exposure to black local artists. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arts and Culture Trust in 2008.

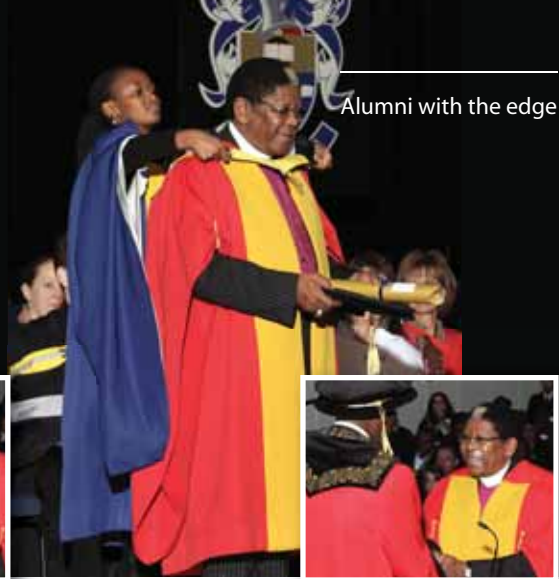
Dr Elza Miles

Wits awarded Dr Elza Miles an honorary doctorate in Arts on 26 July 2012. Her seminal research into the lives of African artists has been the basis of award-winning publications. These include *Lifeline out of Africa – The Art of Ernest Mancoba*, which won the Recht Malan Prize and the Old Mutual Literary Award. In addition to writing and publishing, Miles has curated several major exhibitions and she won the FNB Vita Arts Award for curatorship for her 1994 *Hand in Hand* exhibition. In 2006, the Department of Arts and Culture and the Mutloatse Arts Heritage Trust awarded Miles a fellowship to facilitate research into the life and work of Selby Mvusi (1929 – 1967).

By Deborah Minors



Professor Duncan Mitchell



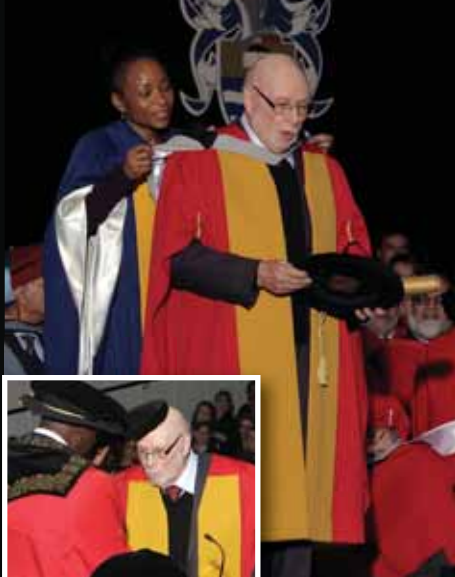
Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane

Professor Duncan Mitchell

Wits awarded Professor Duncan Mitchell an honorary doctorate in Science on 1 June 2012. Mitchell is South Africa's most cited and only A-rated physiologist. He was the first South African elected a member of the American Physiological Society. He is the longest-standing A-rated researcher at Wits, where he served as Professor of Physiology for almost 30 years. Mitchell holds degrees in physics, biophysics and mathematics from Wits spanning disciplines including medicine, zoology and eco-physiology. He established the Wits Brain Function Research Unit, now world-renowned in the physiology of brain function and in temperature regulation, fever, pain and sleep. Mitchell has won the University's most coveted teaching prizes, including the PV Tobias/Convocation Distinguished Teachers Award (1994) and the Daubenton Prize for teaching (1977). The School of Physiology established the Duncan Mitchell Prize for Physiology Honours on his 60th birthday in 2001.

Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane

The former Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Njongonkulu Ndungane received an honorary doctorate in Literature from Wits on 5 July 2012. Ndungane is internationally respected for his leadership in contemporary public theology, human rights, social justice and ministry to the poor. Ndungane entered the ministry while a political prisoner on Robben Island in the 1960s. He was ordained as a priest and attained local and international degrees in divinity and theology in the 1970s. He succeeded Desmond Tutu as Archbishop of Cape Town in September 1996 and made critical theological contributions to rebuilding the New South Africa. In particular, his Jubilee 2000 Campaign espoused his commitment to economic justice. This initiative aimed to abolish Third World debt, combat poverty and promote the Millennium Development Goals. In 2006, Ndungane launched the African Monitor to track and promote the implementation of promises made by the international community and Africa's own



Emeritus Professor Albert Solomon



Bishop Paul Verryn

governments. He received South Africa’s Order of the Grand Counsellor of the Baobab (Silver) in 2008 for his “excellent contribution to the struggle against apartheid and striving for a world free of wars, poverty and inequality.”

