

July 2014 Volume 29

WITSReview

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



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wits by degrees



Number of graduates with one or more degrees from Wits

Wits has conferred 148 077* degrees since its first recorded graduation ceremony on 4 October 1922. Walking across the stage to be capped by the Chancellor is the highlight of a student's academic career. For some, the trip across the stage is a well-worn path. Wits graduates range from having one degree to an elite group of three alumni that have six degrees each.



82 821



23 260



5 213



687



64



3

Catherine De Souza

(BA 1991, BA Hons 2000, MA 2002, BAS 2006, BAS Hons 2008, MArch 2011)

Dr Ingo Lambrecht

(BA 1984, BA Hons 1985, MA 1987, BA Hons 1991, MA 1993, PhD 1999)

Prof. Phillip Tobias

(BSc 1946, BSc Hons 1947, MBBCh 1950, PhD 1953, DSc 1967, honorary DSc 1994)

*The figures are based on the alumni database and are not verified

Wits University is forever intertwined with and connected to the city of Johannesburg. The reality and perceptions of the city influence decisions that have a direct impact on the University, such as where to study, where to work and where to invest. At the same time, Wits University, its students, staff, researchers, and alumni contribute to the development of the city through spending, research and work. It's a symbiotic relationship in which each side has a vested interest in the success of the other.

Though the inner city has endured a lengthy period of decline and urban blight, there are unmistakable signs that a corner has been turned in the rejuvenation of the city back to a flourishing cosmopolitan centre.

Initiatives guided by the city's long-term growth and development strategy, Joburg 2040, have had a significant impact throughout the city and surrounding areas. These include major regeneration projects driven by the Johannesburg Development Agency such as the new rapid bus network, ReaVaya, linking the CBD, Braamfontein, Soweto and Alexandra. Wits has its own bus station on Empire Road and a dedicated bus lane will eventually run from Wits to the Sandton Gautrain station.



⋮ The Wits ReaVaya station on Empire Road

Wits and the city of learning, culture and gold



A very visible sign of changing times is the skyline of Joburg, where the once grimy black and grey façade of the Ponte building in Hillbrow has been transformed into a gleaming white exterior, while down on the ground Joburg has even become increasingly bicycle friendly!

Despite its lapse, the city has remained the economic, cultural and financial hub of South Africa and the largest economy of any metropolitan region in Sub-Saharan Africa. According to Wikipedia it is also the world's largest city not situated on a river, lake, or coastline. It must have one of the friendliest climates of any city on the planet and it doesn't have a reputation for natural disasters.

WITSReview is currently featuring a series on Johannesburg and in this issue we focus on the trendy Maboneng precinct on the east side of the city, nestled between Commissioner and Marshall Streets and attracting creative spirits and the young at heart.

While there is still a long way to go for some areas of the inner-city and the formerly fashionable areas of Hillbrow and Yeoville, it is increasingly possible to foresee the day when the inner-city will rise again, gleaming and glittering, a magnet for those with big dreams and ambitions.

Peter Maher

Director: Alumni Relations



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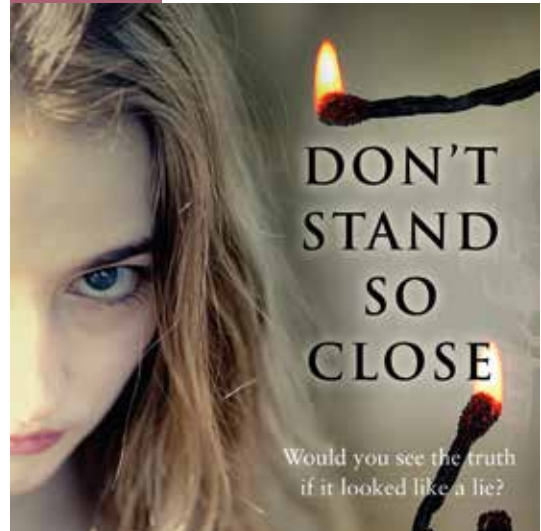
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 Best External Magazine 2012 (SA Publication Forum)
 Best External Magazine 2012 (MACE)
 Best External Magazine 2011 (SA Publication Forum)
 Best External Magazine 2010 (MACE)
 Editor of the Year 2010 (SA Publication Forum)

Cover: Mural on the corner of Fox and Betty Streets, Maboneng, by Cape Town street artist Falko (2012). Part of the *I ART JOBURG* series. See story on page 26. Photo by Nicole Sterling.





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WITSReview

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Letters

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME AND CAN BE SENT C/O THE ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE OR E-MAIL ALUMNI@WITS.AC.ZA.

Reconnecting to Wits

Dear Editor,

Thank you for an always interesting and well-produced *WITSReview*.

The April issue was especially interesting for me as Precious Moloi is one of my daughter's friends. For many years Lohla worked with Precious on the SA Fashion Shows. Then with regard to "In Memoriam" – I worked with Peter Jacobs and Tom Bothwell in the Medicine Department in the 1960s – one of my jobs entailed some of Peter's research for his doctorate.

One of my "old" school and varsity friends (BSc 1962-1965), Dr Vivian Oosthuizen, carried on with her studies and became a family trauma counsellor in Pretoria.

I went back to Medical School in 1980 once all our children were at school, to do a cancer research project with Dr Bezwoda, but while I was there we decided to make the move to Cape Town for the sake of our three children. This was a wise decision as they grew up in their teens in Camps Bay – sun, sea and surf – these all made healthy young people who have thrived – two sons are engineers and our daughter a successful events manager.

So thank you again for a very special magazine that reconnects me to Wits every three months.

Diana Samassa (BSc 1966), Camps Bay



A privilege to study at Wits

Dear Editor,

Just a note to let you know that I really enjoyed your April *WITSReview* magazine! It is so interesting reading about past Wits students who have done so well and now live all over the world. I was privileged to have studied there in the later years of my life which enabled me, together with another degree I did later through UNISA, to work productively until I was almost 78 years old.

Anne Burgess (Bachelor of Primary Education, 1986), Fish Hoek

Previous editions surpassed

Dear Editor,

Having graduated with an LLB in 1957 and having accordingly read many issues of *WITSReview* in various stages of its development, this edition, in every respect, surpassed the previous editions. I loved the appearance, size, texture and the mix of the content. The obituary section is important and I loved the trip down memory lane with Keyan G Tomaselli's Witsies of the Old Type. I will show it to my grandchildren but they will not be able to comprehend the technological advances described and which we have experienced. All the articles were incisive and made interesting reading by or about interesting people. Please accept my compliments.

Elzbe (née Conradie) van Niekerk (LLB 1957), Bloubergstrand. Widow of late Justice Andre M van Niekerk (LLB 1957)



Joburg Ah Joburg

Dear Editor,

I am an “uitlander” from Australia who spent 10+ years in South Africa (1988-1998). I was at Wits as a student and lecturer for just over five years (1993-1998).

Heather Dugmore’s article “Joburg Ah Joburg” (*WITS Review*, April 2014) struck a chord of nostalgia for me. In the 1990s I used to travel from my home in Kensington to Wits University via Bez Valley, Wolmarans, Rissik and De Korte Streets to Yale Road each morning and home via Jan Smuts and Smit Streets in the evenings. And I loved every minute of it! Joburg is dirty, often in a state of disrepair and frantically busy but, despite everything, she engenders a sense of excitement and optimism. I still feel good inside when I think of her. Having known her, you somehow want to claim an identity with her, and she certainly provides pleasant memories.

The idea is rampant that Joburg is dangerous and for this reason you tend to plan your trips if you have to pass through her. But I never had a bad moment in the best part of six years’ association with her. On the contrary, I recall fruitful visits to Commissioner Street (Carlton Centre, Standard Bank and ABSA Centre) and pleasant community experiences like a Portuguese

style meal at the Troyeville Hotel, where you always felt welcome, despite sharp, oblique and penetrating glances coming from the locals and having to pay someone to guard your vehicle.

I first visited Joburg in 1976 in the middle of the Soweto Riots. I was on my way to Nelspruit and had to spend a night in a hotel. An Australian aid worker suggested that the Moulin Rouge Hotel in Hillbrow was a good hotel. (Was he putting me on? – I am not sure). I walked around Hillbrow for an hour or so the next morning without incident and no fear. In the 1990s, my wife used to drive into Hillbrow each week to collect illegal immigrant ladies for a women’s meeting in opposition to the advice of her tennis friends who thought she was mad to do so. She told all and sundry that she had an angel on the bonnet of her car and never experienced any problems.

Ag Joburg! You keep on keeping on. Underneath the ground, men are still pulling out gold from Tommy Bulpin’s “greatest treasure on the earth” despite the frequent sounds of mine tunnels collapsing. That seems to tell us that Joburg above ground is still a mining town. People keep on loving her and living in her despite the apparent danger of doing so.

John Potter (BEd 1993, MEd 1995)

Letter has been shortened – Editor



World-class trash city

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed reading the last issue of *WITSReview*.

Here is my rant on the state of the city.

This is the city where people come in their numbers from near and far, villages and small towns, South African or not, to chase hopes and to live out their dreams. Sadly it is the same city that many people's dreams die in when it dawns on them how difficult chasing dreams can be.

I have to admit that I am one of the chasers and after studying at Wits University I departed from the city to chase the dream elsewhere as I believed, then, that there was nothing that this city had to offer me. I have to admit that in reality I missed the big lights, the constant buzzing of traffic, the inspiration to keep chasing and aspiring to be better, the hustle... so I came back with all my humble belongings in tow.

As much as I love Jozi, as it is affectionately known, I can't stand to see the filth in the inner city that I drive past every day on my way to work. As I look out my office window, and appreciate the skyline and take in the sound of the buzzing traffic and the hooting taxis, the reality of the filth causes my heart to sink.

The city is impeccably decorated with dirt everywhere and the municipality seems neither to care nor have a handle on it. The list of all the streets and intersections where this is clearly visible is as long as the M1, therefore, I am not even going to start.

My understanding is that there are people employed to clean up but that does not seem to help, for one of two reasons: either the people litter at a faster rate than the cleaners can clean or the cleaners are not doing their job. Either way, we as a people ought to be embarrassed by the state of our city. I cringe every time I see a motorist open their window to throw out take-away packages or a pedestrian empty a bag of chips into their mouth and the packet ends up on the street behind them.

In my opinion, the streets need to be cleaned every day and when people see how clean it is, I am hoping they would be embarrassed to litter like they currently do. I walk around the city and don't see enough rubbish bins and if I do see any, they are filled to overflowing.

I desire to live and work in a clean city and would love to see that being a reality. I know that mine might just be a small voice, but I am hoping that someone takes note. The slogan "A world-class African City" is very inspiring, however the state of the city now threatens to turn it into "a world-class trash city"...

I believe in this city and its ability to become, out of the filth, the great city that it can be.

Keletjo Chiloane (BSc(Eng) Metallurgy 2006 and MEng (Ind) 2013)



WITSIES REFLECT

Witsie of the old type

Dear Editor,

Keyan Tomaselli's delightful piece about Witsies of the Old Type in your April issue brought back so many memories of my early working days at Wits, some of which I thought I'd share with you.

In 1966 I was appointed temporarily for four months during the busy season in the Faculty of Arts office, Room 6, in Central Block.

In those days exam results were entered by hand in a large ledger book, then written in by hand on each student's curriculum card. I then had to type them onto the publication sheets on an old manual typewriter. Any mistakes quickly brought out the bottle of red correcting fluid. This red spotted wax stencil was then taken to John on the south side of Central Block who printed the results on a roneo machine, turning the handle by hand!

Matric results of the applicants were checked in the *Rand Daily Mail* and places were offered on the basis of this method. The newspaper was brought to the office by the third member of our staff, Hilda Hadley, who lived opposite Wits and bought the newspaper from the vendor outside the campus gates. The only Arts degree offered at that time which required the applicants' exact percentages was the degree of Logopaedics (later renamed Speech & Hearing Therapy). So Bob Powell, Faculty Secretary of the Faculty of Commerce, which was housed opposite our office in Central Block, spent three days in Pretoria, at

the Department of Education, copying out the matric marks by hand for our applicants as well as for those who had applied to the Faculty of Commerce. These marks were transcribed (by hand) onto the application forms.

We had a unique way of working out the number of students registered for any particular course. We had large square cards with each course printed around the edge with a hole next to each course on the edge of the card. The name of the student was typed onto the card and we had a clipper (like the bus conductors used to use) and we clipped open the hole on the edge of the card of the course/s for which the student was registered. These cards were then placed in a shoe box, and when we wanted to know how many students were registered for example for English 1 we took a knitting needle and passed it through all the English 1 holes. The cards where the holes of English 1 had been clipped dropped off the needle. These were counted and then we knew how many students were registered for that particular course.

There was a dress code for female admin staff. We were not permitted to wear trousers and at all times had to wear stockings and closed shoes (no sandals). Winters in Room 6 were particularly cold especially when the door was opened and a blast of freezing cold air attacked our nylon stockinged legs. I decided that this was no longer tolerable and paid Ken Standenmacher a visit to ask him to allow us to wear trousers. He finally agreed, but the stipulation was slack suits only (i.e. we had to wear jackets with the trousers) and definitely no jeans!

One of the most enjoyable aspects of working in the Faculty Office was getting to know the students, who often came in for advice or just for a chat, and over the years many of them have gone on to very successful careers. The one who springs instantly to mind and who we just knew was destined for great things was Helen Zille.

When the plans for the building of Senate House were drawn up we were entitled to look at them and to our horror we discovered that all the faculty offices were due to be housed on the 7th floor. I once again went to see Ken Standenmacher, saying that this was a really bad idea. Imagine thousands of students having to wait for the lifts each time they needed to ask a quick question? Well, he said, you'll have to do a survey and let us know how many people come in and out of your office each day for a week. It was July, vacation time, hardly anyone was around, but during that week the average was 65 people per day walking into the office. The plans were quickly revised and all the faculty offices were housed on the ground floor of Senate House.

Phyllis Hyde (BA Hons 1956)
School of Pathology

PS. My four months of "temporary work" continued for 11 years in the Faculty of Arts office, followed by 20 years as Faculty Secretary (later re-named Assistant Registrar) in the office of the Faculty of Medicine (later re-named Faculty of Health Sciences), followed by three years administering the Health Graduates Association and since 2000 as PA to Professor Keith Klugman in the Respiratory & Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit at the NICD (National Institute for Communicable Diseases).



WITSIES REFLECT

Dear Mr. Editor,

Thank you for your letter of yesterday's date about the debate on Friday.

Professor Dube will still join us on the platform and Professor Dube has agreed to be the Chair.

I would be glad if you would spread this and I look forward to receiving the outcome of your efforts you wish to make.

Academic freedom at Wits – the Soweto uprising debate

Dear Editor,

The Soweto uprising of June 1976 is etched on the minds of anyone who lived through it, and I am no exception. The image of Hector Pieterse's body being carried through the streets after he was shot is something no-one can possibly forget.

I was studying at Wits at the time, but the role of the University was by no means as simple as some may think.

I, along with a few score other students, demonstrated on Jan Smuts Avenue. Our protest in solidarity with the extraordinary bravery of the Soweto students was not universally popular. In the halls of residence, students were polishing their rifles after being put on stand-by by the army. And when a member of the public wrote to the papers expressing disgust at what we had done "at a moment of national crisis", the administration replied, dissociating the University from our marches.

We were furious, but there was not much we could do.

Then, in September 1976, the Senate Academic Freedom Committee decided it was time to approach the government to ask for the re-opening of Wits to all students, irrespective of race. While we of course wanted a non-racial University we were disgusted by their hypocrisy for not criticising the apartheid system in its entirety. We took their leaflet and printed a denunciation on the back, in which we denounced Wits as a "pillar of the very regime it purports to resist."



