

# wits connect

MAY 2019

for young alumni

## GLOBAL SHAPER

Wits law graduate Tehillah Chimfwembe is a telecoms licensing officer in Zambia and a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Shapers network of young leaders

INSPIRING WITSIES  
CAREER RESOURCES

ALUMNI BENEFITS  
WORLD OF WORK





*Witsies are an incredible variety of people but you all share the edge!*

# HELLO THERE!

One of the great things about the Wits community is that it's so diverse. It's not some echo chamber where you're never challenged. Witsies make up an incredible variety of people but you all have the Wits experience in common. LinkedIn is one way you can draw on the power of this network, and we have created a few special-interest groups for Wits alumni as well as the main group (see page 6).

If you're reading this publication, it probably means we have your email address on record, but we'd also love to have your work details and home address so that we can customise information relevant to you. You can update your details [here](#), or email [alumni@wits.ac.za](mailto:alumni@wits.ac.za)

Wits is here for you always, offering continuous learning and life-enriching experiences. We welcome your news and celebrate your achievements.

**Purvi Purohit**

Senior Liaison Officer: Alumni Relations

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



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**wits  
connect**

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ALUMNI  
RELATIONS





What would you like to tell the new batch of Witsies?



freshers

## Spirit game tradition

At the start of the academic year, Wits freshers are invited to a **soccer match** between Bidvest Wits and the Wits First Team. Kitted out with kudu horns, "Go Witsies" foam fingers and face paint in Wits blue and gold, the new students simultaneously put on their Proudly Witsie T-shirts and officially become Witsies!

And what would you ask them about their hopes, plans and struggles?  
Let us know:

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



Images: Srippeet video & Peter Maher





# CONNECT

## University of the Witwatersrand Alumni group

This group on **LinkedIn** has more than **8 000** members. Connect with this incredible network, share your professional profile, gain career insights, keep in touch with people and benefit from exposure to opportunities.

You can also join these **interest groups**

Wits **Science** Alumni

Wits Alumni **Entrepreneurs**

Wits **Health Sciences** Alumni

Wits Alumni **Canada**

Wits Alumni **New York**

Wits **CLM** Alumni  
(Commerce, Law and Management)

University of the Witwatersrand  
**Town, Regional & Development Planning** Alumni

Wits **EBE** Alumni (Engineering and the Built Environment)

Wits **Humanities** Alumni



**First connections on Wits Alumni group - country specific:**  
**6 138** (and growing all the time). **Second connections: 519 056**



**First (i.e. direct) and second connections on Wits Alumni group - industry specific:**

Industry	first connections	second		first connections	second
Banking	6 138	14 466	Insurance	85	8 559
Financial services	501	34 780	Nonprofit management	82	5 914
IT	359	35 692	Investment management	80	4 375
Research	283	7 359	Civil engineering	76	6 117
Mining and metals	282	20 110	Retail	67	8 481
Management consulting	273	14 375	Architecture and planning	64	3 710
Accounting	241	19 730	Mechanical or industrial engineering	57	6 361
Higher education	234	10 930	Biotechnology	57	1 619
Law practice	228	11 708	Venture capital and private equity	37	1 568
Legal services	153	8 156	International trade and development	23	2 714
Hospital and health care	148	6 998	Capital markets	17	796
Staffing, recruiting, human resources	146	20 265	Music	11	1 149
Medical practice	120	3 580	Fine art	8	832
Oil and energy	104	7 166	Nanotechnology	7	136
			Performing arts	5	433



# More ways to **connect** with Wits:

## App

### Wits Alumni Communicator

Get the latest news and events from Wits by installing our free App on your desktop, Android or iPhone/iPad.

## Email

Share your news with us and update your contact details:  
**[alumni@wits.ac.za](mailto:alumni@wits.ac.za)**

## Twitter

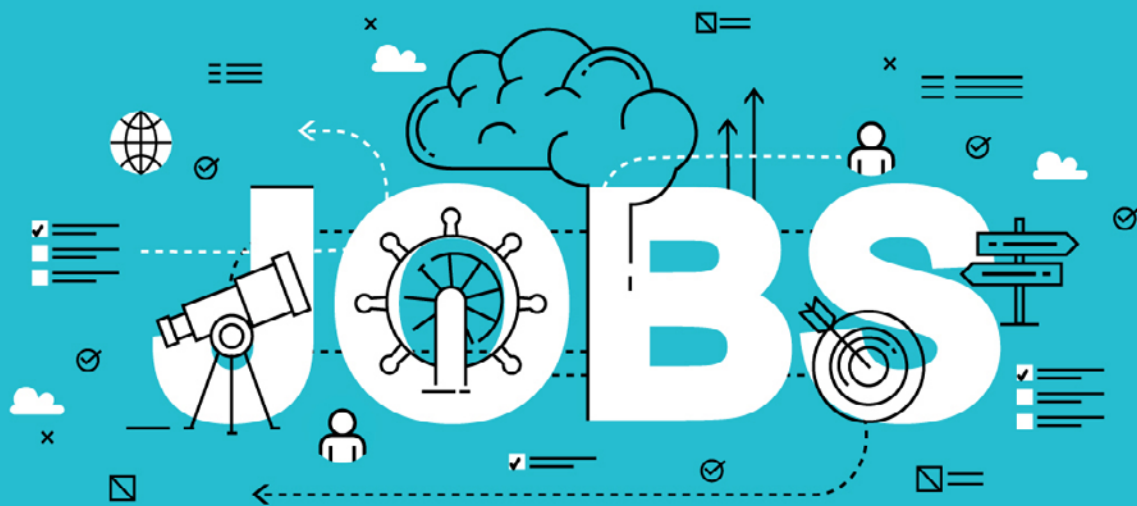
Follow us on Twitter  
**[@witsalumni](https://twitter.com/witsalumni)**

## Facebook

Join our Facebook groups

- **[witsalumni](#)**
- **[WitsYoung Alumni](#)**

**Wits Alumni Social Media**



**Find or advertise an opportunity**



# WORK THAT DEGREE



## Certificates

For copies of [degree certificates](#), please contact the Graduation Office. For [transcripts](#) (academic records) and for proof of English as the medium of instruction, please contact your Faculty office.

Your Wits degree is only the start of your lifetime of learning. Did you know that Wits alumni can access a wealth of **career resources**?

## Wits Enterprise

Keep that edge sharp with a [short course](#) from Wits Enterprise. Most of the courses are formally certified by Wits and some are online. Explore the range, from auditing to welding!

.....

## Wits School of Governance

The Wits School of Governance offers [courses](#) aimed at building a capable public and development management sector.

.....

## The School of Public Health

The School of Public Health offers short courses in one-week blocks, designed for adult learning. To apply, email a letter of motivation and current CV to [Nomonde.Malahlela@wits.ac.za](mailto:Nomonde.Malahlela@wits.ac.za). Your letter should specify whether you are interested in the Attendance or the Competency version of the course. [More information](#)

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## Postgraduates

Are you a postgraduate student? Here is your go-to resource: the [Postgraduate Affairs Office](#). You also have support in the form of the [Wits Postgraduate Association](#).

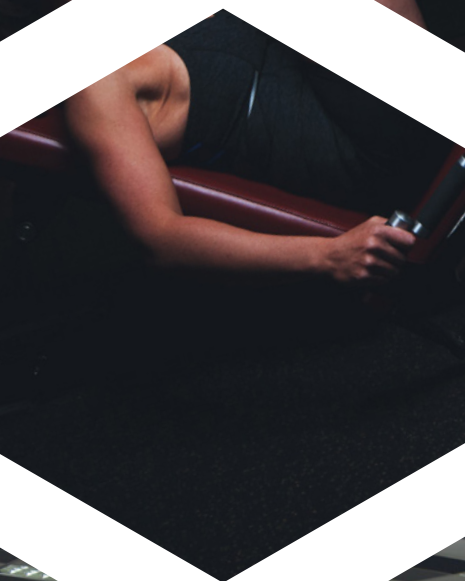


Image: Nicolas Hoizey, Unsplash

## Wits Sport

Interested in high-performance sports coaching? Wits Sport has collaborated with Wits Enterprise to host courses – the only such qualification in South Africa. [See more](#)





## Wits Fitness and Wellness Centre

Alumni can use these facilities on West Campus for R270 a month.  
Call 0100074733.

Remember, your alumni access card gives you access to **sports facilities** by arrangement.