Emeritus Professor Albert Solomon

An expert in the study of the radiology of asbestos-related disease in South Africa, Wits Emeritus Professor Albert Solomon received an honorary degree from the University on 1 June 2012. Solomon is renowned for his seminal research in the 1970s in industrial lung disease and the effects of asbestos inhalation. His early interest in occupational diseases contributed to the ongoing radiological education of staff at the National Institute for Occupational Health for almost 20 years. Solomon holds a medical degree from Wits. He lectured at the University and was associated with (now) Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital originally from 1964 to 1979. He practised in Israel in the 1980s and returned to South Africa

in 1993. He ultimately became Chief Radiologist at the hospital and Chair of Radiology at Wits. In 2001, he became a Fellow of the College of Radiologists.

Bishop Paul Verryn

Wits University awarded Bishop Paul Verryn a Gold Medal at the Faculty of Humanities graduation ceremony on 26 July 2012. The Bishop is head of the Central Methodist Church in Johannesburg. Described as “an anti-apartheid activist, champion of the poor and warrior against social injustice”, he is particularly renowned for sheltering refugees in his church after the xenophobic attacks in May 2008. He played an important role in mediating and continued sheltering refugees – up to 4 000 – until March 2009, after Government closed the refugee camp. Verryn’s affidavit against a court order to remove the refugees was central to the indefinite reprieve afforded refugees by the courts.

the writing edge

Alumni with

Only the
Dead

Hamilton
Wen

Author of
HOUSE
OF WAR

Compiled by Deborah Minors

Would you
soul for the
change t

Xolela Mangcu

BIKO
A Biography

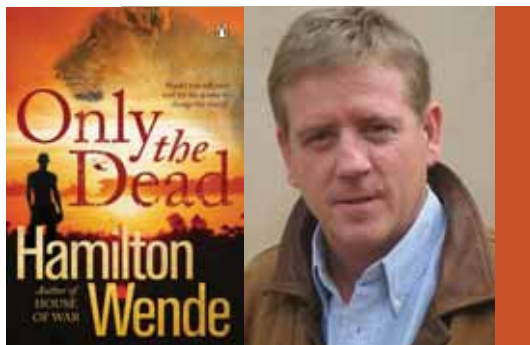
Updated Edition

GRAEME CODRINGTON AND
SUE GRANT-MARSHALL

mind
the
gap

Own your Past
Know your Generation
Choose your Future

ABSENT
TONGUES
BY KELWYN SOLE



FICTION

Only the Dead, by Hamilton Wende

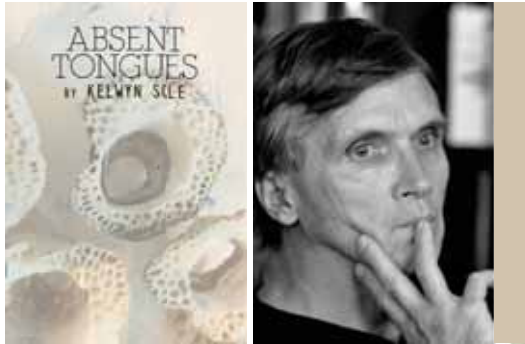
Arts alumnus and award-winning journalist Hamilton Wende has covered wars all over Africa and the Middle East and in Afghanistan. He has been a guest lecturer in creative writing and narrative non-fiction at Wits, Rhodes and UCT. Wende's publications include a children's book, *The Quagga's Secret* (1995), a reporter travelogue, *Deadlines from the Edge* (2008), and a novel, *House of War* (2009), which eminent author Wilbur Smith found to be "a well-structured novel ... which held my interest up to the last page." *Only the Dead* (Penguin, 2012) is Wende's seventh book and the second in the Sebastian Burke series. In the Ugandan jungle, a mysterious new presence has infiltrated the Claws of God - a cult army of child soldiers led by the depraved General Faustin. In an attempt to penetrate the minds of these dangerous and brainwashed children, psychologist Tania Richter calls on Sebastian Burke for assistance. Soon Sebastian finds himself embroiled in a war that extends to the conflict between Islamic extremists and the American government.



NON-FICTION

Biko: A Biography, by Dr Xolela Mangcu

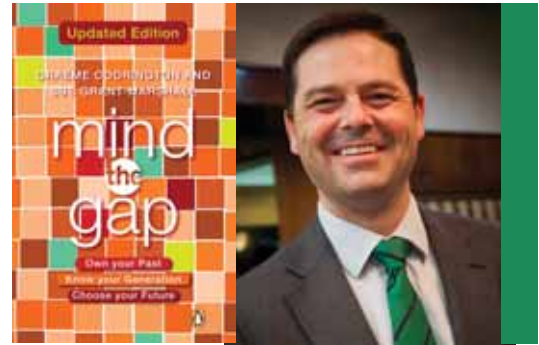
Dr Xolela Mangcu holds degrees in Sociology and Urban Design from Wits and is Executive Chairman of the University's Platform for Public Deliberation. He is Associate Professor in Sociology at UCT, Associate Editor at the Sunday Independent, and Executive Director of the Steve Biko Foundation. *Biko: A Biography* (Tafelberg, 2012) is "the first comprehensive biography" of the political icon, anti-apartheid activist and thinker who conceived Black Consciousness. Biko died after apartheid police tortured him; Wits alumna Helen Zille - then a journalist - exposed the circumstances around his murder. The biography explores Biko's childhood in Ginsberg in the Eastern Cape, schooling at Lovedale College, and student politics and Black Consciousness in Durban. The book reveals issues of gender and sexism, Biko's dalliances with women, and his relationship with his wife and with Wits alumna Dr Mamphela Ramphele. Other chapters include Biko's impact on the June 1976 student uprising and the years of his restriction to King William's Town.