Our attack brought threats of expulsion for those of us who were involved in the campaign. In the end we approached the Vice-Chancellor, Professor GR Bozzoli and offered him – perhaps rather cheekily – a debate in the Great Hall before the entire University instead.

He accepted, and William Kentridge and I were faced with the daunting task of taking on Professor Bozzoli and Professor Tober. I remember a sea of faces before me as I got up to speak. My throat was dry, my knees trembled. But I still have the typed speech which I read that day.

I argued that freedom was indivisible and that no-one could call for academic freedom without taking a stand on wider freedoms. “We now live in a criminal state,” I said. “Hundreds of thousands of men and women are arrested each year for not being in the right place at the right time. Since June of this year, well over 300 people have been killed by the police, while 5 200 have been imprisoned for their opposition to this regime. We have reached the stage where all of us are being forced to make a choice. The University is choosing too.”

“Our alternatives are clear,” I argued. “We can either continue the façade of having no policy, effectively ensuring that we side with wealth and power, or we can become a true university of Africa.

But if we choose the latter, it will be a much harder path. It will require sacrifices on our part if we are to regain the respect of the vast majority of our fellow citizens.”

I suggested that even if the University was truly opened it would have to make allowances for the inferior education that black children received under apartheid. And I concluded that neutrality in the face of apartheid was not an option. “The University will have to abandon its hypocritical stand of calling for academic freedom while remaining so silent on other issues...Only then will the call for an open university be more than a hollow sham.”

It was all a bit pompous and perhaps a bit overblown. But it was well received. The rest of the debate was a bit of a blur, but we won hands down. After all, most of the audience were students and they backed us. So William Kentridge and I stayed at Wits and got our degrees.

It all seems a long time ago, yet the issues of that day are – I would suggest – still as relevant today as they were then.

Martin Plaut (BA Hons 1977), London

Letter has been shortened – Editor

ADAM'S APPLE – VC VISITS NEW YORK

The Wits Fund, Inc. held a breakfast in New York City for Vice-Chancellor and Principal Adam Habib on 5 May. Fund Chairman Stanley Bergman (BCom 1972) hosted a distinguished audience, including Board members Bruce Hubbard, David Schneider (LLB 1958) and John Teeger (BCom 1968), at his UN Plaza residence. Habib discussed the University's responsibility to be "globally competitive, yet nationally relevant". He said inequality was South Africa's Achilles heel and outlined measures to redress this, including scholarships and enhanced throughput programmes.



..... Left: (L-R) John Teeger, Stanley Bergman, Adam Habib and David Schneider at the Wits Fund breakfast in New York City.



(L-R) SRC President Shafee Verachia; Joyce Phiri; SRC Secretary General Michlene Mongae; Ferial Haffajee; Convocation President Prof. Mamokgethi Phakeng

DOES TYRANNY BECKON?

City Press editor Ferial Haffajee (BA 1989) asked “Does tyranny beckon?” at an alumni networking event held in the Senate Room on 19 March. Sixty-five Witsies attended the presentation, which focused on protests in present-day South Africa and their implied tyranny. Haffajee suggested, however, that the Constitutional Court countered tyranny. In the Q&A that followed, alumni debated the level of violence in South African society, the role business plays in corruption, the representation of political parties, and the need for the media to reflect a balanced view.



(L-R) Joel Shoot; CEO Telfed Doron Klein; Maurice Ostroff; David Kaplan; Les Glassman; (front) Vice Chair Telfed, Batya Shmmokler

WITSIES IN ISRAEL REUNITE

Dr Les Glassman (BSc 1979, BDS 1984) hosted the first joint reunion between Wits alumni and Telfed, an organisation of South Africans in Israel. Over 40 people attended the event held on 23 April at the Telfed office in Raanana. Guest speaker Joel Shoot, a lawyer from Johannesburg, addressed guests on the topic “Media reporting in Israel”. Glassman invites suggestions from alumni in Israel regarding future social events at which all Witsies are welcome, irrespective of political or religious persuasions. Contact him at lesglassman@gmail.com.

THE FOX IN SENATE HOUSE

Economist Clem Sunter spoke at Wits on 21 May at an alumni networking event. He addressed 160 alumni in the Senate Room on the topic “21st Century Mega-Trends: How a Fox Sees Them” (The fox refers to a metaphor about adaptability). Some trends include aging populations, global warming, stagnant economies and a changing job market. Sunter shared how he helps multinationals and governments plan for worst-case scenarios. In South Africa, threatening “flags” include poor leadership, an over-regulated business environment and tolerance of mediocrity. He said South Africa should take greater advantage of its resources and tourism potential.



(L-R) Rob Hammond; Clem Sunter; Jane Hammond; Gisela Collins



Top: (L-R) An Adelie penguin; Aerial view of the base at Vesleskarvet, Antarctica; Alumna Catherine Pavard
Frozen in motion: *S.A Agulhas II* parked in the bay ice



A large white and red icebreaker ship is shown from a low angle, sailing on a bright blue sea. The sun is high in the sky, creating a strong lens flare effect. The ship has a white upper hull with a red lower hull. The name 'SA AGULHAS II' is visible on the side of the ship. The text 'Dedicated to Alvaro Albuquerque' is written in red on the white part of the hull. The ship is moving towards the right of the frame, leaving a white wake behind it.

WITSIE CHILLS IN ANTARCTICA

Biomedical Engineering alumna (2013) Catherine Paverd was selected to visit Antarctica as part of the South African National Space Agency summer takeover team. The crew's mission was to install a new radar system at the South African National Antarctic Expedition base (SANAE IV).

"On 28 November we set off on the *SA Agulhas II*, a 134-metre long icebreaker," says Paverd. "The ice was a record thickness, but we eventually broke through and reached the continent." They then flew by chopper to the SANAE IV on 24 December.

The SANAE IV base at Vesleskarvet is 187-metres long and perches on an ice-clad, rocky outcrop known as a nunatak. These are normally black or dark brown in colour and in some cases can support some form of life, for instance, mosses, algae, insects, or birds.

"The base itself boasts a library, dining area, bar, TV room and multiple labs," says Paverd. The team, which spent three weeks at the base, was kept busy with "general base skivvies" work, including "throwing smelly" – the not-so-smelly process of shovelling fresh snow into a smelter to make water.

Paverd highly recommends a trip to this driest and coldest continent, "even though apparent temperatures sometimes dropped below -25°C !"



Architects of Justice: Alessio Lacovig; Mike Rassmann (centre); Kuba Granicki

A JUST WIN FOR LIBRARY ARCHITECTS

Three Architecture alumni were joint winners of the 2014 Young Architects in Africa (YAA) Award announced on 2 April. Kuba Granicki (BArch 2003), Mike Rassmann and Alessio Lacovig (both BArch 2002) are partners in a Johannesburg-based practice called Architects of Justice. Their project, "The Seed", is a blueprint for libraries in South African schools.

The libraries are constructed from reclaimed shipping containers. These modular and durable structures are standard in size, and easily sourced, assembled and transported. The first Seed library was installed at the MC Weiler School in Alexandra, Johannesburg, at a cost of R1-million.

Architects of Justice was a joint winner out of 194 projects from 26 African countries. It shared first place with Kenyan Urko Sanchez and Namibians Andre Christensen and Mieke Droomer.

The YAA Award aims to showcase African architectural creativity and stimulate global recognition for young architects. Projects must demonstrate architecture as art that is socially committed and engaged in constructing humanity's environment.

"The Seed" is on show at the Venice Architecture Biennale, which began on 5 June and runs until 30 August 2014.



Right: *Reading takes root:* "The Seed" is an architectural blueprint for libraries in South African schools. Pictured: The library at MC Weiler School, Alexandra, Johannesburg. **Images:** AROYAL Online

THIS BOOK PROVIDES INVULNERABLE
NEXT GENERATION OF ACTIVISTS TOOK UP THE STRUGGLE AGAINST
VERY DIFFICULT CONDITIONS, A STORY THAT HAS NOT OFTEN BEEN TOLD.'

— Ahmed 'Kathy' Kathrada



The “cover boys” then and now: (L-R) Glenn Moss, Charles Nupen, Eddie Webster, Cedric de Beer and Karel Tip

Back to the uprooters

More than 170 alumni, activists and comrades attended the Johannesburg launch of Glenn Moss’s book, *The New Radicals: A Generational Memoir of the 1970s*, at the stylishly renovated Wits Club on West Campus on 27 May.

BY DEBORAH MINORS

The launch featured a panel discussion with Moss (BA 1974, BA Hons 1976, MA 1983), Eddie Webster (BA Hons 1964, PhD 1983), Achmat Dangor and Barbara Hogan (BA 1977, BA Hons 1979).

Moss says, “The book is about the development of a new political radicalism in the 1970s. It grew from the ashes of the historical defeats of the 1960s, when militant politics was destroyed, when a culture of fear came to dominate within the country, when an understandably cautious multi-racial liberalism occupied what little space there was for political opposition.”

Moss was SRC President at Wits in 1973/74. Detained and charged under security legislation in the mid-1970s, he was acquitted after a year-long trial. His book tells the story of a generation of activists who embraced new forms of opposition politics that would have profound consequences.

“The organisations of national liberation were struggling for survival in exile; leadership was banned and imprisoned. The progressive trade union movement had been decimated by state action and by the incorporation of many of its best leaders and organisers into the underground campaign of sabotage and armed struggle. From these ashes, a whole new generation of political activism arose – initially on the campuses, both black and white, and then within the broader society.”

Many of these activists attended the launch, notably the book’s “cover boys” themselves: Moss, Webster, Charles Nupen, Cedric de Beer and Karel Tip (LLB 1981). Moss said of the cover: “It is the Nusas trialists after a year-long ordeal under the Suppression of Communism Act. All five are here tonight. Thanks, guys, for providing an image for the cover – and, more importantly, for sharing some of those years of radicalism and commitment.”

“...IT IS A BOOK ABOUT A GENERATION AND ITS POLITICS, ABOUT IDEAS AND CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS”

Vice-Chancellor and Principal Adam Habib, who couldn't attend, wrote that publication of *The New Radicals* would probably generate mixed feelings:

“On the one hand, it is a celebration of the lives of a generation of intellectuals and academics who inhabited the corridors of our universities, including Wits, and changed our world. But for many the publication of this book will also be a poignant moment. Too many of this original cohort of scholars and intellectuals who ventured out to transform our world are no longer with us.

But perhaps today, through those who are still present, and through their memories, we can once again connect to those who are no longer in our midst. And as we connect with them, we celebrate their lives, their contributions to the creation of the world we now live in.”

Moss emphasises that *The New Radicals* is not an autobiography and not about individuals. Rather, it is a book about a generation and its politics, about ideas and campaigns and events.

The book takes its place in a growing initiative for “political internals” of the 1970s and 1980s to “take back their history”.

Moss concludes: “The project of re-balancing the history of how change came about in South Africa, of the contribution of individuals and organisations who have been air-brushed from that process, and of the lessons which this past can provide for understanding and engaging with the highly unsatisfactory present, is something with which I am proud to be associated.”

■ READ A REVIEW OF *THE NEW RADICALS* ON PAGE 56.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FEATURING *THE NEW RADICALS*

22 July: An evening over dinner with the author of *The New Radicals*, Troyeville Hotel, Johannesburg.

28 July at 17:00: A discussion on *The New Radicals* at the offices of Ndifuna Ukwazi, Cape Town.

Wits students hail the Republic
at the Rand Stadium, May 1971.
Image: Museum Africa PH2014-25

The New Entrepreneurs

BY HEATHER DUGMORE

New South African entrepreneurs are on the rise in Braamfontein and many are Witsies. Quantity surveyor Mbekezeli Khumalo is one of them.

Wits

Centre of Entrepreneurship



TREEScANSAVE OUR RHINOS



On any day in Braamfontein, in hubs, offices, studio apartments, art galleries and coffee shops, you will find graduates getting together to brainstorm novel businesses.

One such business is boxworM, of which Mbekezeli Khumalo is the team leader. A new innovation house, it is developing technological solutions for a range of challenges, from rhino poaching to new-era media and information access.

“It started when I and a friend of mine at Wits, Gola Motswane, who also graduated with Honours in Quantity Surveying, had this vision of using game technology to help address the rhino poaching problem,” he explains. They teamed up with graphic designer Shawn Lukas and launched boxworM from Lukas’ studio apartment in Braamfontein, with an anti-poaching game and YouTube video called Trees and Rhinos as their first project.

“Working in Braamfontein is highly stimulating. Graduates and new entrepreneurs from a wide range of disciplines are getting together here and using their respective training and skills to develop novel businesses,” says Khumalo. “IT specialists are teaming up with teachers, scientists with restaurateurs, quantity surveyors with artists...it is multidisciplinary at its best and a great time to be here.”

Khumalo travels daily from his home in Soweto to work with Lukas on boxworM’s growing number of projects. Motswane joins them after hours as he is currently in full-time employment as a quantity surveyor with the mining consulting company TWP, from whom he received a bursary.

“We’re extremely thorough about researching our subject, market and target audience before launching a project,” says Khumalo. “Before developing the game and 90-second animated video for Trees and Rhinos our first step was to research the attitudes to rhino poaching in the schools and communities around South Africa’s game reserves.

“While we were conducting our research we found out that the kids in these schools, specifically in matric, were starting to look at poaching as a profitable career option. Many of them are aware of people in their community who are part of rhino poaching rings and they see them living lavish lifestyles and start regarding them as role models. We think this is devastating and so we came up with Trees and Rhinos to educate learners.”

The boxworM team aims to help learners to understand why rhino conservation is so important for South Africa and for the communities living around the reserves who depend to a large degree on tourists coming to their region to see the Big Five.

They also want learners to understand that the rhino is a flagship animal of the natural environment on which all humans depend for survival.

The simple two-dimensional game uses the latest anti-poaching technology of detecting poachers from trees but Khumalo cannot disclose how it works as it may alert poachers.

In *Trees and Rhinos* the player is a baby rhino that is separated from its mother. The player must work through the game and obstacles to find its mother. The game has been developed in 2D so that it can be downloaded and played on even the most basic WAP phones (mobile phones that can connect to the Internet).

“WE FOUND OUT THAT THE KIDS IN THESE SCHOOLS, SPECIFICALLY IN MATRIC, WERE STARTING TO LOOK AT POACHING AS A PROFITABLE CAREER OPTION”



“This is important to us as the kids who will play this game live in impoverished areas,” says Khumalo.

Such is the success of the game and YouTube video that the *boxworM* team was chosen as one of 20 semi-finalists out of 2 200 entries this year in the Africa Connected Campaign. This is an initiative by Google aimed at entrepreneurial innovators from across sub-Saharan Africa who are using the web and technology to overcome challenges, transform their work and improve the lives of others. “We didn’t win but it was highly encouraging and confidence-building. We know we are on the right track and we are currently concluding a partnership with the Serious Games Institute in London to help us produce the game and get it out this year.

GAME ON

“We are also looking for sponsors to help us get the game out to the rural communities. We want to do a roadshow where we can talk to learners, show them the YouTube video and help them download the game onto their phones. We would also like South Africa’s zoos to be central hubs where children can download the game so that the township children who are brought to the zoos for visits can also participate,” says Khumalo.

Another project on the table at boxworM is an augmented reality application called Paperclick. Khumalo explains: “It’s about making paper clickable – giving smartphones the ability to unlock content from print. So, for example, with this app, which is free to users, you can use your smartphone to instantly scan an advert for Wits in the newspaper or on a pillar in the street. The app then automatically launches all the digital content that Wits would like to share with you, on your smartphone.”

