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WITS REVIEW

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ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
THE WITWATERSRAND

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Time, memory and meaning

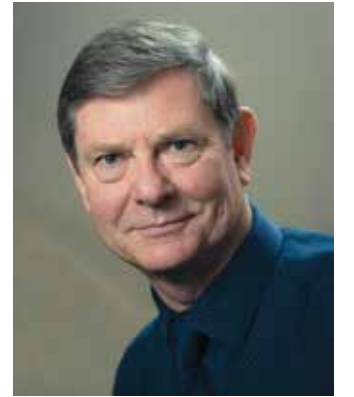
A Facebook post caught my eye recently: "We are now closer to the year 2033 than the year 2000". The year 2036 would do just as well but perhaps there is a futuristic ring to the 33rd year of the third millennium. Y2K feels like just the other day but 2033 sounds like an exotic and distant future where cars fly, Mars is colonised and machines are deep in thought.

As scientists will tell you, time is relative. Geologists and astronomers see the whole of human history as just a blip on the cosmic radar screen. For a seven-year-old, a day can feel like an eternity, while for many of us older folk a year seems to go by in a flash. Seven-year-olds don't spend too much time reflecting on the past. They live in the moment. But being over 50, I find myself fondly and vividly recalling my student days.

Robert Southey's observation over two centuries ago is now accepted science. In the past decade memory researchers have studied what has been aptly termed the "reminiscence bump" – a majority of memories in our brain are indeed from our teenage to early adulthood years.

There are many reasons for this. Strong emotions create strong memories, helped along by the influence of hormones, novel experiences, music and natural selection. From an evolutionary perspective we need to be curious about and remember the types of classmates we encountered so that we can identify the types of people who will either help or hinder us in life. An interesting by-product of this process is a human propensity for holding grudges – it protects us from being taken advantage of again.

Most of us have experienced the powerful emotions and memories that music can evoke. A seminal experience I had as a student was listening to Pink Floyd and the haunting lyrics of "Time" from the sublime album, *The Dark Side of the Moon*. I interpreted its message as a cautionary one; that we need to be conscious of the ephemeral nature of life and that we would want to avoid feeling regret as we look back through the passage of time. We know that



"Live as long as you may, the first 20 years are the longest half of your life. They appear so while they are passing; they seem to have been so when we look back on them; and they take up more room in our memory than all the years that succeed them."

– Robert Southey, English Romantic Poet

a time will come when we will want the comfort of knowing we led a meaningful life, whether through our relationships and emotional connections, being part of something more significant than ourselves, leaving a legacy, or simply knowing we had a positive impact and made some difference to others or the world.

And the good news is that we may have more time to make a difference. Life expectancy has risen globally for centuries and increased by almost a decade since the 1960s in wealthier countries. If youthful memories occupy so much space in our memory bank, perhaps it should be an incentive for us to retain a youthful outlook regardless of what we see reflected in the mirror.

Peter Maher

Director: Alumni Relations

PS. Wits is turning 96 this year, looking better than ever and just getting into its stride as the countdown to its centenary in 2022 begins.

Inside

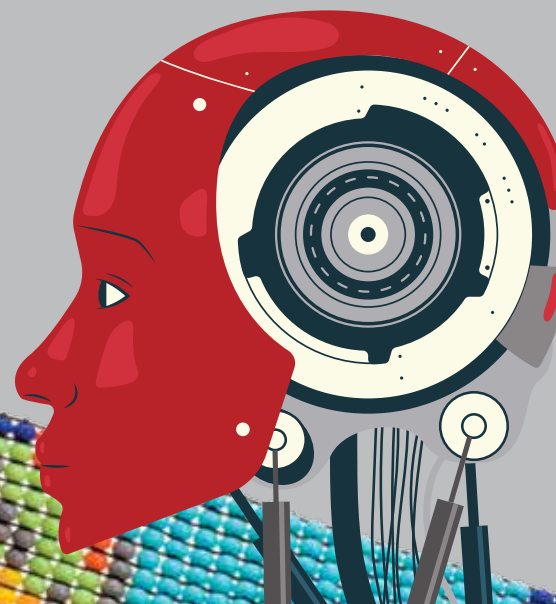


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Cover: Rag street collection
Story on page 42.
Image: Courtesy of Tiso Blackstar



*In loving memory of our colleague,
Nicole Sterling (1971 – 2017)*

Letters

Stay in touch

Please share your news and remember to update your contact details. We'd especially love to hear of Witsie families and Witsies who share a birthday with the University (1922). Please help us to keep in touch with all our older alumni if they don't have email addresses or social media accounts. Please email letters to peter.maher@wits.ac.za.

Deceptive appearances

The review of Jonathan Ancer's book on Craig Williamson (*WR* October 2017) evoked a vivid memory for me. In 1974 I was in my first year and attended a NUSAS weekend at Wilgespruit. While several luminaries, such as Steven Friedman and Horst Kleinschmidt, provided their analyses and insights about the apartheid state, Craig Williamson was seen to be bustling about as the organiser in chief. He had the appearance of a neo-hippie with his long straight hair, beard, sloppy clothes and sandals. He ensured we had food, furniture, stationery etc. During one session we were sitting cross-legged in a circle on the floor when Craig sauntered in to ask if we needed anything. Carlos Cardoso, wearing his Che Guevara gear (overcoat, beard and beret) exclaimed in his thick accent: "See that Craig Williamson? He used to be a policeman. Look at him now. That shows there is hope for everyone." We were ever so naïve in those days.

Sean Kaliski (BA 1977, MBCh 1982)

Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Cape Town; Head of Clinical Unit, Valkenberg and Lentegeur Hospitals, Cape Town

Editor's note: Cardoso was a Wits student who was deported from South Africa. He was murdered in Mozambique in 2000 while working as an investigative reporter.

Lash le Roux meets his maker

Having received the October edition of *Wits Review* (Vol 38), my pleasure turned to delight when I read the letters to the Editor. The letter from Rev Ian Bird (BSc Eng 1957) referred to a poem in the Rag magazine, *Wits Wits*, which began with: "Lash le Roux went to the Plaza, like Samson to the Gates of Gaza". My delight stems from the description of this as a brilliant epic poem, since my brother Jerome, Denis Pryor and I wrote this – what we called our "Ode to the Haggard Riders".

This was submitted to *Wits Wits* as humorous verse about the motorcyclists and the young men's ducktail haircuts, which were so popular at the time, along with the Saturday morning movies at the Plaza. I must add that the editor of the Rag mag was the brother of one of my classmates, Dennis Carr (MBCh 1957), which probably played a part in our awful puns and scansion reaching publication!

The reference to a brilliant epic poem has worked wonders for the egos of three erstwhile poet-authors!

Thank you for bringing back the memory of the pleasant time three students enjoyed along with many glasses of Tassenberg to invoke the muses and lubricate the ideas that produced Lash le Roux and our Ode.

Although we are less sound of wind and limb we are in touch across continents and think of producing a musical!

Giles Sechiari (MBCh 1957), Ormskirk, UK



Early memories of Wits

I was born in the early 1930s and started at Wits in the early 1950s, having progressed from Parkview Schools to Parktown Boys' and across Jan Smuts Avenue to Wits University, where I registered for Civil Eng.

Do you remember:

- The shock and surprise at the size of those big sloping lecture rooms.
- The first lecturer's words: "Better never than late" (Mr Oliver, Applied Maths 1).
- There must have been about 300 Engineering students, all white boys, no females. About 20% of

us made it to graduation.

- The lawns in front of the Library were liberally populated with ex-Second World War rectangular Nissen huts. One was the cafeteria. The Rag office too, which was home to a never-ending poker school.
- Our Maths 3 lectures were in one hut with a small blackboard which the lecturer quickly covered with scrawled differential calculus.
- The overflow men's residence was at Cottesloe in Nissen huts in a barbed wire enclosed site. I knew an ex-serviceman who had been taken POW at Tobruk and, after he'd spent five years in Germany, Wits put him in "Cot". He told me he sat on his bed, looked around, said "Hell no" and walked out.
- Remember the bus trips to the Wits gates and racing to get to lectures.
- Running cross country. Training runs of six or seven miles after lectures and Wits team races of 10 miles on Sundays.
- Many of the guys wore blazers and ties. There was one girl on campus who wore a see-through top and you could see her bra; all the other girls were horrified.
- Many of us used to go to the pool area to eat our lunch and watch the Physio girls doing their gym.
- In third year the Civils and Miners went and camped near Magaliesberg and did practical survey in the hills. We hired two trucks to get there, one for the tents and clothes, and one for the beer.

Robin Jarman (BSc Civil Eng 1955), Bryanston

Varsity Kudus

Hoofbeats

About 2 500 runners took part in the Varsity Kudus club's 15km race on 7 January. Runners took on the hilly route from campus to Westcliff and Parktown in a heat wave, downing 30 000 sachets of water. The race has been run annually since 1980 and is organised entirely by volunteers. Mbongeni Ngxazozo and Rone Reynecke were the men's and women's race winners respectively.

Image: Peter Maher



Cricket Dinner

Murray bowls them over

Wits Sport hosted a dinner in December 2017 for former and current cricket players to celebrate the achievements of Wits cricket – the oldest club at the University. Professor Bruce Murray, who has done so much to record Wits' history, was the speaker.

Prof Murray's involvement with cricket started as a schoolboy in the 1950s, when he helped operate the scoreboard at the Wanderers. As a history lecturer, he was captain of the Wits staff cricket team and when he retired he became chairman of the student club.

He noted that Wits cricket had a difficult start as

the students couldn't play during summer holidays or on Sundays. But by December 1961, Eddie Barlow had become the first Wits student and player to win his Springbok cricket colours. The next was Peter de Vaal, ten years later – though he didn't play because it was the start of exclusion of South Africa from international sport. In the early 1980s, Richard Ellison inspired the team with his performance. Rob Sharman took over as club chairman in the mid-1980s. Players like Mandy Yachad, Richard Snell, Steven Jack and Adam Bacher were there when South Africa rejoined international sport. The club is now in the B section of the Premier League and it's time for a revival, Prof Murray said.



Men's Res

95 and still raring to raid

More than 150 alumni attended a reunion dinner on 29 September 2017 to celebrate the 95th anniversary of Men's Res. Old Raiders had the opportunity to tour College and Dalrymple Houses, share their memories and reconnect with Phineas the mascot. Bruce Fordyce (1975-76) sent a video of support and promised to be at the centenary celebrations. In another video from the US, Mark Stiller (1982-86) urged the guys in red and white to make the most of their stay and form lifelong friendships.

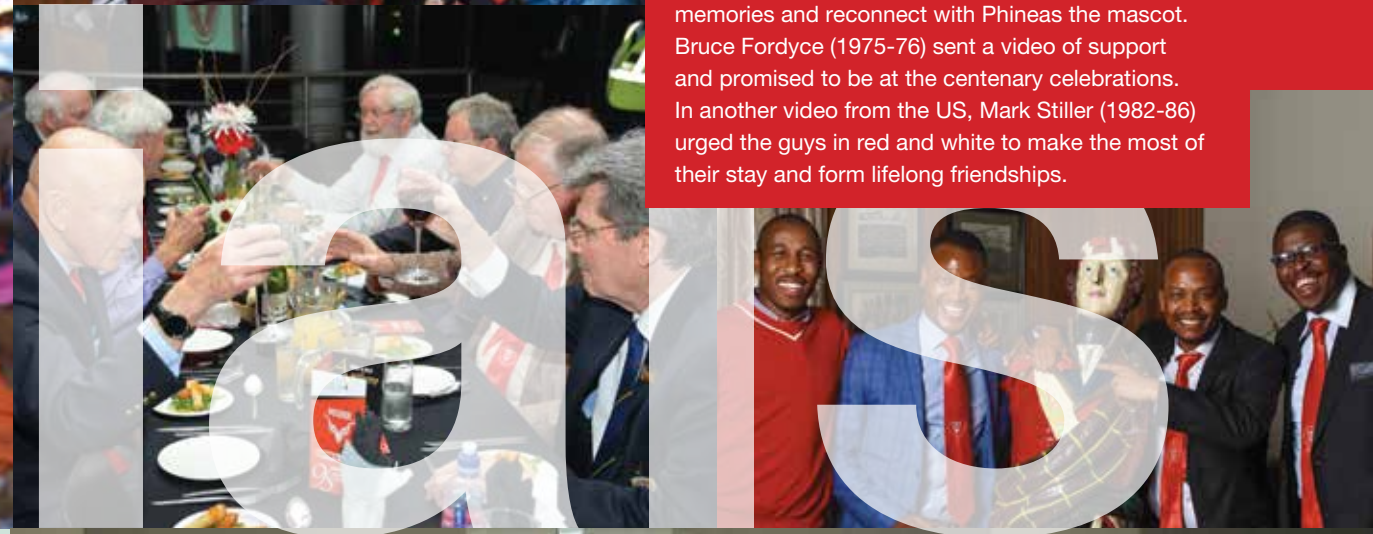


Image: Peter Maher

Back row: Barry Lambson, Steven Jack, Ian Benning, Chris Lee, Alistair Stewart, Glen Baker, Alan Da Costa, Anthony Parlabeau, Kevin Kerr, John du Plessis, Paul Botha, Willie Kirsch, Mandy Yachad
Front row: Rob Sharman, Bruce Murray, Godfrey Lekgota, Bruce McBride



SOCIALS



Civil engineer Robert Schaffner (BSc Eng 1951), aged 97, was the oldest Witsie at the tea.



Sipho Pityana was the guest speaker.



FOUNDERS' TEA 2017

Fabulous Founders

Businessman and Save South Africa convenor Sipho Pityana was the guest speaker at Founders' Tea on 30 November 2017. Wits was an appropriate place to reflect on the leadership South Africa needed, he said. It was a place that should produce people capable of conceiving and defending new ideas.

The University's Founders also heard the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Adam Habib, outline new developments at Wits and touch on the good news of the past year.

Pics: VividImages



FRESHERS GAME

Becoming Witsies

First year students were “revealed” as new Witsies at a soccer game held on 31 January 2018 at the Bidvest Wits Stadium on East Campus. This annual tradition, hosted by Wits Sport and Alumni Relations, transforms students into their new identity as Witsies for life and introduces them to the symbols associated with being Witsie – bleeding blue and gold, having their spirits lifted by Kudu the mascot and adopting the Wits W hand sign.

Proudly blue gold



Images: Peter Maher





Kirsh connects with campus

Highly successful businessman, philanthropist and Wits alumnus **Natie Kirsh** (BCom 1953) was recently hosted for an extensive tour of the University. He is pictured here at Wits Business School (third from right) with (from left) Kirsh Group Africa head George Lys, WBS Head Dr Sibusiso Sibisi, Dean of Faculty Prof Imraan Valodia, visiting professor Lord Peter Hain, Wits Foundation Board of Governors member Arnold Bassarabie and Wits Development and Fundraising Director Peter Bezuidenhout.

Wits Business School celebrates 50 years

Back in 1968, Wits University established the first business school in Johannesburg. It was part of the University's vision to establish a centre of excellence in the field of business sciences, and the School proudly graduated its first MBA cohort in 1972.

Today, the School is still situated on the same campus in Parktown, with the same jacaranda trees and beautiful heritage Outeniqua House at its heart. Its flagship MBA programme is still a highly sought-after degree, and thousands of alumni around the world are proud to have Wits Business School on their CVs.

To celebrate this "golden milestone", WBS has a number of events planned during 2018. These include an infographic and exhibition stand showcasing its illustrious 50-year journey, a virtual memory wall, a Fifty Years of Stories coffee table book and Worth their Weight in Gold – a series of events with high-profile African business people and alumni. There will also be alumni reunions, a gala dinner and staff "street party", a fun run – and more.

"So many special individuals, celebrated business people, incredible staff and dedicated academics have contributed to what WBS has become over the past five decades. We want to honour those people, and invite everyone who has studied, taught or worked at the School to share their memories," says Jane Balnaves, WBS Communications Manager.

For more about WBS's 50th birthday, or to send your memories, anecdotes or photographs, please email jane.balnaves@wits.ac.za.

Image: Jane Balnaves

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG



2018 Events: WAM

14/03 - 03/06

Wits Arts Museum (WAM)

**ALFRED THOBA:
A STEP BECOMES A STATEMENT**

Retrospective of paintings that mark South Africa's political history and the artist's personal journey

18/04 - 15/07

WAM

**ROSS PASSMOOR:
TUNNEL VISION**

Interplay between a suburban garden and an abandoned train tunnel

13/06 - 09/09

WAM

**BEYOND THE
READYMADE**

Rethinking found objects in South African art. Researched by Alison Kearney

27/06 - 16/09

WAM

**SABELO MLANGENI:
AMAKHOLWA (THE BELIEVERS)**

Photographs exploring Zionist Christianity



Alfred Thoba, *Trees of Eden*, 1994, oil paint on paper, 53.5 X 73.5cm

ALUMNI REUNIONS

05-08/09

Faculty of Health Sciences

**HEALTH SCIENCES
ALUMNI WEEK /
HEALTH GRADUATES
ASSOC REUNION**

26-28/09

United States

**MEDICAL
SCHOOL
REUNION**

Newport, Rhode Island

01-06/10

Australia

**ALUMNI
REUNIONS**

Sydney, Melbourne,
Brisbane, Perth

29/11

Wits Alumni

**FOUNDERS'
TEA
PARTY**

West Campus

Sport

Images: Dominic Barnardt/ Luke Thorold/ Varsity Sports



Wits captain
Constant
Beckerling

RUGBY

Wits made sensational progress through the Varsity Cup tournament this year – kicking off with a win over UCT, then beating last year's champions Tuks for the first time ever, and drawing with Maties thanks to a last-minute try. Wits lost to the University of the Free State and the University of Johannesburg, but saw off Nelson Mandela University and the Central University of Technology. At the time of going to print, Wits was third in the log table. Psychology student Conor Brockschmidt (seen here with the ball in the match against Tuks) has been a stalwart of the resurgent Wits team for the past four years.



Research

ANATOMY/RADIOLOGY

Diets on the brain

Rhinos' brains are organised in a way that is broadly typical of mammals, but certain minor differences in the brain anatomy of the two rhino species may be related to their diet and the size of their home range.

Researchers said that "in their larger home ranges in a denser wooded habitat, it would be more important for the black rhinoceroses to have a better cognitive map of the location and timing of available food sources than is needed for the grazing diet of the white rhinoceroses." The sense of smell, too, is important to black rhinos in this habitat. The research also found that the white rhino's grass diet might account for its brain's larger ventricles, which would help it flush toxins from the central nervous system.

The research may help us understand the behaviour of these threatened animals better. It was carried out by Adhil Bhagwandin (BSc 2005, BSc Hons 2006, PhD 2011) and Paul Manger of the School of Anatomical Sciences, and Mark Haagensen (MBBCh 1077) of the Department of Radiology.

PHYSIOTHERAPY

Fearless fast bowling

Cricket fans have had some exciting bowling to watch lately – Proteas Lungi Ngidi and Kagiso Rabada come to mind. How do athletes like these minimise the risk of injury to themselves as they deliver with such speed, accuracy and consistency? (The world record is about 160km/h.)

Researchers like Prof Benita Olivier (MSc Physio 2008, PhD 2013), an associate professor in the Department of Physiotherapy, are onto it. She specialises in studying the fast bowling action and has published widely on the subject.

As a sports physiotherapist, she is interested in fast bowling because it involves high speed, a high load on the body and a complex, asymmetrical action. Fast bowlers often get injuries to the lower back, in particular, and the resulting change in movement can also create complications for other parts of the body.

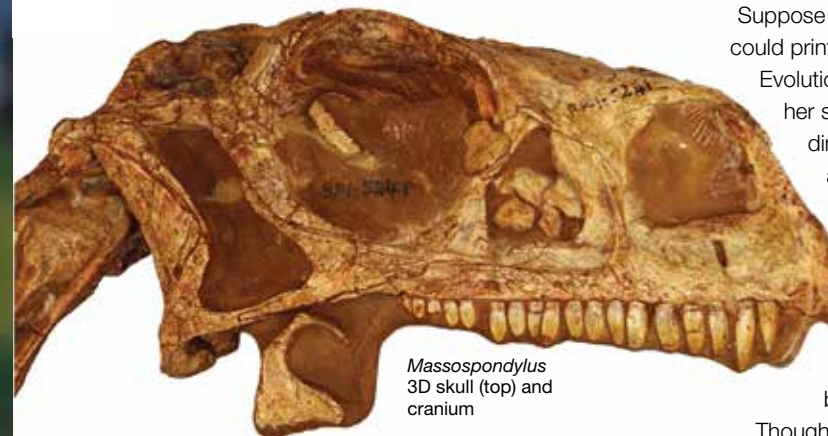
Prof Olivier recently got funding for a new study, the Fearless Fast Bowling study, which will track players from school and club level and help them prevent injuries, improve performance and extend their playing careers.

Olivier was one of 10 scientists under the age of 40 who were elected on merit to the South African Young Academy of Science in 2017. The academy is a platform where young academics can influence decisions, develop capacity in science, collaborate and contribute to solving society's problems.



EVOLUTIONARY STUDIES

Inside a herbivore's head



Massospondylus
3D skull (top) and
cranium

Suppose you wanted a dinosaur skull. Well, you could print one. Kimi Chapelle, a PhD student at the Evolutionary Studies Institute, published not only her scientific paper on the 200-million-year-old dinosaur, *Massospondylus*, but also a file that anyone can use to reproduce the skull with a 3D printer.

Digital scans and online publishing have been described as enabling "a new golden age of anatomical description". Open source publishing also means the work is available for the benefit of anyone.

Though *Massospondylus* has been known for many years, its internal cranial anatomy had never been studied in great detail. Chapelle used the Wits MicroFocus X-ray computed tomography facility to scan and reconstruct the cranium, and then describe its features. This helps, for example, to work out how the creature held its head and how it moved and grew (to around four metres long).

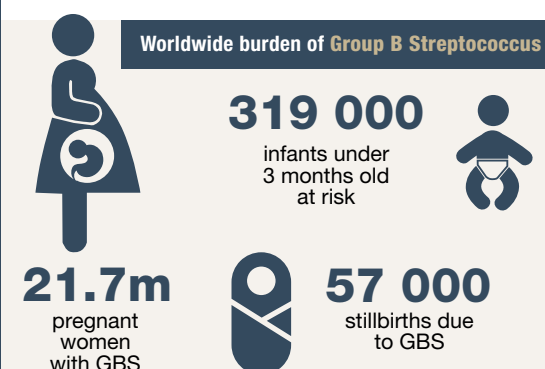
Massospondylus is one of the most famous dinosaurs from South Africa. Wits' Prof James Kitching discovered fossil eggs and embryos in Golden Gate National Park in 1976.

VACCINOLOGY/PUBLIC HEALTH

How big is the bacteria burden?