POETRY

Absent Tongues, by Professor Kelwyn Sole

A Professor in English at UCT, Kelwyn Sole holds a degree in English and a PhD from Wits. *Absent Tongues* (Hands-On Books, 2012) is this award-winning poet's sixth volume. *Absent Tongues* is "a col-lection [of] hymnal vignettes that thread the landscape of South Africa with patterns of myth and people". Critics write, "[Sole's] insights draw us into the heartlessness of our new political masters, the confused brutality behind the poor immigrants ... his voice is our national conscience." Lauded as "South Africa's foremost poet writing in English", Sole won the Thomas Pringle Award for Poetry, awarded in June 2012 by the English Academy of Southern Africa, for his poem *Cape Town*TM. In it he "writes of tik houses and security walls and a city's residents lost in shopping malls, soccer stadiums, online shopping and cellular phones". Judges lauded the poem's "sharp perception of place and nature" and "precise social criticism". Sole previously won English Academy awards for literary criticism (1998) and for "new emergent talent" (1989).



SELF-HELP

Mind the Gap: Own Your Past, Know Your Generation, Choose Your Future, by Dr Graeme Codrington

Wits Accountancy alumnus Dr Graeme Codrington is a futurist, author and speaker on the new world of work. He runs a company that helps organisations prepare for the disruptive forces that will shape their industries in future. He holds postgraduate degrees in Business Administration, Sociology, Theology/Philosophy, and Youth Work. Codrington co-authored *Mind the Gap* (Penguin, updated 2011), along with other best-sellers *Future-Proof Your Child: Parenting the Wired Generation* (2008) and *Mind Over Money* (2001). *Mind the Gap* explores how the era into which you were born defines your parenting techniques, your clothing choices, your relationship with your boss and your child, and your attitude to money and sex. The book aims to shrink the "generation gap" by revealing what makes you and other generations tick. You'll understand why your boss insists on endless meetings, your 20-something student rejects a 50-something computer teacher and why, in your forties, you still seek your parents' approval.

WHAT'S ON? at wits

WITS ART MUSEUM (WAM)

**November 2012 to
February 2013**

**Exhibition: *The Art of Life
and Death (and everything in
between)***

This rich exhibition, drawn from WAM's permanent collection, explores the theme of cycles of life in African art. Ancestry, birth, childhood, initiation into adulthood, childbearing, senior status and death are all sites of significant art making. Fascinating historical and contemporary objects offer reflections on the kinds of aesthetic expressions that mark or differentiate parts of the endlessly cyclical journey of life.

Address: University Corner, Corner Bertha (extension of Jan Smuts Avenue) and Jorissen Streets, Braamfontein, Johannesburg | **Bookings for tours/events:** leigh.blanckenberg@wits.ac.za | **Hours:** Open Wednesday to Sunday 10:00 to 16:00 | **Cost:** Donation or free.



PULLEN FARM

Pullen Farm is a 500-hectare Wits farm facility in Mpumalanga. It is available to alumni, members of staff, postdoctoral fellows and postgraduates for recreational and academic purposes. Situated 400km from Johannesburg and 35km from Nelspruit, Pullen Farm boasts fauna, flora, birdlife and views to Swaziland. A main house with 34 beds and a cottage (three self-contained flats) with 14 beds all comfortably accommodate individuals, couples or groups in single, bunk or double beds. All accommodation is equipped with electricity and running water with solar powered geysers.

Bookings: Contact the School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences (APES) | Self-catering
Cost: R50/person/night | Tel: +27 11 717 6403
www.wits.ac.za/pullenfarm

ORIGINS CENTRE

Until 29 March 2013

Exhibition: *Prehistory: The Investigation*, by the Toulouse Museum of Natural History



This acclaimed exhibition from the Toulouse Natural History Museum in France is currently on display at the Origins Centre. The exhibition is part of the French Season in South Africa 2012/13. It is an exhibition with a difference. Inspired by a prehistoric murder, visitors act as crime scene detectives and equipped with archaeological tools from five investigation fields, they can try to solve the 7 400 year old mystery of how these two people died and came to be buried together. Was it a ritual murder; or a crime? **Date:** From November 2012 until the end of March 2013 | **Time:** Mondays - Fridays: 09:00-17:00; Saturdays: 09:00-13:30 | **Venue:** Origins Centre, East Campus | **Cost:** R60 per adult, R35 per child (*gives you access to all the exhibitions at the museum*) | **Enquiries:** 011 717 7400, ask@origins.org.za or visit www.origins.org.za