It’s a huge, unlimited new area that is rapidly developing in the United Kingdom and the United States. Khumalo went to the UK this year to discuss purchasing a South African licence with a company there that focuses on augmented reality.

“There were problems with their app, so we decided to develop our own. Gola is the IT fundi – he has his finger on the pulse when it comes to new tech and comes up with all these crazy ideas.

“We then found some investors who were interested in providing seed capital for our app – and we are now in the final testing phase,” continues Khumalo. He says the only limiting factor is that the app relies on Wi-Fi (technology which allows wireless connection to the Internet in a limited area).

With Tshwane leading the way in South African cities that offer Wi-Fi, there is no holding them back.

Towards developing his entrepreneurial skills Khumalo has completed a foundation and advanced course in entrepreneurship at the Branson Centre of Entrepreneurship in Braamfontein, as well as further training in accelerated entrepreneurship through the SAB Foundation and GIBS.



“...SOUTH AFRICA IS WIDE OPEN
FOR NEW ENTREPRENEURS.
THE POTENTIAL IS JUST AMAZING”

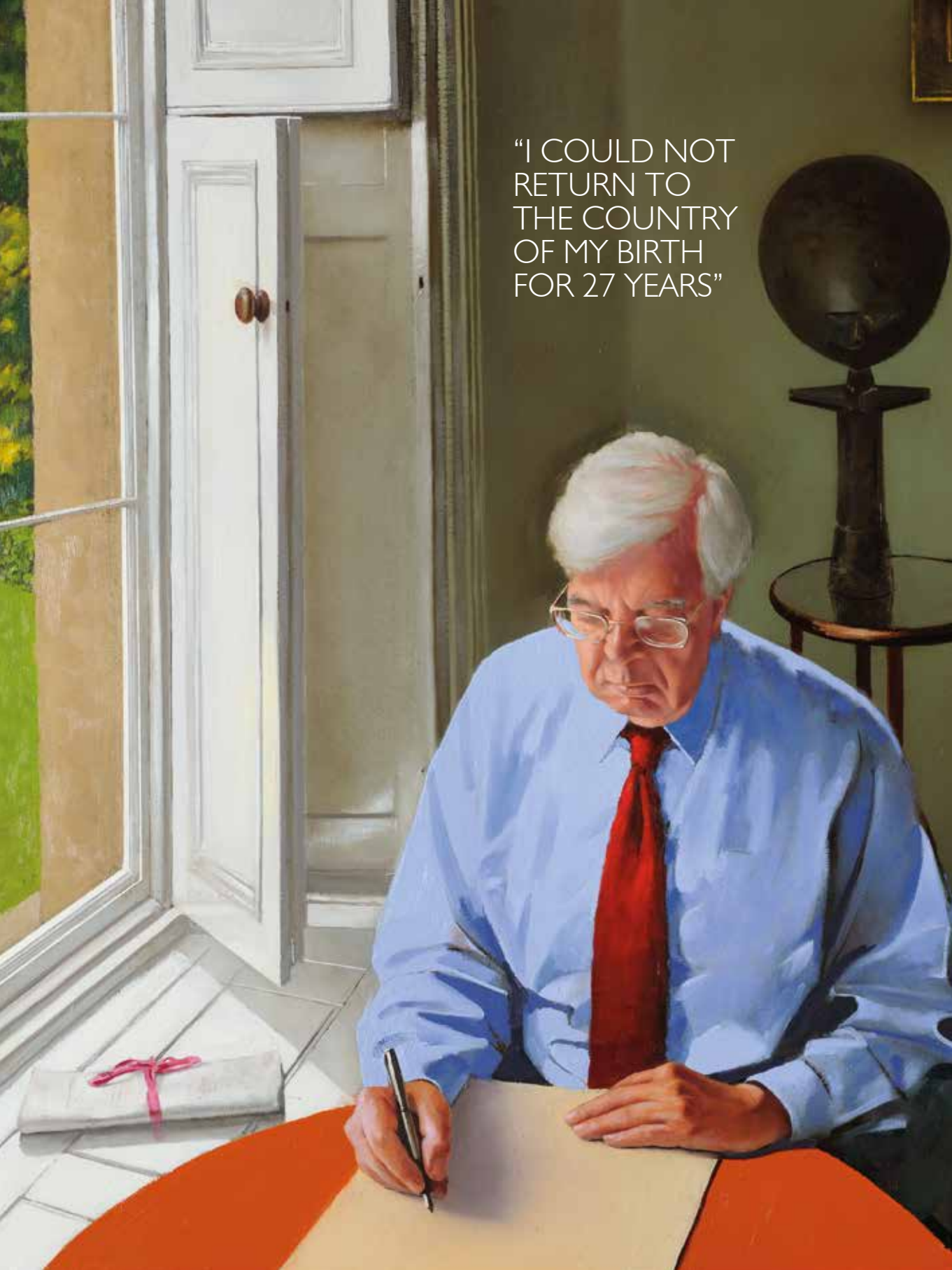


Determined to succeed as an entrepreneur, he keeps his eyes and ears open, and he's part of a network of likeminded people who are helping each other progress. His Branson Centre training came about after he noticed the sign for the centre while walking in Melle Street in Braamfontein, and went inside and asked what it was all about. When he found out he could receive training, he didn't hesitate, and today he and fellow Wits alumnus Miles Kubheka (founder and owner of Vuyo's restaurant in Braamfontein) are mentoring other new entrepreneurs at the Centre.

"We recently held a workshop there for a group from Liberia. It was so inspiring to experience their energy and enthusiasm. They have emerged from a hectic civil war and are very passionate about rebuilding their country," says Khumalo.

As a young South African he believes this is a great time to rebuild our own country: "Twenty years into our democracy, we are now at the stage where we are starting to figure out what freedom means. It doesn't mean I can live here or go there or buy that; it means we have the opportunity to reinvent ourselves and develop ideas and innovations that can lead our country forward and take us anywhere in the world. Markets like the US and Europe are largely saturated where opportunities are concerned, but South Africa is wide open for new entrepreneurs. The potential is just amazing."

"I COULD NOT
RETURN TO
THE COUNTRY
OF MY BIRTH
FOR 27 YEARS"



Professor Sir Bob Hepple (BA 1955, LLB 1957, honorary LLD 1996) is Emeritus Master of Clare College and Emeritus Professor of Law at the University of Cambridge, Queen's Counsel and a Fellow of the British Academy. He was knighted in 2004.

Q&A

with Professor Sir Bob Hepple

BY DEBORAH MINORS

Your Order of Luthuli recognises your "bravery in times where fighting for liberation was courting danger". What was your most terrifying experience?

The worst was on 11 July 1963 when I was at a meeting with five of the underground leaders at Liliesleaf farm, and heard a laundry van come down the drive. Rusty Bernstein shouted: "My God, I saw that van outside the Rivonia police station on the way here." Police jumped out of the van and within moments we were under arrest. I was painfully handcuffed to Ahmed Kathrada. Govan Mbeki whispered, "This is going to be high treason, chaps." That was pretty scary.

You were a legal adviser to Nelson Mandela. What advice of yours did he take – and not take?

This was not an ordinary professional relationship. I had been one of his support team when he went underground in May 1961, and he asked me to act as his legal adviser when he was arrested in 1962 and charged with organising an unlawful stay-at-home. We discussed his political defence as well as legal issues such as the application for the magistrate to stand down after he was escorted to lunch by a prosecution witness!

We also worked together on his closing speech (now in the Wits Historical Papers Archive). In his memoir he generously said that I made the task of conducting his defence comparatively easy.

Can you speculate on an alternative outcome if you hadn't escaped to England?

I would probably have received life imprisonment as a co-conspirator. If I had been acquitted I would have been a banned person unable to contribute to the liberation movement for many years.

How did being a banned person affect you?

I could not return to the country of my birth for 27 years and nothing I said could be quoted in South Africa. One Wits law professor even had to apply to the Minister for permission to cite an article I had written in the *South African Law Journal* in 1961.

You wrote *Young Man with the Red Tie: A Memoir of the Failed Revolution 1960/63* in 2013. What's changed most in the past 50 years?

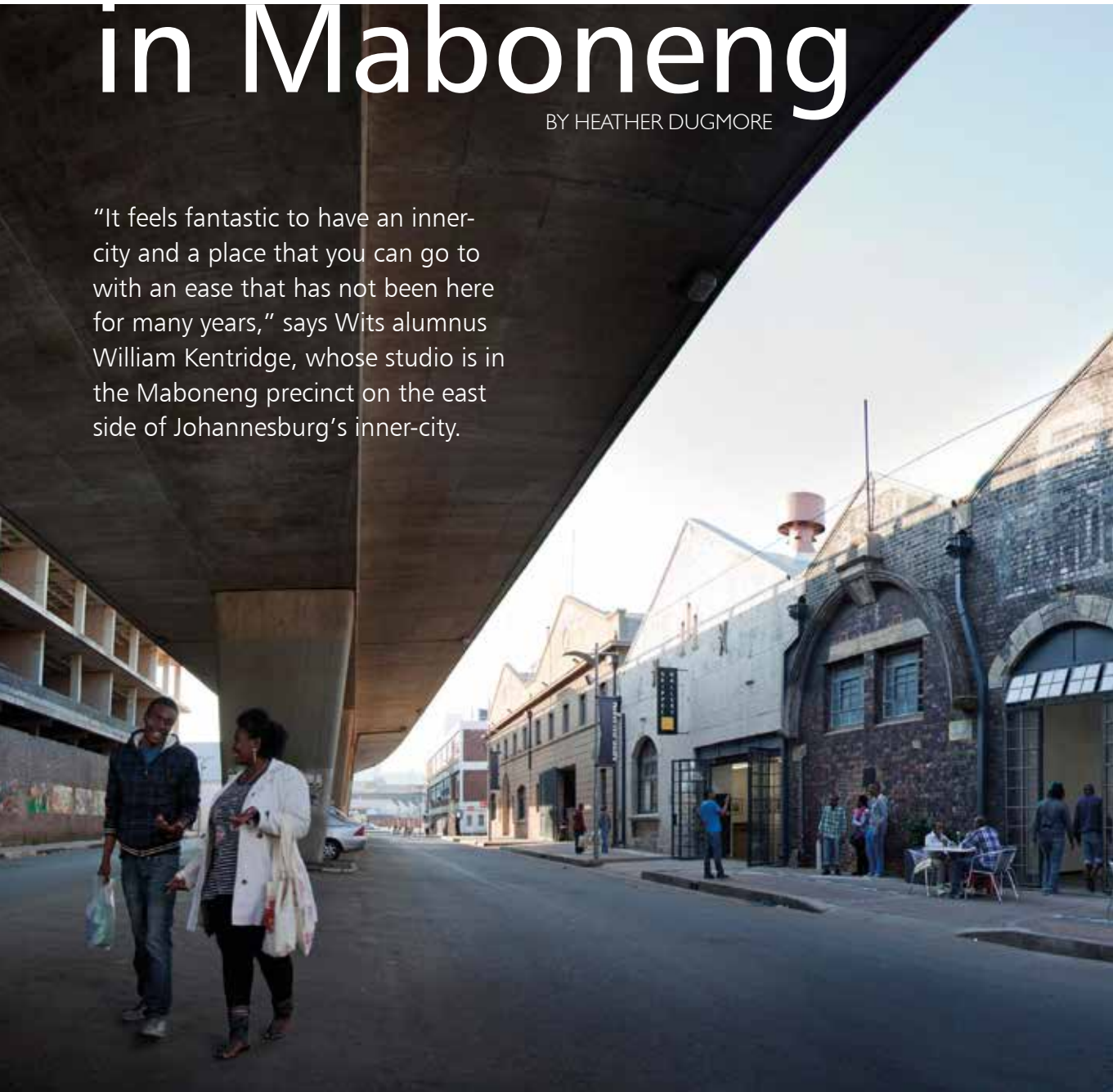
South Africa now has a guarantee of human rights, an independent judiciary and a free press. I remain optimistic so long as these pillars of a free society are maintained.

..... Portrait of Professor Sir Bob Hepple by Tomas Watson.
..... Reproduced with kind permission of the Master,
..... Fellows and Scholars of Clare College, Cambridge.

East side ease in Maboneng

BY HEATHER DUGMORE

"It feels fantastic to have an inner-city and a place that you can go to with an ease that has not been here for many years," says Wits alumnus William Kentridge, whose studio is in the Maboneng precinct on the east side of Johannesburg's inner-city.



In this, the second feature in our series on Joburg,



PHOTOS: PETER MAHER, NICOLE STERLING & PROPERTY/MABONENG PRECINCT

we explore Maboneng, Sotho for Place of Light.

PLACE OF LIGHT

When your shirt-maker is situated in the same neighbourhood as your business, you know you're at home. Such is the case for the artist William Kentridge, whose studio is in the Arts on Main building in Maboneng, or Jeppe, as it was once called.

His shirt-maker, Elizabeth Kading of five8ths, has a shop on Maverick Corner in Maboneng. Her ethos speaks of the culture of Mabonengers – an inner-city tribe devoted to re-imagining discarded spaces to make way for, as Kading puts it, “a more stylish, less wasteful world”.

The money follows

It's well known that creative people the world over are the pioneers of inner-city regeneration. They move into abandoned industrial buildings for the size and price, and the money follows. Which is precisely what has happened in Maboneng, where Kentridge moved five years ago.

“I needed a larger, more industrial studio and found it in a warehouse in Jeppe that is now part of Arts on Main, but I certainly did not buy it as an investment in Maboneng,” he says. “I'm not a property developer; I don't invest in property in the inner or outer city.”

He's not, but when giant names like Kentridge move into a development, alongside the David Krut Print Workshop and gallery, others take note and do the same. This certainly played a role in the rise and shine of Arts on Main, which was restored, redeveloped and launched in 2009 by property developer Jonathan Liebmann.

The man behind Maboneng

At the age of 31 Liebmann is widely renowned as The Man Behind Maboneng. His property development company, Propertuity, aims “to use art, design, architecture and cultural activations to set in motion the transformation of degenerated areas into thriving neighbourhood destinations”.

Since 2009, Propertuity has restored and redeveloped 10 buildings in Maboneng and currently owns over 40 buildings, scheduled for the same. They're all mixed-use developments, with residential, retail, restaurant and entertainment spaces combined, each with a distinct name. There's Maverick Corner, Revolution House, Main Street Life, Urban Fox, Craftmen's Ship, Rocket Factory and more.

Liebmann's rationale for putting finance and energy into Maboneng was triggered in 2008 when he returned from living and working abroad.

Interact with the urban environment

“I became frustrated with Johannesburg in that there was nowhere I felt that I could live or work and have a proper interaction with the urban environment.” This prompted him to convert a property for himself on the fringe of the city.

“That was when I discovered that converting properties was something I was passionate about. I then started looking at places in the Johannesburg CBD where I could develop these kinds of spaces for myself and likeminded individuals.”

Five years later his developments are flying off the shelves, many selling off plan. The prices are not for the modest pocket, ranging from around R350 000 for a small studio space to R3.9-million for a furnished penthouse.

Entrepreneurs and urban investment magnates

The price span speaks of the range of owners and tenants, from 20- to 40-something year-old entrepreneurs to urban investment magnates. Many of them are out and about in the streets of Maboneng, riding bicycles, drinking freshly brewed coffee and eating homemade muesli or deli delights at their local, like Uncle Merv's on the corner of Fox and Kruger Streets or at Origin at Arts on Main.