# Hotels

**Book a hotel** using your Wits Discount and instantly save 10-55% on hotels worldwide

[www.hotelstorm.com](http://www.hotelstorm.com)



# ALUMNI BENEFITS

## Events

Interested in **events for young alumni?** Please update your contact details on the Wits Alumni Relations database so we can invite you to events and keep you informed. Use the **online form** or email [alumni@wits.ac.za](mailto:alumni@wits.ac.za)







Hugh Molotsi

# Let the ideas flow

Image: Riccardo Annandale, Unsplash

## WBS

### Boost your career at WBS

#### Wits Business School (WBS)

offers regular public lectures by guest speakers on topics relevant to working life and personal development. For more information, contact Thembeke Hlatshwayo:

[thembeke.hlatshwayo@wits.ac.za](mailto:thembeke.hlatshwayo@wits.ac.za)

A recent public lecture was “The Intrapreneurship Empowerment Model – **How Innovative Companies Can Drive Growth**”, by Hugh Molotsi, Silicon Valley-based innovator, entrepreneur, author, and founder and CEO of Ujama Inc, a platform for parents.

#### Let the ideas flow

“Perhaps the most under-utilised assets in companies today are the ideas in their employees’ heads.”

This is the essence of innovation expert Hugh Molotsi’s message to business owners, managers, innovators and entrepreneurs.

Molotsi gave a public lecture at Wits Business School in April, as part of the programme of the **Master of Management in Innovation Studies** – a one-year full-time course designed with

working students in mind.

Born to South African parents in exile in Zambia under apartheid, Molotsi studied computer engineering in the USA and became vice-president of innovation at Intuit, a software company in California. He now advises and invests in start-ups and is the co-author of **The Intrapreneur’s Journey**, a book about how to develop a culture of innovation at large companies.

Frontline staff are the people who interact with customers and get insights – but they don’t make the decisions in a company, Molotsi says. “Good things can happen if you empower employees to work on their ideas.” He gave several examples of game-changing products and processes that had come out of this approach in various companies.

**Building a culture of innovation in a company means:**





## Online or classroom?

**MBA courses** are notorious for the demands they place on participants. What about Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) – would they be a more affordable and efficient way of getting this prestigious qualification? Well, not really, say many business schools. The classroom contact gives you something (and tests you in ways) that a pre-packaged online course doesn't. So a combination of learning methods is probably best.

Charisse Drobis, head of Career Management Services at Wits Business School, spoke to Classic FM about the relevance of the MBA in a world full of disruptive forces. (You can listen to the podcast [here](#)) She said that the WBS curriculum constantly looks out for these environmental factors and lecturers are expected to be at the forefront of knowledge about them.

She said that MOOCs tend to have a high dropout rate. The advantage of physically being in a class is the opportunity to discuss and debate ideas and learn from your fellow students' experiences. Learning to network is part of the Wits MBA programme. Especially now that there are other platforms for learning, lecturers have to make sure that students' classroom time is used optimally.

The most important traits in an MBA student, Drobis said, are curiosity, open-mindedness, and receptiveness to learning and change. You have to be prepared to be uncomfortable and appreciate other people's knowledge and experience.

Learn more about the Wits MBA: [www.wbs.ac.za/academic-programmes/mba/](http://www.wbs.ac.za/academic-programmes/mba/)

WBS also offers [masterclasses](#) with practical tips for professionals.

- ❖ Giving employees the time and freedom to explore ideas and make things that aren't necessarily related to their main jobs
- ❖ **Design thinking:** having lots of ideas to get the best idea; rapid experiments with customers; learning to understand customers even better than they understand themselves
- ❖ Open collaboration; sharing ideas
- ❖ **Experimentation:** a cycle of building, measuring and learning; letting the best ideas win (and talking about the failures)
- ❖ **Dedicated innovation teams:** innovation requires leadership
- ❖ Understanding that innovation is everyone's job

More about public lectures at WBS: [www.wbs.ac.za/events/2019/](http://www.wbs.ac.za/events/2019/)

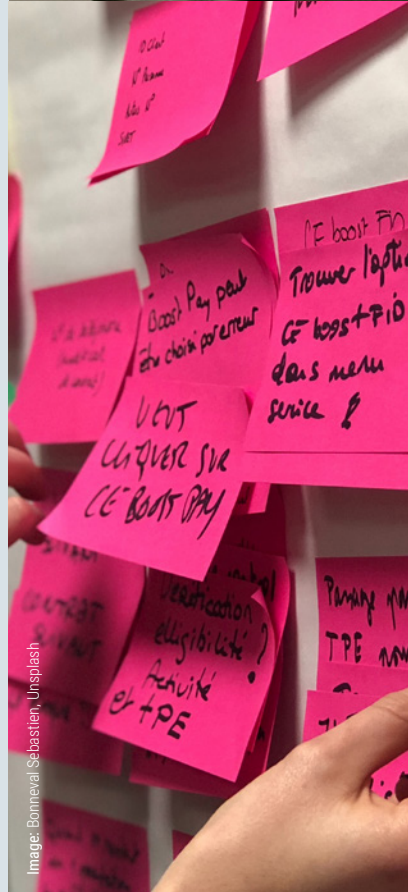


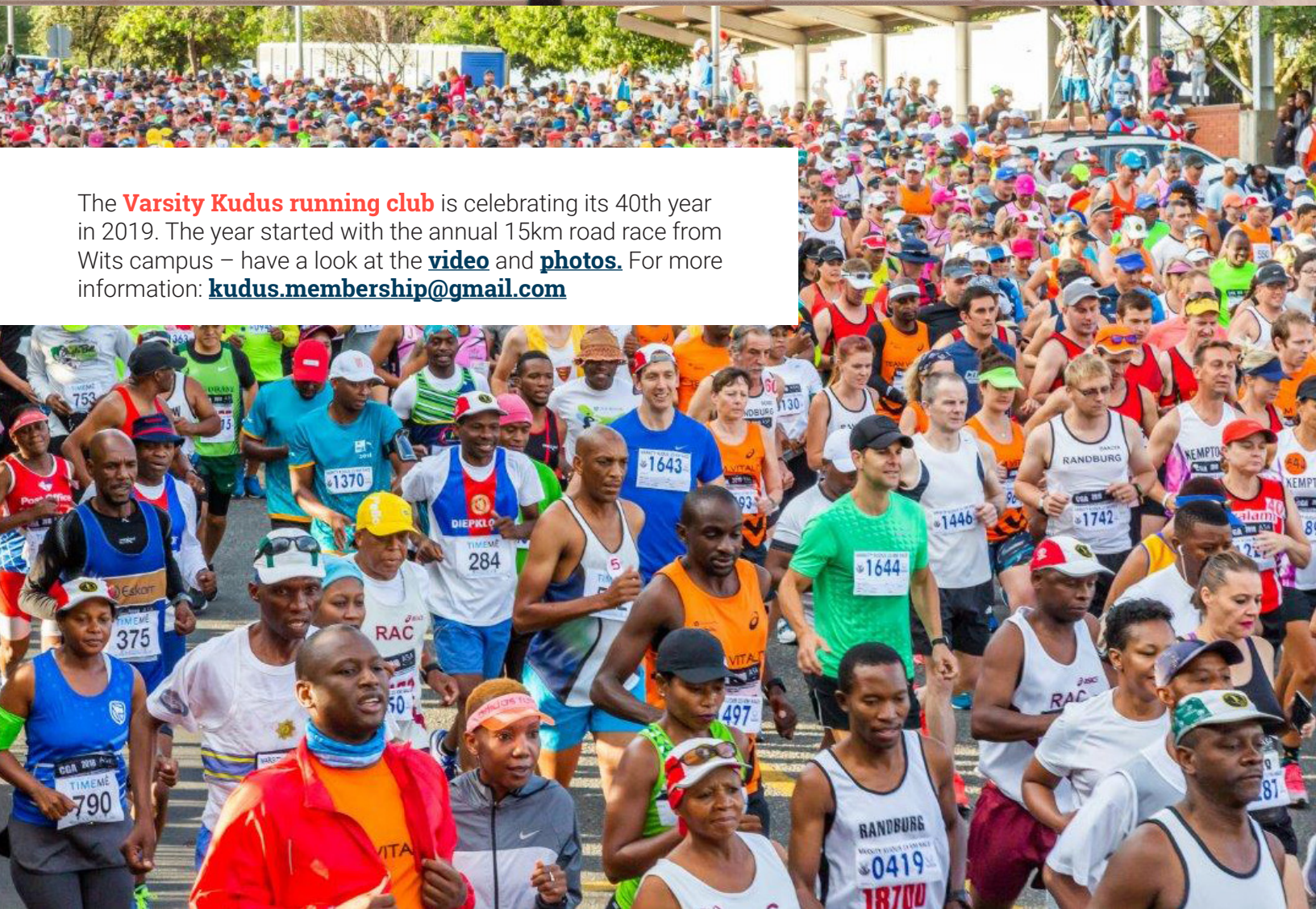
Image: Kaledico, Unsplash

Image: Bonneval Sebastian, Unsplash





The **Varsity Kudus running club** is celebrating its 40th year in 2019. The year started with the annual 15km road race from Wits campus – have a look at the [video](#) and [photos](#). For more information: [kudus.membership@gmail.com](mailto:kudus.membership@gmail.com)





## Sports awards

The **martial arts** form Tang Soo Do packed a kick in the 2018 Wits Sport Awards. Joint winners of Wits' highest sporting accolade, Full Blue Summa Cum Laude, were black belts Titus Masike and Kim Lucas. Sportswoman of the Year Tanita Ramburuth-Hurt is also a Tang Soo Do practitioner and the club was voted 2018 Sports Club of the Year.