Hundreds of thousands of deaths could be avoided if a vaccine was available for Group B Streptococcus bacteria. Decisions about developing such a vaccine can now be informed by the first proper estimate of how many people are affected worldwide. The Wits/Medical Research Council Respiratory and Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit contributed to the study. Group B Streptococcus infects pregnant women and can cause stillbirths and disease and death in infants.

Wits' Professor Shabir Madhi (MBBCh 1990, MMed 1999, PhD 2004) and his peers have filled an important gap in public health data by compiling information about disease, disability and death for pregnant women, stillbirths, preterm births, newborns and infants. Their work points to a number of 21.7-million pregnant women and 319 000 infants under three months old being at risk. A conservative estimate for stillbirths due to GBS disease is 57 000.



Termites are a valuable source of nutrition and income in parts of Africa.

ANIMAL SCIENCES

Heaps of food

Termites are a valuable source of nutrition and income in parts of Africa. A survey in the Vhembe district of Limpopo found that a kilogram of termites can feed at least 15 people, and the average income from selling them is almost R300 a day. A 300ml cup of termites feeds three people for R20 – but anyone can harvest them for nothing.

The insects are rich in proteins, minerals and vitamins and high in energy. Most of the survey respondents preferred the *Macrotermes falciger* species. They are eaten fresh from the termite mound, or dried and then cooked – preferably fried and accompanied by maize meal porridge and a tomato and onion sauce. Dried termites are also eaten as a snack. Some pregnant and lactating women also eat soil from termite mounds.

The survey found that harvesters protect the mounds from destruction and use nests in a sustainable way.

Prof Frances Duncan (BSc 1982, BSc Hons 1983, PhD 1993) of the School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences and Shandukani Netshifhefhe (a PhD student and Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development scientist) were co-authors of a paper on this study in the *South African Journal of Science*. They noted the importance of preserving indigenous knowledge about harvesting and processing the insects.

You can taste termites at the annual Yebo Gogga exhibition at Wits, taking place from 9 May to 13 May this year.



Professor Ron Clarke: Upper surfaces of Little Foot bones are exposed, after a lengthy and careful excavation process

Images: PAST

“Africa was the wellspring of everything that makes us human, including our technological prowess, our artistic ability, and our supreme intellect.”

PALAEOLOGY

Step forward

Work on our hominid ancestry has received another boost from the recent completion of preparatory work on “Little Foot”, the *Australopithecus* fossil excavated by Professor Ron Clarke (PhD 1978) and his assistants Stephen Motsumi and Nkwane Molefe at Sterkfontein. The fossil dates back 3.67-million years. It is the only complete *Australopithecus* skeleton found anywhere in the world, and the oldest *Australopithecus* found in southern Africa. The Wits team has spent 20 years excavating and cleaning the fossil so that it can be studied. The Palaeontological Scientific Trust, an NGO which has supported this work, explains why this field is so important: “Africa was the wellspring of everything that makes us human, including our technological prowess, our artistic ability, and our supreme intellect.”



explore

origins centre

MORE THAN A MUSEUM

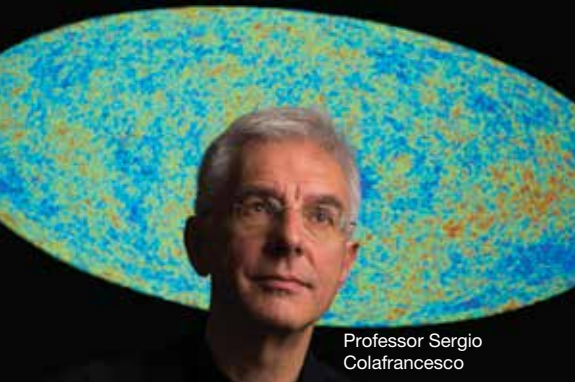


VIRTUAL REALITY at the Origins Centre breathes new life into South African art, artefacts and archaeology. **The Virtual Reality (VR) experience immerses viewers in the Origins Centre story** — putting viewers into a rock art shelter, bringing the past alive and allowing them to follow in the footsteps of archaeologists.

COME AND EXPLORE!

Origins Centre is open Mon-Sat, 10h00-17h00.

www.wits.ac.za/origins



Professor Sergio Colafrancesco

ASTROPHYSICS

Smash and flash

Astrophysics history was made last year when an international network of scientists, including a Wits team led by Professor Sergio Colafrancesco, detected evidence of the collision of two dense neutron stars.

The journal *Science* called this the top scientific breakthrough of 2017 – and it ushers in a new era in science: “multi-messenger astronomy”.

More than a hundred million light years away, the stars’ impact set off a gamma ray burst – a huge explosion. Scientists picked up the resulting gravitational waves (distortions in space-time), using laser interferometers.

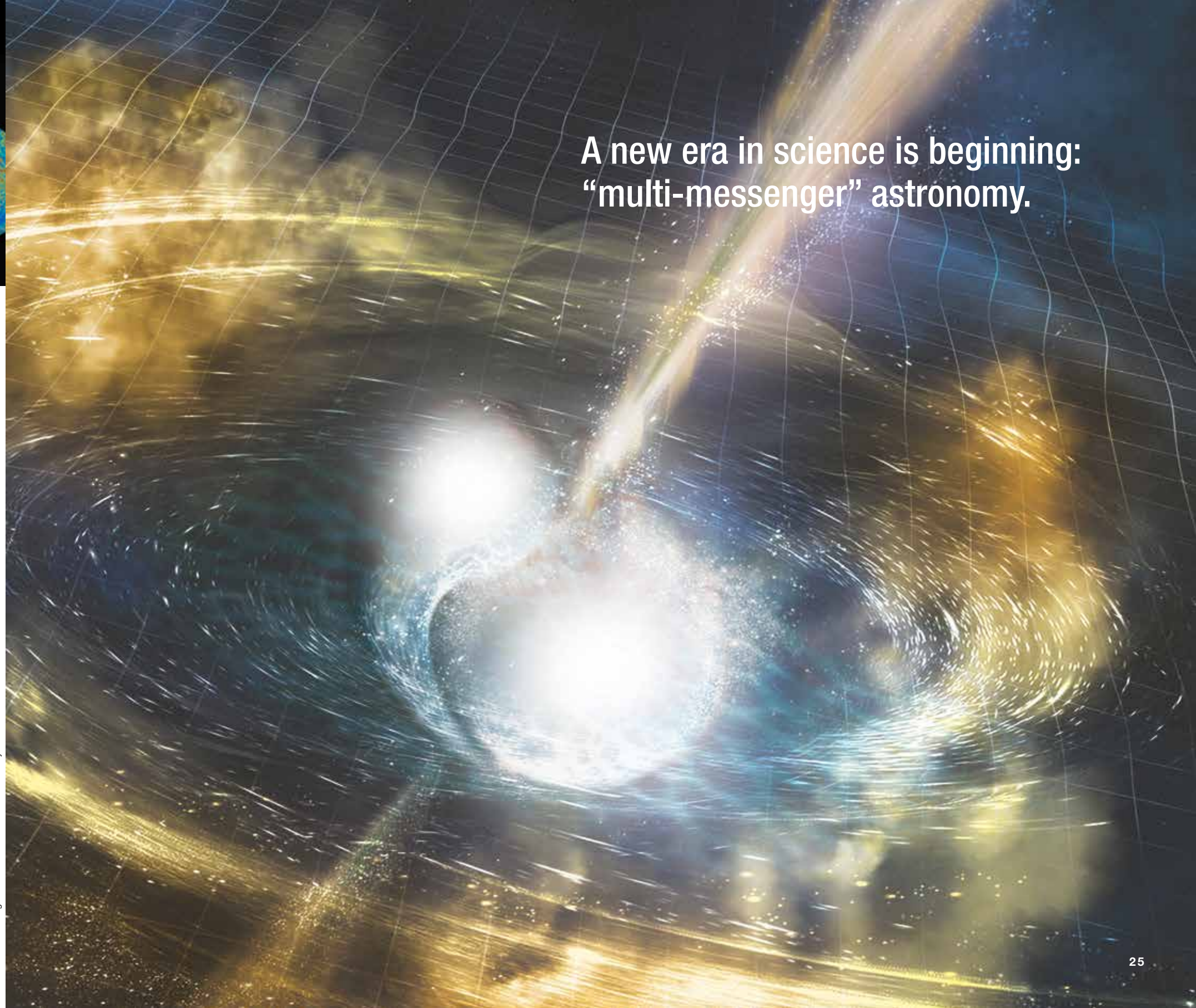
Each star weighed more than our sun, and the gamma-ray burst was one of the brightest electromagnetic events known to occur in the universe.

Because the gravitational waves and the burst of light were so close to each other in time and space, observers could establish the link between these events (or “messengers”). It was the first time that a cosmic event was observed with both gravitational waves and light.

The scientists then watched what happened in the aftermath. For one thing, it looks like precious metals like gold and platinum are formed in the chain of reactions.

Image: NSF/LIGO/Sonoma State University/A. Simonnet

A new era in science is beginning:
“multi-messenger” astronomy.



Spherical colony of the green alga (chlorophyte) Volvox, with daughter colonies breaking out.

EVOLUTIONARY STUDIES

Life begins here

Billions of years ago, the earth contained only lifeless molecules that formed spontaneously through chemical and physical processes. But when small molecules connected and formed larger molecules with the ability to make copies of themselves, life started to evolve.

"Something needed to happen for these small molecules to interact and form longer, more complex molecules," says the Evolutionary Studies Institute's Dr Pierre Durand (BSc 1990, MBCh 1994, MSc 2004, MMed 2007, PhD 2009). He and Nisha Dhar (PhD 2016) investigated this process, using a small RNA enzyme.

Before their work, it was not really known how the larger ribozymes that were so essential for life to begin came about. The research showed that very

small molecules can have enzymatic activity – they can join up with other molecules. What's more, they are not very specific about which molecules they attach to. And that makes it much more likely that the larger molecules emerged. This discovery solved one of the missing pieces of how life began.

It is the origins of death, though – and not life – for which Prof Durand is better known. He has a long history of working on the evolution of programmed cell death in microbes. This kind of death is very different from "incidental" death, which releases toxic material that harms other microbes in the community. But an explanation for why programmed death evolved in the first place was an evolutionary puzzle. It is clearly harmful to the individual, but Durand has shown that in unicellular life it can evolve because it benefits relatives. It could have evolved in single cells, long before it became an essential component of multicellular life.

"The philosophical connections between life and death are compelling," says Durand. It's curious that programmed cell death in microbial communities increases the complexity of the living system by facilitating the exchange of nutrients. The role of programmed cell death in the evolution of more complex multicellular life is also relatively unexplored. Durand continues to advance this field at Wits with researchers like postdoctoral fellow Dr Santosh Sathe and PhD student Jonathan Featherston.

DENTAL HEALTH

Tooth tales

To judge how healthy a population is and whether children are developing as they should, you often need to know how old they are. But in rural Africa, in particular, people aren't always sure exactly when they were born. And biological standards from other populations might not be applicable. The benchmark must come from the group that researchers are interested in.

Wits researchers compared two common methods of estimating age from teeth, to see which is the most accurate for specific populations. The results highlight significant variation in the timing of tooth development worldwide.

Professor Lynne Schepartz, co-author of the paper, said information from dental development could influence many clinical decisions. The Wits researchers have now compiled the first dental atlas based on the growth of children in sub-Saharan Africa – a visual guide to tooth formation and emergence.



Gallo/Getty Images

HIV RESEARCH

A child brings hope



One special South African child may hold answers to questions about combating HIV.

The child, diagnosed with HIV at a month old, received antiretroviral treatment (ART) as a baby and has suppressed the virus for nine years. "To our knowledge, this is the first reported case of sustained control of HIV in a child enrolled in a randomised trial of ART interruption following treatment early in infancy," said Dr Avy Violari, head of paediatric

research at Wits' Perinatal HIV Research Unit.

Tested at the age of nine, the child had a healthy level of key immune cells, a viral load that was undetectable by the routine tests, and no symptoms of HIV-1 infection.

The senior author of the case, Professor Caroline Tiemessen (BSc 1984, BSc Hons 1985, PhD 1993), said: "We believe there may have been other factors in addition to early ART that contributed to HIV remission in this child. By further studying the child, we may expand our understanding of how the immune system controls HIV-1 replication." Prof Tiemessen was awarded the 2017 Vice-Chancellor's Research Award.

MINING

Keeping track of miners

The horror of people being trapped underground after a rockfall was a reality in the Lily mine disaster of 2016. And even normal mining operations could be improved with wireless communication that works through solid rock or debris.

Researchers at Wits are working on wireless sensor networks that could track miners' normal movements and also save the day when miners are injured or missing. The sensors are small enough to attach to a miner's helmet and can transmit signals if the person cannot send distress calls. If some sensors stop working, the others in the network can re-establish communication among themselves.

The research was a collaboration between the Wits Mining Institute, Wits School of Electrical and Information Engineering and the Sustainable Communication Networks Laboratory at the University of Bremen in Germany. They tested the technology in the mock mine at the School of Mining Engineering.

MACHINE LEARNING

Enlightened machines

Wits hosted the first Deep Learning Indaba in September 2017. Leaders in the fields of machine learning and artificial intelligence got together to learn, teach and debate the topics and to make connections for their research and careers.

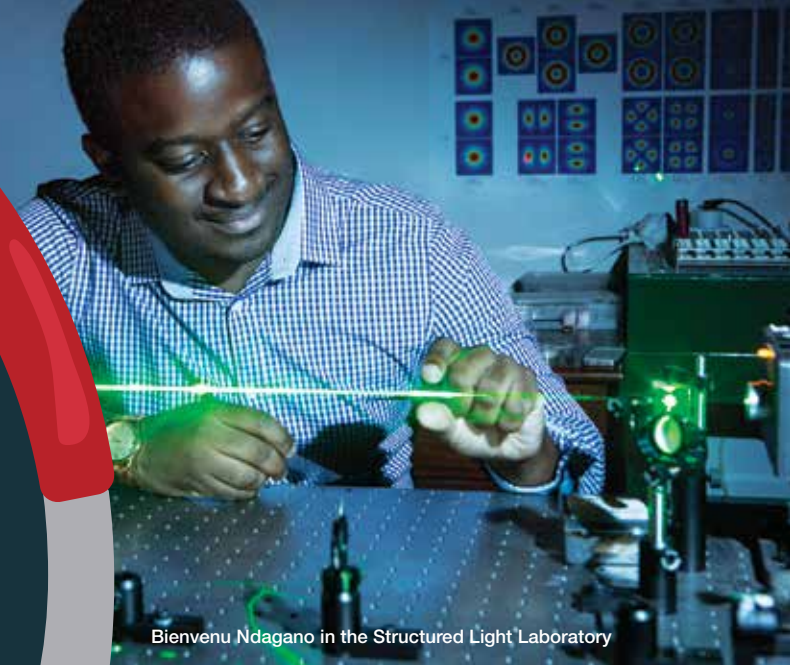
Speakers included Witsies Nando de Freitas (BSc Elec Eng 1994; MSc Elec Eng 1997), lead research scientist at DeepMind in the UK; George Konidaris (BSc 2001, BSc Hons 2002), Assistant Professor at Brown University; Wits lecturer Richard Klein (BSc 2010, BSc Hons 2011, MSc 2013, PhD 2017); and CSIR researcher Vukosi Marivate (BSc Eng 2007, MSc Eng 2009).

Deep learning is a type of machine learning, an area of research that develops algorithms that can learn from data to solve a particular task.

"The development of these skills needs to happen locally, to an international standard, so they can specifically target local problems," says Wits Science Dean Professor Ebrahim Momoniat.

Deep learning is a type of machine learning, an area of research that develops algorithms that can learn from data to solve a particular task.

Illustration: freepik



Bienvenu Ndagano in the Structured Light Laboratory

LIGHT LAB

Swift, secure data

A much faster, much safer internet – that's one of the goals of research at Wits' Structured Light Laboratory. One day, it could be physically impossible to crack a data encryption code.

The laboratory is doing some of the most exciting optics research in the world, according to the Optical Society of America, the leading international society in its field.

Professor Andrew Forbes and his team have shown that an area called classical entanglement exists between the quantum and classical (real) worlds, which means that real-time error correction in quantum communications is possible. This has exciting implications for fast and secure data transfer over long distances.

As the researchers put it in the Optical Society's journal: "Our work allows for long-distance quantum links to be established and tested with classically entangled light. Previously, to fix an error in the quantum state used for secure communication would mean measuring the photon sent, which in turn would destroy the information that one was trying to send. In our scheme, all the measurements needed to fix the errors in the quantum state can be done in real time, without destroying the quantum information, as there is no shortage of photons in the classical light."

A Wits education is a passport to the world.
Heather Dugmore follows four alumni
on their diverse career journeys.

Witsie Routes

LESLIE ZUBIETA

Archaeologist (MSc 2004, PhD 2009)

Mexico to Spain via Wits

Leslie Zubieta was born and raised in Mexico City (population 23-million), in a country of 120-million people and 68 indigenous languages. Mexico has a strong museum culture, and Leslie's parents took their young children on long road trips to see many of the country's archaeological sites. "I wondered how people used to live in those places, and what their emotions and ideas of the world were. By the age of 15 I knew I wanted to be an archaeologist." After school she graduated with distinction from a Mexican university that is dedicated to teaching all the anthropological disciplines.

"When I finished my BA Hons, I searched the Internet for a place where I could study further in rock art research. I was fortunate to find the Rock Art Research Institute at Wits. In 2003, it was the only place in the world to study for a Master's in this field. I embarked on a journey that became a pivotal phase of my academic and personal life."

Leslie had the privilege of learning from the Chewa women in central Malawi about their rituals, which gave her insights into interpreting the rock art of that area. Collaboration with indigenous people became the basis of her research approach. Her PhD argued that rock art should be seen alongside other material culture (such as clay figurines) and intangible heritage (such as song, dance and stories) to understand its function and meanings. While working on her Wits dissertation, she travelled in Malawi, Zambia and Mozambique to collect stories and record rock art sites.

Leslie was the only Mexican student at Wits at the time. "People have strange ideas about Mexico and what it is to be Mexican but I was always welcomed everywhere," she says. "I lived in a tiny room on West Campus Village that became my home for many years. At first I thought my room was too small, but by the end of my studies I did not want to leave. At Wits, I felt safe and looked after. Another advantage

of living on campus was that I could use the amazing 50-metre swimming pool. Swimming was crucial to me when I was writing up my PhD thesis! It helped me to concentrate and to relax. I have not been able to find a pool like this in any of the countries where I have lived since I left South Africa."

Living on campus did have the drawback of poor public transport in Johannesburg, but Leslie made many good friends. She met interesting people at the Postgraduate Club, including fellow students who were far away from home. "I also met wonderful teachers who are no longer with us, such as Prof. Phil Bonner and Martin Drake, and many others who still are and who became a great support during my time at Wits."

Leslie subsequently did a six-month postdoctoral stint in France, where she learnt about the Upper Palaeolithic rock art and was trained in documentation techniques. She then moved to Perth and worked on a rock art conservation project in northwest Australia.

Last year she was awarded a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship funded by the European Union and is based at the Universitat de Barcelona. She is leading a multidisciplinary project exploring the relationships between memory, rock art and acoustics.

Leslie enjoys the diversity of life in Barcelona and learning from interactions with a variety of people.

"Madiba's words have stayed with me all these years regarding how to tolerate and embrace people from different backgrounds."

She feels the key to adaptability is to make the best out of any situation, laugh about your problems and remain humble.

She practises yoga and, as a vegan, enjoys visiting small markets to find locally produced organic food.

It's also an interesting time to be there: "I am experiencing history as it unfolds. It is a privilege for me to be a witness of the political situation that Cataluña is going through." ♦

Image: James Chiwaya



Mexican market

Images: Leslie Zubieta



Barcelona



STANIS SMITH

Architect (BArch 1978)

Joburg to Vancouver via Wits

Stanis Smith was born in Johannesburg, with architecture in his blood – both parents were in the business of designing buildings and landscapes. He and his wife Joanne (Catzel) (BSc OT 1982) moved to Vancouver, Canada in 1986. His global design firm, Stantec, is a leader in the design of airports – so it's no surprise that Stanis is almost constantly on the move. The secret of travelling a lot, says Stanis, is not to keep to your home routine and time zone, but to adapt immediately to wherever you have landed,

whatever time zone it may be in.

His current airport projects are in Vancouver, Toronto and Quito, Ecuador. "The topography of Quito is unique: a patchwork quilt of diverse neighbourhoods that have settled on the slopes and in the valleys between several volcanos, one of which is still active. The city has a beautifully preserved historic centre, one of the first to be declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO, and it is a delightful experience to wander around the narrow cobbled streets and explore the ornate, Baroque churches, with their dazzling gilded interiors." It is one of the best preserved Spanish

colonial districts in Latin America, dating back to the 1500s.

Quito prides itself on being the "gateway to four worlds": the Amazon, the Andes, the coast and the Galapagos Islands.

Stanis has enjoyed some "spectacular" seafood in Ecuador, which also has a reputation for making some of the best chocolate in the world.

But home is definitely his favourite place. "The more I travel, the more I like Vancouver! At a population of around two million, it has everything that a sophisticated 21st century city can offer without

being overwhelming. It rivals Cape Town with its combination of water and mountains. Many people in Vancouver are immigrants, so I particularly enjoy its inclusiveness, tolerance and diversity. The city has a history of environmental awareness and activism: Greenpeace was founded in Vancouver, and it is a highly desirable city for people who enjoy nature and the outdoors. I cycle to work on good days. Food and entertainment choices are at a global level. The only real downside is that it has become one of the world's most expensive cities to live in because everyone wants to be here!" ♦

Iqaluit Airport, Nunavut, Canada, designed by Stantec

KABALANO RAMPA

International trader (BCom 2009)

*Botswana to
China via Wits*

Image: Samuel Zeller

Beijing

Kabalano Rampa was born in Botswana, matriculated in South Africa, graduated from Wits and started work at a financial services group. He soon realised that the “corporate cubicle” wasn’t for him and that he wanted to explore the world and his own potential.

“China caught my interest mainly because of the rapid rate of development in multiple spheres of its economy. I started applying for scholarships and was awarded a Master’s degree scholarship by the China Scholarship Council through the Chinese embassy. It was an amazing experience as we were a class of students from all over the world and there was a lot of healthy academic competition. It was probably one of the nerdiest times of my life and I enjoyed it.”

Kabalano graduated top of his class and says this opened a lot of doors in the corporate world in China. He started working for an international trade company that was buying goods in China for a large European retailer. “This is when I was introduced to the hands-on world of international trade. Seeing how trade holds the world together and how people everywhere have a better quality of life because of trade really struck me.

“I constantly had home in mind. I saw how more efficient trade could vastly improve the African continent, and after some time I took the leap to start my own business, providing a one-stop service for clients in Africa who want to get products or machinery from Asia.”