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

PLACES TO VISIT at wits

Adler Museum of Medicine

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

Linder Auditorium

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

Maropeng, the Cradle of Humankind and the Sterkfontein Caves

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

The Origins Centre

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

Planetarium

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

Wits Rural Facility

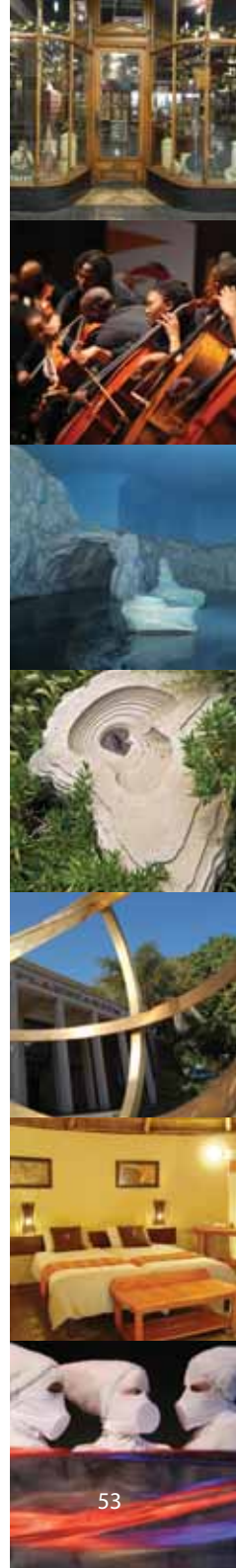
From Johannesburg, N14 and from Pretoria, N4 to Witbank (eMalahleni) to Belfast (eMakhazeni) to R540 to Lydenburg (Mashishing) to R36 to Abel Erasmus Pass to R531 to Klaserie then Orpen road turn-off 2km past Klaserie, Limpopo province
Tel +27 (0) 15 793 7500 | **Email** wrfmanager@tiscali.co.za | **Cost:**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

Wits Theatre Complex

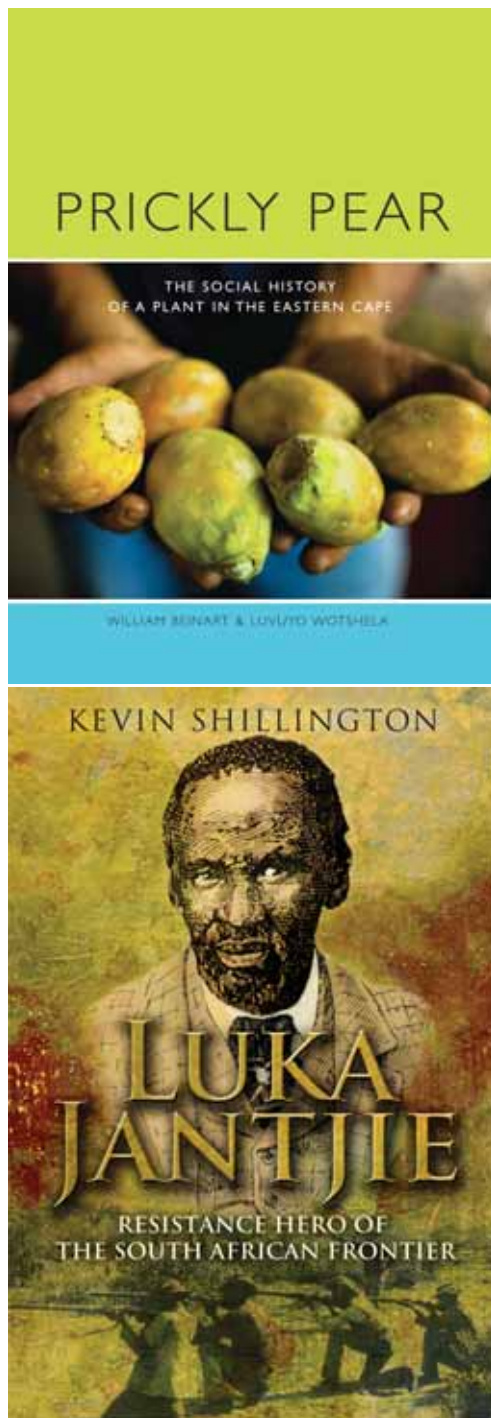
East Campus, Wits University, Performing Arts Administration, 24 Station Street, Braamfontein, Johannesburg | **Tel** +27 (0) 717 1376 | **Email** Catherine.Pisanti@wits.ac.za | **Hours** PAA reception hours, 08:00 to 16:00, Monday to Friday | **Cost** Varies according to programme | **Tickets** 073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

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

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



Book Reviews



Prickly Pear - The Social History of a Plant in the Eastern Cape

By William Beinart and Luvuyo Wotshela
(Wits University Press, 2012)

To some a delicacy but to others an alien plant invader and a curse for the cattle farmer, the prickly pear – or, to give it its scientific name, *Opuntia ficus-indica* – is deserving of study and has been well served by these authors, who write as environmental historians. Here is a way of linking past and present through the history and impact of a particular plant. It is a fascinating story of a useful and versatile cactus introduced into South Africa from Mexico via circuitous routes in the 18th century. This study crosses disciplinary boundaries as it draws upon history, social anthropology and botany to explain why policies towards invasive plants and their eradication should be rethought.

