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WITSReview

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



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NELSON ROLIHLAHLA
MANDELA
Madiba
1918-2013



A Tribute from the University of the Witwatersrand

The University of the Witwatersrand extends its deepest sympathies to the friends and family of former president Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, the father of our nation and an international icon, who passed away on Thursday, 5 December 2013 at the age of 95. May his soul rest in peace.

Founding president of democratic South Africa, Tata Nelson Mandela changed the world as we know it. He has left a legacy that will benefit and inspire generations to come. He set an example for the rest of the world and created history on his journey through life.

We must celebrate his humility, his principles, his commitment to justice, peace and freedom during this time and we must never forget the values for which he fought so hard and for which he was prepared to die.

Tata Madiba, we walk in your footsteps, we are guided by your principles, and we live by your humanity. You are with us today, and your contribution as an alumnus of our University, as a fellow South African,

as a comrade, and as the father of our young nation, is etched in history, and will live on forever.

The father of our nation, Madiba was Wits University's most illustrious student and alumnus. He was a close friend of the University and blessed us with his presence over the years in several roles - as a student, a politician, an activist, as an Honorary graduate, as a President, a Nobel prize-winner, a guest and as a world leader.

Wits University bestowed an Honorary Doctorate upon Nelson Mandela in 1991 for his 'commitment to justice (which) drew him out of his profession and into national leadership'.

You were of us, but you belonged to the world. You lived amongst us now, but your legacy will inspire for eternity.

Hamba kahle Tata - You are in our hearts.

Professor Adam Habib

Vice-Chancellor and Principal
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

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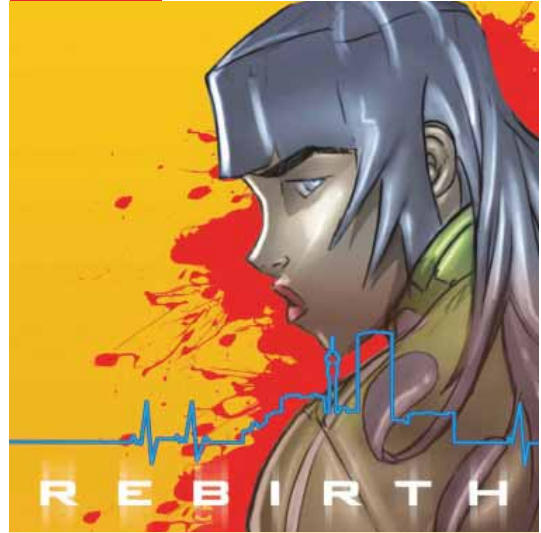
Best External Magazine 2013 (SA Publication Forum)
 Best External Magazine 2012 (SA Publication Forum)
 Best External Magazine 2012 (MACE)
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 Best External Magazine 2010 (MACE)
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Cover: *One Being* artwork by Professor
 Deborah Glencross. See story on page 48.





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WITSReview

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Creeping Americanisms

Dear Editor,

Keyan Tomaselli's 'Wits End' in the latest *WITSReview* (October 2013) is interesting indeed and much to commend too. My only quibble with your piece is the creeping into your text of some Americanisms. It's happening here (in the UK) all the time, too, of course, and for that we can blame both the dreaded "box" and now the internet. It's the same problem that good old Canute never looked like solving but we don't give up trying – hence my bleat. I noted that you encouraged governments and their oppositions to "debate each other" while, later, when referring to yours and our vintage, you wrote "By this math ..." etc. I follow the logic; I just don't like the intrusion of another form of the language into the English I thought was still spoken in South Africa. It certainly seems, from much of what I see of its press and other publications, that American English is now implanting itself into South Africa vocabulary and writing.

Brian Austin (BSc Eng 1970, MSc Eng 1977, PhD 1986), West Kirby, England.

Keyan replies: Thanks for the response to my column. Always good to get feedback. This tells my editor that someone is reading the last page, which justifies my being paid. In any event, I like to engage with readers who keep me on my toes.

On US English, well I hammer my SA students when they use US spelling; problem is that many can't spell at all and seem bewildered when I direct them to Word spell and grammar functions. The best users of English grammar are my Scandinavian students who do use these functions (in UK mode of course).

I'll watch my USisms in future.

Witsie heroes

Dear Editor,

It is inspiring to read about talented alumni and progressive research which honours Wits as reported in the *WITSReview*, which I always look forward to receiving.