Kabalano lives in Wuhan in central China but visits his port office in Guangzhou frequently. “I have lived in a few cities in China, including Beijing, Shanghai and Nanchang. I have a lot of friends, colleagues and fellow researchers, so it just feels like home. My partner is currently based in Botswana but she was in Beijing for over a year and that definitely made my stay in China better.” His mind-set of learning and having fun has helped him adapt.

Kabalano had to learn Mandarin fast. Life in China is always busy and fast paced, he says; “and I thrive in this kind of environment. It’s always nice to see progress at an exponential rate and this is what I want for the African continent.”

Going to restaurants with friends is a big part of



Kabalano (left) and friends

his social life. “I love Chinese food for its diversity and richness. I have eaten foods I never thought I would in a lifetime, from frog to locusts, dog, eel, raw squid, crunchy insects and a lot more. But we also frequent some South African restaurants, especially if we are in Beijing. They serve pap and boerewors.

“During my student days at Wits I used to be part of the Wits DJ society. So when I was doing my Master’s in China I would DJ in my free time as a creative way of relaxing.”

China’s fast development sometimes clashes with its ancient culture, Kabalano says. But what struck him was that the Chinese work together. “Their history has taught them that having unifying goals can take them far. They have over 54 dialects and several minorities, but they try very hard to work together towards a brighter future. We in Africa are often divided by the smallest diversity, but if we embraced the diversity we would really go far.”

He is excited about the example of China and his role in Africa’s future. “I know Africa is the next frontier for global trade.”

Though he loves being a “mobile citizen”, one day he’ll probably be back in South Africa. “I had some of the best days of my life when I was at Wits and I think Johannesburg might be the place I would eventually settle.” ♦

CONRAD HUGHES

Educator and musician (PhD 2008)

Joburg to Geneva via Wits

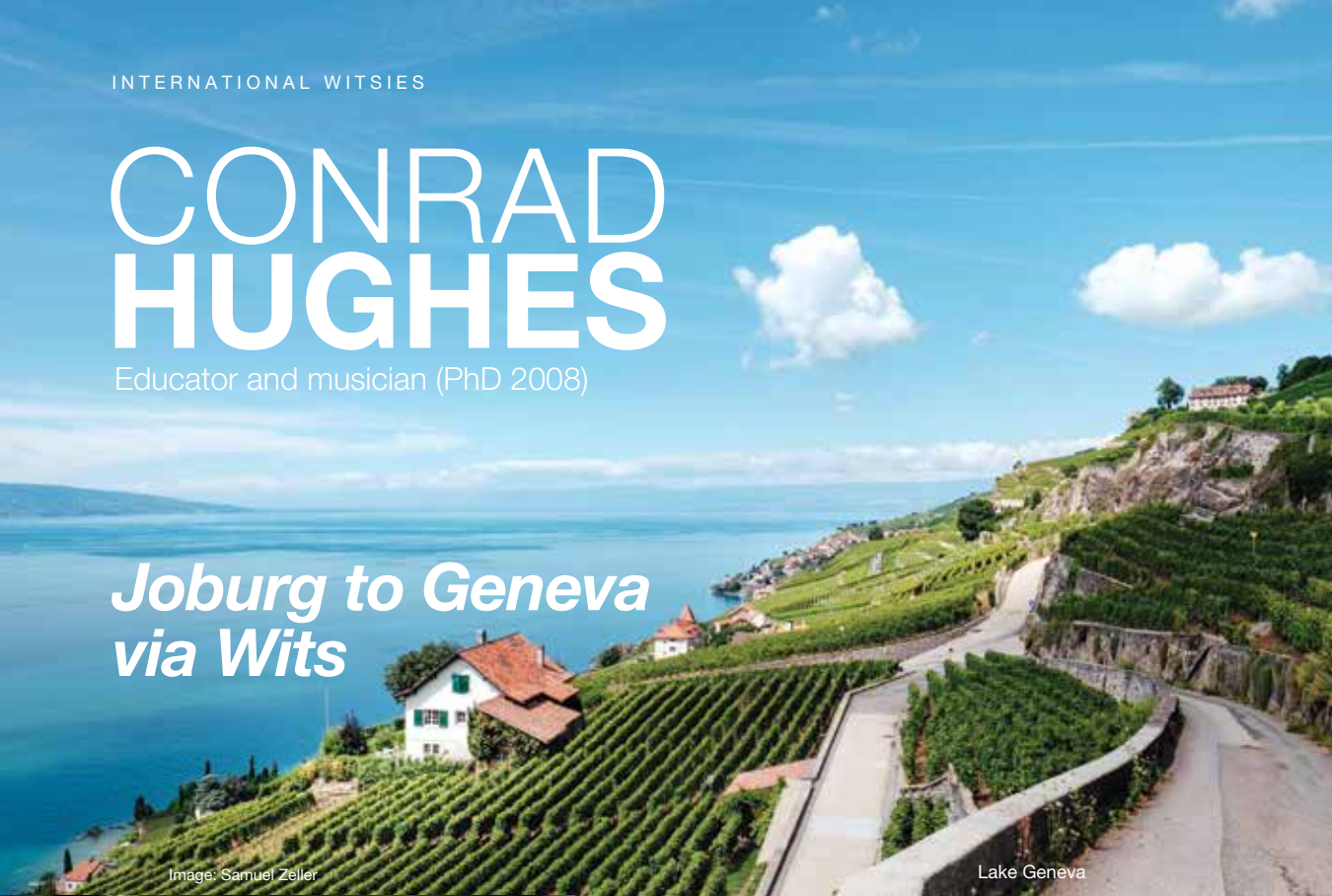


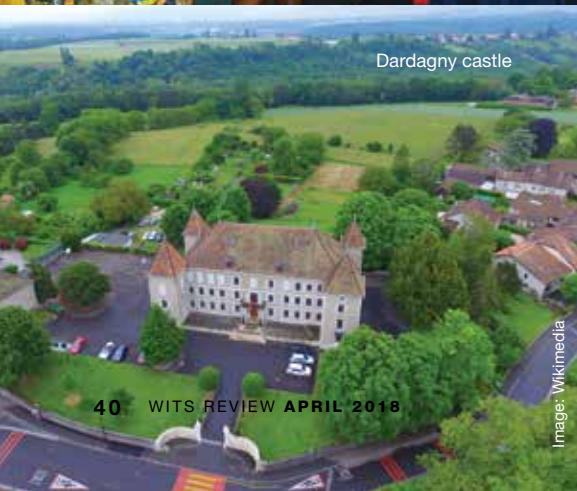
Image: Samuel Zeller

Lake Geneva



Conrad Hughes (right) with his band, Pososhok

Image: Paulin Tadadjeu Dadjieu



Dardagny castle

Image: Wikimedia

Conrad Hughes (PhD 2008) is the Director of the world's first international school, La Grande Boissière, in Geneva, where he has lived since 2005.

"Our home is on the outskirts of Geneva in the wine-producing district of Dardagny. When we arrived, the village invited us to a gathering of new residents and all the social impact work that you can volunteer for was presented to us," he says. "I signed up to be a voluntary fireman and it was one of the best decisions I have made as it put me in contact with about 50 people I would not have met otherwise, and with whom I have formed friendships."

This community-centredness underlies the entire Swiss system. "It encourages participatory governance in what I believe is the best system of governance in the world. It is a direct democracy where communities are able to directly present their issues," he says.

Conrad frequently returns to South Africa, particularly to the Cape, where his father (Wits Professor Emeritus Geoff Hughes) and brother live. His late mother, Dr Jean Marquard (PhD 1984), lectured in the English Department at Wits from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s.



Conrad Hughes at La Grande Boissière

Image: François Poncioni

"It is very important for me to take my wife, Estelle, who is from Cameroon, and our two children, Heloise (13) and Melchior (12), back to my home country. I am immensely proud of South Africa; I love this country and the spirit of the people, and both Estelle and I thrive on the music and culture. In addition to being educators (Estelle is a French teacher), we are both musicians. I sing and play guitar and Estelle sings."

Music and education brought them together in Montpellier in the south of France and they have a sought-after, multi-nationality band in Switzerland called Pososhok. "It's a Russian word, a tribute to a Russian friend, colloquially meaning 'one for the road' but literally meaning a walking stick, an extra support in life," he explains. Their music blends South African, West African, Mexican and European influences.

Diversity is the essence of the International School of Geneva, established in 1924. It has learners from over 130 different cultures, and strives to make the world a better, more peaceful, open-minded place

through education.

In February this year at the African Education Festival in Ghana, Conrad spoke about thinking and educating for the 21st century, focusing on academic honesty, information literacy, post-truth politics and Big Data.

"We are in an exciting, chaotic, fast-moving period of history. Schools and universities worldwide are grappling with this. If you look at the South African context and Africa in general, you are dealing with the legacy of a colonial patrimony that is still there. In Cameroon, for example, students are still learning as much about France as about their own country. In South Africa, universities are addressing decolonised, Africanised curricula.

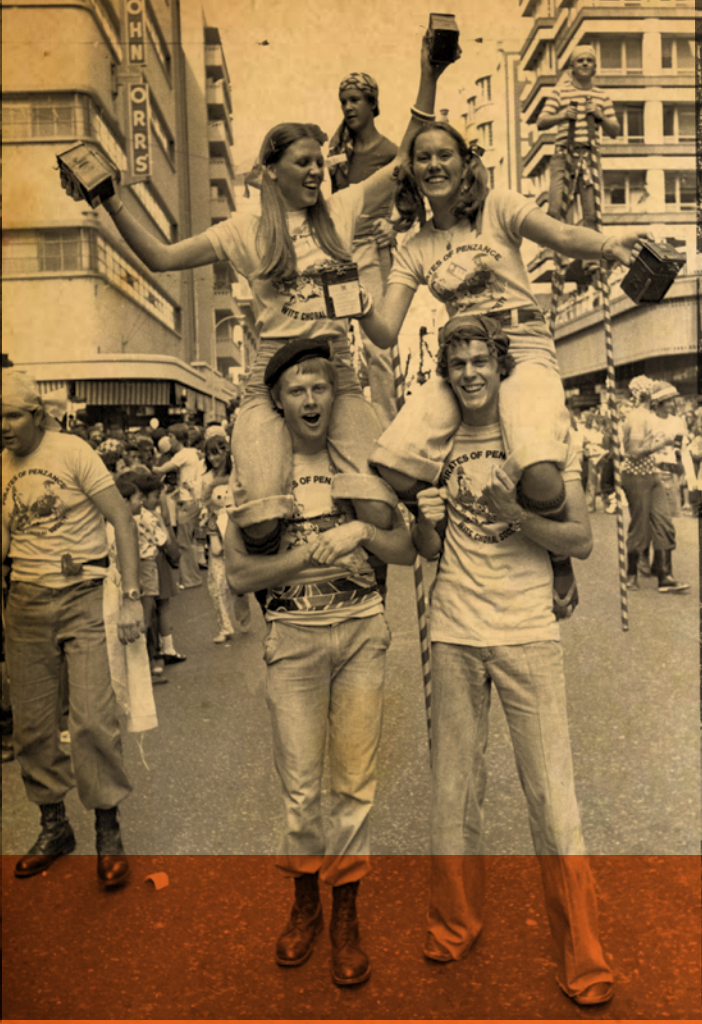
"Our school believes in an international curriculum that exposes learners to the diverse historical and contemporary conditions of all humankind. This includes literature that opens new mental gateways and exposes people to different cultures and systems, including Chinese, Indian and African knowledge systems and world religions." ♦



BY HEATHER DUGMORE

RAG TIMES

WITS RAG IS AS OLD AS THE
UNIVERSITY ITSELF - BOTH
STARTED IN 1922.



Students in carnival costumes dance around traffic policemen; motorists and pedestrians are besieged by youthful revellers wielding collection tins as a festival of floats sways through the streets of downtown Joburg accompanied by a procession of drummers and bummies, clowns and pirates, all extracting coins from spectators for a cause ... this was Rag.

Wits Rag is as old as the University itself – both started in 1922. In the beginning the word “rag” referred to a stunt or prank. Professor Bruce Murray explains in his book *Wits: The Early Years*: “The first organised rag in the history of Wits was on 4 October 1922, to coincide with the official inauguration of the University and its first graduation. It took the form of a mock funeral to bury the old School of Mines prior to the official ceremony and graduation to celebrate the birth of the new University of the Witwatersrand. The students marched from Plein

Square to the Town Hall, where ‘proper funereal honours’ were accorded the School of Mines. The following year, the rag took the form of a procession of decorated vehicles illustrating various student activities.”

This developed into the Rag that many remember, but in the early years rags were not restricted to inaugurations, graduations or a specific day. Any occasion was regarded as an adequate excuse to stage one. In 1924, one of the highlights was the marriage of Wits mascot Mr Wu to a doll. In 1927 Mr Wu received the degree

of Work Duly Performed without attending a single lecture. A regular feature of early rags was the Court of Injustice, when some worthy figure such as the Mayor would be tried and fined by the students for an absurd charge – such as declaring that spring had arrived.

THE FIRST RAG FOR CHARITY

In 1929 the students decided to elevate Rag to “a gargantuan scale” during Show Week, “when

the city would be raided for the commendable purpose of raising money for the Radium Fund.” This was in aid of cancer patients at the Johannesburg General Hospital, hence Rag at that time was called the Hospital Rag.

Murray writes of the 1929 Hospital Rag: “Women students were sent out collecting from early morning, and a procession of floats, illustrating cancer monsters and the wonders of radium treatment, was paraded through town. Bands of students, dressed variously as bandits, pirates, policemen and cowboys, raided

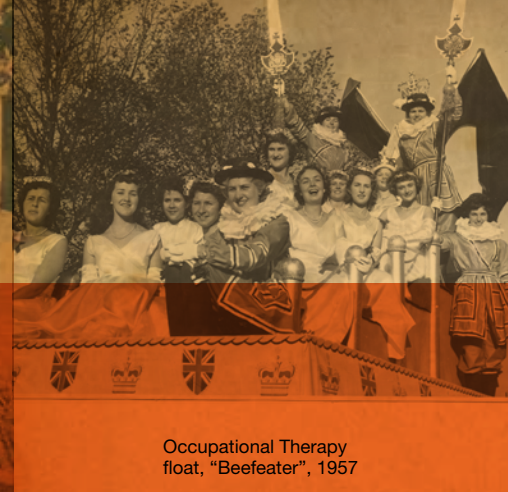
the pockets of the local citizenry.” That year they collected £1229.

And so the Hospital Rag grew and came to be known simply as Rag. “This will be the one day when a real traffic jam may be seen in Johannesburg,” warned a newspaper in 1930.

In 1931, to bolster the fundraising, a new feature was added in the form of *Wits Wits*, the first Rag magazine in South Africa. It was initially going to be called *Witty Wits* but after “violent discussion” in the Rag committee, *Wits Wits* won the day. Described as a humorous magazine of “love,



The kidnapping of Dame Margot Fonteyn, 1971



Occupational Therapy float, "Beefeater", 1957



life and laughter", the magazine alone raised an astonishing £500 that year.

Rag was widely supported in the 1930s, and people turned out in large numbers, donating generously despite the hardships of the times.

A news article in the *Rand Daily Mail* in 1935 read: "The city took on the appearance of a monster carnival with 70 floats and buildings bedecked in jubilee flags and bunting, producing an unending jingle of coins into the collecting boxes ...

"Many people paid twice and thrice, and did so gladly. They paid when their cars and buses and trams were held up in the early morning. They paid again when they walked from the centre of town to their offices, and if they had a copy of *Wits Wits* they bought another."

By the late 1930s, when Wits had about 2500 students, Rag was making about £10 000 a year. Collections declined in the early 1950s, but the debutantes of those days worked hard to get back on track.

Two legendary Rag stunts took

place in 1925 and in 1971: the bogus Prince of Wales and the kidnapping of prima ballerina Dame Margot Fonteyn.

THE BOGUS PRINCE OF WALES

As Murray recounts, on Tuesday 23 June 1925 the then Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VIII and Duke of Windsor, was due to open the Central Block on campus. "About 5000 people flocked to the occasion, where they were subjected to a massive hoax. It centred on Constable Gert 'Boet' Coetzee, a local policeman who regularly did traffic duty at the Twist Street tram terminus, and who possessed a remarkable likeness to the Prince of Wales."

At the instigation of the then Vice-President and President of the SRC, Saul "Pete" Suzman and Adam Backeberg respectively, Constable Coetzee agreed to pass himself off as the Prince. The Registrar ceremoniously greeted the bogus Prince, who carefully inspected the guard of honour

provided by school cadets. Then a fleet of Crossley cars pulled up and the real Prince stepped out. Constable Coetzee made a quick exit and the Prince proceeded to open the building.

Murray says the incident "resulted in a major traffic jam at the Twist Street tram terminus as hundreds of motorists converged to see 'the Prince' on point duty" the next day.

THE KIDNAPPING OF DAME MARGOT FONTEYN

The front page of *The Star* newspaper, 28 April 1971, featured two Wits students who had "kidnapped" Dame Margot Fonteyn, the world-renowned ballerina, to draw attention to the coming Rag. Martin Goldblatt and John Matisonn carried Dame Margot out of the Johannesburg Country Club – and then took her and her dancing partner, Attilio Labis, to lunch at the Sunnyside Park Hotel.

Matisonn, who was the Editor of *Wits Student* at the time and spent more time protesting against apartheid on Jan Smuts Avenue than building Rag floats, has since contributed a great deal to broadcast journalism in South Africa and now sits on the new SABC board. He recalls the kidnapping:

"I think she was very pleased to be kidnapped – she had been alerted in advance. She told us that she was giving a talk to a group of ballet teachers that day, and that we should give her a bit of time with them before coming to kidnap her."

Matisonn adds: "My personal view is that Rag was a good thing because the money went to good causes, but it wasn't what the people with whom I was working in student politics were interested in. Part of it was the controversy about beauty queens."

GOODWILL AND FUN

Murray says over the years Rag was generally welcomed by the

university authorities for the fun and goodwill it created.

The floats were much anticipated each year, except for a period in the middle of World War II when there were no floats but the students still "held up" citizens for donations.

South Africa's Prime Minister at the time, General Jan Smuts, sent a message of support: "In war as in peace, it is our duty to maintain the health of the nation," his message read. "The students of the Witwatersrand University feel this and are once more raising funds for the Hospital. Their target this year will be 10 000 pounds, and it is their intention to give part of the money collected to the non-European section of the hospital. I thoroughly endorse their appeal."

The student newspaper at the same time drew attention to the appalling conditions in that hospital: "The answer for today is money, and for tomorrow a complete re-organisation of medical services in South Africa."

Through the decades, Rag received a lot of praise and thanks from the growing number of beneficiaries of its fund-raising,

including patients who had been treated as a result of improved medical facilities. But it was never without its critics, from the political to the moral, some more serious than others.

BOISTEROUS AND BOORISH

The "boisterous and sometimes boorish behaviour of students" attracted comment from some members of the public and fellow students. In 1939, one of several SRC chaired debates was held to decide whether Rag should be abolished. That year Rag won the day by 14 votes to 5 and it was also recommended that £2000 of the money collected be "allocated to the development of native clinics in Orlando Township". Not everyone supported the funding of hospitals, as they felt it allowed the state to evade its responsibilities.

While some felt that Rag hooliganism was an issue, others felt students should have some leeway during this event. Letters flooded in to the papers, some



Rag queen Robbie Brueckner with American entertainer and Unicef goodwill ambassador Danny Kaye



Robbie Brueckner, Greta Hilewitz and Wendy Braude, 1954

suggesting that Rag's detractors saw vulgarity in everything that savoured of fun. "Surely the students and others who work so hard for the success of the 'Rag' are to be allowed a certain amount of licence on such occasions," read one.

THE CHARITY DEBATE

Year after year, Rag continued to bring in a lot of money and the range of charities expanded in the 1940s to include the Fordsburg Community Health Centre, the Alexandra Clinic, the Social Services Society, Witsco and others.

The debate about fund-raising for charity became an increasingly political issue at Wits. In the escalating battle against apartheid, politically active students saw it as a feel-good act for white students

that attempted to put a small plaster on the dire conditions faced by black people, and that most of the students participating in Rag were unaware of the country's deep systemic problems. From the 1970s campus saw increasing tension between students protesting against apartheid and what they perceived as students having thoughtless fun and getting drunk at Rag.

Rag committees tried to emphasise that Rag was for all students and its motive was social cohesion.

Black students asked why supporters of Rag didn't focus its fund-raising on their fellow students facing immense hardship.

Many Witsies who participated in Rag through the decades reply that they recognised the injustices and worked to raise funds to contribute in the most practical way they could to improving the lives of black South Africans, including their fellow students. Many Wits

students also worked at the clinics and centres that Rag supported.

One was paediatrician Dr Roberta "Robbie" Welch (Brueckner) (MBBCh 1955), who was a drum majorette in 1953 and Rag Queen in 1954. She did her medical school community training at the Alexandra Health Clinic, one of the beneficiaries of Rag funds. A socially conscious and committed doctor, she went on to work in public hospitals for many years.

ROYAL RESPONSIBILITIES

She has fond memories of Wits and Rag: "I was a member of the Sunnyside Women's Residence House Committee, an enthusiastic Witsie, supporting rugby and swimming and following all the drama to do with the capturing of the mascots (Wits' Phineas and Tuks' Oom Gert).

"I was humbled to have been



MANY WITSIES WHO PARTICIPATED IN RAG THROUGH THE DECADES REPLY THAT THEY RECOGNISED THE INJUSTICES AND WORKED TO RAISE FUNDS TO CONTRIBUTE IN THE MOST PRACTICAL WAY THEY COULD TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS, INCLUDING THEIR FELLOW STUDENTS.



chosen as Rag Queen and at times awkward but reassured and supported by all. As Rag Queen I was never demeaned and never conscious of negative attitudes towards women on campus. On the contrary, some women were making themselves felt in student affairs. Women medical students were well accepted as equals and just as competitive academically."

EDGING TOWARDS THE END

The only person ever to be Editor of both *Wits Wits* and *Wits Student* (1984), Harry Dugmore, reflects: "Rag was a venerable institution. But it was based on problematic ideas: raising money for the 'underprivileged' and having fun doing it at the height of apartheid when people were poor and couldn't vote, work, move, love, live freely because of apartheid.

So for many it was a paternalistic approach.

"The main Rag fund-raiser in my time was the magazine *Wits Wits*, usually full of, in my opinion, extremely lame jokes taken from joke books, often sexist and racist jokes to boot, and getting thousands of students to sell the magazine at traffic lights once a year, followed by a big Rag parade, with money collected in little tins. It was weirdly anachronistic, as was the beauty pageant that Rag used to run right up to about 1983; that year we managed to get this stopped on campus.