South Africans are familiar with the common prickly pear, its succulent, pip-filled inner fruit protected by the green, fleshy cactus skin. It's a wild plant which will readily spread if left unchecked and is to be found from the Western Cape to the Limpopo. It's used as a fruit for jam making, a base for home-made beer, a salad, or to make a potent farm-distilled spirit, witblits. Called *turksvy* (Turkish fig) in Afrikaans and *itolofiya yasendle emhlophe* (wild white prickly pear of the veld) in isiXhosa, it is a plant whose usefulness is deeply embedded in both of these cultures. It was one of the pleasures of South African country travel in the past and even now, en route from Grahamstown to Fort Beaufort and beyond, in season you can buy a bowl of ripe prickly pears at the roadside

for immediate enjoyment. You need to be skilled in using a sharp knife to split the skin and remove the inner fruit without allowing the fine, hairy spines to touch your skin.

This study concentrates on the socio-economic history of the prickly pear in the Eastern Cape and considers the ebb and flow of settlement, farming, rural power, scientific knowledge and the changing rural economy. The critical question underpinning the study is whether it is a useful plant or a dangerous invader. A fascinating chapter is devoted to the economic benefits and income generated today by poor black families and especially women in harvesting and using the wild fruit. Another chapter relates the story of the very merry annual Uitenhage Prickly Pear Festival (1987 to 2005). Bloemfontein has even hosted an international cactus pear conference. In the past the plant has been used as a fruit, a fodder in times of drought and a hedging plant. It was used as an ingredient in soap making and could be turned into a laxative medicine or a blood purifier. There is a link between the plant and the cochineal insect and the prospects for a Cape-based natural dye industry are considered.

Following an energetic campaign to eradicate the wild *Opuntia* in the 1930s and 1940s (an estimated 2-million acres – more than 800 000 hectares – were covered by these wild plants in the 1930s), various species were declared weeds. It is actually illegal to nurture wild prickly pears though it would appear that the legislation is more honoured in the breach than in enforcement.

Global warming and a renewed study of alternative

useful plants, biodiversity and plant transfers has rekindled interest in plants that can survive droughts. The core argument of the book is that attitudes, practices and policies should be challenged and changed to encourage a balanced approach to access, control, management, cultivation and use of the prickly pear for the commercial benefit of many rural inhabitants and communities.

A variety of grainy black and white photographs and diagrams add visual interest but the book would have wider appeal if there were more quality illustrations in colour.

This is an original and pioneering work and will join other books on my ecological/economy bookshelf, such as the works of Henry Hobhouse (*Seeds of Change and Seeds of Wealth*) and Redcliffe Salaman (*The History and Social Influence of the Potato*).

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

 **Luka Jantjie, Resistance Hero of the South African Frontier**

By Kevin Shillington (Wits University Press, 2012)

Luka Jantjie was a *kgosi*, a leader of a branch of the SeTswana-speaking Batlhaping, who was killed in the Northern Cape in 1897 while protecting his followers and his stretch of land against colonial and capitalist appropriation. We are indebted to Shillington for this powerful and compassionate biography of a hero who is not widely known. This is a story of invasion and conquest, heroism and resistance. Through researching and tracing the life of a man and his ancestors, the study enriches and extends

South African history. This is a story of people who had occupied this part of Southern Africa for over 200 years and the pressures they faced when their lifestyles and beliefs were challenged by missionaries, adventurers, Afrikaner farmers, diamond seekers and speculators and colonial administrators during the 19th century.

Change was rapid and uncontrollable from the 1850s onwards as guns, horses, cattle, ox wagons, ivory, diamonds, alcohol and money became a potent brew in shifting political interests and ownership of land. Jantjie embraced the benefits of the encroaching new industrial world; he was a Christian and was literate; he was a man of peace and nonviolence but he was also a proud, brave man who defended his rights and his people in battle and he died a violent death. The work raises questions about the relationship between blind economic forces that rolled over the frontier and the roles and responsibilities of individual leaders. Who was and who should have been punished and indeed by which civic authority? How can a society manage or respond to rapid extraneous change? It is a shocking story of dispossession, exile, violence and ultimate defeat following a six-month siege in the Langeberg.

The blend of memory, oral tradition and history links past to present as land reform, recompense and redress for communities remain issues. The work is well illustrated with maps and colour pictures, and enhanced with inserts of smaller black and white photographs which bring individual players to life.

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



Obituaries

Wits University fondly remembers those who have passed away

Engelbrecht, Benjamin (1928 - 2012)

Former head of the Department of Religious Studies and Wits benefactor Professor Benjamin Engelbrecht died on 18 October 2012 on his farm in North West province, aged 84. Born on 25 June 1928 in the Free State, he held degrees in theology and liturgy from the University of Pretoria and the Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht, Netherlands. His dissertation earned him a doctorate from the University of South Africa. He was a priest at the NG Kerk from 1954 to 1965, after which he worked with Beyers Naudé in the Christian Institute and as editor of *Pro Veritate*. He joined Wits in 1970 as a senior lecturer and became Emeritus Professor in 1993.