Place of Light: Maboneng's Arts on Main features markets alongside galleries, theatres, hotels, and street cafés. It is also home to the studio of alumnus William Kentridge.

ARTS ON MAIN



As Kentridge puts it: “Maboneng is about a number of diverse, mostly small-scale initiatives coming together to change the inner-city streets into comfortable places to walk, and into a precinct that is familiar rather than threatening.”

Strolling up Fox Street

Strolling up Fox Street – the spine of Maboneng – on a sunlit Sunday, you straightaway feel the urban-suburban mood. Yet just five years ago you would not have walked around here with any sense of ease.

Sunday is market day in Maboneng, when people flock from the north, south, east and west of Joburg to enjoy the feast of foods, artworks, clothing and collectibles (no Chinese trinkets) at the market in the Arts on Main complex and in the surrounding streets.

Getting here is a bit of a maze, as the route to Maboneng from the highway is not clearly marked, which can be scary for those unaccustomed to the inner city.

Surprised and fascinated

But once you are here, the world of Maboneng opens its arms to you, and you’ll most certainly be surprised and fascinated by its lineup of businesses, coffee shops, restaurants, nightclubs, theatres, cinemas, hotels, backpacker accommodation, art galleries and museums.

It’s an inspiring model of regeneration, and for those who knew Joburg in its heyday and its subsequent decline, it is heart-warming to see Jeppe come to life once more.

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Maboneng’s Minister of Tourism

A few blocks up Fox Street is Curiosity Eastcity Backpackers, where our *WITSReview* team meets up with Maboneng’s Minister of Tourism and co-owner of Curiosity, Bheki Dube.

Offering tours of the inner city and Maboneng, and accommodation in Curiosity’s restored Edwardian industrial building, Dube, 22, was born and raised in nearby Troyeville.

“I grew up among artists and rebels of great consciousness with a group of incredible mothers raising us, like my mom Attah Dube and the singer Jennifer Ferguson. They provided an art centre for us when we were young and shaped the way we thought and saw society,” says Dube, who studied photojournalism at the Market Photo Workshop.



“Joburg has always been my passion”

“Joburg has always been my passion and I began exploring the city on my skateboard, taking photos, which is how the idea of starting a tourism company was born.”

In 2011 he and Greg Solik, a lawyer who was working at the Constitutional Court at the time, got together to create an inner-city tourism company called Main Street Walks. “We wanted to reorient people about the hidden treasures and workings of the city of Joburg,” explains Dube, who took over the business after Solik moved to Cape Town.

Today Dube employs four tour guides and Main Street Walks offers visitors several innovative options: from urban hiking tours to picnics in the sky at the top of the Carlton Centre, to adventures in the Mai Mai Traditional Healers Market and the Ethiopian Quarter on Jeppe Street.

Curiosity Eastcity Backpackers

Taking the next step in his business, Dube wanted to open a backpacker destination in Maboneng, as he wanted people to stay in the inner-city, not just take the tours and leave. He approached Liebmann with the idea, and in 2013 Curiosity Backpackers opened for business. Dube co-owns it with Liebmann.

Curiosity’s building has an intriguing history: it was once home to Pacific Press, which printed all sorts of material for the ANC in the 1950s, and was well known to prominent activists, including Nelson Mandela, Joe Slovo and Desmond Tutu.

Passing through: 12 Decades Hotel and Curiosity Backpackers on Fox Street in Maboneng

Room rates range from R160 for the dormitories to R360 for the standard double rooms. Meals are available at the in-house restaurant, Sha’p Braai, where good old South African fare is served – pap & vleis, chicken & salad and boerie rolls. Residents can also eat at any one of the 18 restaurants in Maboneng, from delis to sushi bars to Ethiopian and Israeli restaurants.

From the gold rush to apartheid

Other accommodation offerings in Maboneng include the 12 Decades Hotel in Fox Street, where each room represents a different decade of Joburg’s history, from the gold rush to apartheid to democracy and freedom. Rates here are R870 per night.

Both Curiosity and 12 Decades have been hosting plenty of European travellers and the domestic market is growing. “Once you convince a local tourist to come on an inner-city tour and befriend the city, they bring other people here and so the network grows,” says Dube. Shuttle services are offered to all visitors.

To reunite young people with the inner-city they offer the Urban Geography School Tours for learners. “A girl from a private school in the northern suburbs was so taken with the tour that she brought her parents and grandparents here later, which is exactly what we want to happen,” he adds.



“...THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HERE, ALL CONTRIBUTING TO THE JOYOUS, PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE”

Highlights and lowlights

The *WITSReview* team is part of this converted niche, as Dube takes us on a magical Maboneng tour, where we take in the highlights and lowlights of inner-city regeneration.

Up the road from Curiosity is a burnt-out former Italian Laundromat inhabited by 50 squatters, including families with young children.

As often happens in the process of gentrification, squatters are pushed out of the precinct, but the Mabonengers are hoping to adopt a different approach through the Global Regeneration Initiative for Neighbourhood Development (GRIND).

“The idea is to convert the burnt-out building into a more formal structure with water and electricity, with the tenants paying a minimal rent,” Dube explains.

The oldest resident, a traditional healer named Manana who has lived here for 40 years, says they would welcome the change.

Bree Street Belle

From this sobering reality we head for Smack! Republic, a microbrewery in the Arts on Main complex, for a bottle of Bree Street Belle. It was voted the best beer by a new brewery in South Africa, in the 2013/14 SAB Craft Brewers Championship.

Bree Street Belle in hand, we explore the local art galleries, where Wits alumni feature prominently. At Rubixcube we meet curator Michael Kaplan, who studied music at Wits. He co-curates this gallery space with Wits alumnus and artist Frederick Clarke. The next exhibition at Rubixcube, *Water Crisis* by Refilwe Vincent Mpobole, opens on 3 July at 7pm.

Museum of African Design

From here we head up the road to MOAD, the Museum of African Design, in Commissioner Street, where Wits lecturer Niall Bingham's exhibition *Mirror Images* is open to all, at no charge.

MOAD's philosophy is to celebrate South African and African design – from fashion to fine art. It also uses the space for functions and fun nights, including cocktail parties and roller discos.

An open-air art gallery

The entire Maboneng precinct is an open-air art gallery, with over 30 public artworks, including building-scale murals.

One of the murals features Jan van Riebeeck wearing an African print shirt; another is a 40-metre tall (10-storey) black and white mural of Madiba boxing; both are by Ricky Lee Gordon (aka Freddy Sam).

The text of the mural reads: I AM BECAUSE WE ARE. "Nelson Mandela taught us that we cannot be human by ourselves. This is a constant theme in all my work," Gordon explains. Other artists featured in Maboneng's public artworks include Wits Fine Arts alumnus Stephen Hobbs, Faith 47, Dal East and Hannelie Coetzee.

R3.9-million penthouse

Heading back down Fox Street we stop in at The Townhouse, a fourth-floor penthouse that's on show. An estate agent hands us a luxurious, full-colour portfolio of the property, which comes with a price tag of close on R3.9-million, décor included.

It claims "a panoramic view over the city, best enjoyed from the wraparound deck that surrounds the 282 square metre home". The more cynical would call it more of a rooftop view, some of the roofs being rather rusty, but it personifies the urban-industrial-slick that Mabonengers and would-be Mabonengers prefer.

..... **Opposite page & above:** *Drawing inspiration:* Jan van Riebeeck by Ricky Lee Gordon (a.k.a Freddy Sam) surveys Maboneng's street art. **Right:** Inner-city penthouse with panoramic urban views.



"SIMPLY SAID,
MABONENG IS
EXACTLY WHAT
JOBURG NEEDS,
AND EVERYONE
SHOULD VISIT"



PLACE OF LIGHT

Joyous, peaceful atmosphere

By the time we complete our tour, Maboneng is teeming; there are thousands of people here, all contributing to the joyous, peaceful atmosphere. The whole precinct is also well guarded, with helpful security guards visible everywhere.

“Sundays are definitely the best days to visit, but for all of us who live, play and work in Maboneng we enjoy being here throughout the week,” says Dube. He says they feel safe here because they have reclaimed the streets.

This is seconded by the Maboneng Precinct’s Brand Manager, Hayleigh Evans, who is also the owner/manager and performer at the POPart Theatre, an 80-seater theatre in the Main Street Life building. She says she frequently walks home alone late at night.

Comfortable as a single woman

“I don’t think I would feel as comfortable as a single woman anywhere else,” she says. “Once you have been exposed to the urban lifestyle of Maboneng you’re not going to move out. Most of my friends live here now, some with children or mabobabas (Maboneng babies) who will attend the primary school we’re developing here, along with a park.”

It seems there’s no stopping the Mabonengers and the “mass expansion” that Propertuity is planning for the precinct, as Liebmann puts it. From here he’s setting his sights on other cities in South Africa and Africa.

And while Liebmann colonises the continent, Sir Stan will continue to teach people how to box and handle themselves on the streets of Jozi, just as he always has.

Sir Stan’s Athletic Club

Sir Stan – Stan Ndlovu – established Sir Stan’s Athletic Club in 1978 as a professional boxing and fitness gym on the corner of Fox and Kruger Streets. In addition to boxing lessons, he offers one-on-one training, group cross-fit workouts and boot camp training. At between R300 and R500 per month, Sir Stan’s is another hidden gem of old Jeppe brought back to life.

Simply said, Maboneng is exactly what Joburg needs, and everyone should visit. As 16-year-old Jesse Sterling, who experienced Maboneng for the first time, puts it: “I love the vibe, the liveliness, it’s so energetic. If I was to draw it, I’d draw a zigzag.”

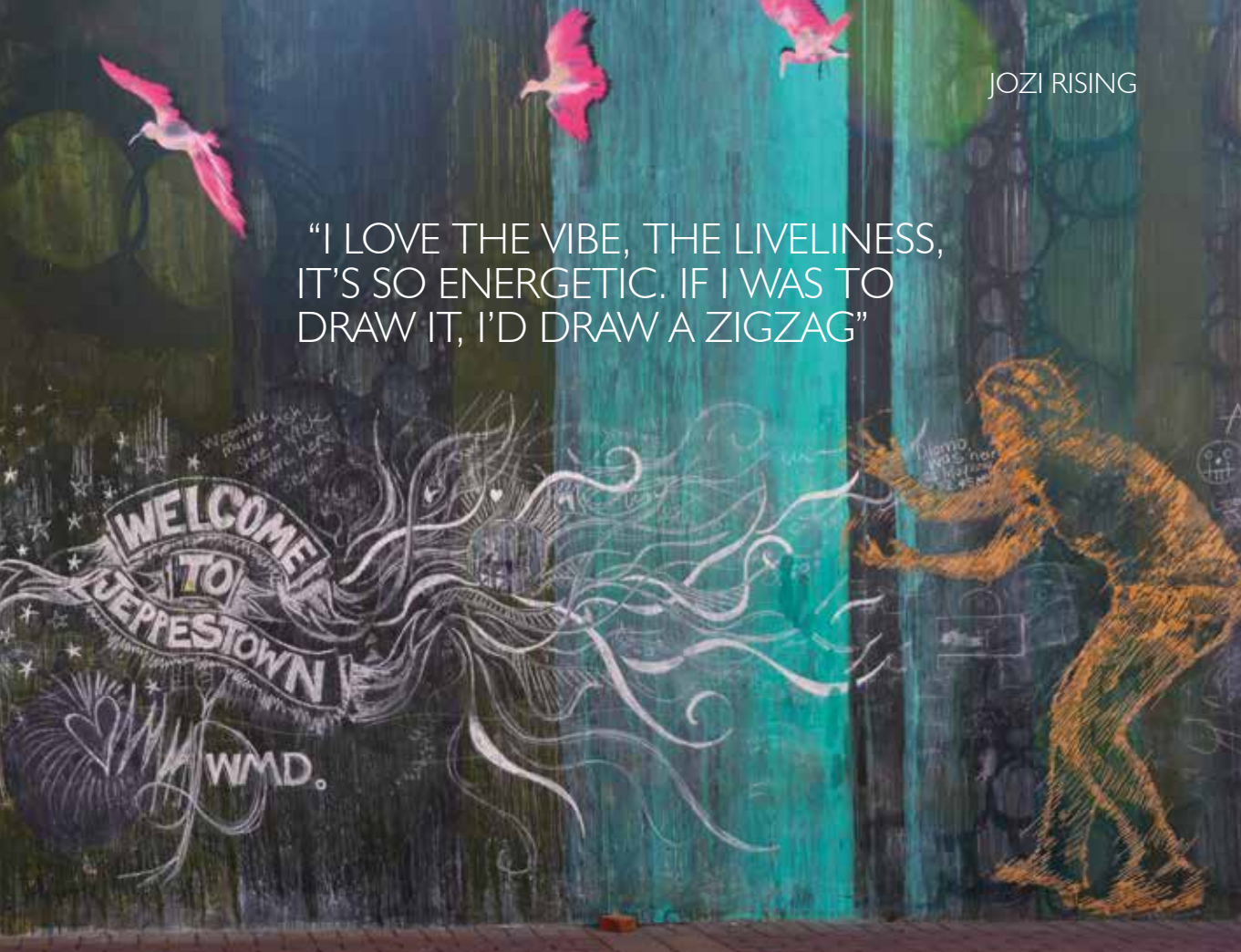


For more information:

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“I LOVE THE VIBE, THE LIVELINESS,
IT'S SO ENERGETIC. IF I WAS TO
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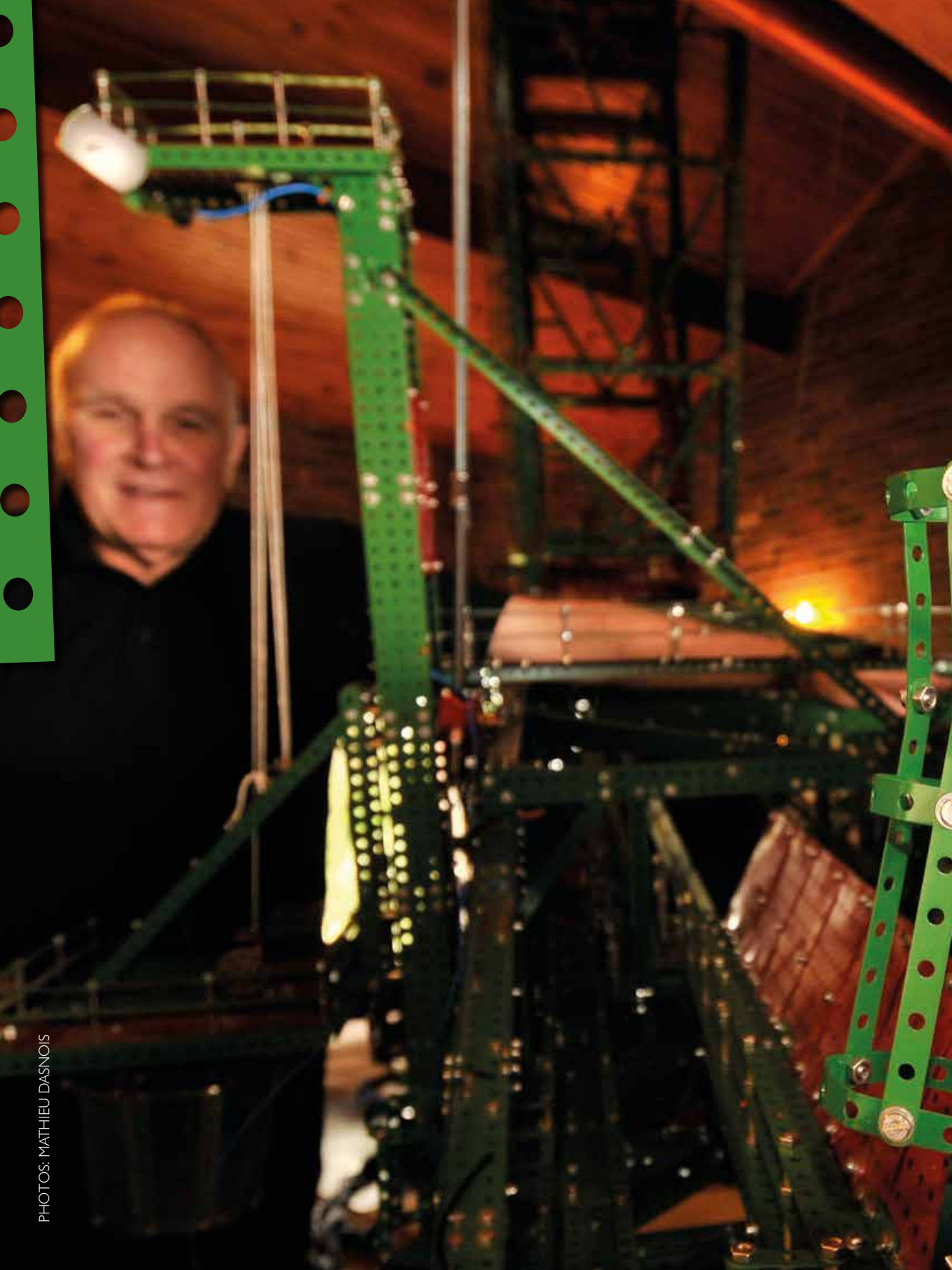


Sunday smorgasbord: Market Day at Arts on Main is a gastronomic delight.