"I was appointed Editor of *Wits Wits* mag in 1984, just after I finished editing *Wits Student*, a newspaper that was often banned. It was a year the wheels were starting to come for the apartheid regime (a year before the 1985 state of emergency). In *Wits Wits* that year I included interviews with Pieter Dirk-Uys and other people who were trying say 'wake

up' to the white community. It included loads of satire on white society and its media consumption and privilege, including parody magazines inside *Wits Wits*, such as *Vile* instead of *Style* and *Square Lady* instead of *Fair Lady*.

"There was lots of coverage about the actual beneficiaries of Rag funds, asking deeper questions about poverty and oppression, why were people hungry, what was the migrant labour system, what was apartheid all about.

"I think it went down well: I remember it was one of the best-selling Rag mags ever, with a lot of positive feedback."

As apartheid neared its demise, many students started to look for other ways to respond to society's needs. Rag eventually hung up its tiaras, canned its collection tins and swept away its tissue-paper flowers. But, as Dugmore says: "A lot of people were in Rag because they cared." ❖

MEMORIES

Some of our alumni got out their scrap books and enjoyed revisiting Rag.
For more detail, please see our website, www.wits.ac.za/alumni.



Bummies
Rag 1969

DOUG SMOLLAN

(BCom 1970) Doug was Rag Chair in 1968. "We were the first Rag committee to break R100 000 in donations. We sold about 100 000 copies of *Wits Wits* that year. We had a wonderful Rag committee, everything was meticulously planned and many of the committee members have been very successful in their lives, including Tony Tabatznik (BA 1969), who heads one of the leading pharmaceutical manufacturers in the world, Dr Larry Distiller (BSc 1965, MBCh 1968), a world-renowned authority on diabetes and endocrinology, Martin Glatt (BCom 1972), the name behind Tiger Wheel and Tyre, Sasfin Bank, Wechsler Eetrite and Business Against Crime, and so it goes.

"Rag was a major event and in 1968 I appeared on the front page of the *Rand Daily Mail* with Rag Queen Gillian Shepherd, a second year arts student. Being a Rag queen or princess was not about walking around with a crown on your head and attending glittering events, it was all about raising funds; it was really quite onerous.

In addition to the Rag procession, other highlights were the Debutantes, Coronation and Rag balls. We would have 2000 people at the Rag ball and outstanding musicians such as a band called The Basement with Ralph Simon, who in the 1970s founded Zomba Records with Clive Calder. Today he is internationally recognised as one of the founders of the mobile entertainment industry. He heads the London-based Mobilium Global Group.

Overall, Rag was a joyous, carefree time on campus when students could raise money, have a good time and see the fruits of their money going to institutions in need. Fortunately for me, I also met my wife Carolyn (née Delaloy) (BSc 1968, BSc Hons 1969, MEd 2000) through Rag. She was a Rag princess in 1967 and I saw her for the first time at the Coronation Ball. I thought she was lovely and sent her a note. I subsequently found out she was a science student and waited outside her lecture hall. We went on a date and that was good and it all happened from there. She has five university degrees and we have been married for 46 years."

GILES SECHIARI

(MBBCh 1957) Giles was co-author with his brother Jerome Sechiari (later an architect) and Denis Pryor (later a school principal) of the epic poem about Lash le Roux and the ducktails in *Wits Wits* 1957. He remembers building a float with them, along with Abe Rubin (later professor of obstetrics and gynaecology) and Ken Woeber (leading endocrinologist). His aunt donated a derelict HP Singer car for the float and, after a tour of the scrap merchants in Fordsburg, they got it going and even got a traffic police escort from the aunt's place in Muldersdrift to the procession in town.

RHODA TOKER (ELLIS)

(BA 1971) Rhoda says she spent more time in the Rag office than in lectures. She was the winning debutante in 1967 and won a trip on the *Edinburgh Castle* to Southampton before joining a NUSAS student tour of Europe. In 1969, Rhoda and her helpers built a float in the garden of a student's parents' home. "All was going well – we worked through the night before the procession – then discovered to our horror that we could not fit our float through the gates. We hadn't thought about that. The family allowed us to dismantle their gates and part of the brick wall to get out of the driveway!"

HELEN JOUGHIN

Helen (Carman) **(BSc Physio 1964)** and Noel Joughin (BSc 1961, BSc Eng 1962, PhD 1966) recall: "The floats were trucks covered in chicken wire, and we made thousands of tissue-paper flowers to stick into the wire to disguise the vehicles and make them into fantastic creations. We all dressed up and carried collection boxes. We walked next to the floats, and exhorted spectators to give us money. Money was also thrown down on the parade from the higher buildings that we passed."

HOOLIGANISM BRED BY "RAG" SAY WIT. GIRL STUDENTS



Rag 1977



Rhoda Toker



Debs' float, 1969

JOHN BUTTRESS

(BSc Eng 1962) John remembers using his motor scooter to try to marshal the procession. "I had a battery-powered loudspeaker but it was like trying to herd cats! As for the Rag queen and princesses, we saw it as a bit of fun; they were beautiful girls with personality and intelligence."



Rag 1958 queen and princesses

PETER SUTHERLAND

(BSc Eng 1960) Peter says: "The freshmen at Men's Res in 1957 were treated like dirt. For Rag, we dressed up and made up as ridiculously as possible and were chain-ganged into going begging in all areas of Jozi, starting early in the day and continuing until we were 'exhausted' or our tins were full. It was actually a fun day."

SHAUN BRASSELL

(BSc Eng 1998, MSc Eng 2001) Shaun recalls the good times: "It's mad, mad, mad to think I was at Wits participating in Rag a whole 24 years ago as an engineering student. When I started at Wits in 1994, Rag was still very active with float processions and the legendary Rag pub-crawl from club to club on campus, sponsored by SAB, for which you bought tickets to raise money. I was heavily involved in the Wits Ski Club and we had a very popular pub. There was a wonderful camaraderie and you had so many opportunities to socialise and meet people. The processions were amazing; the Ski Club members always wore long johns and goggles, looking very dodgy. I loved Rag and I loved my time at Wits. The core mates I still have today I met through the Wits Ski Club."



ROSEMARY CROUCH

(BSc OT 1971, MSc OT 1984) Professor Rosemary Crouch built a coelacanth float on an old coal lorry in 1957. The next year, she auditioned for a place as a drum majorette. "Although frowned on today, being a drummie was the greatest of fun. These types of events allowed us to bond as students and work together. I still meet some of them today at the age of 78. Someone will come up to me and say: 'Weren't you a drummie?'"



Rosemary Crouch, 1958



Occupational Therapy coelacanth float, 1958



Rag 1974 streak



Michael Cohen (right), Rag 1959

PATRICK FITZGERALD

(BA 1976) Professor Patrick Fitzgerald sold the Rag mag in Germiston, where he lived, one year. "In 1976, as an SRC member I opposed Rag giving money to the South African Defence Force Border Fund (in support of the 'boys on the border'). It was taken to a mass meeting where I spoke against the Chairperson of Rag (Michael Rakusin). The vote was lost with the majority in a packed Great Hall endorsing this decision by Rag. The losing side (us) marched out of the hall. This event in some way began what later became the war resistance movement and the End Conscription Campaign."



Rag 1999. Empire Road Tea



1957 Rag queen, Penelope Sandler

MICHAEL COHEN

(BSc Eng 1961) Michael wonders how he could ever have dressed up in a schoolgirl's uniform. "In 1958, my second year of Rag, they put me in the deadeast part of town where there was no activity and I sold 119 Rag mags. They couldn't believe it; maybe people felt sorry for me. Rag was a lot of fun and I wasn't one for alcohol so I had a lot of fun without alcohol and it was for a worthy cause."

Rag 1986 spiderman abseil stunt



Rag 1958

FRED BIHL

(BSc QS 1959) Fred says freshmen had to sell Rag raffle tickets to the public, to earn points towards getting a Wits blazer. "It involved groups of us from res (safety in numbers to avoid being harassed by the Braamfontein ducktails), dressed in our undergraduate gowns, travelling into Joburg Central in the evenings (by bus) to sell tickets to residents. "My wife, Clarissa, and her sister Elsa Lou (daughters of the late Prof GR Bozzoli) also participated in Rag circa 1959; she was part of the Wits Choral Society float."



Rag 1989 street collection

Wits students at a mass meeting on Rag's decision to give money to the Sunday Times Border Fund, 1976

STUDENT LEADERS' VIEWS

JOHN KANE-BERMAN

John Kane-Berman (BA 1968), SRC President 1967/8, is the former Chief Executive of the South African Institute of Race Relations.

"The Rag committee was a sub-committee of the SRC – we appointed it and were responsible for its operations. As the SRC we were very involved in politics at the time. The key issue at Wits was the imposition of the apartheid policy on the university. The SRC therefore decided that the social functions organised by the Rag committee should be open to all students.

"The Rag committee raised money through all sorts of activities and functions, including the Coronation Ball – men in black tie and women in beautiful dresses. The campus was generally very proud of the Rag Queen and Princesses, who had to go and see people in business and raise money, be highly intelligent and well spoken, and explain how the funds were audited.

"Jack Shapiro – who became a successful stockbroker – drilled the drum majorettes. And you had the bummies marching around – male students who would mimic the drum majorettes and play the fool. The more people enjoyed themselves, the more funds we had."



Rag royalty, Coronation Ball 1966



Linda Vilakazi (centre), Adv Muzi Sikhakhane (right)

LINDA VILAKAZI

Linda Vilakazi (BPrimEd 1992) was the first black SRC President at Wits, in 1992/3. She is CEO of the Oliver & Adelaide Tambo Foundation.

"Our SRC did not have a close relationship with the Rag Committee as it was seen as being all about white students having a carnival to raise funds. We felt the bigger issue was to address the structural imbalances in the country. We felt the Rag-style giving to charity continued to perpetuate inequality.

"We also felt that to be holding a carnival while we were dealing with sticks and rocks and bullets was inappropriate and so we worked more with the student political organisations towards creating a cohesive students' representative body. You must remember that we were students at the time, with student ideas and ideologies, and there certainly is a massive need and place for giving and support."

MUZI SIKHAKHANE

Advocate Muzi Sikhakhane (BA 1996, LLB 2000), SRC President 1994/95, is now Senior Counsel at the Johannesburg Bar.

"At the time I got to know about Rag, the perception was that it was about white students having fun. That perception notwithstanding, it did much more than this. By the time I left, some black students were joining Rag. 1994/5 was a difficult period when all of us were being challenged to find ourselves in the new South Africa. As a post-1994 student you were not supposed to protest anymore, given that it was a new democratic dispensation, yet the circumstances hadn't changed.

"We never got to the bottom of the debate of charity or giving versus dismantling systemic apartheid, but for Rag to gain acceptance by the broad student body then and now, it would have to focus fund-raising on the hardships faced by fellow students."

RAG TIMES

1922

First rag

1956

Tuks students kidnap three Wits drum majorettes; Wits not amused

1974

Streakers publicise Rag

1929

Fund-raising for hospital begins; £1229 collected

1965

R52000 raised

1976

Rag committee decides to support Border Fund

1931

Tuks students raid College and Dalrymple in search of Phineas

1968

Women's clothing gets skimpier and Rag gets more newspaper coverage

1981

Congress of Rag chairmen debates sexism

1932

Wits Wits magazine introduced

1969

Springs Town Council bans Wits Wits for containing "dirty material"

1982

Wits opens Rag royalty competition to male students (no takers)

1946

Wartime fuel restrictions lifted, reviving float procession

1973

Collection target of R200 000; Riverlea welfare group Witsco receives about R60 000

1983

Rag Queen contest dropped from activities (later reinstated)

Images from Rand Daily Mail, The Star and alumni

SIMPLY GAIL

Wits MBA alumna **Gail Kelly** is one of the world's top business leaders. In February she visited Wits Business School, where she gave a talk and signed copies of her new book, *Live Lead Learn: My Stories of Life and Leadership*.

BY HEATHER DUGMORE

Let me sit closer to you," says **Gail Kelly** as we position ourselves around the imposing table in the VIP dining room at Wits Business School. She's petite and groomed in pastel, with a strong voice and presence.

This is the woman *Forbes* listed in 2010 as the eighth most powerful woman in the world; the first female CEO of Westpac, one of Australia's big four banks, which she led from 2008 to 2015, and where women now occupy half of all management positions.

Gail has lived in Australia for 21 years, yet her heart is still in South Africa, where she grew up. She started her banking career in 1980 in Johannesburg as a teller at the Simmonds Street branch of the "SA Perm" (South African Permanent Building Society), which subsequently merged with Nedbank.

She was "eager and hardworking", she says, and quickly rose through the ranks of the Nedbank Group. During this time she did her MBA at Wits Business School, graduating with distinction in 1986, while pregnant.

In her book she writes that when she started the MBA, she was "intimidated by the mostly engineers, chartered accountants, mathematicians and doctors in the group. Yet when it came to the cut and thrust of things, I found that I could write clearly and concisely and could argue the merits of a case. I could look at a complex situation from many points of view,

getting to grips with the details while also standing back and thinking strategically about the whole."

Her thesis was all about how CEO success depends on the development and advancement of employees who show potential. In her case it was prophetic. In 1990 she was made group general manager of human resources at Nedbank, and later head of the card and personal banking divisions.

GIVE IT A GO

She and her family moved to Australia in 1997. Gail was 40 at the time and she pioneered a path for women in banking there. She says it helped that it was the right time and the right place, as it was a time of growth when Australia was looking for senior women executive bankers. She was interviewed by a range of banks and received five offers in one week.

She adds that there were many occasions when she felt fear and wondered whether she was up to the responsibility she had taken on. "What I learnt is that you have to stare down the fear of failure. You owe it to yourself to give it a go." She drew on this many times as CEO of Westpac, which she describes as "by far the most demanding role of my executive career".

Since retiring in 2015 she has joined the board of Woolworths in South Africa; the group expanded to Australia about three years ago. She also recently

established the Gail Kelly Global Leaders Scholarship between the University of Cape Town, where she studied as an undergraduate, and the University of New South Wales, where she is an Adjunct Professor.

"I frequently come back to South Africa, partly for work but also because Kruger National Park and the South African bush is in my DNA. However, this is the first time I have been back on the Wits Business School campus in about 20 years. It's wonderful to be back and to see all the growth and development, and to be in South Africa during this huge moment of change.

"I was last here in November 2017 when my book was first launched and it struck me how uncertain everyone was about the future then. South Africans are generally so positive and tend to look at the upside, but people were deeply worried. Since the appointment of President Cyril Ramaphosa, there is so much more optimism, and while there is still uncertainty and there are going to be many bumps in the road, there is a feeling that South Africa is on a new and better path.

"Business has a key role to play in this: to work with the President to create jobs and improve the economy. Confidence builds confidence; it becomes a multiplier."

FAMILY AND WORK

Gail credits her success to her education, to the banks that gave

As Westpac CEO, Gail Kelly advocated for more flexibility in the workplace to help staff manage their family life and careers. Here she is seen participating in a National Breast Cancer Foundation event in Australia.

"The most successful CEOs are strong communicators who take responsibility, recognise talent and empower people."

“Do the right thing all the time, every time, including when no one is watching”

her an opportunity, to the strong foundation she received from her late parents Herby and Pat Curren, and to the unwavering support of her husband. Allan Kelly (MBBCh 1984) initially qualified as a social worker at UCT and then as a doctor at Wits, specialising as a paediatrician. “He is a wonderful, generous-spirited individual who has always wanted the best for me and supported me wholeheartedly.

“Whenever I would say to him ‘I’m not sure I can do this, what if I fail, what about the kids’, he would reply: ‘Have a go and we’ll work it out’. There is a massive amount of trust and communication between us and together we have worked things out, always making sure we focused on our family and children – our daughter Sharon and our triplets, Sean, Mark and Anne.

“Often when I travelled one of the children would come with me. We had no compunction about taking them out of school for short periods to gain the experience of seeing London or New York or Vienna or Johannesburg. It was precious one-on-one time and it helped them to better understand my work.”

In her book Gail talks about her parents, who were both from large, working class families with roots in England and Scotland. She was brought up in Pretoria and went to school at St Mary’s Diocesan School for Girls there. Her mother taught her to read and to stand on her own two feet and her father led by example on the importance of a positive



VividImages

attitude and self-belief. “It was wonderful to see how much joy and satisfaction he got out of even the most ordinary things. He exuded energy and took difficulties and challenges in his stride. Things that didn’t go according to plan became learning opportunities.”

He died in 1980 – but she still recalls the encouraging words he gave her ahead of tennis matches, which became a life philosophy: “Just give it your best. Make sure you try. Relax. Relax your shoulders.”

CHOOSE TO BACK YOURSELF

“As the years go by I all the more strongly believe that you have the opportunity as a human to choose your responses to situations, and to choose to be positive and to back yourself by digging deep inside yourself, asking for support where possible, and giving it a go no matter where you find yourself. Also to keep on learning from every situation and continually ask yourself what you can do differently.”

The formula has worked for her. It’s earned her titles like Forbes’ “eighth most powerful woman”, though she finds this one more amusing than anything else, “especially since I was sandwiched between Lady Gaga and Beyoncé, to my daughters’ delight. I don’t pay any attention to this kind of thing and ‘powerful woman’ is not a description I use.”

But powerful she is in her own gracious way; she had to be to run a major bank. All the more so when it was her responsibility to lead Westpac through the 2008/9 global financial crash: “It was challenging and stressful but it was my job to cope, to keep a cool head and to play my role as the head of a very important organisation in the Australian

economy and work with government, regulators and the CEOs of other banks, locally and globally.”

Among her many roles is membership of the Group of Thirty, an international group of the most senior experts on economic and financial affairs.

What stands out

about Gail is that she doesn’t cast a mirage of mystery around high finance, which many CEOs do. “Management is all about surrounding yourself with the best, the most talented and the most trustworthy, all the while reinforcing the imperative of integrity and doing the right thing. Do the right thing all the time, every time, including when no one is watching.”

PUT CUSTOMERS FIRST

“The most successful CEOs,” she says, “are strong communicators who take responsibility, recognise talent and empower people.” These CEOs put customers first, and align their companies’ goals

and actions with their values.

Gail’s management style is direct and hands-on: “Having started out as a teller I have empathy, respect and admiration for what all the people in the frontline of the organisation contribute.”

She acknowledges that many companies and organisations make claims about their corporate culture but it’s only true when the staff and customers believe it and feel it. She is also a big advocate for flexibility in the workplace. At Westpac over 80% of staff are on a form of flexible work schedule, which assists staff with children to manage a career and family.

FLEXIBILITY AND BEING IN THE MOMENT

“Having a career and children is absolutely possible with the right support system,” she says. “A flexible system also helps to address the pressing need to get more women into senior management positions.”

She adds that for a working mother there is always a sense of “I wish I could do more”, coupled with a sense of regret and guilt. “I say to mums: don’t beat yourself up; you are doing your best, the child is fine. I had to learn this and I also had to learn to focus on what I was doing. If I was at a school event, I needed to focus on it instead of worrying about something at work. Being in the moment is extremely important. It applies to everything in life and if you can get this right it will serve you well.” ♦



AT THE LEADING EDGE

What makes a good leader?

Witsie psychologist **Julian Barling** shares his insights.

BY HEATHER DUGMORE

Professor **Julian Barling** (BA 1974, BA Hons 1975, MA 1976, PhD 1979) is wearing his Wits beanie, undoubtedly his thinking cap, as he ponders the science of leadership. It's something that South Africans and North Americans alike are living, sleeping and eating at present.

Julian is Canada's top-ranked researcher in organisational behaviour and leadership and rated among the top 1% in the world. He holds the Borden Chair of Leadership at Smith Business School, Queen's University, Kingston and was the

head of industrial/organisational psychology at Wits (1979-1984) before moving to Canada.

"A priority for me in the 1980s was to be closer to the academic research action in my field, which was definitely in Canada and the United States," he explains. "My wife Janice and I were also looking at what a future in another country could hold for us and our children, Seth and Monique," he explains.

He describes Kingston as "a beautiful university town on the shores of Lake Ontario; a safe, tranquil place, but with extreme weather".

Academically, it was clearly a great move. The author of many

books, including *The Science of Leadership: Lessons From Research for Organizational Leaders* (Oxford University Press, 2014), Julian has devoted almost three decades to researching transformational leadership and employee well-being. He asks questions like: What is leadership?; Does leadership matter?; and Are leaders born or made?.

LEADERS LIFT OTHERS

"People don't wake up in the morning and say 'I have a wonderful leader, I am going to

work hard today'. The impact of good leadership is more deeply psychological," he says. "Good leaders help people to believe in themselves, to feel that their work and contribution matters.

"Good leaders have an ethical compass that guides them and reminds them that they are there to serve the needs of others, not to enrich or empower themselves. People experience a high quality, ethical relationship with this type of leader and in turn, it inspires them to behave with integrity and strive for excellence."

Julian explains that while genetic factors contribute to leadership, leaders can also be "made" by

being taught. "In my work 40% of what I do is with business executives and I take the approach that the challenge for every one of them is not just learning *about* leadership, they are learning *for* leadership."

He frequently meets people who have never had any leadership training but who have the ability to inspire and attract those around them. "They are wonderful leaders, just as President Nelson Mandela and President Robert F Kennedy were. Mandela and Kennedy both had the privilege of being exposed to leadership role models early on in their lives; they were then surrounded by others destined for

"Good leaders help people to believe in themselves, to feel that their work and contribution matters."



Professor Julian Barling

Image: Karl Knowles

to make all people feel they are special.

Irrespective of whether leaders are born or made, he believes leadership education is imperative: “The cost to organisations associated with poor leadership is far too high. South Africa is no exception.”

LESSONS START EARLY

“In all sectors [he includes business, government, education, unions, sport and the military], the powerful, positive impact of good leadership is transformative. And learning leadership starts at a young age, which is why the experience of an inspiring teacher or lecturer is so important.

“If I look at my own example: I grew up in Yeoville, my late father was a travelling salesman and my late mother a teacher; there was nothing extraordinary about my childhood. But when I started as a first year student in the Psychology Department at Wits in the 1970s, my life changed and gained direction because of two people who had a tremendous influence on me.

“One was Alma van Zyl (Hannon), a lecturer in the Psychology Department, who gave behaviourism a current intellectual perspective that substantially departed from the dominant view. She was welcoming to undergraduates and spent many hours discussing psychology with us.

“The other was the head of Department, Professor Jack

Mann, who was a more distant character but in many ways a brilliant lecturer, thorough and methodical. He later supervised my PhD and he was remarkable; he was intellectually challenging and although our relationship was formal and I always addressed him as ‘Prof’, I came to experience how warm and welcoming he was in his own way. He also gave me great freedom to do the research I wanted to do – at that stage I was studying children’s self-control. And the day I got my PhD he said, ‘Okay, you can now call me Jack’.”