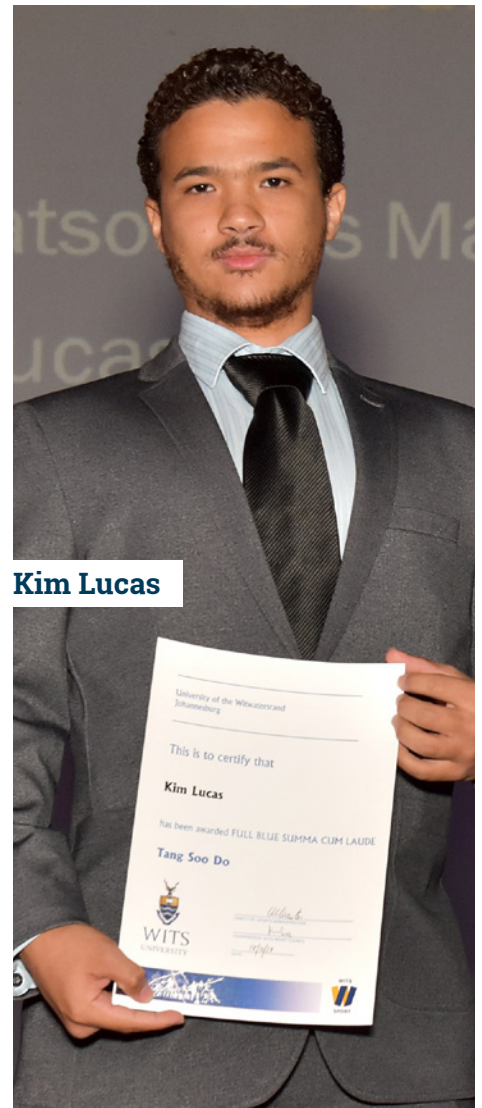
Titus (aka Tshegofatso) recently completed his MSc and is now working at Cisco in Amsterdam as an associate systems engineer. Kim has a BCom and BSc Hons and is working towards his MSc in mathematics. Tanita is completing her MSc in astrophysics and was selected to attend the prestigious [Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting](#) in 2019 as one of the next generation of leading scientists.



**Titus Masike**



**Tanita Ramburuth-Hurt**



**Kim Lucas**









Images: CFC







## Up and over

Late for a lecture, or desperate to leave before the traffic starts queueing – if only you could just [fly through campus](#) like a superhero ... The **parkour** and **freerunning** professionals at [Concrete Foundation Crew](#) do something like that. This crew of athletes and stunt performers – the longest-running parkour academy in South Africa – sometimes trains on the Wits campus. Their motto: “Never stop learning. Always remain a student. A student of movement.” But obviously, don’t try [this](#) without proper training.

There’s always the option of a more sedate [virtual tour](#) of campus if you’re feeling nostalgic.



### Bounding up the steps near John Moffat Building



Late for a lecture, or desperate to leave before the traffic starts queueing – if only you could just **fly through campus** like a superhero ... The **parkour** and **freerunning** professionals at **Concrete Foundation Crew** do something like that. This crew of athletes and stunt performers – the longest-running parkour academy in South Africa – sometimes trains on the Wits campus. Their motto: “Never stop learning. Always remain a student. A student of movement.” But obviously, don’t try **this** without proper training.

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CONCRETE FOUNDATION CREW





# WORLD OF WORK

Images: rawpixel.com





4IRSA

# Moving with the times

**The Partnership for the 4th Industrial Revolution in South Africa (#4IRSA)** is an alliance between Telkom and three universities: Wits, UJ and Fort Hare. #4IRSA is convening a series of **workshops** across disciplines to talk about how South Africa can respond to the changes that technology is bringing.

The biggest threat is not technology itself but a “crisis of imagination and leadership”, said futurist Valter Adão at one of the workshops. [Read more](#)

Professor Brian Armstrong, Chair in Digital Business at the Wits Business School and Secretary of the #4IRSA Partnership, said all sector workshops would look at the themes of:

**Competitiveness, Concentration and Inequality**

**Employment and the Future of Work**

**Society, State and Citizen**

“The 4IRSA partnership is really important because it is a spontaneous and growing alliance between enthusiastic and concerned partners in industry, academia and government, together with social actors and citizens, who are committed to working together to develop a coherent, inclusive national response to the Fourth Industrial Revolution in South Africa,” said Professor Armstrong at the launch of the **@4IRSA Partnership’s first #DigitalEconomicSummit**, planned for June 2019.







Images: Tshemba



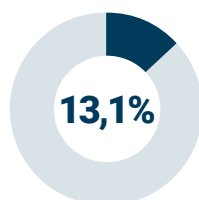
## How are you doing in that ward?

Wits' School of Public Health has started an important long-term study of the career choices and job location decisions of 511 **Wits health professional graduates**. The baseline study was conducted in 2017 and the research will continue for 15 years. The findings will help to inform health policy development as well as Wits' admission policy and training.

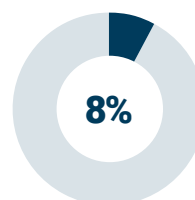
**WiSDOM**, as the study is known, is a response to the gaps in information about the health labour market in South Africa. It will also help the Health Sciences Faculty with decisions about selecting students, developing the curriculum and changing institutional culture.

The baseline study measured participants' altruism and public service motivation and found that nearly 70% intend to work in the public sector once they have a choice. Attraction to the public sector varies among the different professional groups and is influenced by the intention to specialise. Only 35.7% of dentists plan to stay in the public sector and this group is among the most altruistic towards patients.

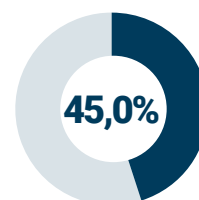
## So who are the graduates in this study?



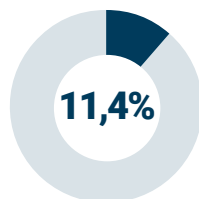
were born in  
a rural area



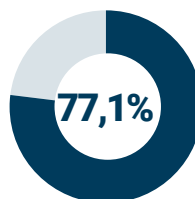
completed  
their  
secondary  
schooling in  
a rural area



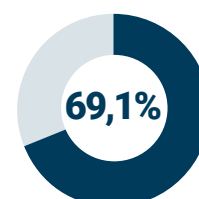
attended  
a private  
school



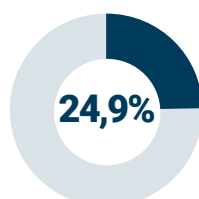
plan to work  
in a rural area  
(this intention  
is highest by  
far among  
those born in a  
rural area)



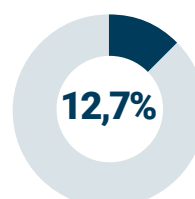
Most of  
their fathers  
completed  
tertiary  
education



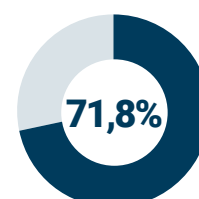
Most of their  
mothers  
completed  
tertiary  
education



Almost one  
quarter took  
out a loan to  
finance their  
studies



financed  
their studies  
through  
NSFAS



of study  
participants  
are women





# INSPIRING WITSIES

Meet some young Wits graduates on their  
career journeys





“

*I am most content with  
a good coffee, a camera  
in my hand, and the open  
road in front of me.”*

**Ravindra Mistri**  
(BAcc Sci 2008, HDipAcc 2009)





field: business

**Ravindra Mistri (BAcc Sci 2008, HDipAcc 2009)** started his career at the age of nine, a lucrative venture selling sweets out of his school locker in Joburg. Though it was quickly shut down by a monopolistic competitor (read “tuckshop”), the experience ignited an entrepreneurial curiosity that ultimately led to Silicon Valley in the USA.