I agree with Peter Maher's editorial in the most recent *WITSReview* (October 2013) in which he mentions the "unsung heroes" who use the quality of knowledge and skills attained at Wits successfully in the everyday workplace. It is not only their professions but also in support of communities such as committees to ensure appropriate and trustworthy procedures.

For example, I served in societies dealing with environmental issues, promoting the arts, parent teacher associations, adult education, ratepayers associations, apart from many charities. I admit that time for hobbies, such as patchwork and gardening, was often favoured.

In my latter, aged years I used my skills as a physio-therapist to treat "old" friends with knee and hip replacements and wheezing chests. My late husband, Professor Peter Johnson (Wits Dental alumnus) and I also reared three educated, successful and principled children.

Sue Johnson (BSc Physio 1947) Heideraad, Mossel Bay, South Africa.

ERRATUM: The *Mandela Manifests in Taxi Hand Signs* story on pg. 61 of the October 2013 WR states that Susan Woolf is pursuing a postdoctorate in Fine Arts and Sociology and also identifies the Braille reader captioned on pg. 62 as Wellington Pike. Woolf is in fact pursuing a PhD thesis in Fine Arts and Anthropology and the Braille reader is Philip Maibi. *WR* regrets the errors.



Wits water polo team 1949: Back row l-r: Hilton Selvey, Abe Siritzky, Glendon Basnett, Cedric Bremner, Maurice Rosenberg. Front row: Dennis Goddard, George Albertyn and David Cohen.

Water polo champs

Dear Editor,

I graduated MBChB in December 1951 and since I now live in Australia I found my free copy of the *WITSReview* very interesting. I am now a subscriber.

During my undergraduate years I was a member of the water polo team and had the pleasure of scoring the winning goal when we first won the Harry Getz Trophy in 1949. The trophy was awarded to the winning team at an inter-varsity competition. The captain of our team was George Albertyn, who graduated a year before me.

In those days Wits had a very strong swimming team that generally wiped the floor with other teams at their inter-varsity contests, which were always held over Easter.

These contests were great fun and we visited Pretoria, Stellenbosch, Cape Town and Grahamstown. Contests were never held in Johannesburg, as it was too cold over Easter.

I enclose a photograph of the Wits water polo team of 1949, the year we won the Harry Getz Trophy.

Hilton Selvey, FRACS, FRCS (Eng) (MBChB 1951) Mooloolah, Australia.



Wits U19A rugby team 1948: Back row l-r: Michael Yachad, C Groenewald, Samuel Price, Jacob Katz, Digby Meyer, P Shuttleworth, John Higgs. Middle row: C Liebenberg, G Griffiths, B Macdonald, John 'Chick' Henderson, Denis Laubscher, Basil Samuels. Front row: Gordon Mosenthal, Robert Knight, R Gray, David Clarke, L Sandler. Inset: M Meyerowitz.

Rugby surprise

Dear Editor,

Imagine my pleasant and unexpected surprise – I actually shrieked “What!” when I opened the Alumni magazine of October 2013, and there, on page 4, Letters to the Editor, is a photo of the 1948 Wits U19A rugby team with me standing, first man on the left, in the back row.

I know our then captain, “Chick” Henderson (who played for Oxford, Scotland and Transvaal), passed some years ago. Bruce Macdonald, the 1st XV Captain, sitting on Chick’s right, also played for Transvaal. Another member of that team is Wits’ esteemed previous Vice-Chancellor, Dr Bob Charlton, who I am so proud to say was my fellow lock, and I can’t recall why he was not in the picture. I was lucky enough to play for the team in the next two years as well, and was 1950 captain, then played 1st XV in 1951 and part of 1952.

It sure is nice reminiscing!

Mike Yachad (BSc Chem Eng 1952) Thornhill, Ontario, Canada.

Witsiesreflect



MEDICAL SCHOOL LIBRARY

I used to work as a librarian at the old Wits Medical School from 1956 - 1960. Miss Biddles was the librarian in charge. I have such wonderful memories of the staff and students, Prof. Gill Ged, Phillip Tobias etc. We also had a great deal of fun. I was asked to do some drawings for the stacks to enable the doctors to find the different journals arranged in subject order. These pictures were placed on the sides of the shelves. I believe Prof. François (Vossie) Daubenton took them with him when the library moved to new premises. I am interested to know if these pictures are still around. Perhaps you could shed some light on their whereabouts.