Goldstein, Antony 'Tony' (1927 - 2012)

Civil engineer and Wits benefactor Antony Edward Goldstein died on 14 September 2012 after a long illness. He was 85. Born on 2 July 1927, Tony was the second of four generations of Witsies. His father was SRC Chairman and Tony's daughter and granddaughter are Medical School alumnae. His wife is an education alumna. Goldstein worked in London in the 1940s, then returned to South Africa as a partner in civil engineering practices. He engineered structures including the Queen Elizabeth Bridge, the Civic Centre and ABSA Towers. He consistently supported the profession, chairing a division of the South African Institution of Civil Engineers and the Institution of Structural Engineers. He was an honorary fellow of the South Africa Institution.



Bergh, Hugh William (1936 - 2011)

Eminent marine geophysicist Hugh William Bergh, a researcher at the Wits Bernard Price Institute (BPI) for almost 30 years, died at home in Napier, southern Cape on 26 September 2011, aged 75. He was born in Cape Town on 17 April 1936 and matriculated at Marist Brothers in Johannesburg. He held degrees in physics, maths and chemistry from Unisa and the University of KwaZulu-Natal. His appointment to the Hermanus Magnetic Observatory piqued his interest in magnetism and he pursued a doctorate in geophysics at Princeton University on receipt of a Fulbright-Hays travel grant. He returned to South Africa in 1969 to join the BPI, where he remained until retirement in the 1990s.

Bergh's research transformed our understanding of the origin of the southern oceans. Combining a deep knowledge of earth magnetism with formidable mathematical and computing skills, he was the first plate tectonics enthusiast in Africa to fathom details of the continental drift between Africa, South America and Antarctica. His scientific observations in the 1970s and 1980s were at the cutting edge and were founded on being out at sea to make fundamental measurements during more than 30 research cruises in very rough waters.

In addition to his passion for the sea, he was a keen philatelist, gifted raconteur and voracious bibliophile. His wife, son (a Wits alumnus) and daughter survive him.

Horsley, Richard (1941 - 2012)

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Engineering and Science at Australia's Curtin University, Richard Rowley Horsley died on 29 September 2012 after a stroke. He was 71. Born 19 February 1941, Horsley completed his Masters at Bristol University, UK. A Wits benefactor, he began his academic career in this University's Mechanical Engineering Department and earned a PhD in Engineering in 1976. He returned to Australia in 1978 and served as Executive Dean of the Division of Science and Engineering at Curtin for almost a decade. He ultimately became Emeritus Professor in 2001. An active researcher until his death, he published widely in the field of minerals rheology, a discipline he pioneered. Horsley was a champion tennis player and represented Australia at Wimbledon.

Kaplan, Isaac (1919 - 2012)

The pioneer of carbon dioxide laser for general surgery, Dr Isaac Kaplan died in Israel on 24 August 2012, aged 93. He was Professor Emeritus of Surgery at Tel Aviv University and established the Department of Plastic, Reconstructive and Maxillofacial Surgery at Beilinson Hospital. Born in South Africa on 10 April 1919, he sailed to Italy as a teenager and served as an interpreter during World War II, being fluent in Italian. He attended Wits Medical School before emigrating to Israel in 1952. He specialised in plastic surgery at Hadassah University Hospital and instructed surgeons in the use of CO₂ laser during the Vietnam War. In 1972, he co-developed the Sharplan Laser, at that time the most advanced laser technology device. He founded the International Society for Laser Surgery and Medicine and held honorary membership of 27 international societies.

Margolius, Karin (1949 - 2010)

Wits benefactor Dr Karin Ann Margolius, recipient of the 2010 Order of Australia for services to “clinical forensic medicine, to education, and through support for people with cancer”, died in Perth on 1 September 2010 from ovarian cancer. She was 60.

Margolius was born in South Africa on 17 December 1949. She held medical and science degrees from Wits and a law degree from Murdoch University, Perth, among others. She taught at Wits Medical School after graduating in 1976 and received the Daubenton Prize for distinguished teaching in 1988.

She emigrated to Australia in 1989 and became Western Australia’s first female forensic pathologist,



consulting to the Western Australia Centre for Pathology and Medical Research, where she remained for 20 years. She lectured at the University of Western Australia where she helped introduce the country’s first course in legal medicine.

As a forensic pathologist, Margolius determined the cause of death and searched for clues to assist police. She frequently delivered expert testimony at homicide trials, and helped develop a questionnaire for nurses at the scene of a child’s death; this is now an accepted document to assist coroners with recommendations on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome fatalities.