After graduating from Wits in 2009, Ravindra completed his articles with Deloitte in Johannesburg, spent a year with Deloitte in San Francisco, and then returned to South Africa in 2012 to join Capital Eye Investments, a newly formed fintech venture capital investment firm.

“This was a tough decision at the time. I was living and working in San Francisco, which was seeing the eruption of many of the tech businesses we know about today. But there was something instinctual that drew me back home, a gut feel that this was the right next step.”

Ravindra spent five years working under Dean Sparrow (now

CEO at CrossFin Technologies), investing in and working with early-stage fintech startups focused on sub-Saharan Africa. In 2016, while he was backpacking through South America, the explorer gene kicked in again, and Ravindra decided that it was time for an American adventure V2.0. Silicon Valley was calling, but with so many developments across artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, and bio-tech, Ravindra felt he had to go back to school first.

“Growing up, I never imagined that I might go to Stanford University. It seemed like a dream beyond my reach. A good friend encouraged me to pursue postgraduate studies, and suggested that sometimes the only difference between ‘us’ and ‘them’ (those who attend these schools) is the extent of our imagination. I wrote my business school applications on a bus in South America, and in June 2017 I enrolled as a Sloan Fellow at the Stanford Graduate School of Business.”

GSB, as the school is commonly referred to, can be quite intense; it’s been described as trying to drink water from a firehose. Ravindra thrived in this environment and quickly immersed himself in all that it had to offer. Through the Hasso Plattner Institute for Design, he led a team from the San Francisco Opera through a 10-week design thinking challenge, exploring breaking down the barrier between audience and artist within the performing arts. Through





*"If there is one thing that fundamentally changed me, it was design thinking, and the philosophical shift to 'yes and'. There is no 'try', only 'do'."*

the GSB's social impact labs, he worked with the San Jose Mayor's Office, co-writing an autonomous vehicle playbook, intended for other cities to follow as they implement autonomous vehicle strategies. Although exposed to limitless resources and a string of high-profile guest speakers at Stanford, Ravindra cites his exposure to design thinking as the element that had the most impact.

"If there is one thing that fundamentally changed me, it was design thinking, and the philosophical shift to 'yes and'. There is no 'try', only 'do'."

Ravindra currently heads business operations at Nyansa, an artificial intelligence start-up in Silicon Valley classified as post series B (funding round). He also serves as a director at a non-profit organisation called LEVYDance, which supports emerging artists in the San Francisco Bay Area.

If there is one word Ravindra would use to describe himself, it's "explorer". "I am most content with a good coffee, a camera in my hand, and the open road in front of me."

Where will he be two years from now? "No idea," he says. And that's the way he likes it.







field: law/music

**Thabu Siwedi** (BA 2011, LLB 2013), self-described music nerd, was a mergers and acquisitions lawyer and, briefly, a millionaire – until life handed him another in a series of lessons for which he's grateful. Now he's running a business that uses technology to match musical talent with buyers in the industry.

"The whole operation is powered by our AI-enhanced ranking and rating system," he says. "Our value to clients is our ability to reduce the time it takes to match raw genius with talent buyers, while offering the industry a continuous pipeline of the highest quality raw talent leads."

"My vision is to restore talent (as opposed to popularity) as the first criterion in determining who becomes successful in the creative industries," he adds.

• The business, TST, was incubated at Tshimologong in Braamfontein and now operates in Sandton.

• It's been an interesting path so far. Thabu almost dropped out of university to pursue music. Instead, he completed his law degree, qualified as an attorney and practised corporate law at Norton Rose, one of the largest firms in the world. Then he took the plunge to start a business – an app-based concierge service that provided high net-worth clients with



*The bulk of the skills I employ, however, come from previous business failures*

tailored suits on demand – succeeded, failed, and started again. All the way he taught himself tech skills from the Internet and learned by trial and error.

“My ambition was always to build a successful organisation from the ground up,” says Thabu. “My view, as a boy from the townships living in a capitalist economy, is that this is a logical (and law-abiding!) means to fulfil my potential, create wealth and do it on my own terms. This worldview gave me the push to build my own business.”

The Tshimologong experience was “immeasurably helpful”, he says. “I was one of the early entrants into the hub. The timing could not have been better, given the failure of my previous business.” (The suits had made him a millionaire for a few months before “inexperience and youthful arrogance” took their toll.) “At Tshimologong I met other founders, made friends, received valuable training, and had a place of work I could be proud of. I even met my current business partners there.” He’s grateful to the hub’s founder, Professor Barry Dwolatzky, for his vision, and to its events and marketing head, Kendal Makgamathe, for mentoring.

The legal experience wasn’t wasted either. In Thabu’s current venture there are plenty of licensing and copyright issues and contracts which he can navigate with confidence. “The bulk of the skills I employ, however, come from previous business failures – like being able to assess a genuine market need, recruiting the right people, cash flow

management, fundraising and effective marketing. The best way to acquire these is through actually doing them.”

Even a music nerd has to learn about timing, it turns out. Experience taught Thabu that “scaling should only be pursued when you have achieved undeniable product-market fit. I’ve even turned down some offers for funding because of this principle.”

TST works with a diverse mix of musicians, including the **Jazz Cats** – a funk/afro-jazz and hip-hop-inspired quartet – and a heavy-metal band from Chiawelo, Soweto called Brain Drain Experience... “In today’s world, the line between genres is blurred. Our approach, therefore, is to partner with any high-calibre musician.”

Thabu himself is a rapper and is learning how to play the alto saxophone for fun.

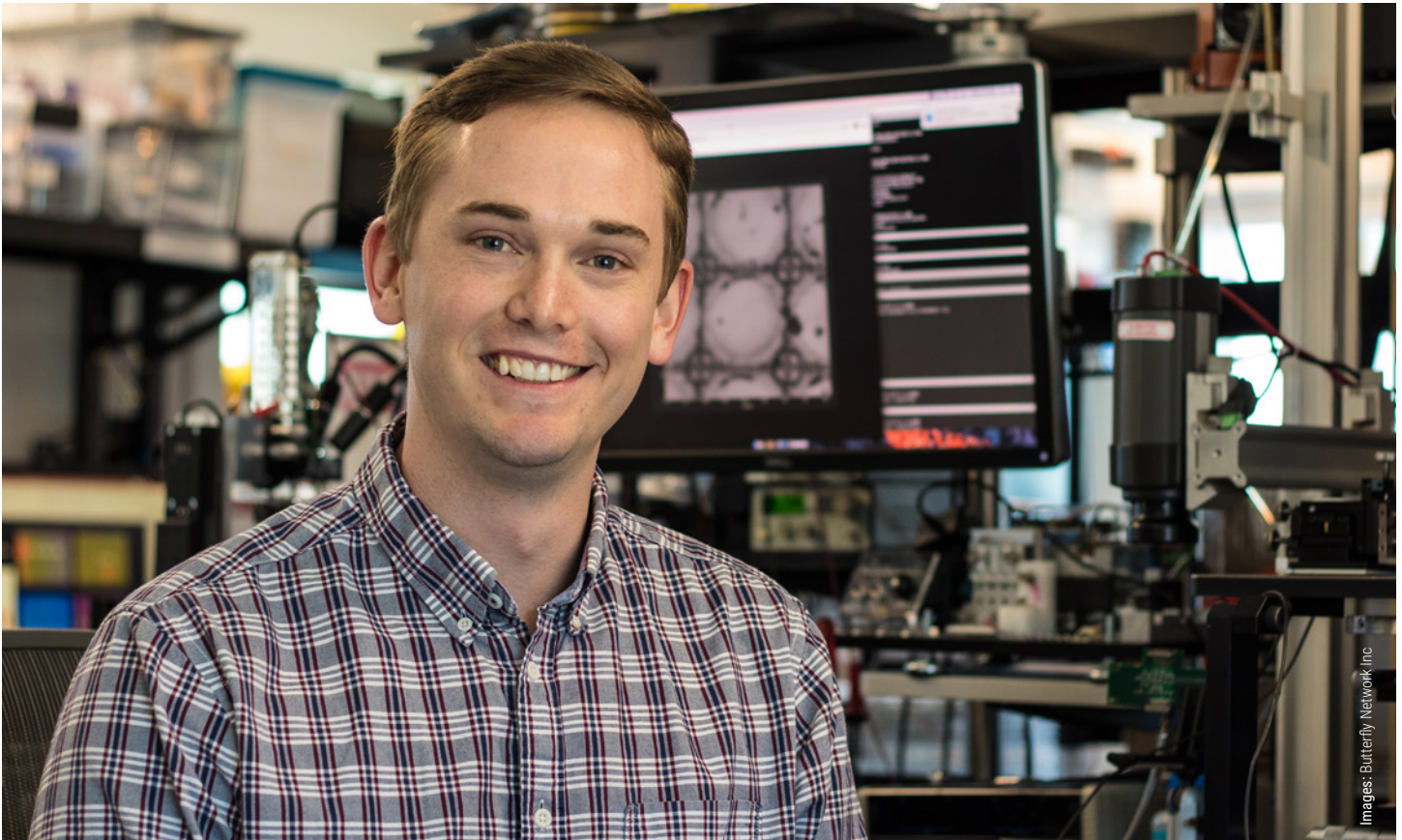
Life isn’t quite what he had in mind when he picked his varsity subjects, but then, why should it be? “My decisions were always dictated by my ambition to be a businessman in some shape or form. But, I mean, I thought I’d be a commercially successful rapper! I actually think it is a bit unfair to expect 18- or 19-year-olds to make decisions about the rest of their lives the way some of us had to. If I’d had my way, I would have taken a few years to concentrate on travel and mentorship that was aligned to my worldview at the time.”