Julian adds that this kind of first-person experience with leadership is distinct from the experience of political leaders, where ideology, partisanship and historical loyalties can wield a more powerful influence than the leadership qualities of the leader.

QUESTIONING YOURSELF

“Leadership is not about making those who love you already love you more, but rather taking those who question everything about you and trying to get them to start questioning themselves.

“It is such an effective framework from which to judge a leader. While certain sectors question Mandela’s leadership, for example, they need to ask themselves whether he helped them to question themselves, and I think the answer is usually that he did.”

What kind of leader will President Cyril Ramaphosa be? “It’s too

“Remarkably, 95% of CEOs among the Fortune 500 or Fortune 1000 companies in the USA are still headed by men. People say they want change, yet very few countries have laws about gender equality and change is not happening at a meaningful rate.”

soon to tell what the long-term effect of Jacob Zuma’s presidency has been and how, whether and when his legacy can be overcome. This is not only a current South African problem; it is also a current American problem. What it should teach us is that the real test of leadership is its long-term effects.”

FIT TO BE LEADING

Another widely discussed aspect of leadership, Julian continues, is the psychological wellbeing of leaders. “Many organisations in recent years have shown much concern and care about employee

wellbeing, offering services and counselling. Yet organisations have not shown similar concern and care for their leaders. But their physical and psychological wellbeing affects the quality of their leadership.”

He says some leaders are afraid that they will be seen as weak if they accept support. This perpetuates a dangerous myth that leaders are generally healthier than everyone else and that they can handle difficulties without help.

Another major transformational leadership issue facing societies the world over, he says, is the glaring absence of women in top positions. “Remarkably, 95% of CEOs among the Fortune 500

or Fortune 1000 companies in the USA are still headed by men. People say they want change, yet very few countries have laws about gender equality and change is not happening at a meaningful rate.

“I personally think that we would be well served by looking toward the Scandinavian countries, where governments set targets for the number of female board members and CEOs, and companies that do not meet these targets are taxed. Once women get into those positions there is no evidence that they are any less effective and research is ongoing to determine whether they are actually more effective!” ♦

“Learning leadership starts at a young age, which is why the experience of an inspiring teacher or lecturer is so important.”



Image: Kan Knowles



Gift of care

Healing hands

Two Witsies who left South Africa under apartheid and enjoyed stellar career success overseas have dedicated themselves to providing health care in rural Mpumalanga.

Godfrey Phillips (BA 1973) worked at Young & Rubicam in New York for nearly 20 years, specialising in strategic development. He also studied the medical division of labour for his PhD in Social Policy.

Neil Tabatznik (BA 1972) practised as a barrister in the UK for 15 years, specialising in criminal defence advocacy, and then moved to Canada. There he was chairman of Genpharm Pharmaceuticals from 1993 to 1999, before founding Arrow Canada, also a pharmaceutical company. He is also a movie and documentary producer – chairman of Blue Ice Pictures, which he founded with Steven Silver (BA 1989, BA Hons 1990).

“As Neil and I came to the end of our working lives in Canada and the USA,” says Phillips, “we talked about what we could do to give back to the country that we still love. In a way it was completing the golden circle of our lives. Finding time was never an issue, we just needed to discover what we could do to make a difference.”



Rural health care was the answer. “The inequality between the urban and rural areas is so extreme that it was just not possible to turn a blind eye to it,” explains Tabatznik. “It was heartbreakingly clear to me that the difference between living and dying is based solely on where an individual lives. To me, this is utterly unconscionable.”

Hoedspruit, Acornhoek and Bushbuckridge, near the Kruger National Park, mark out an area known to many Wits medical graduates who have trained and worked at Tintswalo Hospital or the rural clinics in the Limpopo/Mpumalanga region. The health care available there is still spread thinly over a large and impoverished population.

“We realised that the greatest shortage in rural health was qualified professionals – people, not structures. We needed to focus our efforts on bringing



Prof John Gear (top left) runs Tshemba's medical arm. Volunteer nurse Sister Maureen Dunnit (above left) brought her skills and experience to rural patients.

in medical professionals to help meet the great rural skills shortage,” says Phillips.

So in 2014 they set up the Tshemba Foundation, a privately funded initiative which brings volunteer health care professionals to the area to work and teach for periods of one to 12 months. The volunteers are accommodated on a nearby game reserve in beautiful surroundings and can enjoy all the uniquely South African tourist activities of the area during their stay. They work in the Tintswalo hospital or clinics, or the pioneering Hlokomela Women's Centre, and share their expertise with local professionals.

Tshemba Foundation's medical arm is run by Professor John Gear (MBBCh 1967 and honorary

Doctor of Science in Medicine), former Director of the nearby Wits Rural Facility and a long-time leader in public health.

In the past year there have been 25 volunteers, mostly doctors but also some specialised nurses. “All our volunteers have been very positive about the programme,” says Phillips. “They feel we are giving them an outlet to give back to the community. Many have been disassociated from rural medicine and are happy to re-associate.

“This is a special place with great needs,” he continues. “I have no doubt that everyone who volunteers with Tshemba will leave with an enriched experience.” ♦

To find out more about volunteering, visit the website: www.tshembafoundation.org

Food for thought

Coping with the demands of university is already hard enough without a student being hungry too

Higher education may now be free for many students, but the reality is that many students still struggle to get a square meal and decent accommodation.

Former student leaders who set up the South African Student Solidarity Foundation for Education (SASSFE) at Wits in 2016 believe the organisation still has an important role to play in meeting students' basic needs.

This is because even though government has announced the implementation of free education for students from poor backgrounds, there is still a significant amount of support and funding required to ensure the dignity and success of such students at higher education institutions.

SASSFE has been raising funds for the Masidleni food project, which gives hundreds of Wits students a hot meal every day on campus. A meeting of the SASSFE trustees and management committee on

5 February discussed the impact of the Presidency's announcement on free education and resolved to continue focusing on student hunger.

Coping with university's demands is hard enough for students from poor backgrounds, said SASSFE management committee chairperson Tiego Moseneke (Black Students Society president 1983). "We can remove this one hurdle."

"Many Wits alumni have been very successful," said trustee Justice Richard Goldstone (SRC President 1960 and Wits Chancellor 1996-2007). Giving back is a form of thanks for what they have received, as well as an investment in the future of South Africa.

SASSFE is proud of the impact it has made so far, said trustee chair and Wits alumnus Archbishop Thabo Makgoba. Alumni can still do more to give other students a chance to study with dignity. ♦

For more information:
<http://sassfe.org.za/>

R100*

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WITS
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Hon. Docs

Wits conferred honorary doctorates on the following in December 2017:

John Gear

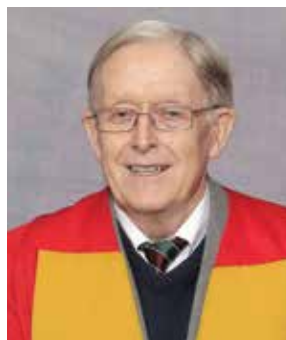
"Who shall live and who shall die is now being determined largely by practitioner behaviour and managerial commitment," said Professor John Gear (MBBCh 1967) at the 2017 graduation ceremony where he received an honorary Doctor of Science in Medicine (DSc Med) degree. He urged the doctors who were graduating at the ceremony to be caring professionals. "You must take control. You have the choice to be caring or selfish; you need to exercise that choice conscientiously and wisely. Your patterns of behaviour must be dominated by care and compassion, for patient and self."

Professor Gear was the first chair of the Department of Community Health at Wits, and Academic Director of the Wits Rural Facility from 1989 to 1997. He has made a huge contribution to rural health care and training future health leaders.



Marjorie Manganye has spent her life in service to others, including children, TB patients and the elderly. She works at the Itlhokomoleng centre in Alexandra, caring for the poor, aged and disabled. She received an honorary Doctor of Literature degree.

Peter Cleaton-Jones (BDS 1963, MBBCh 1967, PhD 1975, DSc 1991) was director of the Wits Dental Research Institute, as well as an anaesthesiologist and emergency medicine medical officer, and continues to serve the University as Chair of the Human Research Ethics Committee. He received an honorary Doctor of Medicine degree.



Jabu Mabuza

"Those values of 'please', 'I am sorry' and 'thanks' will see you through," business leader Jabulane Mabuza advised graduands at the 2017 ceremony where he received an honorary Doctorate in Commerce.

"In you lie the answers and responses to the opportunities that result from the Fourth Industrial Revolution," he said. "In you lie the answers of an incorruptible bureaucracy to replace the patronage approach that is hampering delivery of services in ways that obstruct participation by the full citizenry in the economy. In you lie the entrepreneurs eager to innovate and fill the gaps in the market. In you lie the social entrepreneurs committed to uplifting communities doing God's work in the not-for-profit sector. You however need to take your rightful place. It is not going to be given to you, especially when the levels of greed are at an all-time high."

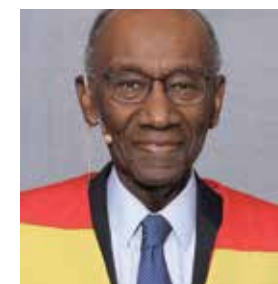
He also encouraged the audience to "take a chance" on people with potential, giving them an opportunity to succeed.

Mabuza is president of Business Unity South Africa, chairman of Business Leadership South Africa and chairman of Eskom, and has received many accolades for his achievements and leadership. Forced to drop his law studies 30 years ago for financial reasons, he started his working life by driving a taxi. His career nevertheless took him to the boardrooms of top enterprises like Tsogo Sun Holdings, Telkom and SA Tourism.



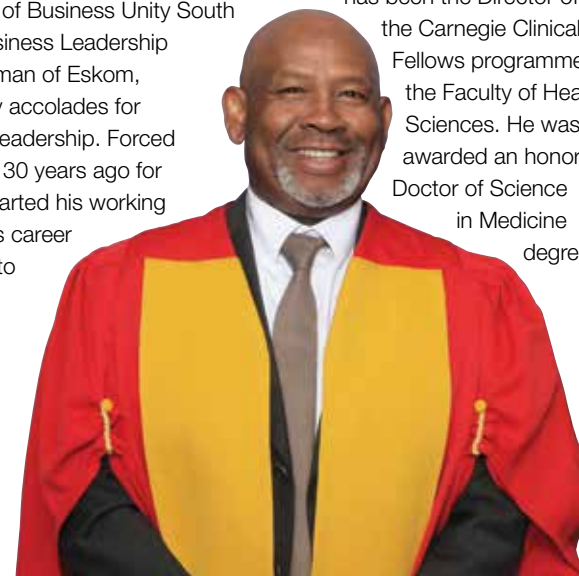
John Pettifor

(MBBCh 1968, PhD 1980) was Director of the Metabolic Unit in the Department of Paediatrics at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital and a leading international scholar in the areas of infant and childhood nutrition, bone development and rickets. Since his retirement he has been the Director of the Carnegie Clinical Fellows programme in the Faculty of Health Sciences. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science in Medicine degree.



Franklin A. Thomas

was President of the Ford Foundation from 1979 to 1996. Under his leadership, the Ford Foundation contributed millions of dollars in philanthropic support to social justice, cultural, educational and economic development efforts. It supported the establishment and operation of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at Wits University and the establishment of the Legal Resources Centre, as well as scholarship and internship programmes aimed at increasing the number of black South African university graduates. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.



Movers

HEATHER ZAR

(MBBCh 1985)

Professor Heather Zar is the 2018 L'Oréal-UNESCO Women in Science Laureate for Africa and the Arab States. The accolade is given annually to five exceptional women researchers worldwide to promote equality between women and men in science.

Prof Zar, who is chair of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of Cape Town, was honoured for her work in child health, specifically pneumonia, tuberculosis and asthma.

Jemma Kahn is the Standard Bank Young Artist for Theatre in 2018. These prestigious South African awards have been running for 33 years, giving a boost to young artists who are pushing the limits in their disciplines.

Kahn, who studied fine art and drama at Wits, says the award is "beautifully assuring". It comes with financial support for a new work to be performed at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown.

Her first hit production was *The Epicene Butcher and Other Stories for Consenting Adults*, using a Japanese theatre form called kamishibai. Kahn learnt this painted story panel technique while living in Japan, where she taught English for two years after graduating.

Collaborating with other writers, illustrators and theatre makers, she followed this up with two more kamishibai pieces: the "rollicking, rude" *We Didn't Come to Hell for the Croissants* and *In Bocca Al Lupo*, "a candid and epic personal journey across three continents... [which includes] Japanese music festivals, sexy Catholics and octopus biltong." Kahn has also made two art films and has recently been working at The Centre for the Less Good Idea in Johannesburg.

JEMMA KAHN

(BADA 2007)

&shakers

Three Witsies displayed some fancy career footwork as contestants in MNet's *Dancing With The Stars* show this year.

THEMBISA MDODA

Actress, singer, writer, presenter and former DJ (BADA 2009)

Devon Snell

ZOLA NOMBONA

Actress (BADA 2014)

Tebogo Mashilo

CONNELL CRUISE

Singer (BA 2009)

Marcella Solimeo

Images: M-Net

SIBONGILE MUTHWA

(BSocWork Hons 1985)

Dr **Muthwa** was appointed Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Nelson Mandela University (NMU) in October 2017. In addition to her Wits degree, she holds a PhD from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, an MSc in Development Policy and Planning from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a BA in Social Work from Fort Hare.

She was previously the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Support at NMU and has served as Director General of the Eastern Cape Provincial Government and as Deputy Chairperson of the Financial and Fiscal Commission.



Professor **Mamokgethi** Phakeng has been appointed as the new Vice-Chancellor designate of the University of Cape Town. She has been Deputy VC for Research and Internationalisation at UCT since January 2017 and was previously Vice-Principal at UNISA. The former President of Wits Convocation and the founding director of the Marang Centre for Mathematics and Science Education at Wits, Prof Phakeng has three degrees from Wits: BEd (1993), MEd (1996) and PhD (2002). In her presentation as a candidate for the position of Vice-Chancellor, Prof Phakeng said: "If I get this job, the alumni are my first assignment ... We care about the same thing." She also emphasised that "local is the new global" – the problems of Africa are the problems of the world, and the university experience should "become an international experience that is uniquely African". Prof Phakeng will take the reins from Dr Max Price (MBBCh 1979), whose term of office ends on 30 June 2018.



MAMOKGETHI PHAKENG

BEd (1993), MEd (1996) and PhD (2002)

Image: Peter Maher

Several Wits drama graduates have taken on demanding roles under powerful spotlights recently. **Ndiziphiwe Ncoyini**, aka Niza Jay, plays Kwanda in the film *Inxeba: The Wound*, a story about relationships at a Xhosa initiation school. The film was controversially reclassified, a decision that was successfully appealed before the High Court in March. **Atandwa Kani** plays the young king T'Chaka in the movie *Black Panther*, an international box office hit produced by Marvel Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Studios. **Didintle Khunou** has received praise for her role as Celie in the musical version of *The Color Purple* at the Joburg Theatre. She described the character as discovering her voice in a patriarchal society.

Dr Samuel Ravengai, Senior Lecturer in Dramatic Art, says: "Our graduates are informed and critically aware consumers of the arts, conscious of their cultural and social environment and able to create work for themselves."



ATANDWA KANI

(BADA 2009)



NIZA JAY

(BADA 2018)

Image: Doctor Moyo

DIDINTLE KHUNOU

(BADA 2016)



Image: @amOpics



In a year marking 20 years of diplomatic ties between China and South Africa, **UFRIEDA HO** looks back on steps in the longer journey of Chinese South Africans at Wits

The first steps I took onto Wits campus were probably skipping and running – with my mother trying to keep pace.

I imagine her penetrating voice catching up to me, my brother and my two sisters. Stern shouts in Cantonese telling us to stop running, shooing us from the edge of the pools at the fountains under the Macrone Mall as we kids raced up the stairs towards the Great Hall.

Here we'd stop, draw breath and wait. We'd be waiting for something quite special: a bride in blinding white, sequinned flowers maybe on her gown, turning Joburg's golden afternoon light into starbursts. As part of her auspicious entourage, we had arrived at the Great Hall steps to immortalise her happy day

in photos. In my growing-up years in the 1980s I repeated this ritual a few times – finding myself on the same steps, straightening a corsage on a dress, fixing my hair into place and being told to say "cheese" or "siew" ("smile" in Cantonese) as part of a bridal party.

Wedding photos on the Great Hall steps became an entrenched phenomenon for many families in the Chinese community. Sunday was the day almost all Chinese weddings took place, mostly to accommodate the many shopkeepers and fahfee men and women who couldn't afford to take a Saturday off work. The grand Great Hall steps were backdrops of aspiration and things lofty – as well as a perfectly pragmatic option for a tiered group pic.

As the photos survive in frames and yellowed, sticky

photo albums they tell a story of history, of access and prohibition, of guarded privilege, prejudice and pragmatism. Inevitably they reflect on the long and at times complicated relationship the university has had with Chinese students.

Wits and UCT were the only two "open" universities under apartheid. But "open" in a time of segregation meant a toe in the door, not the doors of learning flung open. Chinese students were subject to quota systems, permits and special permissions to gain admission.

In Melanie Yap and Dianne Leong Man's book *Colour, Confusion and Concessions* (Hong Kong University Press, 1996) they write that in the 1920s and 1930s non-whites in South Africa were allowed to study only theology, education and law, and only at the University of Fort Hare and the University of South Africa. Studying medicine, for instance, was out of the question.

They tell the story of a student, Luke Nain Liang, who was barred from studying medicine at Wits. His family was forced to scrape together money so he could study abroad. He enrolled at the University of Edinburgh in 1920 and returned to South Africa in 1927, a qualified doctor.

"Even decades later, those who did get into university looked to qualify for professions where they could set up their own practices and businesses because they knew that they would not easily find jobs as Chinese graduates," says Leong Man, herself a Wits graduate (BA 1970, PDE 1972) with a degree in Afrikaans en Nederlands. She worked at the university's staffing office between 1974 and 1979 and in the libraries from 1980 to 2007 and again in 2010 until her retirement in 2013.

For decades the admission and staffing policies were realities of bigotry and segregationist mind-sets. The authors quote historian Bruce Murray: "Wits very much reflected the prejudices of the society to which it belonged ... The official policy at Wits was one of 'academic' non-segregation and social segregation."

The first Chinese person enrolled at the university, the authors found, was a man called Ted Wong Hoption, in 1941. (He graduated MBChB in 1947, practised medicine in Hong Kong and Singapore, retired to Vancouver in 1984 and died in 2009.) Leong Man and Yap interviewed Dr Hoption for their



Above: Chinese students participating in a student protest in front of the Johannesburg City Hall. **Below:** Chinese Girl Scouts participating in a jamboree at Wits, in the 1950s.

book. His words still speak volumes: "I think it was probably because they didn't realise with my surname that I was Chinese ... at medical school there were five or six Africans and Indians in my class. We were segregated as far as which patients we could treat".

It was the same story more than two decades later for Dr Patrick Soon-Shiong. Now a US citizen, he was born in Port Elizabeth in 1952 and graduated MBChB from Wits in 1975. He is a surgeon, entrepreneur and bio-tech innovator, the power behind companies like NantHealth and NantWorks, and famously owns the LA Lakers and most recently *The LA Times*.

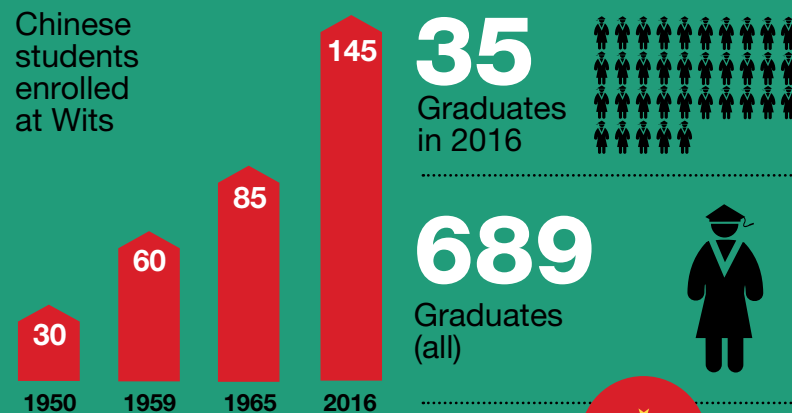
Dr Soon-Shiong earned an internship at the old Joburg General Hospital, becoming the first Chinese doctor to work there. He was accepted only because he was in the top four of his graduating class of 189 students that year. All kinds of prohibitions remained in place, like non-white student doctors not being allowed to work on white cadavers.

Education, and a quality education, remained the emphasis for the Chinese community. If you lived in Johannesburg it meant a degree from Wits. Chinese

There are Chinese students in all faculties at Wits, but two students this year have registered specifically to learn isiZulu. Relaxing on the library lawns during a lunch break are (from left to right) Jingcheng Li, Tianqi Lu, Xinmin Yin, Siyu Chen, Dr. Lizhi Huang, Changbiao Qin, and Zhiwei Li.

CHINESE STUDENTS, STAFF AND ALUMNI

Chinese students enrolled at Wits



35
Graduates in 2016



689
Graduates (all)



16
Chinese nationals registered as students this year

4
Staff in 2016

115
Wits alumni who are living in China

The emphasis of the China-Africa relationship has been on bonds between universities and a plan to set up a Centre for Chinese Studies

children were pushed by their parents and teachers to study hard, work hard and graduate out of their parents' working-class drudgery.

In the early 1990s both my older sister Yolanda and my brother Kelvin became Witsies. Their world expanded from a sheltered all-Chinese school to one in which they were making floats for Rag, going to discos at the Bozz and slotting in their squash dates on campus. My sister did the odd library shift at Jan Smuts House and my brother dated a fellow Witsie, the girl who would become his wife.

It was a world I touched only lightly at first. I chose to study journalism and to enrol at the Pretoria Technikon. (At the time, Wits didn't have a journalism programme.) This was a missed opportunity and a downgrade in my parents' eyes. Their own wedding photo was taken at Wits even though they had little in the way of formal education.

Years later I did end up studying at Wits, completing my honours in Anthropology in 2008 as a part-time student. I didn't run up steps the way I had all those years ago as a child. I did often take walks through campus, sometimes moaning to myself about how the available parking spots always seemed to be at the bottom of the ridge while my lectures were at the top. I sometimes took the route back to my car via the koi pond so I could watch the greedy fish break through the surface with hopeful burps and bubbles. I spent time in the libraries, realising that once these were restricted areas for non-whites. I soaked in the quiet, the walls of books and the forever landscapes of Baines' paintings.

In 2015 the Wits Art Museum held an exhibition called *Ngezinyawo – Migrant Journeys*. It included a section on the Chinese mineworkers who arrived in South Africa in 1904 as part of what curators called "The Chinese Experiment". The exhibition detailed how these men revived the reef's mines after the Anglo-Boer War. But within six years these men, who were confined to compounds, paid poorly and worked hard, were all repatriated or dead. That labour "experiment"

stopped there. The exhibition was a reminder of the entanglement of mines, migrants and inevitably of Wits too.