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

Shapiro, Jack (1945 - 2012)

Wits benefactor and popular stock market personality Jack Bernard Shapiro died on 6 July 2012, aged 67. Born on 18 March 1945, he studied accountancy at Wits. Fellow Witsie and columnist David Shapiro wrote this tribute in *Times Live* on 17 July 2012:

“I first encountered Jack when I was a commerce student at Wits back in 1966. One of the highlights of the university social calendar in those days was the inter-varsity rugby match between Wits and Tuks. It was more than just a game between opposing colleges; it was a clash of background and beliefs - free-spirited, liberal, hippie Witsies versus narrow-minded, devout, conservative Tuksies.

For weeks before the event, we would gather at lunchtime on the lawns of the Great Hall, where under the baton of our deeply cherished cheerleader, Jack Shapiro, we would rehearse a routine of war cries and other jocular and belittling compositions that poked fun at our bigoted rivals. Jack was a natural crowd-pleaser, never short of words or a tale that, like a true comic, he would skilfully embroider, enchanting his audience until the punch line, which he always delivered with the flair of a professional entertainer.

He had always shown a keen interest in the stock market and when he closed the furniture factory he owned in 1987, I suggested he consider joining our broking firm. The interview lasted no longer than two minutes. My father, who ran the trading floor and displayed great affection for Jack, bellowed a loud welcoming “Shappie!”, engaging him on the spot.

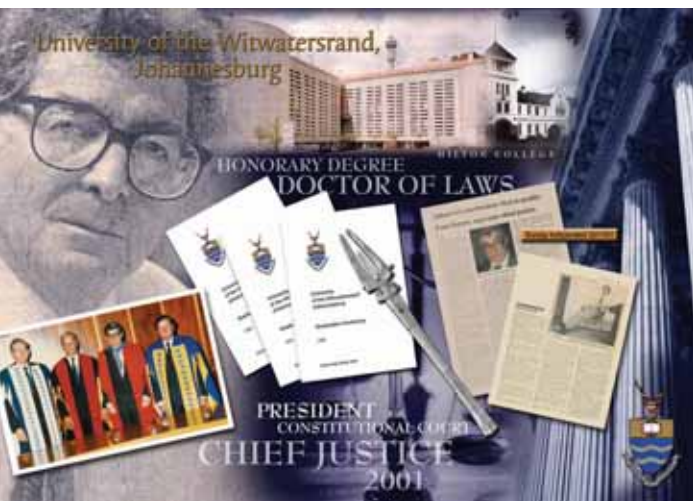
Jack left our employ about five years later, on good terms, for an attractive position at another large broking institution (now split into Merrill Lynch and Sanlam Private Investments), where he established his reputation as a market commentator and built an enviable high net-worth client base that he managed with tender care until his untimely end.

For the past 23 years Jack shared my table at the annual Bidvest Chairman’s dinner, a banquet event held at the end of August at which the group releases its results. From the minute he sat down, small whisky in hand, he would hold court with all the *gantseh k’nackers* (big shots), delighting everyone throughout the evening with his witty ripostes. It’s a seat that is going to be very hard to fill.”

- This is an edited version of the tribute.

Veitch, Marian (1927 - 2012)

Medical and science alumna and Wits benefactor Dr Marian Armstrong Veitch died in Johannesburg on 1 April 2012, aged 84. Born on 22 October 1927, Veitch attended Kingsmead College before studying at Wits. She graduated in the 1950s and worked in London before returning to South Africa, where she was a partner at a medical practice in Rosettenville, south of Johannesburg, from the 1960s until she turned 80. Thereafter, she worked at another practice for two years. Lauded by the Rosettenville community for her generosity and work with the indigent, Veitch reportedly made frequent house calls in her green Chrysler Hornet. She participated in blood drives and in distributing food parcels to informal communities.



Chaskalson, Arthur (1931 - 2012)

South Africa's former Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson died in Johannesburg on 1 December 2012, aged 81. He had leukemia. A world-renowned and respected human rights lawyer, Chaskalson was one of the defence attorneys in the 1963/4 Rivonia Trial at which Nelson Mandela and other anti-apartheid activists received life-sentences.

Chaskalson held Commerce and Law degrees from Wits, and an honorary degree. As a student he was a member of the Wits football team and participated in the Combined South African Universities football team in 1952. He was a member of the Board of the Wits Centre for Applied Legal Studies from 1979 to 1994 and an honorary Professor of Law from 1981 to 1985. In 1984 he received the Premier Group Award for prestigious service by a member of the Faculty of Law and the Wits Alumni Honour Award for exceptional service to the community.

Born in Johannesburg on 24 November 1931, Chaskalson was admitted to the Bar in 1956 and took silk in 1971. In 1978, he helped establish (and directed until 1993) the Legal Resources Centre, a non-profit organisation pursuing justice and human rights in South Africa through legal means. He represented members of liberation movements in political trials from the 1960s through early 1990s. He was a member of the Technical Committee on Constitutional Issues, which drafted South Africa's transitional Constitution, adopted in 1993. Mandela appointed Chaskalson as President of the Constitutional Court in 1994. He became Chief Justice in 2001 and retired in 2005.

Chaskalson presided over the International Commission of Jurists and he was a Distinguished Global Fellow at New York University School of Law. He chaired the United Nations-appointed judges committee to develop environmental law worldwide and he chaired Eminent Jurists Panel, which investigated the impact of terrorism on the rule of law.