*“My view, as a boy from the townships living in a capitalist economy, is that this is a logical (and law-abiding!) means to fulfil my potential, create wealth and do it on my own terms.”*





field: biomedical engineering



**Bioengineer Graham Peyton (BEngSci Biomedical Eng 2011; BSc Eng Electrical 2012; MSc Eng 2014) has always been interested in medicine and technology and the innovative ways they can be combined to help people.**

"After working in the field for a decade now, I've realised how broad it is, combining many domains in electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, computer science, biology and medicine. The more I've learned about biomedical engineering, the more passionate I've become about it because of the profound impact it has had on society."

Biomedical engineering involves applying engineering principles to solve biological or medical problems. For example, this may involve designing an artificial cochlea to help with hearing loss, an artificial retina to cure blindness, or a prosthetic limb to help an amputee. Biomedical engineers also design medical devices that can be used to study the body or diagnose illnesses. Nowadays, many

biomedical engineers apply artificial intelligence to look at symptoms and help automate diagnosis of illnesses.

While Graham was completing his PhD in the UK, he formed a company called Microsonix and patented an extremely small, portable and low-cost ultrasound scanner. "The aim is to replace the conventional stethoscope with an imaging device that would be much more usable and accessible in rural areas, ICUs and low-resource settings. The device won a major innovation award at Imperial College London and is currently being developed into a commercial product in the UK."

Graham is now a microchip designer and ultrasound engineer at a company called Butterfly Network in the USA. The company specialises in designing portable ultrasound scanners. "We designed the first 'ultrasound-on-a-chip', effectively shrinking a large bed-side scanner onto a single chip. We used this chip to produce a handheld device that connects directly to your smartphone. It can be used to do whole-body imaging and uses AI to help diagnose health problems. I helped to design the ultrasound chip, and also worked on a next-generation wireless, wearable ultrasound patch for chronic monitoring."



*I love the fact that I can work in a field that has a direct impact in people's lives*

Butterfly Network's first probe has already been used to save lives in the ICU. "I love the fact that I can work in a field that has a direct impact in people's lives," says Graham.

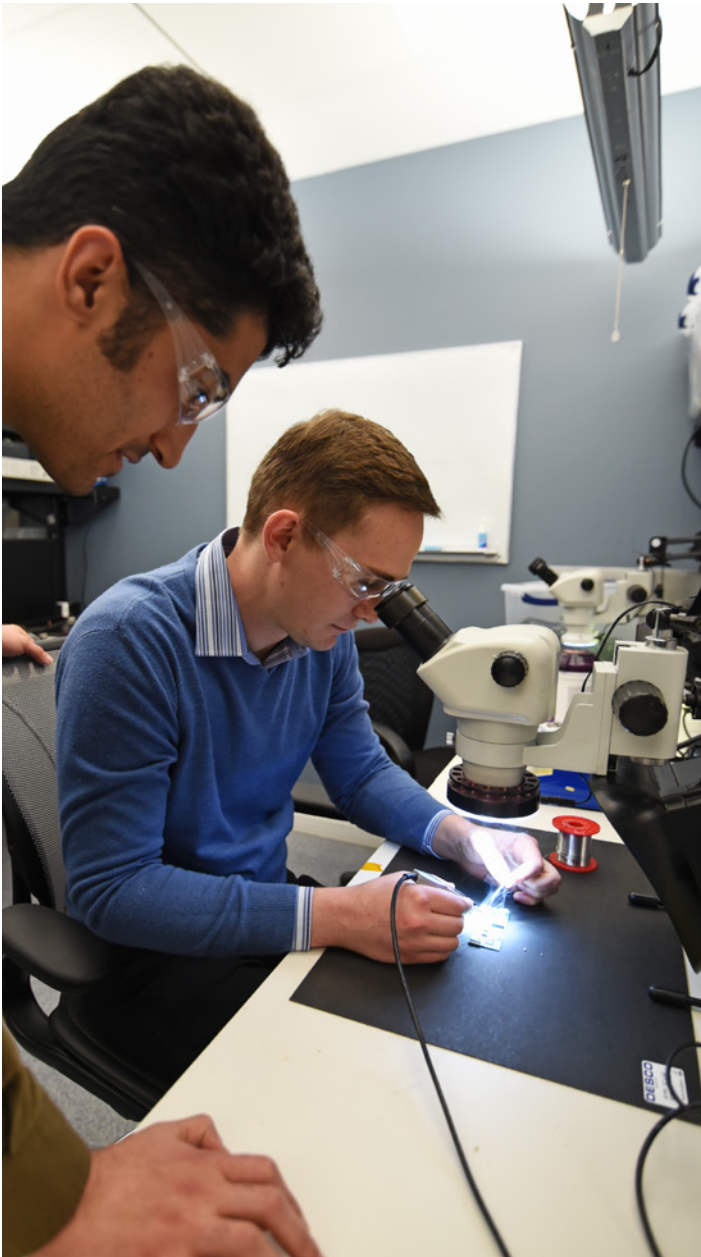
He has also been a consultant to companies on developments in the healthcare industry. "The industry is currently being transformed by 'digital health', or the application of digital technologies to enhance the efficiency of healthcare delivery and make medicines/diagnosis more personalised and precise. Hardware and software solutions are combined to form an 'ecosystem' or interconnected healthcare system that dramatically improves healthcare delivery in the home or hospital. Many hospitals have now digitised their patients' healthcare records, and monitor their patients using digital sensors connecting to a computer network. Data is stored and analysed in the cloud, where doctors have immediate access (even remotely) and can deliver faster care with the help of AI algorithms. Recently, there has been a proliferation of medical devices, such as wearable ECG monitors, portable ultrasound scanners, smart watches or even simply phone applications – all of which form an interconnected ecosystem."

Graham says studying biomedical engineering at Wits was the most demanding part of his career so far. "The course was a rigorous combination of medicine and electrical engineering, and I learned everything from human anatomy to computer programming and electronic engineering. I went on to complete a second undergraduate degree in electrical engineering and a Master's at Wits, followed by a PhD at Imperial College London. It has been tremendously rewarding to grow in depth and breadth of understanding, and to apply my knowledge to solve real-world problems in healthcare."

What does it take to succeed in this technically challenging field? Perseverance, discipline and optimism, according to Graham; the solutions don't always come easily. "I look up to role models who embody these attributes in their own lives and accomplishments, and who do so in the face of much opposition. My company was founded in the midst of similar opposition, and now only years later is reaping the rewards of perseverance."

Graham has been playing classical guitar for many years and is a keen tennis and golf player. He loves spending time with family and friends and exploring New England, where he has been living since 2017.

**What does it take to succeed in this technically challenging field?** *Perseverance, discipline and optimism; the solutions don't always come easily*





*Be the change  
that you want  
to see in the  
world*

**Dr Jayshina (Jay) Punwasi (MBA 2016)** is a firm believer that everyone has the power to make a positive contribution to society. Her own life path is an example. Her childhood dream to be a doctor was realised when she graduated from UCT Medical School and began practising clinical medicine in Gauteng more than a decade ago. After many years working in the Department of Internal Medicine in public hospitals, Jay saw the need for improved management skills in public sector institutions.