Websites:

- www.mabonengprecinct.com
- www.moadjhb.com
- www.curiositybackpackers.com
- www.mainstreetwalks.co.za



PHOTOS: MATHIEU DASNOIS

MATH MECCANO

Monster in the Lounge

BY HEATHER DUGMORE

“Your wife must be very patient” is a familiar comment in Wits alumnus Graham Shepherd’s home, where the world’s largest Meccano model has colonised the lounge.

Shepherd is the envy of every married Meccano modeller worldwide on account of his wonderful wife Eileen. She has allowed him to do final assembly of the world’s largest Meccano model – a 1 300kg, 12.5-metre-long, 5.2-metre-high replica of a coal excavating machine – in the lounge and dining room of their Grahamstown home. Which is why tea at his house is an unusual affair, as you chat through the arms of the excavator.

“I under-estimated the final height of this model, which has taken me five years to build. The first three years of construction were in our garage but as time went by I realised the model was outgrowing the garage and that I would have to shift it to our double-volume lounge,” says Shepherd, who lectured in Applied Mathematics for 40 years, initially at Wits University, followed by the then University of Durban-Westville, and finally Rhodes University, before he retired two years ago.

Work on the Meccano project started in mid-2009, with a laser facility in Port Elizabeth cutting out the parts from mild steel, and a home bench drillpress drilling the holes – about one million of them or, equivalently, a hole one kilometre deep. In essence, Shepherd made 99.7% of the parts over a period of 18 months, with the remaining 0.3% comprising genuine Meccano parts. Assembly required 75 000 bolts, 85 000 nuts and 70 000 washers.

It’s an exact replica of the Bagger 288 bucket wheel excavator built by Krupp for the Hambach open-pit mine in Germany. At 95-metres high (the equivalent of a 30-storey building), 225-metres long and weighing 13 500 metric tonnes, the original can move 240 000 cubic metres of material a day.

The pressing question is: why build the model? Why would anyone do this?

“My lifelong love affair with machines,” Shepherd replies. “It started when I was a very young boy and my father, who was a fitter and turner in Benoni, would bring home bits and pieces that he found on the scrapheap at work to show me how machines are made.”

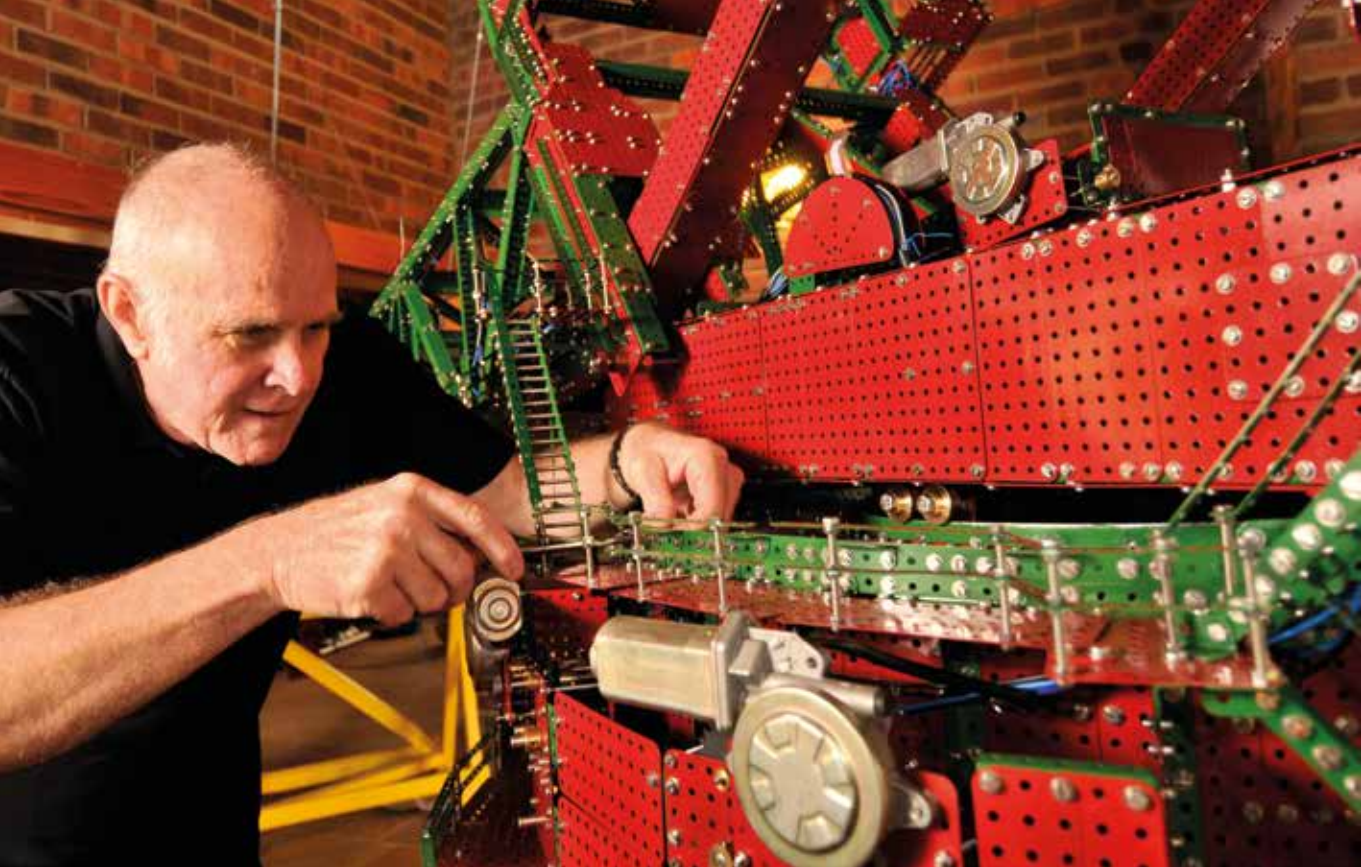
And so began his lifelong fascination, stoked at age five when he saw the 1955 Walt Disney film adaptation of the Jules Verne novel *20 000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

“I was totally blown away by Captain Nemo’s fantastic creation, the submarine *Nautilus*, driven by ‘the fire which burns in the stars’, a possible allusion to nuclear fusion,” he explains. “Nemo instantly became my hero for creating this wonderful machine. The fact that he used it in acts of deadly revenge for the deaths of his wife and child at the hands of a military regime somehow eluded the five-year-old me.”

His dreams of wonderful machinery found expression when he was given his first Meccano set at the age of seven.



 **KRUPP**
SIEMENS



Meccano is a metal-based construction toy, invented in 1904 by Frank Hornby of Liverpool to amuse his own children, but which became a worldwide best seller. Hornby also made wonderful toy train sets called the Hornby Dublo.

Shepherd recalls with a hint of amusement how, when he was a house tutor and junior lecturer at Wits, he was forced to store an 11-foot Meccano model of a Union Pacific Big Boy locomotive in his room at Ernest Oppenheimer Hall (EOH) due to problems with a non-understanding stepmother. Unfortunately it had to be dismantled when the Dean of Residence pointed out that the cleaning staff could not get into his room.

Life in residence was a little more formal in Shepherd's student days: "At EOH we had formal dinner once a week when we had to wear ties, the Dean said grace in Latin and there was often a speaker afterwards.

"I was privileged to be lectured by some very fine people at Wits. These are the unsung heroes of the

profession," he says. "One was the late George Buric, whose clarity and precision in his lectures and written notes were an inspiration to me in my own teaching, and whose explanation of the foundations of quantum mechanics was instrumental in inspiring a lifelong interest in me. I must also mention those who inspired a love of Applied Mathematics by the clarity of their instruction: the late Dr Roland Walker, the late Professor Francis Harrington, Doug Wilson and the doyen of Applied Mathematics in South Africa, Professor Arthur Bleksley."

As a first-year student he had "the great privilege and pleasure" of being lectured by Dr Thomas Pinfeld in the Chemistry 1Z class, which was the option for Science students as well as the Chemical Engineering students.

"The class was quite a high-spirited one, which I imagine might have tried the patience of a lecturer not up to Dr Pinfeld's wit," he recalls.

“I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HAPPIEST WHEN ENGAGED IN SOMETHING INVOLVING DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION. I DESIGNED OUR GRAHAMSTOWN HOME AND BUILT ABOUT 60% OF IT MYSELF”

“It happened that the 1Z lectures were given in a room with no windows and which hence was in total darkness when the lights were switched off. Moreover, there were dual controls to the lights, from the front and back of the room. This fact was discovered by some of the Engineering brethren (as Dr Pinfold called them). And so the lights were doused on a day when he was to demonstrate the combination of atoms to form molecules by the overlapping of the different orbitals of the respective atoms, as dictated by the rules of quantum mechanics.”

The standard lecture procedure to show this involved the use of board diagrams with several colours to represent the differently shaped orbitals (or electron probability clouds).

“Totally unfazed by the lack of lights, and without a moment’s hesitation, Dr Pinfold continued with the explanation for what must have been five minutes or so before the brethren at the back decided they had

better turn the lights back on. The result was a multi-coloured mess, raucous laughter from the perpetrators and a twinkle in Dr Pinfold’s eye.”

As a junior lecturer at Wits, Shepherd was invited to join the lunchtime tea club held in his colleague John Faulkner’s office. The other regulars were Roland Walker and John Shochot, with occasional appearances by Prof. Henry Oliver (Ollie) and Mike King. Shepherd describes it as “a time for story swapping and considerable mirth, especially when Roland cracked up at his own jokes.”

His Meccano model has helped him get back in touch with Faulkner, who tracked him down by phone after all these years, helped by a newspaper article on Bagger 288.

While Shepherd has no regrets about choosing Applied Mathematics as his career, his love of things engineering has often prompted him to question whether he shouldn’t have become an engineer.

“I have always been happiest when engaged in something involving design and implementation. I designed our Grahamstown home and built about 60% of it myself. Hence when people see me wearing a short-sleeved shirt in the middle of winter I tell them that I am used to the cold. I have laid about 110 000 bricks in all kinds of weather!”

His wife, Eileen, a Science and Pharmacy Faculty Librarian at Rhodes University, has grown accustomed to waiting for things to get built. Now that the bucket wheel excavator is completed, Shepherd promises to tackle the long-overdue modernisation of their kitchen for Eileen.

“I’ve got to do something to repay her for her extreme patience with the monster in the lounge,” he says.

Other than Meccano and his career in Applied Mathematics, which has branched into a lifelong interest in Mathematical Physics, motorcars have fascinated Shepherd all his life.

MATH MECCANO

He is the proud owner of two collectible BMW cars, a 1981 BMW 635 CSi and a 1973 BMW 3.0 CSL. “They are both treated like royalty, and cosseted in the garages built especially for them,” he says, “although I did once take the 635 CSi to Johannesburg for my son’s wedding.” The Shepherds have three sons, David, John and Andrew.

The 3.0 CSL is another story. “I’m not keen on travelling but I had to make a trip to London in 2000 to buy the car – my first overseas trip in 25 years. I spent two days in London as the house guest of the seller, then took the tube back to Heathrow, having put the CSL into a container in London’s dockland. When I got back home people would ask if I had seen the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace and other sights. I would reply that I had not; I had simply been to see a fellow about a car.”

Any further travelling in the foreseeable future would be another brief trip overseas to see the prototype bucket wheel excavator in action in Germany.

“Perhaps I’d stay an extra day and take a trip down the Rhine and check out the Rhine wine,” smiles Shepherd, who describes himself as a “homebody” who doesn’t actively seek out a social life. “I watch *The Young and the Restless* to get my fix of relationships,” he smiles.

Eileen is more of a traveller and heads off on trips to explore the ancient world in Europe with a group from Rhodes, while her husband holds the fort with Nikita the cat keeping him company.

“We are cat people,” he says. “I think they are the smartest things that God put on this planet. Domestic cats are so affectionate and at the same time so independent. I also like the big cats but I couldn’t have one here.”

Unless it’s a Meccano leopard.

Spin Master, the Canadian-based company that bought Meccano in 2013, is currently helping Shepherd apply to the *Guinness Book of Records* to

register his project as the largest Meccano model in the world.

Ripley’s (of *Believe It Or Not* fame) have a Meccano model in their St Augustine, Florida, museum, which they call the largest Meccano model in the world. It is a 544kg Ferris wheel built in the 1920s by a team of people working for Meccano.

“Ideally that is the kind of existence I would like to see Bagger 288 enjoy eventually,” says Shepherd. “Consequently I will be putting it up for sale. It really needs a place where it can be seen operating properly. It is powered by 57 electric motors and is quite fascinating to watch.

“Here in the lounge I can only drive it back and forth about 30cm, and rotate it through a few degrees before it hits a wall.”

To transport the model to another venue it will have to be taken down into seven major parts and taken out of the house by removing a large sliding door.

Where to from here?

He claims he’s going to renovate their kitchen but instead of talking shelves and stoves, he keeps talking battleships.

“Before I built the excavator, I was going to build a 5.5-metre model of the *Bismarck* – the pride of the German navy, which went down in the north Atlantic in 1941, along with 2 000 men,” says Shepherd, who chose the bagger over the *Bismarck* because he couldn’t put the *Bismarck* through its paces in the swimming pool.

Which would mean ... Let’s not talk about it, because if Eileen finds out what her husband is planning next ... Put it this way, any mention of this must be kept strictly *entre nous*.

..... **Note:** Graham would like to get in touch with his Wits colleagues. Email him at shepherdmeccano@gmail.com



Alumni honour Tobias through building

It started as a modest idea in Chicago last October, at the 30th anniversary reunion of the Wits Medical School Class of 1983. Why not ask alumni to contribute towards a joint gift to Wits in appreciation of the first-rate medical education received from their alma mater?

Alumni elected to honour an eminent mentor and donate their gift to the new Phillip V Tobias Health Sciences Building.