Fast forward to the dawn of democracy: the early 1990s brought a new wave of Chinese migrants to South Africa. Newcomers at the time included a tiny handful of government officials and business people but mostly they were small-scale entrepreneurs, hawkers, and those willing to try their luck.

This year marks 20 years of diplomatic relations between China and South Africa. Deepening economic and diplomatic ties have called for a different lens to be trained on the China-Africa relationship. Dr Mahomed Moolla, head of the Strategic Partnerships Office at Wits, says the emphasis has been on bonds between universities

and a plan to set up a Centre for Chinese Studies.

The partnerships focus on physics and maths but also on broader subjects like urbanisation. Moolla says the opportunity to do in-depth, independent research is essential for students who want to become global citizens.

A project has been set up in the Journalism department to promote deeper understanding and more balanced reporting. Last year it changed its name from the China-Africa Reporting Project to the Africa-China Reporting Project – a shift of focus in itself.

Wits has 16 Chinese nationals registered as students this year and LinkedIn shows up 115 Wits alumni who are currently living in China. (See Kabalano Rampa on page 38.)

The story of the Chinese at Wits – and in South Africa – keeps evolving. Some bonds remain and others fray. New histories are being made even if there are no more brides on the Great Hall steps on Sunday afternoons waiting for the right light and the click of a camera.

Ufrieda Ho is the author of Paper Sons and Daughters: Growing up Chinese in South Africa (Pan Macmillan, 2011)

Chinese children were pushed by their parents and teachers to study hard, work hard and graduate out of their parents' working-class drudgery.

BOOKS



65 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP:
A MEMOIR OF MY FRIENDSHIP
WITH NELSON MANDELA
By **George Bizos**

Umuzi, 2017

In the foreword, Wits Chancellor and retired Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke writes: “The book narrates a riveting tale of how in the 1940s George Bizos and Nelson Mandela met at the University of the Witwatersrand. ... Mandela’s studies screeched to a halt because of racial profiling and his proclivity for robust political activism.” Bizos graduated with his law degree in 1953 and Mandela only in 1989, in prison, through correspondence. (Wits conferred honorary doctorates on both: Bizos in 1999 and Mandela in 1991.)

But Advocate Bizos remained Mandela’s trusted friend and counsel over the decades until the former President’s death in 2013. Bizos, who turned 90 last year, says it was one of the longest relationships of his life.

It began in 1948, when the Greek refugee was in the first year of his BA and the law clerk in his fifth year of part-time LLB studies. “Neither of us presented much academic promise. We were both country boys who had arrived in the city seven years previously ... both working hard to establish ourselves.” The National Party’s electoral victory was a shock, though the United Party already supported racial segregation. Bizos spoke out at a student meeting against racial quotas and a few days later Mandela (“the best-dressed student on campus”) introduced himself to Bizos on the steps of the Great Hall. Gradually they got to know each other. Bizos writes about the prejudice of some of the Wits students and even staff,

It is probably in the friendships that we formed at Wits that the university’s most abiding influence on both Nelson and me can be found

including the Law Faculty Dean, Professor Hahlo. (At a law school reunion 50 years later, Mandela said he had been shaped by people who had treated him badly as well as by people who had respected him.)

After a dispute about black students attending the Law Students’ Society dinner, fellow student Arthur Chaskalson (BCom 1952, LLB 1954, LLD honoris causa 1990) – who was to become Chief Justice – came out in support of Bizos. That was the beginning of another lifetime relationship, one of many with people who turned out to be leading figures in South Africa and internationally. “It is probably in the friendships that we formed at Wits that the university’s most abiding influence on both Nelson and me can be found,” Bizos writes. “The student Left provided a rare opportunity for meaningful contact with people from other races.”

The book goes on to cover the two lawyers’ early careers; the ideas and interests they shared; trials and prison visits; the persecution of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela (BA 2005); the trial of NUSAS leaders; the period of political negotiations; the drawing up of South Africa’s new Constitution; and Mandela’s relationships with his wives.

“The one and only occasion that I would ever see Nelson lose control and allow his personal feelings to spill out in public,” Bizos writes, was at a dinner when the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded. This was when FW de Klerk asserted that “both sides made mistakes” and Mandela responded by spelling out what the apartheid regime had done to people.

As young men, Bizos and Mandela discussed the Greek philosophers over Chinese meals at the Little Swallow restaurant in Johannesburg. They turned to some of these thinkers in old age, too. “At the end, when his memory was failing, we only really talked of family and our mutual friends,” writes Bizos. “I am still Nelson’s lawyer and he has kept me busy since his death.”

The book’s epilogue answers critics of the Constitution, and contains the transcript of a conversation with Janet Love (BA 1998), national director of the Legal Resources Centre.

It’s a good read, full of small details which bring the historical facts to life, as well as tales of courtroom sparring and tactics, and character portraits.



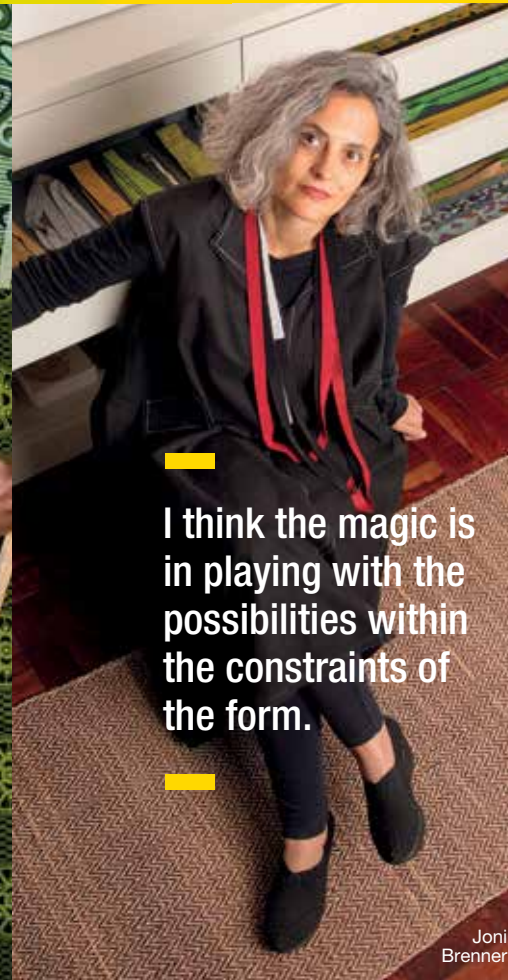
MAKING MARIGOLD: BEADERS OF BULAWAYO

By **Joni Brenner** and
Elizabeth Burroughs

with photos by
Liz Whitter
Palimpsest, 2017



Marigold co-op members (from left) Concilia Mukarobwa, Dzidzi Shemaiah Hwende, Sipiwe Dube, Similo Moyo and Thokozile Maseko



Joni Brenner

I think the magic is
in playing with the
possibilities within
the constraints of
the form.

Joni Brenner (BA FA 1991, MA FA 1996) is bringing the work of a Zimbabwean beading co-operative to wider attention through a beautifully illustrated book, *Making Marigold: Beaders of Bulawayo* (Palimpsest 2017). She is an artist and Principal Tutor in art history at Wits.

The Marigold co-op had been in existence for years when Brenner met its members in 2011, but it was experiencing difficulties in the struggling Zimbabwean economy. On seeing a sample strip of their hand-loomed beadwork, she asked if a strip could be joined to make a continuous loop, and if she could have three to wear as necklaces. When these attracted attention in Johannesburg, it was the boost needed to help revive the project. Sixteen women now work full-time on necklaces at Marigold, many of them sole breadwinners in their families.

The work of the project is the antithesis of a production line. "The project has developed through focused attention to how one design shift suggests the next, without any predetermined outcome," says Brenner. "I think the magic is in playing with the possibilities within the constraints of the form."

Though the form has remained constant, the designs within it have subtly and consistently shifted over the years. One standard-length necklace uses around 5000 beads; longer versions and more complex patterns can take a week to make.

"I believe in repetition as a creative practice: doing something every day; keeping on going," says Brenner. Her own art (mostly portraiture) follows this model of repetition and continuing exploration of one subject.

The small changes and variations in the necklaces mean that the potential to continue is built in to the process. One of the newer design evolutions was inspired by the genetic diversity of various human populations. Brenner was watching her husband, Scott Hazelhurst, use software that maps data for the South African Human Genome Programme, and she saw the potential for its translation into a beaded grid. Wits alumnus Hazelhurst (BSc 1985, BSc Hons 1986, MSc 1988) is a professor in the School of Electrical & Information Engineering.

The book was conceptualised together with the Marigold beaders in Bulawayo, and captures a history of their co-operative. It is co-authored with educationist and writer Elizabeth Burroughs (BA 1974), features photography by Liz Whitter, and is designed by Kevin Shenton. Metropolitan Museum of Art curator Alisa LaGamma, recognising the quality of the beadwork and the vitality of the co-op, arranged for the work of the project to be shared and for the book to be launched in New York.

Published in softcover and deluxe editions, the book contains information about the co-op, the materials and the technique. It is a work of social history and economics at various scales, a craft manual and a beautiful art object in itself.

Brenner received the Wits Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Award in 2008. "I love teaching," she says. "I bring something different to teaching art history because I also work as an artist."



CANCER: A LOVE STORY

By **Lauren Segal**

MF Books, 2017



In *Cancer: A Love Story* (MF Books 2017), Lauren Segal (BA Ed 1988, BA Hons 1990) shares her experience of being diagnosed with and treated for cancer four times. She sets out her thoughts, fears, hopes and other feelings with great honesty, along with tips and resources for people facing their own journey.

She points out at the start that “while there might be universal points in the journey for all cancer patients, the experience of the journey is an utterly private one. ... There are words that are a salve to some that bring rage to others.”

She also acknowledges that she was fortunate to have access to a level of medical care that a shockingly high proportion of South Africans don't get. Her friends and family were a strong, wide, loving, imaginative support network, and she was able to try a range of complementary healing practices.

The book is vividly written and touches on things worth thinking about even if you are not ill – such as kindness, choice and self-discovery. “This book is not just about cancer,” she says, but about dealing with difficult circumstances that are beyond one's control. Writing the book was a way of ordering her thoughts and understanding her feelings.

Segal trained as historian and film maker at Wits and is now a museum curator working on telling the story of South Africa's Constitution. She is also the author of *One Law One Nation: The Making of the South African Constitution*; *Great Lives, Pivotal Moments*; *Mapping Memories*; *Number Four*; *The Making of Constitution Hill* and *Soweto: A History*. Segal is married to another Witsie, Jonathan Broomberg (MBBCh 1984), CEO of Discovery Health and a member of the Wits Council.



POVERTY, POLITICS & POLICY IN SOUTH AFRICA:

Why has Poverty Persisted after Apartheid?

(Jacana 2016)

This book is the work of Jeremy Seekings (BA Hons 1986) and Nicoli Nattrass, both based in the Centre for Social Science Research at the University of Cape Town. They discuss the effect of social-democratic policies on poverty. Jacana has also published a pocket-sized *Poverty in South Africa: Past and Present* (2016), by former Wits Vice-Chancellor Colin Bundy (BA Hons 1967).

THE EYE OF KURUMAN

By **Ian M Evans**

Vanguard Press, 2017



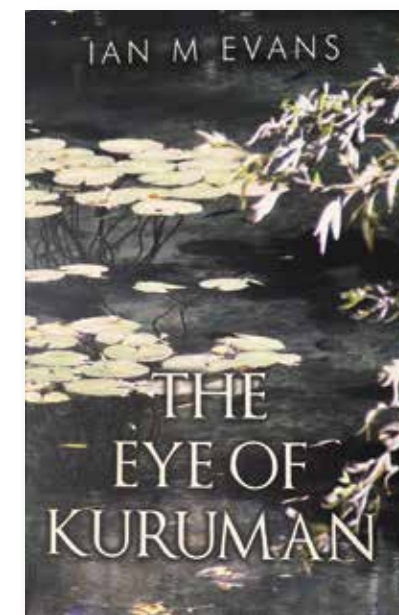
This is an easy-to-read novel in which a young American woman's relationships act as a vehicle for a road trip around Southern Africa's issues, places, history and psychology. Part tourist guide book, character sketchbook and nostalgic homecoming from an emigrant's perspective, it also touches on the author's thoughts about some conflicts of our time and how we can understand ourselves and develop as individuals.

Alex Gordon is a public health nurse who comes to rural Botswana and South Africa to work in maternity care. The story isn't an African *Call the Midwife*, though. The drama is that Alex is simultaneously dating two men: a Dutch doctor and a South African cultural consultant.

The Eye of Kuruman which gives the book its title is a real spring in the arid Northern Cape. You can see it symbolically as a fountain of knowledge or spiritual truth, as a sacred resource belonging to all, as a commercial prospect, or as an image of neglected potential.

The author, Ian Evans (BA Hons 1966), says the book grew out of a character in his first novel and out of his interest in the coexistence of “Western” medicine and indigenous knowledge. After his degree in psychology and history at Wits, he completed his PhD in experimental and clinical psychology in 1970 at King's College, London University, and later headed the School of Psychology at Massey University in New Zealand.

He says he feels the character of Alex learned, as he has, that “while cultural differences are deep and complex and must be acknowledged, being an interested and respectful person, listening and observing, and realising that one's own world view is not universally shared, is sufficient to navigate



I have tried to write a positive story, one that is optimistic in tone.

cultural differences without diminishing or surrendering one's own values and traditions.”

He adds: “I have tried to write a positive story, one that is optimistic in tone.”

Evans' work as a psychologist has focused on emotional and family challenges for young people with disabilities. Now retired, he and his wife live in Honolulu, Hawaii. They visited Kuruman and other places described in the book in 2015, and Witsies may recognise some of the characters...



NEW TIMES
By **Rehana Rossouw**
Jacana, 2017

Rehana Rossouw's second novel is set in the newly democratic South Africa of 1995, seen from a newsroom in Cape Town. Journalist Aaliyah (Ali) Adams, somewhat battered by past events, has a new job. The stories she works on – corruption, HIV, lives shattered by war and cover-ups, macro-economics, the Truth Commission – and the one she doesn't want to work on, the Rugby World Cup, are a reminder of what this time was like. At work, Ali must dig for the truth, make sense of it all and compete to be heard. Then she goes home to her Muslim family and neighbours in the Bo-Kaap, her friends and her personal secrets and struggles. There are old comrades in new places, new allies in unexpected forms, lingering traumas, doubts, fears, heartbreak and old-fashioned comforts. It's a time to re-examine identities and values.

The author's quotation from Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* resonates with that period of South Africa's history: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." Ali also devours Dickens and the novel echoes *Hard Times* and its themes.

Rossouw (BA Hons 2008, MA 2012) herself has been a journalist for 30 years. At the book launch she said the novel was an outlet for dealing with her own traumatic experiences. The character of Ali, though not a self-portrait, is gentle as well as fierce, optimistic as well as troubled, fragile and strong, hopeful and sceptical, likeable as well as a little scary: your friend or your nemesis, depending on how honest you are yourself.

What Will People Say?, Rossouw's first novel, was a family story set in Hanover Park on the Cape Flats in 1986. It won an award from the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences.



Image: Oupa Nkosi

PLEASURE
By **Nthikeng Mohlele**
Picador Africa, 2016

The novel *Pleasure* is a wander through the observations, thoughts and dreams of Milton Mohlele – writer, "literary slut of sorts" and owner of a florist and a coffee shop – as he sits naked in his Cape Town apartment overlooking the sea. He struggles to write. "It is like trying to set fire to boulders..." At other times he is "alarmed by the great power that seeps from every pore when I am in full swing, when the typewriter keys rattle like machine-gun fire". Eventually he unburdens himself of everything he owns, fakes his own death and moves into the basement of an old industrial building. It is there that the action of a moment shows him the meaning of pleasure.

The author, Nthikeng Mohlele (BADA 1999), had already written four other novels and his latest book is *Michael K*, a response to JM Coetzee's novel. *Pleasure* won the 2017 K Sello Duiker Memorial Literary Award.



Image: Republiken

BAREFOOT BUSHDOCTOR
By **Hélène de Kok**
Self-published, 2017
(Available from Helendekok@iway.na)

In *Barefoot Bushdoctor: A Doctor in the Kalahari*, Hélène de Kok (MBBCh 1968) tells the story of her family in South Africa over the past 300-odd years and describes her rural childhood in the Free State, her medical training at Wits and her 40 years of practice in Namibia's Kalahari, where her husband is a farmer. Over the years she has run clinics in Bushmanland and Hereroland and a craft centre at a farm where San people were resettled. The memoir is packed with vivid memories and observations, and contains some valuable illustrations. Dr de Kok worked as a teacher and journalist before enrolling at Wits Medical School in 1964. In a class of 100, there were six black students and six women. De Kok describes a student life of hard but stimulating work, living alone in a small room, walking home at night through Hillbrow, and surviving on mince and marrow bones – surely not the most appetising diet for a medical student! The book adds her own worthy life story to a long line of family anecdotes.



THE HOUSE OF TRUTH
By **Siphiwo Mahala**
Iconic Productions, 2017

The *House of Truth*, the first play by writer Siphiwo Mahala (MA 2003), is based on the life of *Drum* journalist Can Themba (1924-1967). The title refers to Themba's home: a single room at 111 Ray Street, Sophiatown, in the 1950s. Anyone interested in discussing ideas was welcome there.

The play was published by a new publisher, Iconic Productions, and launched at the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory last year, after successful runs at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, the Market Theatre, the Port Elizabeth Opera House and the Soweto Theatre. It ended the year at the Theatre on the Square in Sandton. Acclaimed actor Sello Maake kaNcube took the role of Can Themba.

Mahala's books include the novel *When A Man Cries*, which he translated into Xhosa as *Yakhal' Indoda*, and *African Delights*, a collection of short stories. His Wits Master's degree was in African Literature. He was the head of Books and Publishing at the Department of Arts and Culture for over 10 years and is one of the judges for the 2018 9Mobile Prize for Literature, the biggest literary prize for new writers on the African continent.



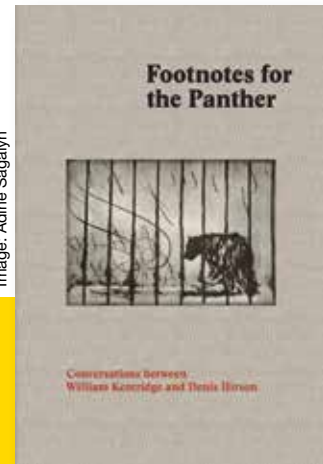
William Kentridge

Denis Hirson

Image: Adine Sagalyn

FOOTNOTES FOR THE PANTHER

Conversations between **William Kentridge** and **Denis Hirson**
Fourthwall Books, 2017



In 2010, William Kentridge asked Denis Hirson to join him in a public conversation at the opening of Cinq Thèmes, the artist's retrospective exhibition at the Jeu du Paume in Paris. The two decided to have further conversations, public and private, in which they explored the issues and themes arising from Kentridge's work.

Hirson (1972, BA Hons 1973) lived in South Africa until the age of 22 and studied social anthropology at Wits. In 1975 he settled in France, where he has worked as an actor and lecturer at the École Polytechnique. He has written seven books concerned with memories of South Africa in the time of apartheid. The most recent of these is the novel *The Dancing and the Death on Lemon Street*. He has also produced three anthologies of South African writing.

Kentridge (BA 1977, DLitt honoris causa 2004) is a graphic artist, filmmaker and theatre artist whose works are included in numerous international collections. As his honorary degree citation says: "His combination of contemporary video technology with traditional drawing skills reminiscent of those of the German Expressionist movement has fascinated audiences throughout the world. Much of his work deals with socio-political conditions in South Africa and the human dilemmas of passion, greed, pain and injustice."

The two men met in Paris, not at Wits, but came from similar family backgrounds in Johannesburg. In his introduction, Hirson writes: "We have covered a lot of ground in the conversations that comprise this book, discussing William's early use of charcoal, his engagement with landscape drawing and approach to South African landscape, his strong sense of the European tradition.

"We have turned to a multitude of other questions, among them William's sources of inspiration, his thought on the relationship between his art and politics, the importance he attached to being in the studio, and the way he develops a project with his collaborators."

He mentions "a pivotal preoccupation": "the confrontation between the forces of material and worldly power on the one hand, the forces of dream, desire and the imagination on the other".

In one conversation, Kentridge talks about Johannesburg as a landscape and how he was influenced by Nadine Gordimer's writing and by what David Goldblatt told him about photography.

The cloth-bound, illustrated book is a pleasure to hold and to read; somehow it is reminiscent of a child's book in its ease of access. It's not an intimidatingly glossy and heavy coffee-table object. The conversations about art, too, are in ordinary language, not academic jargon. Footnotes add context to the discussion.

The book's title refers to a poem by Rilke. Hirson says he believes Kentridge's interpretation of the poem "reveals the way he understands the creative process for himself".



WHAT SHE LEFT

By **Rosie Fiore**
Allen & Unwin, 2017

Inside Apartheid's Prison, by Raymond Suttner (PhD 2006), has been updated with a new introduction in which the author explains why he broke from the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party more than 10 years ago.

It was a matter of integrity, he says. The breaking point came as a result of Jacob Zuma's rape trial, in which, Suttner says, the treatment of the complainant was "cruel" and "inhuman".

Originally published in 2001, this book describes the author's arrest in 1975 for anti-apartheid activism and his torture, imprisonment, underground work, detention in solitary confinement and house arrest.

As a young man, he says, he "felt that something more was required of me than acts of protest." He speaks of being guided in his choice by a sense of connection with the oppressed – a connection that continues to exist. It is because of this connection that he felt he had to leave the ANC and SACP. He now writes: "I continue making my contribution towards the freedom of our country but from quite a different place from that when I joined the struggle." Suttner is now a part-time academic.

It's a big year for Rosie Fiore (BA DA 1991). After 15 years of full-time work as a writer for theatre, television, magazines, advertising, comedy and the corporate market, she has taken the plunge to become a full-time novelist and her eighth novel is out. She is also the author of several plays. Fiore, a Johannesburger who has lived in London since 2000, also writes under the name Cass Hunter (her title *The After Wife* is being considered for a movie).