Living her motto of “being the change that you want to see in the world”, she pursued an MBA at Wits Business School to develop her own leadership skills, and put these to work at an international management consulting firm.

Possessing a management and medical skill set, Jay was quickly recruited into healthcare management and now works as the Clinical Manager at Helen Joseph Hospital, one of the busiest hospitals in Gauteng. She manages some of the largest departments and budgets at the hospital and contributes to the greater public-sector health system through her involvement in task teams, junior doctors’ training and development, and academic teaching.

Being the youngest member of the hospital’s executive committee, she quickly realised that to be an effective manager and leader, one has to keep learning constantly. Working in an overburdened and under-resourced system presents a challenge every day, but she believes that if you have the right people in the right positions with the right motivation, anything is possible. As a manager, her job is to find or develop that alignment.

Jay recently qualified as a business and life coach. Her approach stems from her time at Wits Business School, where as the Chairperson of the Students’ Representatives Forum, she understood the need for improving others while improving herself. At WBS she created peer learning platforms and various opportunities for students to meet and learn from industry leaders. Jay continues to be involved at WBS as the Chairperson of the Alumni Association. As other leaders have done for her, she shares her

knowledge and experience with current students as they embark on their postgraduate studies.

She is also working towards a Master’s in Public Health in Health Economics at the Wits School of Public Health. “Addressing the escalating costs of delivering healthcare is becoming critical as health systems develop and policies such as National Health Insurance evolve,” she explains.

Recently the South African Medical Association presented Jay with its Young Leader Award on the recommendation of her colleagues in the medical fraternity.

In addition to her busy career, Jay devotes time to family and volunteering at different organisations. She is an advisor to the Africa division of the Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, the largest publisher of Vedic literature in the world – part of her effort to encourage a generation with greater awareness, higher consciousness and a positive contribution to society.

Jay and her husband, an academic, have two daughters who also have ambitions to change the world. Jay believes that with the right support systems, it is possible to have it all, but not necessarily at the same time: “Sometimes work is a priority, or family is a priority, or studying is a priority, but when all of these aspects bring joy, fulfilment, challenge and the opportunity to make a positive change, it’s hard not to give attention to all these parts of my life. I live my values every day, I show up as my authentic self, and make a difference however big or small. In that way, I can create a better world.”



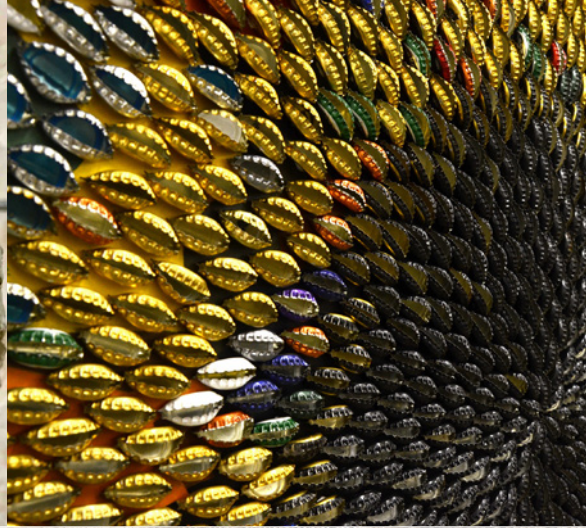




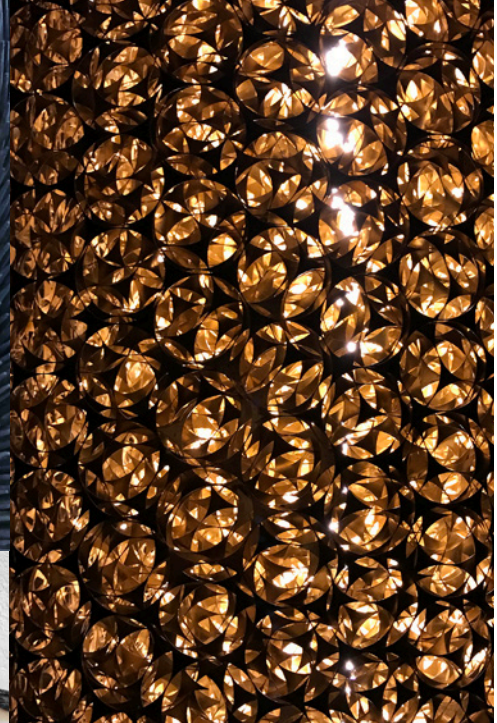
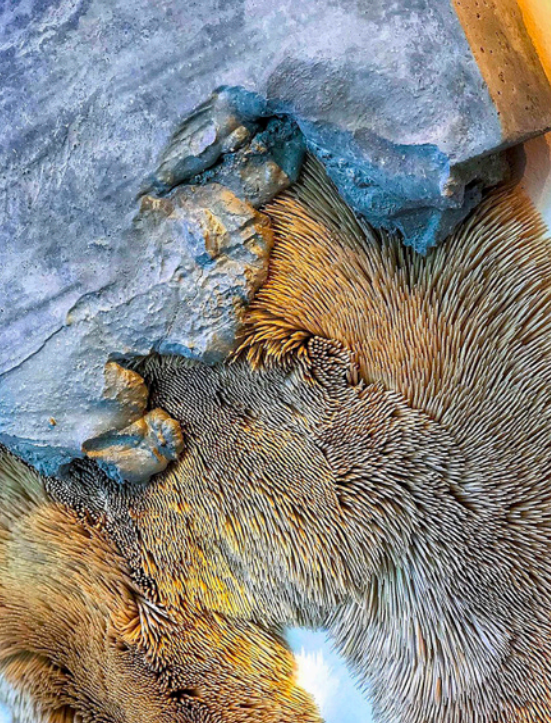
# TELL US ABOUT THE WITS -IES WHO INSPIRE YOU

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





The April 2019 issue of **Wits Review** featured Witsies succeeding in a variety of fields around the world.





# CHRIS SOAL

(BAFA 2018)

## field: art

In our digital and compartmentalised world, sculptor **Chris Soal** (BAFA 2018) is drawn to physical materials and to the unity of experience.

“When the arts play a significant role in industry, we learn again to put human beings at the forefront of what we do,” he said when he won the overall PPC Imaginarium Award in 2018. His winning artwork – a cement football – evoked the realities of growing up in the city and the relationship between soccer and industry.

His work highlights the histories embedded in materials (such as toothpicks and used beer bottle tops) and is meant to challenge people’s ideas about what is valuable.

“The PPC Imaginarium has made me more conscious that we – as artists and creatives – are professionals,” he says. “It gave me a great sense of the potential for art within society.”

Recently, he has shown work at several exhibitions (including a solo show) and has spent time at the RAW Material Company in Dakar, Senegal, in a research residency.





field: chemistry

"Magic is just chemistry we don't yet understand," says **Dr Sadhna Mathura (PhD 2013)** with a smile. The Wits lecturer, academic co-ordinator and researcher is on a mission to demystify science for the masses.

Recently, Dr Mathura was chosen to join the Periodic Table of Younger Chemists, an initiative of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) to highlight the role of chemistry in sustainable development. The United Nations named 2019 as the Year of the Periodic Table because chemistry is central to solving many global challenges.

[Read more](#)