His numerous accolades include human rights awards from Switzerland's Foundation for Freedom and Human Rights, the Nelson Mandela Award for Human Rights and Health (jointly) and National Honorary Supreme Counsellor of Baobab (Gold) honours in 2002.

Chaskalson leaves his wife, Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, who holds a Wits PhD (Arts), and sons Matthew and Jerome, both of whom are Wits School of Law alumni.



Googler finds identity

Craig Wing has travelled to China and back to discover that he loves being South African.

By Heather Dugmore

Craig Wing is head of Small Business Marketing at Google SA. He has a BSc (2002) and MSc (2006) in Engineering from Wits and an MBA from Babson College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, and he worked at Wits Enterprise for four years (2004 – 2007).

Where did you grow up?

In Alberton; and I went to Bracken High, a local government school. As one of the few “non- white” kids at school, I grew up seeing the world pretty much as a white South African. It’s all quite strange because under apartheid Chinese people were classified as “non-white”, while Japanese people were classified as “honorary whites”. Post-1994 the government classified us as “white”, claiming that we hadn’t been disadvantaged in the apartheid era, which was not the case. It took 10 years for the Constitutional Court to recognise this, and to effectively re-classify us as historically disadvantaged or “black”. So in my lifetime I’ve been classified as black, then white, and then black again.

Have you ever been to China?

I have. In my mid-twenties I decided I needed to find out who I am. My grandparents came to South Africa during World War II and we have always practised aspects of Chinese culture, so I believed I was Chinese. I was sure that when the plane touched down in China the doors would open, the sun would shine on me and the angels would sing as I set foot on my motherland. But when I got to China, we landed and I didn’t associate with the locals at all. I understood some of the cultural aspects but the people have a totally different mentality and way of

doing things, even small things. An example is when you go to a restaurant, a stranger will come and sit at your table and eat his meal without saying a word or acknowledging your presence. It is so crowded there that they have developed a different sense of personal space, which is very foreign to us. After spending quite a bit of time travelling through China and Southeast Asia I realised how South African I am. I am not Chinese South African or white South African or black South African; I am South African and I belong in this place of hardworking, witty, fun-to-be-with people and a great lifestyle.

What attracted you to Google?

It’s a highly innovative global brand with a footprint in every country. I wanted to understand more about global business and innovation on a global scale. I also appreciate that the people who work at Google (called Googlers) are super-smart and the company is highly selective about who gets hired. I had seven different interviews in six different countries – some by phone, some by video, some in person. As a Googler you get to meet awesome, inspiring Googlers from all over the world. And what I really like is that I can be an entrepreneur within one of the most desirable global brands.

What is Google’s head office like?

It’s in San Francisco and it’s called the Googleplex. It’s a massive campus like Wits, with 20 000 Googlers dashing about on company-provided bicycles (called GBikes), skateboards and scooters to get from one side of the campus to the other. The campus has everything from free massages to sleep pods and a vast canteen with every type of food. It’s a very

cool environment but I think working for Google in South Africa where I can make a local difference is even cooler!

What is your response to the suggestion that search engines like Google invade people's privacy through the tracking process?

Google goes out of its way to make sure our users are secure and that they feel in control of their choices and their security. Many users aren't aware that you can opt out of any of our services you wish to, very easily from our central Google Dashboard (www.google.com/dashboard/). If suggestions around your hobbies and interests aren't something that you want, you can choose not to have that. Personally I love this kind of customising but it's not for everyone.

Name one of your best online purchases.

A double hammock. It has lots of space and reminds me of my various global travels. I used it in South America and it is now hanging in my apartment. People often ask me how I can have a hammock in my apartment, but when they lie in it they never ask again.

What if Google made suggestions about a suitable partner for you as a single, eligible 32-year-old?

As much as I live in the world of online networks, for me there is nothing better than face-to-face interaction. So I'd rather meet someone at church or the gym but I'm not in any hurry and I'm glad I didn't get married in my twenties. I've seen too many people marry someone in the hope of who

they will become. I believe in marrying the person for who they are right now, not changing them into someone else.

What do you think is most needed in South Africa today?

Leadership. Our leaders aren't leading. Leadership is not only about doing the right thing, it is also about the ability to make decisions and have an opinion that you share and that you don't change for different audiences.

What would you like to achieve?

I would like to inspire others to achieve and I want to help change the current global mindset away from excess, in order to create societies where there is more balance in the standard of living and the standard of education. Google has such massive global access that I hope to be able to contribute as a Googler to help change things for the better, to encourage more sustainable behaviour and more equality.

What do you think about money?

It's a tricky question. Money isn't the problem, it's simply a baseline of trade that unlocks opportunities – whether it's the ability to look after our families, build schools or see the world. It's when money becomes the end goal that it becomes a problem, as is happening in South Africa today. I look at what has happened in business and politics and it's all about money and power. This leads to huge imbalance and, as I said, this kind of excess is not sustainable.





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