In association with the Wits Development and Fundraising Office and the Alumni Relations Office, the class contacted 129 former classmates and asked each to contribute at least R3 000. Alumni in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Taiwan, the UK and the USA responded, raising over R151 000.

Dr Michelle Reisner at Jersey City Medical Center said, "Tobias was such a role model, inspiration and mentor to many of us. It was a privilege to be taught by a man of that calibre. We were delighted to contribute to something that honours him."

A consultant at the Mayo Clinic in Arizona, Dr Farouk Mookadam, was prompted to give because, as he said, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

TO LEAD A SIMILAR CLASS FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE FOR THE PV TOBIAS BUILDING, PLEASE CONTACT PATRICIA BARBER, WITS DEVELOPMENT & FUNDRAISING USA, AT PATRICIA.BARBER@WITS.AC.ZA.

WITS MINING STRIKES GOLD

The Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA) presented a cheque for over R20-million to Wits on 14 March. The funds will support seven lecturers in Mining Engineering and bursaries for 236 students in engineering disciplines across the faculty.

Head of the School of Mining Engineering, Prof. Fred Cawood attributed the generous donation to the nine-year partnership between Wits and the MQA. Cawood said the donation "sets an example for other SETAs" (Sector Education and Training Authorities).

Cliff McMillan

Engineering with a social conscience

BY DEBORAH MINORS

Engineer Cliff McMillan joined renowned design firm Arup straight out of Wits. His global experience spans tall buildings in Joburg, Pretoria and Durban and New York's Lincoln Center, but his passion was also to advance technological education in South Africa.

Arup and away

Cliff McMillan (MSc Eng 1966) was among the first students to tinker on Wits' new IBM 1620 in 1964. The University's Computer Centre was novel and inquisitive visitors frequent. A senior partner from global engineering firm Arup was one such visitor. McMillan's elementary computing lessons so impressed the partner that he invited McMillan to join Arup and spend a few years in the London office.

"That was a turning point in my life," says McMillan, "the opportunity to absorb the Arup culture that has inspired me to experience the potential of planning and design to improve society."

Home-grown engineering

McMillan returned to South Africa in 1968 and worked on projects including Standard Bank's headquarters (an early example of striving for energy efficiency, as well as being built over old mine workings), the Pretoria tower, and the Johannesburg Stadium. He became a partner at Arup in 1971.

"One of my most exciting projects was as Chairman of Arup SA in 1992, when I led a feasibility study into Cape Town hosting the 2004 Olympics," he says. Cape Town won that preliminary domestic contest against Johannesburg and Durban, which the National Olympic Committee had arranged.





Engineering education

Apartheid hung heavy on McMillan during his Arup SA years and he tried to influence change in his field. He involved himself in professional societies and in 1988 was President of the South African Institution of Civil Engineers.

Technological education became a passion. "It was obvious apartheid would eventually end, but the real legacy would be a human resources disaster from the poor education of most of the population, especially in Maths and Science," says McMillan.

He led the engineering profession's efforts to address the crisis in engineering education and one outcome was the Technological Resources for Industry (THRIP) programme. THRIP was a partnership between the engineering/science professions, educators, industry and government. THRIP endures today and the need persists. "The priority of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths [STEM] in education is fundamental to a nation's competitiveness and quality of life," says McMillan.

..... Above: Arup SA's design for the Johannesburg Athletics Stadium featured shaped steel masts supporting the roof

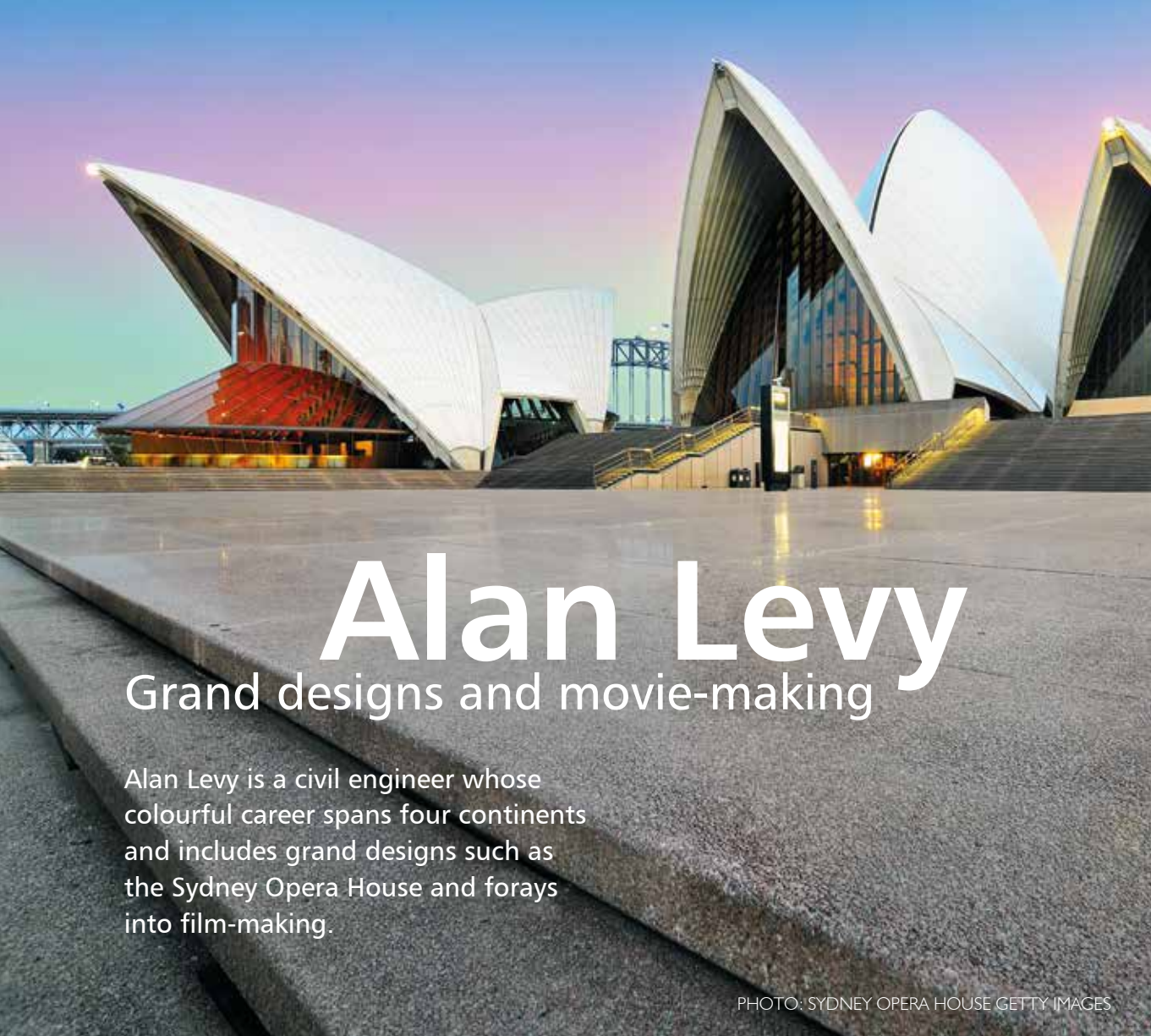
STEM for young people

McMillan also initiated the Programme for Technological Careers – PROTEC. One hundred students first enrolled for a three-day vacation school in Soweto in 1982, when the slogan "liberation before education" prevailed. By 1992, PROTEC was a national programme, fully staffed and funded and benefiting thousands of students in disadvantaged communities.

McMillan received an Outstanding Young South African award in 1981 and in 1982 Wits invited him to deliver the first of two graduation addresses. He spoke on Engineering with a Social Conscience, and challenged graduates to consider their responsibilities in an apartheid society.

Global appeal

In 1999 McMillan sought different challenges presented by Arup in the USA. "Arup's globalism has enabled me to experience 15 exciting years leading diverse US projects, like those that have reshaped the Lincoln Center and about 12km of Manhattan's waterfront," he says. McMillan is a Principal in Arup's New York office.



Alan Levy

Grand designs and movie-making

Alan Levy is a civil engineer whose colourful career spans four continents and includes grand designs such as the Sydney Opera House and forays into film-making.

PHOTO: SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE GETTY IMAGES

BY DEBORAH MINORS

Alan Levy graduated from Wits in 1956, married Witsie Jeanette Davis in 1959 and then sailed to London, where he landed a job as a principal engineer. Eighteen months later, on the eve of the couple's departure to Canada, the head of design firm Ove Arup & Partners persuaded Levy to accept the position of resident engineer managing construction of the Sydney Opera House (of which Sir Jack Zunz, a Wits Engineering alumnus, was the principal structural designer).



After Sydney, Levy went to the US and worked on the Seattle Space Needle. Then he bought an old 1940s Buick and drove to New York City. Upon arrival in NYC he stopped at a traffic light and sold the Buick. Levy worked on the design of the Vertical Assembly Building, located in Florida. Designed as the Saturn moon rocket assembly tower, the VAB is said to be the largest enclosed building space in the world – 64 million cubic feet. Occasionally clouds appear on the interior!

Levy moved back to Johannesburg and became Director of Roberts Construction's design division, where he led the company's expertise in prefabricated concrete housing and schools.

In the 1970s, Levy took a sabbatical from engineering to make movies. He directed *Up the City*, a documentary highlighting the ills of cities, including Johannesburg. Another documentary, *Creators of Tomorrow*, addressed society's inclination to diminish a child's imagination. He then produced a feature film, *Saboteurs*, with an American cast and a storyline concerning a Russian plot to assassinate Western scientists attending a conference at Pelindaba, South Africa's nuclear facility. He later produced a documentary for the Federal Aviation Administration, *Red Alert*, which focused on how fire fighters operate at regional American airports.

Levy divorced Jeanette, married Beulah Sacks and returned to America. He resumed engineering studies in Washington, D.C. and became a project manager at Ralph M Parsons, working on the \$2.5-billion Northeast Corridor Rail Improvement Programme for the Federal Transportation Administration.

Then CRS Sirrinc hired Levy as Group Vice-President of its mid-Atlantic division. His projects included a \$150-million University of Virginia Hospital and two correctional facilities for the New York State Office of General Services. Five years later, Levy held the same position at Sverdrup Corporation, where he oversaw, among others, the \$106-million Baltimore Orioles Baseball Stadium.

Today, Levy, 74, works in Washington, D.C. for the US Army and Navy, managing design-build contracts at military installations nationwide. He lives with his wife in Northern Virginia and they have four children and 12 grandchildren.



Witsies with theEdge

BY DEBORAH MINORS



TRANSGENDER FIRST IN GABORONE

“Arti-vist” Katlego Kolanyane-Kesupile (Kol-Kes) (BA DA 2011) mounted Botswana’s first ever Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) theatre festival on the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) on 17 May 2014. Kol-Kes’s Queer Shorts Showcase featured five 10-20 minute original theatrical works at the Thapong Visual Arts Centre in Gaborone. The performances addressed the 2014 IDAHOT theme, Freedom of Expression. Kol-Kes is a trans woman and a trained theatre practitioner. She is a member of the World Economic Forum Global Shapers Community (Gaborone hub), a 2010 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow, and a 2013/2014 Best of Botswana Artist.

DESIGNS ON LONDON

Urban designer **Kelvin Campbell** (BArch 1978) won the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award for Urban Design at the National Urban Design Awards held at the Royal Overseas League in London in February 2013. The award recognised Campbell's sustained contribution to urban design theory and practice. Campbell recently co-founded Smart Urbanism, an online research and development community committed to sustainable urbanism and social innovation which is now one of LinkedIn's largest communities. Campbell was lead author of *By Design* (CABE) 2000, a national policy guide on urban design, and of the Mayor of London's *Housing Design Guide* (2010). His extensive publications include the book *Massive Small: The Operating Programme for Smart Urbanism* (2011).



WOLF PRIZE FOR NUMBERS ALUMNUS

The Wolf Foundation has awarded the 2014 Wolf Prize in Mathematics to **Peter Sarnak** of Princeton University and the Institute for Advanced Study. The Wolf Foundation promotes science and art for the benefit of mankind. Sarnak is the Eugene Higgins Professor of Mathematics at Princeton. The US\$100 000 Wolf Prize recognises Sarnak's contributions to analysis, number theory, geometry and combinatorics, and his influence on the development of several mathematical fields often by detecting buried and unexpected connections. Sarnak holds a BSc (1974) and BSc Hons (1975) in Mathematics from Wits, a PhD (1980) from Stanford University, and an honorary doctorate (2014) from Shandong University, China. Wits will award Sarnak an honorary DSc on 2 July 2014.

PROFESSORSHIP AWARDED

The University of California, San Diego appointed urologist **Dr Franklin Gaylis** as Voluntary Clinical Professor from 1 December 2013. The promotion recognises Gaylis' experience, academic productivity and community leadership. Gaylis (MBBCh *cum laude* 1980) emigrated to the US in 1982. He completed a residency in general surgery at the University of Minnesota and in urology at Northwestern University Medical School. He is now a urologist at Genesis Healthcare Partners. Gaylis is the elder brother of Dr Brendan Gaylis (MBBCh 1983). Both brothers followed in the Wits Medical School footsteps of their late father, Dr Hyman Gaylis (MBBCh 1946, MS 1953, MD 1977), with whom Franklin shared the title of Voluntary Professor of Surgery/Urology at UCSD.



NEW REGISTRAR AN EDUCATOR

Education alumna **Carol Crosley** is the new Registrar of Wits University. Crosley (BA, PDE 1982, MA 2013) took the reins on 1 June 2014 after serving as Deputy Registrar: Enrolment from May 2013. Crosley joined Wits in 1998 and has held various positions. From 2001, she was Deputy Registrar and Head of the Student Enrolment Centre (SENC), which she was instrumental in establishing. In this capacity she was responsible for all admissions and enrolments, as well as management of SENC, the Schools Liaison Office and the International Students Office. From 1991 to 2001 Crosley was the Faculty Assistant Registrar in the Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management, and she managed the Public Relations portfolio in the Vice-Chancellor's Office in 1998. She taught high school from 1983 to 1997.



INCISIVE SURGEON IS NEW DEAN

Vascular surgeon **Professor Martin Veller** became Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Wits on 1 July 2014. He aims to ensure that the Faculty helps improve the provision of healthcare for every individual, because a country whose citizens are healthy will flourish. Veller led the Department of Surgery in the School of Clinical Medicine from November 2001 to February 2013. He was appointed *ad hominem* Professor in the Faculty in April 2002. A Wits alumnus, Veller holds an MBBCh (1979) and MMed (1990). He qualified in general surgery in 1987 and then completed a year's research fellowship at St Mary's Hospital, Imperial College, London. He is currently the President of the College of Surgeons of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa, and President of the World Federation of Vascular Societies.





DON'T
STAND
SO
CLOSE

WITSIES WITH THE
WRITING
EDGE

BY DEBORAH MINORS

Would you see the truth
if it looked like a lie?