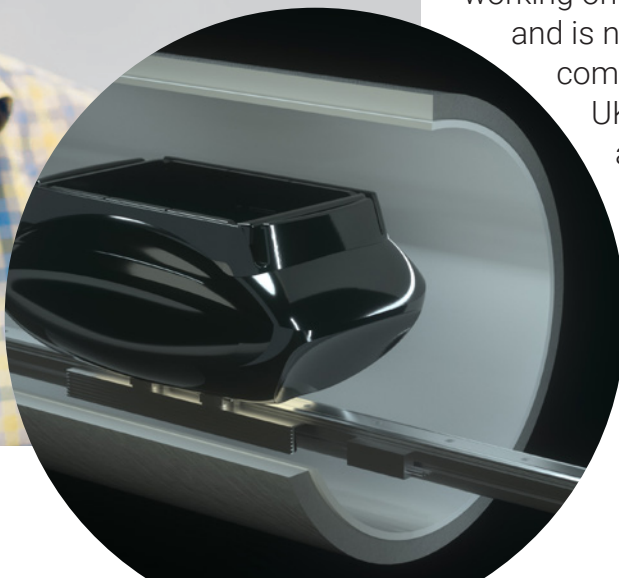
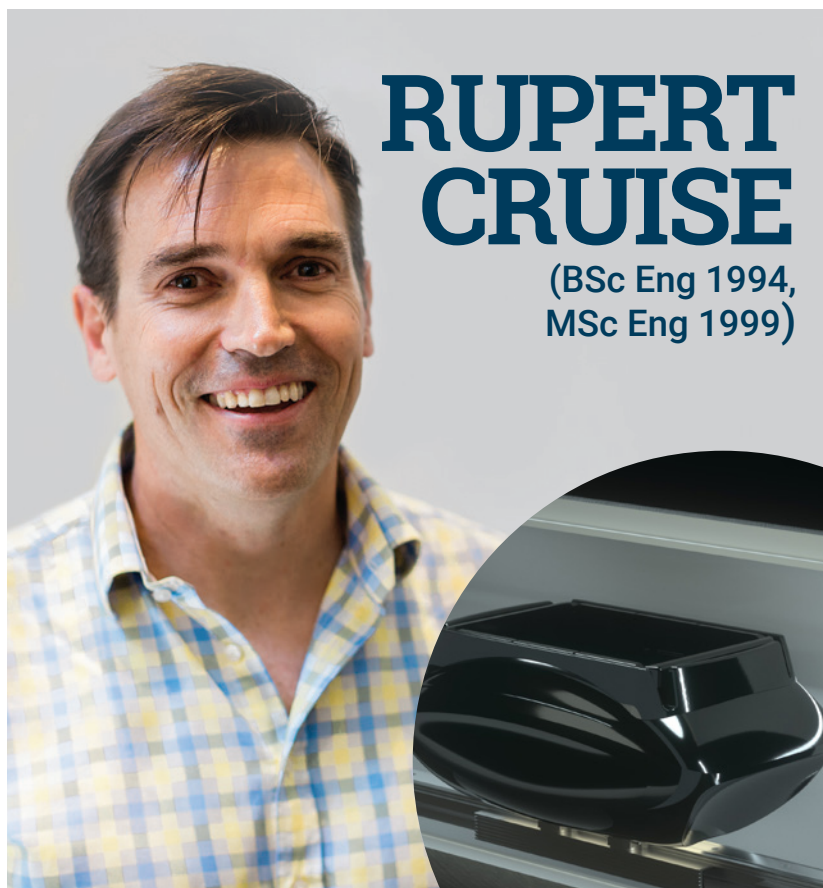


field: engineering

These days, when we want something from the shop, we want it right now. And we prefer to get it in a way that's kind to the planet and to our pockets. That's where linear motors come in.

UK-based Witsie **Rupert Cruise (BSc Eng 1994, MSc Eng 1999)** has been working on this technology for 20 years and is now the MD of Magway, a company that has been awarded UK government funding to build a demonstration version of a package delivery system near London.

[Read more](#)





A large, high-contrast black and white portrait of Gabrielle Goliath. She is a woman with a short buzz cut, wearing round glasses and a dark top. She is resting her chin on her hand, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is dark and out of focus.

# GABRIELLE GOLIATH

(BAFA 2008, MAFA 2011)

## field: art

**Gabrielle Goliath (BAFA 2008, MAFA 2011)** is the latest in a line of Witsies to have been chosen as a Standard Bank Young Artist. Representing the visual arts category for 2019, she follows the likes of William Kentridge (BA 1977, LLD *honoris causa* 2004), Jane Alexander (BAFA 1983, MAFA 1989) and Kemang wa Lehulere (BAFA 2012).

Her work focuses on gendered and sexualised violence. "Art gives us the means, when language and conventional therapy fail us, to work through these things," she says.

*Elegy*, for example, is a collection of work commemorating individuals who have been subjected to violence. *Stumbling Block* is a blanket-wrapped human form lying on cardboard in a public space and invites interaction from people in the space.

Image: Ayka Lux



Elegy

Image: Anthea Pokroy



field: journalism

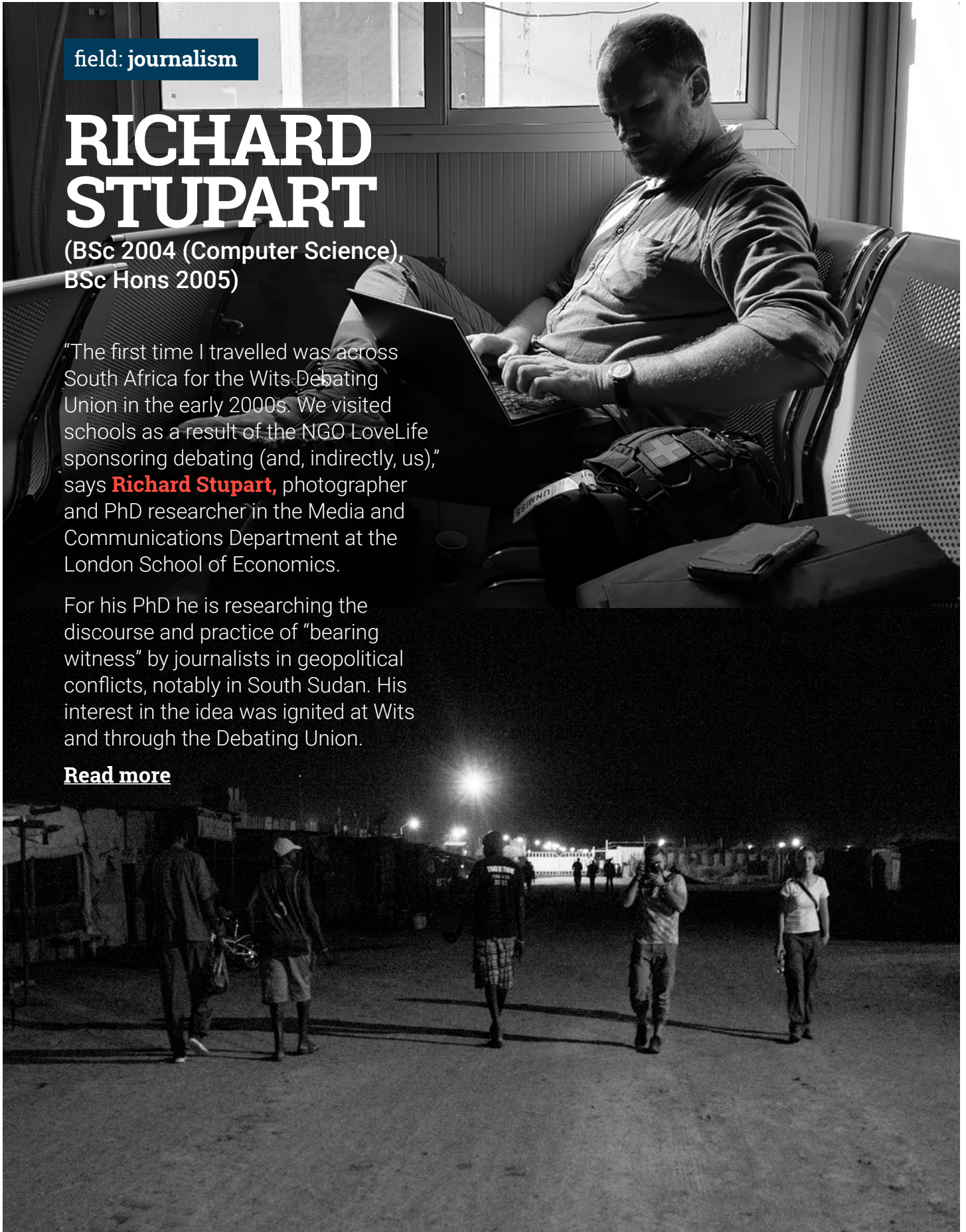
# RICHARD STUPART

(BSc 2004 (Computer Science),  
BSc Hons 2005)

"The first time I travelled was across South Africa for the Wits Debating Union in the early 2000s. We visited schools as a result of the NGO LoveLife sponsoring debating (and, indirectly, us)," says **Richard Stupart**, photographer and PhD researcher in the Media and Communications Department at the London School of Economics.

For his PhD he is researching the discourse and practice of "bearing witness" by journalists in geopolitical conflicts, notably in South Sudan. His interest in the idea was ignited at Wits and through the Debating Union.

**[Read more](#)**





A portrait of Tehillah Chimfwembe, a woman with dark curly hair, smiling and looking towards the camera. She is wearing a dark blue sleeveless dress with a white and black geometric patterned collar. She is also wearing a thick gold chain necklace and several colorful beaded bracelets on her wrists. The background is dark and out of focus.

## field: ICT

"Online violence, defamation of character, impersonation, fake news, alternative facts and cyber bullying are serious offences and threats to individuals on the receiving end and to the public at large," **Tehillah Chimfwembe** explains on national Zambian TV, ZNBC.