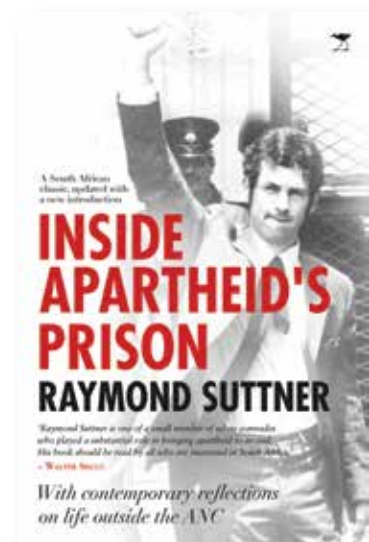
Her latest novel as Rosie Fiore, *What She Left*, is the absorbing story of Helen Cooper, an apparently flawless middle-class London mother, who walks away from her life one day without warning. The novel is told in chapters from the perspectives of her husband, child and friend, as well as Helen's own. It's a clever, modern, observant, entertaining and surprising story. It invites the reader to think about types of relationships, the kinds of damage (or healing) they can do and the ways you can be trapped in your life.

Fiore told a *Cape Times* interviewer that her writing is always primarily about character, and inhabiting each character, an approach that comes from her drama training at Wits.

Her first novel, *This Year's Black* (2004), was the story of "a stropky, computer-illiterate, overqualified South African" in London, "broke, unemployed, and 5640 miles from home".

INSIDE APARTHEID'S PRISON

By **Raymond Suttner**
Jacana, 2017

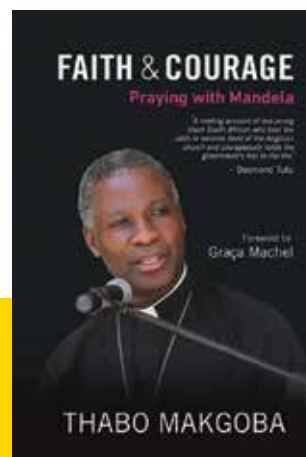


Nelson Mandela “refrained from speaking about his personal beliefs” but spoke of living according to his values

FAITH AND COURAGE: PRAYING WITH MANDELA

By **Thabo Makgoba**

Tafelberg, 2017



Faith and Courage: *Praying With Mandela* (Tafelberg 2017), by Archbishop Thabo Makgoba (BSc 1989, BA Hons 1991, MEd 1993, PDE 1997) is the story of an exceptional life, as well as a great spiritual responsibility. The Archbishop tells of his family roots in Makgoba's Kloof, growing up in Alexandra township, forced removal to Soweto, studying at university, becoming a priest and ministering to Nelson Mandela and Graça Machel.

There are some personal details about that ministry which he has chosen not to share, but he intends that the story “will help people understand the important role faith played in Madiba's life and how this impacted on the spirituality of South Africa”.

Makgoba's father was a polygamous ZCC pastor and his mother a domestic worker. The book gives an insight into what it was like for a child and, later, student to bridge worlds that were so far apart under apartheid (and still are, for too many people).

The young Makgoba had to consider and make choices between political organisations, and between “the competing attractions of science and the church”. The Bishop of Johannesburg, Timothy Bavin, advised him to get a degree before deciding on the priesthood. After he had been at Turfloop for two years, the permit system for black students came to an end and he was able to enrol at Wits. He lived at Glyn Thomas House, joined the Anglican Students' Federation and the Black Students' Society and was involved in underground political work. He was mentored by Deane and Dot Yates at St Michael's Church in Alex, and at St Francis of Assisi Church in Soweto by Father Abel Molefe, a chemistry lab assistant at Wits.

“Helping to lead Anglican students also transformed my understanding of white South Africans. The transformation began when I was first admitted to Wits. Black students were still a small minority then and I went thinking that all whites would act as if they were superior.”

After leaving Wits, he began training for the ministry at St Paul's College in Grahamstown. Later, back in Johannesburg, after qualifying as a psychologist and educator, he served as a chaplain at Wits, as a lecturer and as dean of Knockando residence. “I learnt that students were relatively easy to lead as long as I was present – and as long as I put my foot down when the testosterone hit the fan.”

Makgoba writes that some readers may be surprised to learn that he was “called to pray with Madiba”. Nelson Mandela was associated with the Methodist Church in certain ways “but refrained from speaking about his personal beliefs”. He spoke instead of living according to his values. But when the former President was 90, Makgoba began to visit him to pray. The book contains the text of the prayers and describes aspects of the final years of Mandela's life, when the Archbishop provided clerical support for him and for his wife. The last chapter talks about Mandela's legacy and South Africa's “new struggle” for equality of opportunity.

JUDITH FRANKEL LIPKIN (1936-2017)

Judith Eda Frankel Lipkin (BSc QS 1958), one of the first women to qualify as a quantity surveyor in South Africa, died in the UK in May 2017, aged 81.

She was born in Port Elizabeth, the only daughter of a mathematician (Eileen Frankel, née Orr) and an antiquarian bookseller (Jacob Frankel).

Her son Jonathan recalls her talking about arduous exams at Wits, requiring candidates to perform hundreds of technical calculations using nothing more than a slide rule, pencil and paper. When she graduated, quantity surveying was still a profession dominated by men and she was often asked to work on domestic buildings rather than “grand projects”. However, much of her work in South Africa required travelling to remote locations.

She was admitted to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and her status as a professional pioneer was acknowledged when she was twice invited to London for a “Woman of the Year” event in the 1960s.

She moved permanently to London in the 1960s, married the composer Malcolm Lipkin (who died a week after she did) and gradually gave up work to look after their only child. She also devoted herself to helping her husband pursue his career in music. She was an excellent cook and enjoyed entertaining family, friends and Malcolm's colleagues. She was very interested in the arts and culture, and a close follower of current affairs.

Sources: Jonathan Lipkin; Rand Daily Mail; The Star; The Daily Telegraph



Judith and Malcolm Lipkin

Wits University
fondly
remembers
those who have
passed away

Quarries

ANNMARIE WOLPE (1930-2018)

AnnMarie Wolpe (Kantor) (BA Social Work 1951), an anti-apartheid activist and pioneer in gender and education, died in Cape Town on 14 February 2018 at the age of 87. Born in Johannesburg, she met her husband, the late Harold Wolpe (BA 1950, LLB 1953), at Wits, where he was SRC President in 1951. Her first job was as an assistant to Helen Joseph in the Transvaal clothing industry medical aid society. She then ran a bursary fund for African students.

In 1963 AnnMarie helped Harold (along with Arthur Goldreich, Mosie Moola and Abdulhai Jassat) to escape from police custody after he had been arrested at Liliesleaf farm. She too was later arrested and was ordered to leave South Africa. The couple went to the UK with their three children (Peta, Tessa and Nicholas) and lived there for 27 years. Harold died in 1996.

AnnMarie first worked at Bradford University in the unit for Yugoslav Studies (she learnt Serbo-Croat) and later at Middlesex University in the Development of Women's Studies programme, where she obtained her PhD. She spearheaded gender studies and was a founding member of the journal *Feminist Review*. She wrote three academic books on gender and education and an autobiography, *The Long Way Home*.

On her return to South Africa in 1991 she worked first in the Centre for Adult and Continuing Education and then at the Education Policy Unit at the University of the Western Cape until she retired in 1998.

Wolpe headed the Gender Equity Task Team called for by the Minister of Education. As a result of its work a Gender Equity Directorate was established in the National Department of Education.

She has been described as "warm, flamboyant, gregarious and elegant".

Sources: GroundUp, Peta Wolpe, Alicia Chamaille, Pippa Green, CNBC Africa

ESMÉ JOUBERT (1923-2017)

Elsbeth Rita (Esmé) Joubert (born du Preez) (MBBCh 1947) was the daughter of a station master and housewife in Nuy, near Worcester in the Western Cape. She matriculated in 1940 at Helpmekaar School in Johannesburg and won a scholarship to study medicine at Wits. She married Mauritius Joubert (MBBCh 1947) and they both specialised in neurology. They started the neurosurgical department at Wentworth Hospital in Durban and Dr Mauritius started the Brown School for children with epilepsy. He also headed the neurology department at Ga-Rankuwa Hospital, now named Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital. They had a daughter and three sons, one of whom, Professor Jacques Joubert, is a neurologist in Australia. Dr Mauritius died some years ago and Dr Esmé in June 2017, in George, aged 94.

Source: George Herald

SHIRLEY HANRAHAN (1939-2018)

Professor Shirley Hanrahan (BSc 1959, PhD 1979), the first head of the School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences (APES) at Wits, was a world-renowned entomologist.

She worked in the Department of Physics and the Faculty of Health Sciences before accepting a permanent lectureship in the Department of Zoology in 1971. She headed the department from 1994 to 1999 and then APES when the departments of Botany and Zoology merged.

Prof Hanrahan's research focus was locusts. She was President of the Entomological Society of Southern Africa for two terms and edited *African Entomology*.

After many years of teaching, supervising and contributing to Senate and academic bodies, in retirement she continued to serve the School by mentoring staff.

Professor Hanrahan died of cancer on 5 February 2018, leaving her husband Prof Hu Hanrahan, daughter Anne and son Paul. The University's flag flew at half-mast on 14 February in honour of her contribution to Wits.

Source: Wits News

MITCHELL SHACKLETON (1920-2017)

Professor Mitchell Shackleton (PhD 1975) died in July 2017 after a short illness. Born in the UK, he obtained his first degree at Oxford and was a senior lecturer in French at Wits from 1954 to 1961. He went on to the University of Cape Town, where he became Dean of the Faculty of Arts. He led the Association for French Studies in Southern Africa in the 1970s, and in 1975 received the Ordre des Palmes Académiques for his contribution to bringing English- and French-speaking peoples together on the African continent. His Wits PhD was on the artistic theory and practice of André Gide. Professor Shackleton leaves his wife, Ninon.

Sources: Dr John McCutcheon; UCT

WILSON MAUMELA (1964-2017)

Avhahumi Wilson Maumela (BA Ed 1989, BEd 1991) was born in Venda, grew up in Soweto and died in Diepkloof after a short illness. After qualifying as a teacher, he began his career at Meadowlands High School and later became principal of Orlando High School and of Job Rathebe High School. He is survived by his wife Zanele and their five children.

Source: Sowetan 6 October 2017



Image: UCT

FAY SEGAL (1921-2017)

Professor Fay Segal (MBBCh 1944, DSc Med 1955) was born in Johannesburg and had a remarkable life as a physician at Baragwanath Hospital and Wits Medical School. Through her work, she was a pioneer for women and civil rights.

She was Principal Specialist Physician in the Department of Medicine at Baragwanath Hospital and Wits from 1954 to 1987. She inaugurated the cardiac unit at Baragwanath in 1955 and was in charge of the diabetic clinic for 10 years. She became an Associate Professor in 1973. She was an exceptional clinician, highly respected by her colleagues in all spheres of clinical and academic practice. Her opinion was frequently sought by other senior physicians. She was involved in teaching nurses, medical students and postgraduates and was an examiner for the College of Physicians of South Africa. She published extensively and co-authored a textbook on congenital heart disease with

Prof Leo Schamroth.

Prof Segal was honoured with a War Medal and an Africa Service Medal as she served as a Captain in the Fulltime Volunteer Forces in the South African Medical Corps during World War II.

She married Louis Hirsowitz (MBBCh 1940, DSc Med 1948), who died in 1994. Upon emigrating to the USA to be closer to her family, Prof Segal volunteered to teach English as a Second Language at a school in Brookline, Massachusetts and at the Congregation Kehilleth Israel Nursery School. She died in November 2017, aged 96. Described as a dignified, kind, humble and elegant soul, she is survived by her sons Dr David Hirsowitz (BDS 1975) and Dr Geoffrey Hirsowitz (MBBCh 1975), who both live in the US, and their families. Her sister Sylvia Navon lives in Herzlia, Israel.

Source: Geoffrey Hirsowitz

**LYNNE BAKER (1928-2017)**

Professor Lynne Wilford ("Boetie") Baker (MBBCh 1951) was born in Potchefstroom and attended Jeppe Boys' High School in Johannesburg. After qualifying at Wits, he returned to Potchefstroom and worked as a general practitioner. He later began his surgical training at Aberdeen University under Prof Hugh Dudley and Prof



George Mavor, one of the pioneers in the management of venous disease and arterial surgery, which became major interests of Lynne's. He completed his Royal College Fellowship in Edinburgh in 1958 and Royal College of Surgeons Fellowship in England in 1961 and proceeded to McGill University in Montreal, Canada, where he completed a Master of Science degree. In 1967, he returned with his young family to South Africa, where he was appointed Head of Department and Professor of Surgery at the University of Natal. He was in charge of surgical services based at the King Edward VIII hospital.

Lynne's aim was to improve conditions at the hospital and to develop a first-rate Department of Surgery. He was an immensely hard worker himself and set about recruiting individuals who would help him in his mission to expand and develop academic surgery in (then) Natal. His major strength, when recruiting staff, was to allow them to develop in their own right – an approach which engendered enormous loyalty. He also involved other departments and the private sector in teaching. One of the highlights of his international career was delivering the Semmelweis Lecture on "Lessons from lavage and colonic trauma" at the Surgical Infection Society of Europe congress in Vienna in 1994. His many academic achievements culminated in his election as a Fellow of the University of Natal.

He held senior leadership roles in the College of Medicine of South Africa and in various societies including the Surgical Research Society, Trauma Society and Association of Surgeons of South Africa. He introduced the Advanced Trauma Life Support concept into South Africa and poured his energy into making it an integral part of student training.

In the operating theatre environment in a "show and tell" situation, he was a superb technical surgeon. His mantra was: "if it is not right it is wrong, so do it again".

He had an informal and relaxed management style but was a stickler for discipline and in particular dress standards. Students were expected to dress properly and this, for some reason, revolved around wearing a necktie. He had an open door policy until 8am in the morning, and often said he built his department around his coffee percolator. A man with warmth, energy and zest for life, he enjoyed a party and was an inveterate traveller.

He leaves his wife of 60 years, Barbara, two children, Diane and Andrew, and three grandchildren.

Source: Prof John V Robbs, in South African Journal of Surgery

**ALLAN NESTADT (1924-2017)**

Paediatrician Dr Allan Nestadt (MBBCh 1948) died in Israel in August 2017, aged 92. Even at school, it would seem, Allan's sights were set on becoming a doctor. He had an arrangement with the ambulance authorities in his home town of Benoni – where his father Morris was mayor – that when possible he would accompany them to medical emergencies. Having matriculated from Benoni High, he attended Wits and did his registrarship at the Boksburg-Benoni Hospital. In 1950 he took up residence in the UK, where he worked at the Sheffield and Birmingham

Children's Hospitals and the Bangour General Hospital in Edinburgh. In 1953, he obtained his MRCP (Edin).

Returning home, he was the paediatric registrar at the Johannesburg General, Coronation and Baragwanath Hospitals. In 1960 he moved to Durban, where for 18 years he ran a large private practice as a paediatric consultant. At the same time, he held the appointment of part-time consultant at the Addington Children's Hospital. The *SA Medical Journal* and *The Lancet* published numerous research papers of his on children's illnesses.

In 1955 he married Rebecca Kronik, who had been the secretary of the Wits Student Medical Council,

and they had four children. In 1979 they emigrated to Israel, where he continued in private practice as a child specialist in Tel Aviv until his retirement.

He is survived by his children and numerous grand- and great-grandchildren. Rebecca passed away 12 years ago. Allan's twin brother Stanley, a chartered accountant who lived in San Diego, passed away in January 2018. His youngest brother, Harry (BA 1951, LLB 1954), a retired judge of the South African Supreme Court of Appeal, lives in Sydney. Their brother Gerald (BA 1940), aged 96, lives in Benoni.

Allan will be remembered as a credit to his profession. He had an abiding sense of concern for his patients and for his family.

Sources: Benoni City Times 22 August 2017; Harry Nestadt; Sandy Heymann

PHILIP BONNER (1945-2017)

Philip Lewis Bonner, Emeritus Professor in History at Wits, died on 24 September 2017, aged 72.

Born in England, raised in Kenya, educated at Nottingham and London universities, Philip was appointed lecturer in History by Professor Noel Garson in 1971. In 1991, 20 years later, he was made Professor of Urban and Labour History, and then promoted to Professor on the Special List in 1995. From 1999 to 2003 he served as Head of Department; from 1987 to 2012 he was also chairperson of the inter-disciplinary History Workshop. In 2007 he was awarded an NRF Chair in Local Histories, Present Realities, finally retiring in 2012 after 41 years of service.

A man of considerable energy and enthusiasm, and armed with a sharp, insightful, original mind, Philip made a huge impact on the Department, the Faculty of Arts (now the Faculty of Humanities), and the wider University over those years. He was a pioneer in many respects. In his PhD research on 19th century Swaziland for the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, he pioneered in collecting and using Swazi oral traditions. His thesis was published in 1983 as *Kings, Commoners and Concessionaires*.

His mandate on appointment to Wits was to pioneer the professional teaching of African history in South Africa. He succeeded in this and together with Peter Delius in later years maintained Wits as the leading centre in the country for African history. Students found his lectures exciting, particularly in their attempts to relate the past to the present.

Philip was an innovator in the Department and Faculty in another direction – as a product of SOAS he was a Marxist, at a juncture when the Faculty as a whole was judged by critics to be conservative in outlook. However, the university was in a major growth stage, and Philip was soon joined by new like-minded young colleagues, including David Webster in Social Anthropology.

What struck Philip about the Wits Faculty, by comparison with British universities, was the lack of dialogue between disciplines, and the promotion of interdisciplinary exchanges was certainly a major

pioneering enterprise of his. His great achievement was to set up, in 1974, the African Studies Seminar of the recently formed African Studies Institute as a thriving inter-disciplinary venue. In 1977 Philip joined Belinda Bozzoli in Sociology in forming the interdisciplinary History Workshop, with its triennial conferences, which launched the new social history, or “history from below”, in South Africa and which proceeded to inspire Philip’s postgraduate supervisions. From early on Philip attracted postgraduates, and they are among his major legacies.

Philip was never a purely university figure. He extended his activities well beyond the university, engaging in worker education and the movement to create a new generation of black trade unions. Evidently out of a concern at his trade union involvement the state made an attempt to deport Phillip, along with his first wife, Chris, a trade unionist, in December 1986. On 9 December he was served with a deportation order, arrested and imprisoned in John Vorster Square. Formidable protest was mounted, at home and abroad, and Philip was released pending an interview with the Minister of Home Affairs, Stoffel Botha, in Cape Town in January as to why he should not be deported. After the interview the order was rescinded.

Concurrent with Philip’s trade union activism was a shift to labour and social history as his primary research field, leading to the launch in 1983 of an ambitious research programme on the history of the working class on the Witwatersrand, beginning with the East Rand. During the 1980s and 1990s Philip published a string of articles in major international journals and edited books on the labour and social history of the Witwatersrand, establishing his reputation as the leading historian of the labour movement in South Africa. Increasingly he became involved in the activities of the History Workshop, and in 1987 became its chairperson. As chairperson he engaged in a major venture of popularisation by serving as historical consultant

and executive producer to Channel 4 in Britain for a six-part documentary television series on the history of Soweto. A book, *Soweto: A History*, written by Bonner and Lauren Segal, resulted from the venture in 1998. Two books on township histories followed, *Kathorus: A History* (2000) and *Alexandra: A History* (2008), both written with Noor Niefertagdien.

When Philip took over as Head of the Department of History in 1998 it was a critical juncture. After two decades of sustained growth, enrolments in History fell off dramatically. It was a national phenomenon as students in the New South Africa turned their backs on the South African past. To counter the fall in student numbers, and to underline its usefulness to the University, Bonner’s department took to offering service courses to other departments, including a hugely popular course on customary law in South Africa in the School of Law.

The demise of apartheid posed a similar challenge to the identity and purpose of the History Workshop. It had previously always been an oppositional group in its historiography, aligning itself with the oppressed, disenfranchised masses. The 1999 conference, Commissioning the Past, attended by a number of NGOs, helped provide a new sense of direction. Smaller, more frequent conferences would turn a historical lens on pressing contemporary issues, such as land reform and the HIV/Aids scourge. In the wake of the Soweto project, priority was also given to local history projects, with a team of researchers from different disciplines working with Philip and Noor Niefertagdien. The Workshop also entered the field of public history with Philip playing a major role in putting together the Apartheid Museum, first conceptualised by him. The award to Philip in 2007 of the NRF chair provided five years of funding for the Workshop’s research activities.

After his retirement Philip continued with his research and writing, and was working on a biography of Mathews Phosa at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, Sally Gaule.

By Professor Bruce K Murray

CAROLE MARCUS (1960-2017)

Professor Carole Marcus (MBBCh 1982) was an internationally recognised authority in the field of paediatric sleep medicine.

After graduating at Wits and completing her internship year, she followed her family to the USA. She completed a paediatric residency at SUNY-Downstate Brooklyn, being co-chief resident in her last year. She then studied paediatric pulmonology and sleep at the University of South California. From there she moved to Johns Hopkins Medical Center, where she became a professor and headed the paediatric sleep section. After 10 years, she joined the paediatric staff at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania, heading the sleep section and becoming the director of clinical research. She was elected to the Anderson Pew Distinguished Endowed Chair in Pediatrics.

She published widely and was responsible for much clinical care, teaching and research. A highlight of her career was the William C Dement Academic Achievement Award from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. She did not forget her alma mater – she provided funds for a woman student to study for a medical degree at Wits.

Apart from her academic work, she was also a supporter of ballet and modern dance, a fan of Leonard Cohen and a keen traveller. She frequented her gym, and did some parasailing, paddle-boarding and zip-lining.

Carole died suddenly and unexpectedly on 19 November 2017 and will be missed by many.

Source: Dr Joseph Marcus



POTOKI ISAAC NKWE (1950-2017)

Potoki Isaac Nkwe (BEd 1982, MEd 1984) was born in Krugersdorp, the son of Regina Sepotokele and Alfred Lebajoa. From the age of five, he lived with his grandparents, Bishop Daniel Nkwe and Norah Nkwe, on a farm in Potchefstroom, where he spent many happy years with his siblings and cousins. He had warm memories about travelling with his grandfather, the Bishop, on a bike to areas around Fochville, visiting churches within the African Anglican Church.

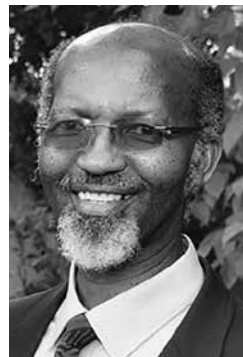
When he was about nine, they relocated to Sharpeville. When he completed his junior certificate in 1967, his uncle, Bishop David Nkwe, and aunt, Maggie Nkwe, saw his potential and decided that he should move to Orlando High School to be taught by the well-known maths teacher and principal Dr Thamsanqa Wilkinson "Wilkie" Kambule. Even though that opportunity eluded him, he still got very good results when he matriculated in 1969.

During his time at the University of the North (now called the University of Limpopo), in the early 1970s, Potoki completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Philosophy and Psychology. He was also Chairman of the University Choral Society and President of the Students' Representative Council.

Potoki became a teacher at Morris Isaacson High School in Soweto and was a member of the Johannesburg Teachers' Choir and the St Paul's Anglican Church Choir. He was arrested together with other students and teachers during the 1976 Soweto Uprising – but two weeks later he married Doris Tsakane Ntsanwisi.