JOAN PHILIPS



LEAVE HER CHILDREN
FROM THE CHANDELIER

LEWIS



Erika Sutter

Seen with Other Eyes

Memories of a Swiss
Eye Doctor in
Rural South Africa

Told by Gertrud Stichele

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A SHORT SAFARI
ADVENTURE
AMONG AFRICA'S
THORNY
BUSHVELD
WILDLIFE

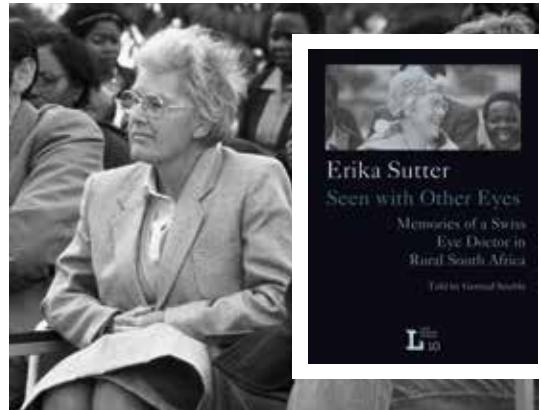
Bruce Lyle, MD & Lars G. Svedin, MD, PhD



MEMOIR

While Her Children Swung from the Chandelier,
by Joan Philips

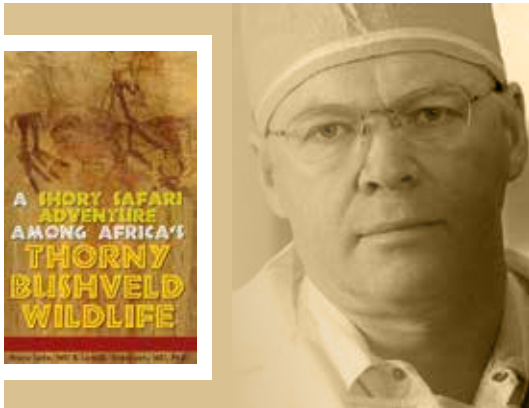
This memoir of Joan Philips (née Freed) records her life and career in psychology, marriage guidance and sex education. Regarded as “the mother of marriage guidance”, Philips (BA 1936, BA Hons 1937) co-founded the Family Life Centre in Johannesburg of which she was, for many years, Chairman or Vice-Chairman. She emigrated to Australia in 1989. Her memoirs were inspired by her 10-year-old granddaughter, who enquired what life was like “in the olden days when you wore long dresses” (her granddaughter had seen *Pride & Prejudice* – which pre-dates Philips by a century!). Speaking at the book’s launch at the publisher, the Sydney Jewish Museum, in February 2014, Philips recalled the shock generated by her ideas about psychology, child rearing, sex education, marriage and relationships. The book’s title refers to libellous stories about the undisciplined behaviour of her own four children while she was building up her psychoanalytical career – unusual for a married woman in those days.



BIOGRAPHY

Erika Sutter: Seen With Other Eyes – Memories of a Swiss Eye Doctor in Rural South Africa, told by Gertrud Stiehle

Gertrud Stiehle tells the story of Swiss ophthalmologist Dr Erika Sutter. The biography incorporates Sutter’s life on the Swiss-German border during World War II and her years working in apartheid South Africa. Sutter was born in Basel, Switzerland in 1917. She studied Biology at Basel University and earned a doctorate in Plant Physiology in 1943. She came to South Africa and in 1952 was responsible for the laboratory at Elim Hospital (now in Limpopo Province). Sutter began studying Medicine at Wits in 1956 and graduated MBBCh in 1961. She returned to Switzerland in 1963 for training in Ophthalmology at University Eye Hospital, Basel. She completed a Diploma in Ophthalmology in London in 1965. She returned to Elim for another 19 years. Sutter opened a school offering an Ophthalmic Nursing diploma, and established the Elim Care Group project comprised of community members working to improve health. The care groups were instrumental in creating awareness of trachoma and contributed to the virtual disappearance of this blinding eye disease. Sutter also initiated a rehabilitation centre for the visually handicapped, the Rivoni Society for the Blind.



NON-FICTION

A Short Safari Adventure among Africa's Thorny Bushveld Wildlife (Volumes 1 & 2), by Lars Svensson and Bruce Lytle

Dr Lars Svensson (MBBCh 1978, MSc 1983, PhD 1986) is a cardiovascular surgeon at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, USA. The two volumes of *A Short Safari Adventure* are his first exploration into non-medical/academic non-fiction. The two volumes focus on the challenges of Southern African wildlife management, including his perspective from having grown up in Southern Africa, witnessing the beginning of the Soweto Riots as a medical student, and experiencing the politics of the Border War. The books probe Southern African history by explorers and missionaries, San and Nguni and white settlers. They cover the imperatives for survival in a harsh environment, wildlife challenges, hunting, conservation, sustainable use, ecosystem challenges, the politics of wildlife management policy, wildlife restoration, and the importance of wildlife diversity to the future of feeding Africa. The books include references to and contributions from Wits alumni such as Lucinda Backwell, Lee Berger, Alan Crump, David Lewis-Williams, Raymond Dart, Christopher Henshilwood, Nelson Mandela, Norman Owen-Smith and Phillip Tobias. Both volumes are available on Kindle or from Amazon.com.



NOVEL

Don't Stand So Close, by Luana Lewis

Sharon Luana Lewis graduated from Wits in 1997 with an MA in Clinical Psychology. Her first job was as a researcher at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, where she later became clinical supervisor in the Trauma Clinic. Lewis moved with her family to Europe in 2000 and has lived in Amsterdam and London. She completed a doctorate in psychology at the University of Essex in 2008. While in private practice Lewis wrote her first novel, *Don't Stand So Close* (Transworld/Random House 2014). This psychological thriller features a reclusive psychologist who has shut herself away from the world after a traumatic final case. One freezing night she opens the door to a troubled teenage girl with a story that threatens to unravel her carefully controlled world. Lewis's second novel, *Cravings*, is due for publication in 2015.

BookReviews

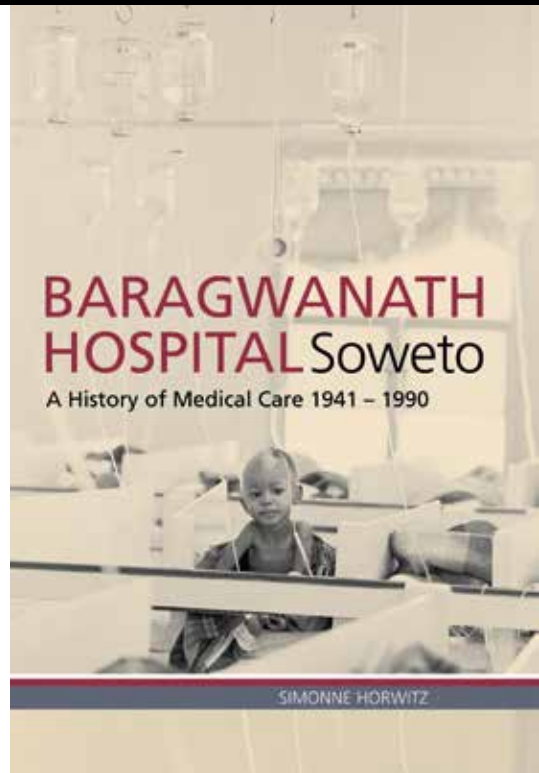
■ BARAGWANATH HOSPITAL, SOWETO: A HISTORY OF MEDICAL CARE 1941-1990

BY SIMONNE HORWITZ

Published by Wits University Press, 2013

Simonne Horwitz is a graduate of the Wits Department of History (now part of the School of Social Sciences). She became a Rhodes Scholar and this book originated as a PhD thesis for St Anthony's College, Oxford University. Her study of Baragwanath Hospital (now named Chris Hani Baragwanath) is a prism through which to view the history of medicine and health care in South Africa during the apartheid era, when segregation prevailed in life, medical care and death. Her study is critical and covers a big topic over a 50 year period. The research was completed between 2003 and 2005. Horwitz has pared what must have been a substantial thesis into an economical book. The study is replete with chapter endnotes, a fascinating set of black and white photographs and a thesis-heavy bibliography. It opens with almost visceral poems on Baragwanath Hospital by Oswald Mtshali and Oupa Thando Mthimkulu, giving a sense of a frenetic place on a bloody Saturday night.

The book makes an important contribution to an aspect of Johannesburg and Soweto history. The research is thorough, the writing is careful, and the judgements even-handed and balanced. The very word Baragwanath, or simply Bara, evokes images of human experiences of life, salvation, healing and sometimes death. Our local newspapers often carry stories of human drama or sensationalised headlines of disasters and crises at Bara. Here the author takes us behind the scenes of a huge, evolving, unique medical institution, relating the motivations and



experiences of doctors, nurses and administrators. All who worked there saw the institution as a special place and proudly carried identities as "Bara Boeties" and "Bara Nurses".

Horwitz shows that this was a surprisingly effective institution, despite the underfunding and the apartheid divisions based on race and geography. Bara became a giant urban teaching hospital serving the populace of Soweto with distinction and success. The author probes in an academic but very readable way how Baragwanath was shaped by a complex set of conditions rooted in early land purchases by a Welsh adventurer, John Albert Baragwanath. In the 1940s, during the Second World War, the British government bought the land for the development of a military hospital, but by 1948 the military hospital had been

transformed into a civilian hospital under the auspices of the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

This is a story of complex contradictions and nuances, told through a focus on the internal life of the hospital. The author elegantly uses dramatic events and case studies to illustrate political action, crises and the changing nature of apartheid health care legislation while the political scene shifted through the decades. Contrasts and ambiguity are for example evident in the story of the successful separation of the conjoined Mathibela twins at Baragwanath in 1988, which gave the hospital international publicity around its sophistication and excellence. Compare this success to the situation just a year earlier, when in 1987 a letter of protest signed by 101 Baragwanath doctors highlighted the issues of congestion, overcrowding and an imbalance in the resources allocated to the “black” versus the “white” public health sectors.

Bara became one of Wits’ largest teaching centres. The chapter on the relationship of the Hospital and the University is an important part of the story. There were mutual advantages but also some difficulties in the relationship. By the end of the 1960s Baragwanath was admitting about 77 000 patients and tending to about 740 000 outpatient and casualty cases a year with 500 full time doctors and 1 500 nurses. The large patient numbers gave everyone who worked and studied at Bara access to a diversity of medical conditions and offered unparalleled opportunities for professional, personal and career growth. Research was internationally recognised. However, the question of discrimination in the training of black doctors and the relatively low numbers of black medical students between the mid-1940s and 1980s is not sidestepped. It was only by 1988 that the percentage of black medical students at Wits rose to 28.9%. There were still only 15 black doctors on the staff of Baragwanath

(of a total of nearly 500 doctors) as late as 1986.

Horwitz gets beyond the detailed numbers to explain what it meant to be a medical student, whether white or black, at Bara and to work there as an academic doctor and clinician. Advanced medical procedures were possible but patients often lacked basic care – such were the blatant contradictions of this remarkable place in a twisted political world.

The training of nurses at Baragwanath opened career opportunities for many black women who achieved status, independence and political voice through their medical education and profession. A probing chapter explores why women entered nursing and the reflections and opinions of many are captured in fascinating interviews. The Baragwanath experience shaped their identity and forced hard ethical and political choices when it came to participating in strikes and protests after 1976. The weakest aspect of this book is the relatively limited coverage of the patient experience.

The focus of this book is the period 1941 to 1990 but in a final chapter the changes at Baragwanath after 1990 are sketched. Horwitz uses the metaphor of a phoenix to explain the reinvention of Baragwanath as a hospital through the apartheid years and then during the post-1990 years of transition to democracy. There were continuities and changes as unionisation and strike action gave the men and women of Baragwanath a political role and speeded up transformation. However, one must turn to the work of other researchers and writers to carry forward the story of the hospital into more recent times. I recommend this book as a serious and significant contribution to South African medical history.

Associate Professor Kathy Munro, School of Architecture and Planning

THE NEW RADICALS: A GENERATIONAL MEMOIR OF THE 1970S

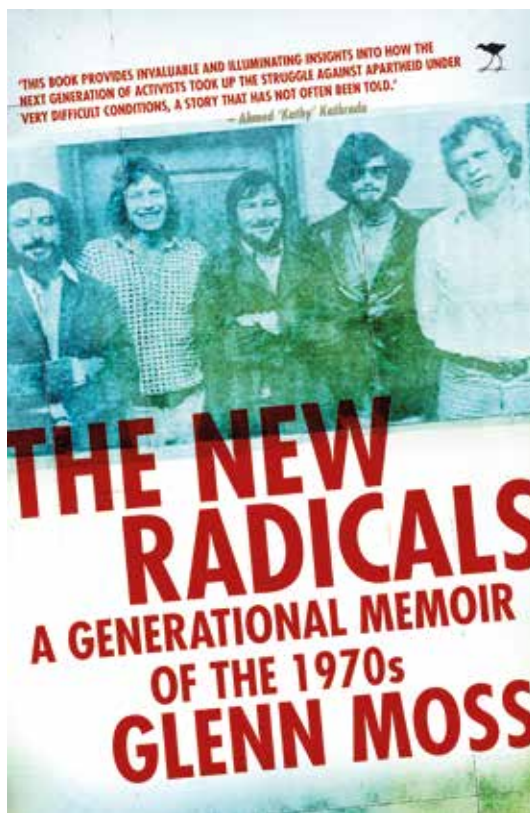
BY GLENN MOSS

Published by Jacana Media (Pty) Ltd, 2014

This is an engrossing account of how student politics came to change direction as the new radicals in the 1970s emerged and started questioning the too-easy assumptions underlying “protest politics”. The linkages between apartheid and capitalism came under scrutiny, protests appealing to the rule of law were challenged as apartheid law held brutal sway, multi-racialism was rejected in favour of non-racialism, and liberal approaches to political analysis came under attack as Marxist and neo-Marxist thought and reading slowly entered the wider discourse.

The book provides a convincing and intriguing analysis of the new radicals by an insider, for Glenn Moss was a Wits SRC member and became SRC President in 1974. He was a key activist on campus and a significant member of the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS), so his book, although heavily drawn from his Wits experience, ranges across a wider terrain and locates the new radicals within the political context of South Africa. It looks at debates on other campuses and in the emergent trade unions and traces the impact of these on student radicalism.

The breakaway of the South African Students’ Organisation from NUSAS in 1969 and the emergence of Black Consciousness formed early indications that a sea-change was about to take place in student politics on NUSAS-affiliated campuses. The 1970 Wits student march into town in protest about deaths in detention, leading to the arrest of scores of students, was one of the first indications that new radicals were emerging. Around this time both new radical discussion groups and younger lecturers began studying the writings of Gramsci, Poulantzas, Althusser and Lukacs to examine if they had relevance to understanding apartheid South Africa.



Then came the NUSAS-led resistance to the 10th anniversary celebration of the Republic and at Wits the series of campus lectures on the history of opposition to apartheid. This gave rise to a series of lectures on opposition parties before the general election. Then a critical and decisive event occurred in 1971 when the first student Wages Commission emerged at the University of Natal, Durban, and soon Wages Commissions were established on all NUSAS campuses. These looked into workers’ pay and conditions at universities and later in other industries. The Wages Commissions drew in some of the brightest and best students and established contact with emerging unions. They began running head on with multinationals and big business, which alone helped widen the debate about the connections between apartheid and capitalism.

The links to black workers and to the realities underpinning their lives deeply influenced the new radicals and gave impetus to a 1974 campaign to release not merely those in detention but all political prisoners. This formed a radical and new call as a precondition for ending apartheid.

This analysis is well told, dispassionately but with humour, with many a familiar name appearing (Cedric de Beer, Steven Friedman, Geoff Budlender, Eddie Webster and Neville Curtis, among many others). A former Wits SRC President, Taffy Adler, is reported as having written to His Holiness the Pope to ask for his assistance in reversing the banning of Cos Desmond, a Catholic priest and campaigner for justice; showing no student deference to authority, he began his letter with the salutation: "Dear Pope". Perhaps unsurprisingly, no acknowledgement of the letter was forthcoming! On another occasion Moss was driving a Kombi-load of delegates through the night to a NUSAS conference in Cape Town; a student woke up as he drove through Bloemfontein and then Kimberley, usually considered alternative routes to Cape Town. Moss wryly adds: "I had to swear him to secrecy against a backdrop of mutterings about my ability to provide direction."