Her broadcasts about the responsible use of social media, what to do about cyber bullying, universal ICT access and innovation, mobile application privacy and other ICT-related issues have gained her recognition in the Zambian multimedia journalism fraternity and on TV as the face of the Zambia Information & Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA), where she works as a licensing officer.

**[Read more](#)**

**TEHILLAH  
CHIMFWEMBE**

(BCom Law 2014, BEconSci Hons)



# KERRY CAWSE-NICHOLSON

(BSc 2007, BSc Hons 2008, MSc 2009, PhD 2012)

field: science



"I found myself at the centre of the universe," says **Kerry Cawse-Nicholson**, speaking of taking up her post at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Los Angeles two years ago.

Among her other roles, she works as the deputy science lead for a mission called ECOSTRESS. It measures the temperature of Earth from outer space in order to better understand how plants respond to heat and water stress. ECOSTRESS (ECOsysteM Spaceborne Thermal Radiometer Experiment on Space Station) is managed and operated out of JPL's sprawling campus at the foothills of the San Gabriel mountains, north of Los Angeles.

**[Read more](#)**



# IVOR & HELOISE CLIFFORD

(Ivor BSc Eng (Mech) 2001; Heloise (Murdoch) BMus 2001, MMus 2007 )

field: nuclear engineering and music



Witsies watching an episode of *House Hunters International* a few years back may have seen two familiar faces on the show, looking for a home in Switzerland. They were **Ivor and Heloise Clifford**.

"Being on *House Hunters International* was a fun experience and it's been so interesting to hear how many friends around the world have seen the show and were able to see the apartment we found through it and now live in. It's in the village of Würenlingen, 40km from Zurich in northern Switzerland," Ivor explains. "We moved here in 2013 when I took up a post as a scientist and later as a group leader in the field of nuclear systems and safety analysis at the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) in Villigen, the village neighbouring Würenlingen."

[Read more](#)





A photograph of a man with a full, well-groomed reddish-brown beard and short brown hair. He is looking upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression. He is wearing a green t-shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

# THE DEEP READ

## hipsters

How harmless are **hipsters**? In this article from *The Conversation*, Wits researcher Melissa Tandiwe Myambo suggests that gentrifying neighbourhoods can place others at risk.

From Maboneng in Johannesburg to Bandra in Mumbai, Neukölln in Berlin to Gulou in Beijing, and Crown Heights in Brooklyn to Hackney in London, hipsters are everywhere.

Their distinctive look – (beards for the men and ironic retro cardigans for the women) – and very particular consumer tastes (most recently, a combination of cream cheese and food colouring that's called unicorn toast. Yes, really; it looks good on Instagram) – make them a highly visible subculture.

Hipsters are often associated with art, makers, other creative fields and the tech industry. They're mostly millennial middle-class professionals. [Read more](#)



## the burnout generation

How is **millennial burnout** different from anyone else's? And what needs to change: the people or the environment? Read Rajvinder Samra's article in *The Conversation*.

In a popular BuzzFeed article, Anne Helen Petersen describes how millennials (people born between 1981 and 1996) became "the burnout generation". She describes some of the stark consequences of edging towards burnout and identifies what she calls "errand paralysis", marked by a struggle to do even simple or mundane tasks. Many of the factors contributing to this burnout are rooted in the challenging job and economic conditions that millennials face, according to Petersen. She also describes "intensive parenting" as a contributing factor, because millennials have been relentlessly trained and prepared for the workplace by their parents. They have internalised the idea that they need to be working all the time or engaging in the never-ending pursuit of self-optimisation. [Read more](#)



Image: Mubriz Mehdizadeh, Unsplash



ME ME ME  
MILLENNIALS



YOUR ARMY NEEDS  
**YOU**  
AND YOUR SELF-BELIEF

FIND WHERE YOU BELONG



CLASS  
CLOWNS



YOUR ARMY NEEDS  
**YOU**  
AND YOUR SPIRIT

FIND WHERE YOU BELONG



BINGE  
GAMERS



YOUR ARMY NEEDS  
**YOU**  
AND YOUR DRIVE

FIND WHERE YOU BELONG



PHONE  
ZOMBIES



YOUR ARMY NEEDS  
**YOU**  
AND YOUR FOCUS

FIND WHERE YOU BELONG

## labelling generations

Is it fair to label a generation as **"snowflakes"** – meaning oversensitive people who lack resilience? It certainly doesn't help anyone, writes Shelly Haslam-Ormerod in *The Conversation*.

From the baby boomers of the mid 1940s to the early 60s to Generation X yuppies who came of age in the 1980s – labelling generations is nothing new but as early as 1839 French Philosopher Auguste Comte wrote about the gradual and continuous influence generations have upon each other and how generational stereotypes hold firm.

For today's millennials, who came of age around the early 2000s, the charge of "snowflake" has been attached to criticise their perceived sensitivity. The British Army even used the name recently to address young people in a recruitment campaign. [Read more](#)



Image: Julian Gentilezza, Unsplash



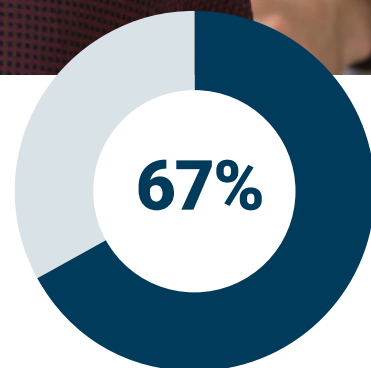
## unemployment

A guaranteed **employment** scheme in South Africa would pay for itself in terms of increased economic growth and – over the longer term – reduced inequality and crime. That's the argument of researcher Andrew Lawrence in *The Conversation*.



Image: Yanalya, Freepik

In his first State of the Nation Address, President Cyril Ramaphosa posed the key question: has South Africa built a society where the injustices of the past no longer define the lives of the present? The answer is clearly no. Among the biggest injustices is unemployment. Last year the unemployment rate worsened to over 27%. If discouraged workers are included, it's as high as 40% – 9.3 million working-age South Africans. Youth unemployment is particularly dire: of 10.3 million 15 - 24 year-old South Africans, over 67% were unemployed. This is one of the worst rates of youth unemployment in the world. [Read more](#)



**Of the 10.3 million  
15 - 24 year-old South  
African youth, over  
67% were unemployed  
last year**





food

Issue 6 of [Curios.ty](#), the Wits research publication, chose the theme of **Hunger Games**, looking at food from all angles. Among the articles:



**"Food commoning"** – ways of making food more accessible to more people



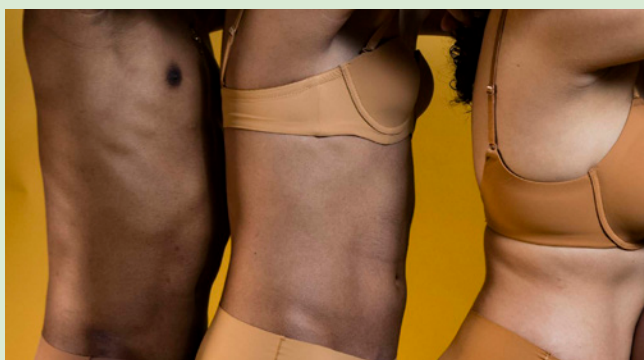
**Feeding Africa**



Benefits of **breastfeeding**



**Energy drinks**



**Body image**



... and Schalk Mouton's **bittersweet take** on why he starts his day with sauerkraut!



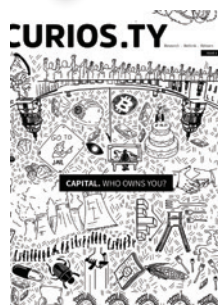
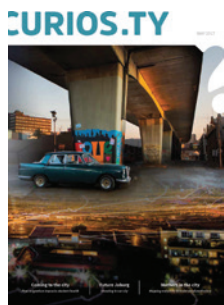
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# R250bn

The amount the ICT sector contributes (approximately 6%) to the country's GDP.

## ICT skills

The Joburg Centre for Software Engineering has surveyed skills trends in the **ICT sector** and says the sector's potential contribution to the economy is being held back by delays in implementing policies.

# 1million

The number of young people government has committed to training between 2019 and 2030 to become data scientists.



## books

Wits Chancellor **Dr Judy Dlamini** recently published her second book, **The Other Story**, which is about African leaders and achievers who have gone out of their way to lift others. Dr Dlamini spoke about it to **eNCA**



These are the stories that I want my grandchildren to read over and over again, until they see themselves and other Africans in them.





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