He also taught at Hudson Ntsanwisi Secondary School in Nkowankowa, and became Deputy Principal and Headmaster. During his time in Giyani, he worked as a Senior School Psychologist and later as Chief Education Advisor for the Department of Education for the Gazankulu Authority.

Potoki went on to attain his Bachelor of Education and Master of Education degrees while lecturing and supervising research students at Wits University. He did



his internship at the East Rand Hospital and qualified as a clinical psychologist before starting his private practice in clinical psychology and education services at Ipelegeng Community Centre. He focused on psychotherapy for young adolescents but ran many other projects at Ipelegeng. It was through this work that the WK Kellogg Foundation invited him to be their South African representative and programme director.

He later worked for several organisations including the Mpumalanga Development Corporation, Alexandra Renewal Project and Junior Achievement (an academy for training entrepreneurs).

Potoki remained a member of various church choirs, including St Michael's Anglican Church and St Paul's Anglican Church.

He was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in August 2017 and passed away in October. He is survived by his wife Tsakane and daughters Matshego, Dineo and Gontse and their families.

Source: Rev. Martha Gordon

NICO NEL (1926-2017)

Dr Nicholas Everhardus Nel (MBBCh 1951) was born in Brakpan and died in Bloemfontein, aged 91. He had been a GP and grape farmer in Douglas, in the Northern Cape, and ran a clinic at Schmidtsdrif. He leaves his wife Elsie and children.

Source: Volksblad 8 November 2017

DAVID PETTIFOR (1945-2017)

Physicist David Pettifor (BSc Hons 1967; CBE, FRS) died in October 2017, having changed the way a great deal of materials science is now done.

He was a pioneer of mathematical descriptions, based on quantum theory, of how atoms interact in materials used in technology. He devised "structure maps" of elements which allowed alloy designers to create alloys suitable for jet engines. His vision of modelling materials across length scales involving engineers, materials scientists, physicists and chemists raised the status of theory and modelling in materials science and made the subject less empirical. He was elected to the Royal Society in 1994 and awarded a CBE for services to science in 2005.

David was born in the UK and came to Johannesburg as a young child. He and his twin brother John Pettifor (MBBCh 1968, PhD 1980, DSc Med honoris causa 2017), who became a distinguished paediatrician and Wits professor, attended St John's College. David found that maths came naturally to him. He wanted to study chemical engineering at Wits but was persuaded to read physics, which he did under Prof Frank Nabarro FRS, who set the tone for what was expected of a good scientist.

He was involved in several student societies and councils at Wits, and in 1965, at a time of increased political ferment, was elected onto the Executive Committee of the Student Representative Council. He was also a member of the Anglican Students' Federation.

After achieving a first with his Wits degree, he went to Cambridge for his PhD, where he performed some of the first computations that began to explain crystal structures of transition metals. In the early 1970s he was uncertain whether to pursue a scientific career in Britain or to be involved in something more overtly social and political. He decided to teach physics at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania for two years, believing at this time that the primary role of scientists in developing countries should be education from primary school to university, in order to build up a scientific base.

He worked in the Mathematical Physics group at Imperial College between 1978 and 1992, where he

developed some of his most original ideas including the structure maps. In 1992 he took up the Isaac Wolfson Professorship of Metallurgy at Oxford. Although he had pioneered some of the largest computations he always insisted that computing power is no substitute for good ideas, and he firmly held to Einstein's maxim "as simple as possible, but not simpler". There he established the world's first Materials Modelling Laboratory, which attracted many distinguished visitors.

He played a key role in setting up a partnership between the Royal Society and the National Research Foundation in South Africa, following Nelson Mandela's release from prison, to establish centres of excellence in previously black universities, including a Materials Modelling Centre at the University of Limpopo. Despite a constant battle with multiple myeloma for the last 20 years, he returned to South Africa many times to continue this work.

David met his first wife, Ann (born Potgieter, BA 1971), at Wits and they had two sons, Thomas and Christopher. After their divorce he married Di Gold, a stained glass artist, who also had two sons, Matthew and Benjamin, and they lived in the Cotswolds.

Source: Prof Adrian Sutton



Image: Ben Gold

EDDIE KOCH (1955-2017)

Journalist Edward “Eddie” Koch (BA 1977, BA Hons 1978, MA 1984) was born in Johannesburg in 1955 and went to school at Maryvale Primary and Sandringham High, where he was captain of rugby. At Wits, he studied history and wrote his MA thesis on the popular culture of Doornfontein’s African working class, 1914-1935.

It was at Wits that his passion for journalistic adventure was probably seeded. He was distribution manager of the *Wits Student* when he stumbled across suspected student spy Derek Brune meeting with rightwingers in the restaurant where he was working on weekends. An elaborate and dramatic plan to entrap Brune was set in place, but someone had tipped him off and it failed. (Brune was later exposed as a police lieutenant.)

At a gathering of Nusas, the anti-apartheid student organisation, Eddie met his future wife, Tina Sideris.

After university, he worked at alternative publications *Learn & Teach* and the *Labour Bulletin* and later the national press agency, Sapa. He joined the *Weekly Mail* (now *Mail & Guardian*) not long after it started and became a core member of its small team of journalists.

People he worked with over the years mention his curiosity, courage and caring. He was a decent guy, they say, a “mensch”, level-headed and always calm.

He produced a remarkable body of work: at different times he was an historian, a political and labour writer, a music writer, an investigative journalist, a human rights activist, a pioneering environmental journalist and then an eco-tourism development worker. He also co-produced a number of books, including *Going Green: People, Politics and the Environment*, with academic Jacklyn Cock, and *Rights, Resources and Rural Development*, with Christo Fabricius and others.

“He was one of the few who saw you could not separate the social, economic and ecological,” said his eco-tourism business partner David Grossman.

His life and work are reminders of what journalism can be.

Source: Anton Harber

VIVIAN DAVIDS (1945-2017)

Vivian Christopher Davids (BA Hons 1983) was born in Fordsburg in Johannesburg, the eldest of five children.

He completed his BA in Education at the Rand College of Education in 1966 and spent eight years teaching at the Chris John Botha High School in Bosmont, Johannesburg. He went on to become a lecturer at the Rand College of Education, where he spent 27 years, eventually leaving when the college closed. During his tenure there he taught hundreds of students and solidified his reputation as an educator. He ended his career at the Gauteng Department of Education in 2010.

Throughout his career Vivian endeavoured to further his own education. He did his Honours in English Linguistics at Wits and his Master’s at Reading University in England.

He also ensured that all his children received the best education available and opportunities that he never had.

Vivian passed away in September 2017 after a battle with prostate cancer. He leaves his wife, five children and 11 grandchildren.

Source: Joshua Davids

Throughout his career Vivian endeavoured to further his own education.

THOMAS BRUMMER (1929-2017)

Thomas Marnewecke Brummer (BDS 1951) was one of the last students to qualify from the old Wits Dental Hospital in Bok Street. His wife, Yvonne, writes: “In 1947 the Dental Faculty was full because of the young soldiers returning after the war. Thomas was advised by an uncle who was a dentist in Johannesburg to knock on the Dean’s door every day and after two weeks, there was a cancellation and he was accepted. There was no accommodation available [his home was in Barkly East], so he moved to Kempton Park and stayed with two aunts.” He met Yvonne at church and they travelled on the same train to Johannesburg and back for five years. “We were married a few months before he qualified in 1951.

“We spent seven years in Beaufort West, where Thomas was involved in a church, taking many of their services. Then we moved to Carnarvon in the Karoo. He became a travelling dentist, visiting Victoria West for two days a month, then Williston, Fraserburg and Sutherland once every three months. Thomas had a folding chair which the Red Cross used during the First World War. He had a special cabinet made for his instruments, sterilizer and other necessary equipment. He had to do everything himself. In other words, he worked very hard.”

But it wasn’t all work: at a farm dam near Loxton Thomas started a waterski club which is still going today. “Waterskiing in the Karoo was a real adventure. A friend had a small aeroplane and many a Friday afternoon they would fly around the district looking at the dams to see the water levels.”

The Brummers moved to Cape Town in 1966, and in 1972 Thomas became Director of the Middle East Christian Outreach, a mission which had been started in Syria in the 1860s. He held this position until 1990 and retired in 1996.

“His patients loved him because he was gentle and honest. He loved his Creator and always put Him first,” says Yvonne. Dr Brummer died in June 2017, two days before his 88th birthday, leaving Yvonne, three children (Diane, Tommy and Belinda) and nine grandchildren.

Source: Yvonne Brummer

GRAHAM WILLIAMSON (1932-2017)

In the May 2017 issue of *Wits Review*, we featured a book by Graham and Françoise Williamson, *The Sperrgebiet: Nature’s Past Masterpiece*. Graham passed away on 12 October 2017.

Born in what was Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, he spent his early years on a smallholding, surrounded by unspoilt nature. He started his secondary schooling at Prince Edward School in 1945. Every year he received the form prize for science projects, including “The Birds of the Salisbury District” and “The Microscopic Life of the Makabusi River”. Though he was interested in a career in the natural sciences, he decided to study dentistry at Wits. He was on the House Committee at Cottesloe Residence and, having organised a res dance with the teachers’ training college freshers, met Françoise Clerc there. He moved to Phineas Court in 1956 and married Françoise in his third year. As a student he was also a keen athlete and rugby player, and remained fit all his life, playing competitive squash.

He graduated BDS in 1957 and started his working life in Bulawayo, later moving to Zambia, where he helped build up the dentistry profession. In his spare time he pursued his parallel interest in natural history, producing the book *The Orchids of South Central Africa*. He regularly visited the UK to keep his dentistry knowledge up to date and used the opportunity to do work at Kew on his botanical projects.

In 1976 the Williamsons moved to Oranjemund, Namibia, where Graham was the dental surgeon and did pioneering work on dental headache. The couple’s studies of the area’s natural history resulted in the *Sperrgebiet* book. Graham earned a Wits MSc in 1986 for his work on Zambia’s orchids.

He leaves Françoise and their four daughters.

GILBERT HERBERT (1924-2017)

Professor Gilbert Herbert (BArch 1947, MArch 1955, DArch honoris causa 1986), fondly known as Gil, was an outstanding architectural historian.

Born in Johannesburg and educated at Parktown Boys' High School, he was a prize-winning student at Wits and on several occasions received the accolade "Scholar of the University".

On graduation he was offered a teaching post at the University, converted later that year to a full-time permanent lectureship. At the end of 1949 he received a special South African government scholarship to study systems of architectural education, and spent 1950 at the Bartlett School, the Architectural Association, the University of Liverpool, Columbia University, Harvard and the MIT. He was later awarded his Master's degree for the dissertation "Academic Education in Architecture". In 1951 he completed his studies for the postgraduate Diploma in Town Planning. In 1969 he obtained the degree of Doctor of Literature and Philosophy from the University of South Africa.

In Johannesburg Prof Herbert continued his academic career, while at the same time maintaining a modest architectural practice. Most of his work was residential, but two major buildings were the unique Cinerama Theatre, and – as part of a team – the John Moffat Building, which housed the School of Architecture and Fine Arts.

The most prestigious South African architectural award was the Sir Herbert Baker Scholarship, awarded every four years. Herbert was named a Baker Scholar for 1957, and was required to divide the year between Italy and England. Four months were spent in Rome, mainly at the British School at Rome, and two months exploring the architecture of Europe, from Sicily to the Channel coast.

In 1961 Herbert was offered a senior academic post at the University of Adelaide in Australia, where he spent several fruitful years. While on



a sabbatical in Europe in 1966 he visited Israel and established contact with the architectural school at the Technion.

When the Herberts returned to Israel in 1968 he was offered a post at the school, which at the time was in a state of turmoil. Herbert's personality and academic distinction soon earned him the respect of his peers and in a few years he became Dean of the Faculty.

As head of the architectural school at the Technion he was a popular teacher of modern architectural history. Thousands of students enjoyed the benefit of his broad knowledge and systematic teaching. His career is studded with awards and accolades in South Africa, Australia and Israel, and generous praise from such leading figures as Walter Gropius, John Habraken, Lewis Mumford and Sir Nikolaus Pevsner.

When in 1997 the Technion celebrated Herbert's 50th year as a teacher and researcher, it produced a volume of his collected writings (*The Search for Synthesis – The Jubilee Edition*). He retired in 1993 but continued his creative output, and his tenth book was published in his 89th year. In 2015 the Faculty of Architecture at the Technion organised a public function celebrating Professor Herbert's life and achievements.

He died aged 93 in Haifa, leaving his wife Valerie (Ryan) and daughter Margaret (Margalit) Boeangiu. His son Barry died in 1977 in a car accident.

His obituary in the *Royal Institute of British Architects Journal* says: "Herbert's intellectual brilliance was conjoined with a warm, engaging, and affable personality, remarkable administrative and leadership skills, an indefatigable work ethic, and wisdom."

Sources: Harry Brand; Artefacts; Israelink; RIBA Journal; Family history document

GEORGE TURCK (1918-2017)

George Turck (BSc 1949) was one of Wits' "Donga Doctors" – the special cohort of students who were trained in soil conservation at Frankenwald after they served in World War 2. There were 118 of these graduates.

George served in North Africa and Italy. He was one of the last South Africans to escape from Tobruk in 1941 and fought at El Alamein. After graduating, he worked in what was then Rhodesia for some years and returned to South Africa in 1965. He continued to work in irrigation and agriculture for the Sugar Association and Murray & Roberts (Agricultural Management Service in Lebowa) and was involved in agricultural aerial surveying with the Aircraft Operating Service. In his long career he worked with many of the old Donga Docs, including Reg Loxton, Tony Venn and John Harper.

George grew up in Cape Town and was an expert mountain climber who knew the Cape Peninsula well. While still in Europe after the war, he climbed the Matterhorn, Mont Blanc and Monte Rosa.

He died in Hout Bay, aged 98, leaving his wife Mary and children Pippa (BSc 1973), Fred and Margie.

The Wits soil conservation programme was set up by Professor John Phillips and became known irreverently as "Prof Phillips' Marriage Bureau", as all three of his daughters married ex-servicemen on the course. Mary married George Turck, Jean married Bill Paterson and Marjorie married Ken Birkett. "This made for very happy family gatherings for us cousins as all the uncles knew each other well!" says Pippa.

(Sources: Sentinel News, 14 July 2017; Wits: The Open Years, Bruce K Murray; Pippa Greensmith)

MARY TILCH (1931-2018)

Mary Tilch (Owen) graduated in 1954 with a BA in Social Science. She then lived for a number of years in the UK, where she had been born and had attended school. She worked with handicapped children in London hospitals, a vocation she continued when she returned to South Africa and married Gustav "Gus" Tilch (BSc Eng 1954) in 1960. They had met while both were undergraduates. She helped him start his own engineering company from home and was a fulltime mother to Ceri and David, both now Wits graduates themselves. She and her family lived together in the same home in Johannesburg for the next 58 years. After Gustav's death in 1993, Mary spent her retirement travelling in Europe, the Middle East and Far East, and Southern Africa.

Throughout her life, Mary maintained close contact with her good friend Jean MacMurchie (Leigh), alongside whom she graduated. In 2014, they celebrated the diamond anniversary of their graduation on the same spot on the Great Hall steps where they had been photographed 60 years earlier.

Mary died in February 2018, aged 87, following a fall in her home.

Source: David Tilch

In 2014, Mary Tilch (left) and Jean MacMurchie marked the spot on the Great Hall steps where they had graduated together in 1954.



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Fighting angels and demons

By Harry Dugmore

We called him the blind Hell's Angel. But he wasn't blind – and he didn't own a bike. He wore a leather jacket and glasses, squinting when the riot squad shot teargas and charged with batons to break up student gatherings in 1982 and 1983.

I don't remember his name, but he was part of the apartheid-supporting Students' Moderate Alliance (SMA) set up by the South African state security apparatus to counter the influence of the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS).

By the early 1980s, NUSAS controlled the SRCs on the major white campuses and used SRC resources and student newspapers to conscientise and mobilise students to oppose apartheid.

I was 23 years old and editor of the student newspaper, *Wits Student*. At the end of 1982, I think

it was, we got a scoop: the blind Hell's Angel was sneaking off overseas to evade military conscription! The hypocrite, we thought, and wrote what was to our eyes an amusingly satirical piece about his duplicity, which I published in *Wits Student*.

We had to tread a fine line because we also agreed with his decision and were keen to see opposition to conscription grow on campuses.

Smug with the success of our story, I was surprised when I was sued, together with the SRC and the University, for an outrageous sum for defamation of his right-wing character. He was mildly offended by the allegations of poor eye-sight, but was properly outraged that not only was he not leaving the country to avoid conscription, he was joining the South African Defence Force.

The slight upside was that I got to work with some high-profile and generous legal professors at Wits,

learning a lot about journalism and media law. The best defence against defamation is truth and public interest. Unfortunately, we had our facts wrong. Eventually we had to settle out of court, for R20 000 if I recall correctly – a lot of cash in the early 1980s. I was grateful Wits University paid it, even though it was only the “third respondent”.

Being in the non-racial student movement in one's early 20s was both terrifying and educational. We learned from our comrades in the BSS and AZASO about non-racialism and the history of the struggle, and from incredible lecturers about the real nature of the apartheid system, and how it was based on conquest and designed for exploitation.

Unlike the blind Hell's Angel, many of us young white men were trying to stay out of the apartheid army. I was proud that by 1990, I had evaded 22 sets of “call up” papers, partly by stringing out my Master's for years and then converting it to a PhD (in the History Department under the supervision of the brilliant, kind and committed Prof Phil Bonner, now sadly departed).

After the Hell's Angel lawsuit, I was keen to go deeper into the work of neutralising pro-apartheid elements on our campus and win over at least some people to opposing apartheid.

My colleagues in the SRC decided it was a good idea for me, while transitioning out of editing *Wits Student*, to take on and transform the Rag magazine, *Wits Wits*. Rag seemed ripe for this approach: many students were only in it for the booze and the parties (which were legendary) but Rag itself existed to raise money for charities, some of which



Being in the non-racial student movement in one's early 20s was both terrifying and educational.



Professor Harry Dugmore (BA 1984, PDipEd 1984, BA Hons 1985, PhD 1994) is Director of the Centre for Health Journalism at Rhodes University and currently Visiting Researcher at the Queensland University of Technology's Digital Media Research Centre in Brisbane, Australia.

served township and poor rural communities.

Rag exposed white students, however superficially, to some of the horrors of apartheid, and I thought we could make it count more than it did. Working with a visionary Chair of Rag and SRC member, the late Nicholas Leonsins, I became the first “lefty” to edit the Rag magazine.

I was determined to make the magazine as subversive as I could, using satire and parody instead of compiling a collection of lame jokes.

We also profiled stories about Rag beneficiaries with original reporting and harrowing photos, trying to go deeper into explaining what the apartheid system was all about.

I spent hours interviewing the brilliant Pieter-Dirk Uys, just then becoming famous for his satire of the absurdity and ludicrous logic of apartheid.

Looking back, I think my approach worked to some degree. The struggle was deadly serious, but one way to engage privileged white students was through traditions like Rag and the Free People's Concerts – in other words, with a lighter touch. I think it helped many students, even perhaps the blind Hell's Angel, to open their eyes and see what was really going on.

Places to visit

Adler Museum of Medicine

Wits Medical School, 7 York Road, Parktown.

T +27 (0) 11 717 2081 **E** adler.museum@wits.ac.za

Hours: Monday to Friday 09:00 – 16:00. Saturdays on request. Cost free but venue hire tariffs on request.

Wits Theatre Complex

www.wits.ac.za/witstheatre.

East Campus, Wits University, Performing Arts Administration, 24 Station Street, Braamfontein.

T +27 (0) 11 717 1376 **E** bridget.vanoerle@wits.ac.za

Reception hours: Monday to Friday 08:00 – 16:00.

Theatre costs vary according to programme.

Tickets: www.webtickets.co.za

The Wits Club

www.olivesandplates.co.za

Wits Club Complex, West Campus, Wits University.

T +27 (0) 11 717 9365 **E** info@olivesandplates.co.za

Hours: Monday to Friday 07:00 – 17:00. Saturday

08:00 – 15:00 for breakfast and lunch. Booking is essential.

Wits Rural Facility

T +27 (0) 15 793 7508 **E** olga.hartman@wits.ac.za

Refer to website for public rates.

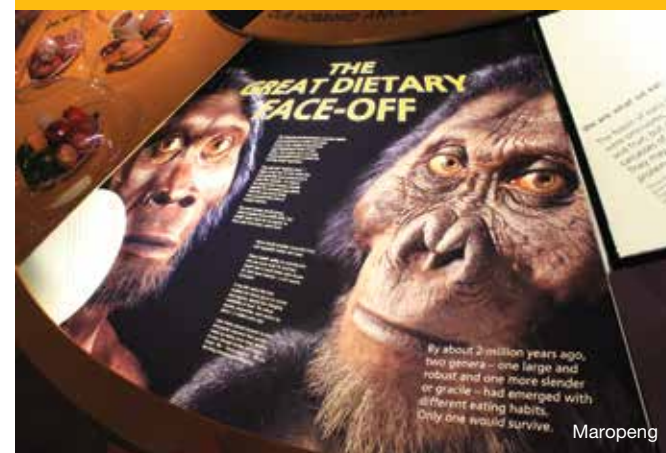


Image: Flow Communications

Wits Art Museum | WAM

www.wits.ac.za/wam.

University Corner, Corner Jorissen & Bertha Streets, Braamfontein. **T** +27 (0) 11 717 1365/58

E info.wam@wits.ac.za. **Hours:** Wednesdays to Sundays 10:00 – 16:00. WAM has a café and hosts regular events and exhibitions. Admission free. Donations encouraged.



Planetarium

www.planetarium.co.za

East Campus, Wits University, Yale Road off Empire Road, Entrance 10, Milner Park, Braamfontein.

T +27 (0) 11 717 1390 **E** planet@planetarium.co.za

Hours: Kiddies' show (5 – 8 years), Saturdays 10:30.

Maropeng, The Cradle of Humankind & The Sterkfontein Caves

www.maropeng.co.za.

Directions: Off R563 Hekpoort Road, Sterkfontein, Gauteng. **T** +27 (0) 14 577 9000

E website@maropeng.co.za. **Hours:** 09:00 – 17:00

daily. Refer to website for rates.

The Origins Centre

www.wits.ac.za/origins. West Campus, Wits University, Corner Yale Road & Enoch Sontonga Avenue, Braamfontein. **T** +27 (0) 11 717 4700

E bookings.origins@wits.ac.za. **Hours:** Monday to Saturday 10:00 – 17:00. Closed on Sundays. Public holidays 10:00 – 17:00 (please call ahead to check opening times). Refer to website for rates. Please book online (www.webtickets.co.za).



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