Moss's courage in the face of severe harassment shines through the narrative. He was under surveillance from the police more often than not, his house and flat were searched by the police, his passport removed, he was detained and arrested, held in solitary confinement, put in Pretoria Maximum Security Prison, and ultimately placed on trial (with Cedric de Beer, Charles Nupen, Karel Tip and Eddie Webster) to face charges under the Suppression of Communism Act and the Unlawful Organisations Act.

After a year of court appearances, and skilful legal work by George Bizos and Arthur Chaskalson, the magistrate dismissed all charges in December 1976. Moss also had to face police raids on his SRC offices and police spies within the SRC – the 1972/3 SRC had four such police spies as elected members. One of these was the notorious Craig Williamson, who, after leaving Wits and being uncovered as a police agent at an international student organisation in Geneva, later posted a parcel bomb to a former prominent Wits activist, Jeanette Curtis, killing her and her young child.

There is no method to accurately estimate the number of "new radical" students in the 1970s. Many students on NUSAS campuses at that time were angered by the political thuggery of the apartheid regime but were more intent on their studies, while others went into their own "internal exile" and became politically silent. The book however notes that the new radicals made an impact far beyond whatever their numbers may have been, for their ideas penetrated into student discussion, into classrooms and into most student publications and were central in key student organisations.

The question it leaves me with is: do we now need another generation of new radicals at South African universities?

This is an important book, honest and hard hitting – get it and debate with it.

Michael Savage

Michael Savage is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at UCT, and was the first Executive Director of the Open Society Foundation for South Africa before working with The Atlantic Philanthropies. ■

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Obituaries

WITS UNIVERSITY
FONDLY REMEMBERS
THOSE WHO HAVE
PASSED AWAY

BY DEBORAH MINORS

GEORGE ALBERTYN (1920 – 2014)



Dr Christian George Albertyn died on 20 March 2014, aged 93. He was born on 13 December 1920. He enrolled at Wits in 1938 but interrupted his studies to serve in WWII. He resumed his medical studies in 1946 and married fellow Witsie, Helen Mentis. They both

graduated MBChB in 1949. He worked as a GP and later specialised in radiology, practising privately in Pretoria. He began teaching Radiology at Pretoria Academic Hospital in 1985 and retired at 80. He was an avid sportsman who played golf until he was 90. He had an extraordinary mind and just months before he died, he wrote to *WITSReview* to comment on a photograph published in January of the 1949 Water Polo team, which he captained. Albertyn's wife and their children, Christopher (BA 1974, BA Hons 1975), Lynda (BA 1976), Julie (MA 1989) and Sue (BA 1985, LLB 1988), multiple Witsie in-laws, 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive him.

MAURICE ALDRIDGE (1936 – 2013)



Former Professor of Linguistics at Wits for 13 years, Maurice Vincent Aldridge died in Scotland on 19 November 2013, aged 77. He was born in England on 12 December 1936. He left school to join the Royal Navy but was blinded in 1953 while serving on an aircraft

carrier. His rehabilitation at St Dunstan's (now Blind Veterans UK) included mobility training, Braille, typing and piano playing. He won a scholarship to Oxford and, despite his disability, earned an Honours degree (English One – Philology) and an MLitt. In 1968, he moved his young family to South Africa and began lecturing in English at Rhodes University. Here he continued his studies in linguistics, for which he earned his doctorate. Aldridge moved to Wits in 1978 as Professor and Head of the Department of General Linguistics and Communication Studies. He retired in 1992 and moved to France, later settling in Scotland. His wife and son survive him.

ANTHONY CHARLES (1922 – 2014)



Wits benefactor Anthony “Tony” Lionel Charles died on 1 April 2014, aged 91. He was born in Rhodesia on 20 June 1922. He graduated with a BSc in electrical engineering (1944) from Wits and then enlisted in the Special Signals Service, where he served until the end of WWII.

He then joined the English Electric Company of South Africa and became managing director of GEC–English Electric in 1969. He retired from GEC SA as Deputy Chairman in 1984. He remained in industry as a director of companies until his retirement in 1993. He was three times Chairman of the Electrical Engineering and Allied Industries Association, and President of the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of South Africa. He was a keen golfer and bowler and bowled well into his eighties. His wife of 59 years, Dianne, their son, David (BADA 1983), and two daughters survive him.

DENISE GODWIN (1941 – 2014)



Professor Denise Ann Godwin (née Chalmers) died on 28 January 2014, aged 72. She was born in Johannesburg on 3 May 1941. She held a BA in French from Wits (1962) and an MA from RAU. She earned a doctorate in France on a study bursary awarded by the French

government. Her contribution to the study of the 17th century French novel earned her worldwide recognition. She taught at the University of Johannesburg from 1981 to 2001, becoming head of department in 1988 and full professor in 1998. The French government awarded her the Ordre des Palmes Académiques with the rank of Chevalier (Knight) in 1995 and Commandeur (Commander) in 2000. These are French Orders of Chivalry for academics and cultural figures to acknowledge distinguished contributions to French education and culture. Godwin’s husband, John, their three children and grandchildren survive her and the website www.denisegodwin.co.za provides an endearing tribute.

CHARLES ISAACSON (1929 – 2014)



Emeritus Professor Charles Isaacson died on 1 March 2014, aged 85. He was an outstanding pathologist who taught generations of students. A Wits benefactor, he was a stalwart of the Faculty of Health Sciences for decades. Isaacson was born in Johannesburg on 7 March 1929. He held MBCh (1951) and PhD (Medicine) (1979) degrees from Wits. As secretary of the Annual Medical Student Congress, the topic “Disease and Health in the Bantu” stimulated his subsequent research. In 1953 he began a registrarship in pathology at the South African Institute for Medical Research. This included work at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital under Dr John Higginson, an early researcher into black South African pathology. Isaacson replaced Higginson in 1958 and led the lab until 1963. He spent 12 years in private practice and then returned to Baragwanath, becoming Professor in 1978. He became Wits/SAIMR Professor and Head of Anatomical Pathology in 1980. He retired in 1992 having published more than 100 papers and four chapters in books. His wife Zelda, daughter and grandchildren survive him.

JOHN LUNDIE (1925 – 2013)



Dr John Kaden Lundie (MBBCh 1948) died in Pretoria on 5 August 2013, aged 88. He was born in Pretoria on 16 July 1925. He specialised in radiology at Westminster Hospital, London and became a Fellow of the Royal College. He returned to South Africa and joined a radiology partnership servicing rural Mpumalanga. Lundie drove 480km one day a week for 53 years, until he was 84, to deliver radiology services. In his last decade, he did locum radiology and declined a professorship at Pretoria University, preferring not to teach full-time. He was a perfectionist with a staggering intellect and he was a Jaguar and woodwork enthusiast. He taught himself diving and then coached his children Martin (BCom 1976, LLB 1977) and Jennifer (BA Speech & Hearing Therapy, MBBCh 1988) to Springbok level. He was also an accomplished pianist, and his funeral featured a recording of his rendition of Chopin's Nocturne No. 9 in E-flat major.

HUGH MORRIS (1932 – 2012)



Dr Hugh Clough Morris, 80, died on 23 December 2012 in Vancouver, Canada, of multiple myeloma. He was born in Burma on 24 June 1932. He graduated with distinction, earning a BSc Engineering (Geology) (1954) and a PhD (1969) at Wits. He went to North America on a Chamber of Mines scholarship and worked for Cominco, Geomex/E&B Metals, Imperial Metals and Eldorado Gold. He was a Distinguished Fellow of the Geological Association of Canada, which awarded him the Ambrose J Willis Medal in 1993 for extraordinary service. Morris served on Lithoprobe, a major seismic research project, and the Canada Global Change Programme on climate change. He was Chairman of the Pacific Institute of Mathematical Sciences and in 2011 endowed a lecture series in the mathematical sciences, which now bears his name, at the University of British Columbia.

DARRELL SMITH (1926 – 2014)



Darrell Bertrand Smith died in East London on 2 May 2014, aged 88. He studied Architecture at Wits and graduated in 1952. He believed that his designs needed to be integrated with the natural environment using surrounding materials to create beauty. In the 1950s he moved to Salisbury, Rhodesia (Harare, Zimbabwe), where he practised architecture for 26 years. He became a member of the Institute of Southern Rhodesian Architects in 1955. He was elected Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1959. He retired as Chief Architect from the City of Harare in 1981 and moved to Gonubie in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. There he created HABITAT, a community outreach initiative that exposed children to natural eco-living and gardening. He fulfilled his dream of living in a simple stone house, planting indigenous trees and providing a balanced environment for plants, animals and humans. His wife and constant companion, Meike, supported his love of nature and many other interests.



ANITA STARFIELD (1925 – 2012)



Anita Starfield, who taught for over 40 years in the Wits Psychology department, died in May 2012. She was born on 17 August 1925 and graduated from UCT in 1964 with a Masters in Psychology. She moved to Johannesburg to take up a research position at Wits. Shortly after her arrival she met Laurie Starfield, who was completing an Accounting qualification through Wits on an ex-serviceman's concession after WWII. They married in 1948. She continued teaching in the Psychology Department until her retirement in 1988. She was well known to generations of Wits students for her courses in Abnormal Psychology and Testing. Her three daughters Sue (BA 1973, MA 1979, PhD 2000), Penny (BA 1975) and Jane (BA 1980, BA Hons 1981, PhD 2007) have followed their mother into academic careers.

SHAUN SUMMERS (1973 – 2013)



Dr Shaun Andrew Summers died suddenly of a heart attack in Melbourne, Australia on 18 September 2013. He was 39. Summers graduated MBChB at Wits in 1997. He became a member of the Royal College of Physicians in 2001 and specialised in General Medicine and

Nephrology in the UK in 2006. He became a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 2009. He completed his PhD in 2010 at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, where he held the post of Senior Research Fellow. He simultaneously held the post of Consultant Nephrologist at Monash Medical Centre. He was widely published and presented at numerous international conferences. His many awards included the Young Investigator Award (Australian Society of Nephrology, 2010) and Best Science Presentation (Australian Society of Nephrology, 2009). Summers played first team cricket and rugby at Wits and he was a keen runner. He wife, Debbie (BSc Physiotherapy 1996), daughter Erin and son Ben survive him.

JULES KIESER (1950 – 2014)



Professor Julius August Kieser died unexpectedly on 10 June 2014, aged 63. Kieser was a leading world expert on forensic dentistry. He was the Associate Dean for Research at the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Otago, New Zealand and inaugural Director of the Sir

John Walsh Research Institute. Kieser was born in Pretoria, South Africa on 20 December 1950. His Wits qualifications included a BSc (1972), BDS (1975), and DSc (2001). He earned a PhD (Medicine) in 1989 and that year Wits appointed him a Reader in Craniofacial Biology and an Honorary Professor of Anatomy. In 1996 Kieser emigrated to New Zealand to chair the Department of Oral Sciences and Orthodontics at Otago. He was seconded to help identify victims following the 2004 tsunami and the Christchurch earthquake. Kieser was an eminent alumnus and a Wits benefactor. He was scheduled to deliver the Faculty of Health Sciences Alumni Diaspora Lecture at Wits on 8 July before his untimely death. His wife, Glynn and four children survive him.

ALUMNI EVENTS TO DIARISE



REUNIONS AND EVENTS

THURSDAY 10 JULY

Israel Alumni Reunion

Tel Aviv-Jaffa Academic College

Convener: Dr Les Glassman

lesglassman@gmail.com | +97 252 552 2438

SUNDAY 17 AUGUST

Varsity Kudus Annual Road Race

Enquiries: Purvi Purohit

purvi.purohit@wits.ac.za | +27 11 717 1093

MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

KwaZulu-Natal Alumni Reunion

Elangeni Hotel, Durban

Enquiries: Justine Dangor

justine.dangor@wits.ac.za | +27 11 717 1091

TUESDAY 21 – FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER

Wits Medical School Alumni Reunion

Charleston, South Carolina, United States

Enquiries: Dr Malcolm Colman

mcolman@utmb.edu | 409 772 6723

THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER

Founders' Tea

Gavin Relly Green, West Campus, Wits

Enquiries: Purvi Purohit

purvi.purohit@wits.ac.za | +27 11 717 1093



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Borders I have known

BY KEYAN G TOMASELLI*

We lost Wits' Eddie Webster on the South African side of the border going into Lesotho in 1979. His name was on a Security Branch (SB) "control list". The lefties were travelling to a sociology conference in Maseru. On the way back, my wife Ruth (then a Wits MA student) and I and Tony Seeber, a UNISA economics lecturer, were stopped and our boot unpacked, and we were interrogated for five hours. The polite SB man stacked the conference papers on his desk and set about reading them while we sat in the charge office. Titles with "black", "South Africa" or "apartheid" grabbed his attention. On occasion, he asked

for explanations of particular passages. We did not then understand why Seeber was so agitated. He had assured us that he did not have banned materials on him. He paced back and forth like a caged lion.

Of particular interest to the SB was Drew Archibald's paper, "The Relevance of Parsonian Theory for South Africa". Actually it had no relevance, but structural functionalism was Drew's forte, drummed into us when we had been undergrad Wits students 10 years earlier. The paper's lack of anti-apartheid content intrigued the SB man. He was perturbed that he could not find it. No matter, Ruth said mischievously, have a look at the other copy, "maybe it moved there".



Some years later I got caught again, this time on the way back from an education workshop held in Botswana. In my car were Joe Muller and a Joburg School of Education lecturer. The lecturer, against my instruction to airmail to South Africa incriminating documents, was found with a *Staffrider* magazine containing a banned poem. The lecturer sported an English name, long black hair, a pipe, blue jeans, and no previous interrogation experience. He fit the stereotype; he was the nervous hidden communist among us, the SB concluded. Twelve hours later we were let go. Playwrights Benji Francis and Ramadan Suleman were also part of the charade, vaguely explaining why their performance troupe had a huge chain in their Kombi. The chain was a metaphorical prop, “we shall break loose from our chains”. A month later I was told by the SB to pick up the documents (including toilet paper that they had vigilantly numbered) from the local SB office.

We had been spared the attentions of the same border post a year earlier when we had been at the Botswana Culture and Resistance Conference, where exiles and internals noisily interacted. This was because, unlike Seeber, whom I later learned was a communist, and the JSE lecturer, who just looked like a communist, our one-year-old son who was with us could not possibly be a communist. He was our passport to a quick transit. Others did not have it so easy.

At the same time the Ciskei got its “independence”. Our group was travelling to the University of Transkei to participate in a conference there. On the way through the Ciskei the police directed us to a small building which turned out to be a new border post. There the officer demanded our passports or ID books and then stamped them upside down, asking us our names and to whom the documents belonged. The world of apartheid was indeed topsy turvy.

This reminds me of a Jonathan Jansen story. On arriving at Amsterdam airport for an annual board meeting called by a Dutch organisation, he was asked by a passport officer, “Now, my good man, what is your business in The Netherlands?” As you can imagine, this officer got a history lesson about the Dutch occupation of the Cape in 1652 – no passports, permission or permits required. Had Jan van Riebeeck been asked his business on setting first foot on the southern shore, then history might have been quite different.

*Keyan G Tomaselli is employed in what used to be known as the last outpost of the British Empire but now needs visas to cross the seas. The new borders are no longer close to home.

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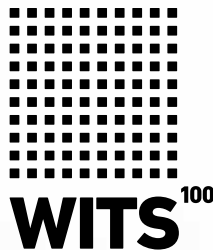
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