I still paint, but botanical flower watercolours! My maiden name was Silkiner. I married Harold Talerman in 1960. He was newly qualified at the time. He practised as an ophthalmic surgeon both in Port Elizabeth and London. Sadly he passed away in May 2008.

Shirley Talerman (BA Hons 1956), London.

Glenda Myers, Senior Librarian in the Health Sciences Library, replies:

I would love to thank Shirley for her drawings, which we still have. We have always wondered who the artist was (the watercolours simply state "Shirley" as the signature). The first librarian was in fact Prof. Raymond Dart, in an honorary capacity. He then married a subsequent librarian (Marjorie Dart).

ARCHITECTURE MEMORIES

Studying architecture at Wits in the 1940s I found to be a wonderful experience. I was inspired to enter the profession in part by my older stepbrother, Cecil Hersch, who graduated well before I did. Then it became a family affair with my younger brother, Lawrence following soon after I graduated. Later, Cecil's son, Denzil, also a Wits graduate, and then his daughter, who qualified in Australia.

If I recall correctly, the Faculty of Architecture occupied space in the main building – a few studios, offices and lecture rooms. Our physics and chemistry lectures were held in another location. For the School to have obtained its own building certainly indicates the growth that has gone on.

The Bachelor of Architecture programme was a five-year course of study. Students entered upon completion of high school. The fourth year was spent in a work setting and then students returned to classes and to write a thesis in the fifth year. Groups of students were permitted to work together on a thesis. Two classmates and I chose *The History of Landscape in Relation to Architecture*. In my first year we were about 22 students. There were no black students, unlike some other faculties, such as the medical school and engineering department. Five students were women. In those days eyebrows were still raised at women becoming architects, although in class, I recall we were treated as equals with the men. In London, where my husband and I resided for a couple of years soon after graduating (he did medicine at Wits), the attitude was even more so. I had a hard time even getting interviews for a job. However, with much persistence I eventually found employment in a large firm in London.

Freda Kaminer (BArch 1947), Falmouth, USA.

THIS IS A BRIEF EXTRACT FROM FREDA'S REFLECTIONS. READ THE FULL STORY ON THE TRADITIONS PAGE AT WWW.WITS.AC.ZA/ALUMNI

KICK START

Wits gave me a "kick start" in the most satisfying career I could have wished for, namely occupational therapy.

Margaret Thompson (née Lennox)
(DOH 1958), St Francis Bay.

YOU CAN READ EXTRACTS FROM A BOOK MARGARET WROTE FOR HER CHILDREN, *REFLECTIONS ON OT ON THE TRADITIONS* PAGE AT WWW.WITS.AC.ZA/ALUMNI

MARRYING A WITSIE AND MAKING COPIES

On completion of my degree in 1944, I obtained a post in the American Information Library, which came under the Consulate and the American War Office. During the year I worked there (which was very enjoyable), I was required to type nine copies (using carbon paper) of the monthly report. One copy was done in reverse (on the back of the paper) as this copy was micro-filmed and sent to the American Libraries around the world.

I left the American Library to take up the post of Secretary at the Teachers Training College and was there for just over two years under Prof. Williams, who was then the Principal. During that time young men were returning from the war and registering for teaching qualifications.

I gave up this interesting position on my marriage to Raymond Sandig, a medical graduate of Wits.

Doris Sandig (BA 1945), St Ives, NSW, Australia.

Social

FOUNDERS GATHER FOR TEA

The 500-strong gathering of alumni at the Founders' Tea on 14 November 2013 was the largest ever at this annual event. Inside a grand marquee on the Gavin Relly Green on West Campus, alumni met new Vice-Chancellor and Principal Adam Habib for the first time. Guest speaker Bobby Godsell quipped, "As you get older, you tend towards nostalgia [but] reflection is better." The mining and labour doyen – and now National Planning Commissioner – observed that "the people in this room are privileged to have lived through...interesting times" in South Africa. After the formal proceedings alumni enjoyed tea and canapés while reconnecting and reminiscing.



Top: The oldest Witsie at Founders' tea 2013, Dr Louwine van Meurs, 93. Left: Vice-Chancellor Adam Habib with Nobel Laureate, Nadine Gordimer (honorary DLitt 1984) Opposite page: (top) Dr Arie Wessels and Mrs Selina Tsie (right) Guest speaker Bobby Godsell (below) Prof. Mervyn and Liz King.

REFLECTIONS ON FOUNDERS' TEA

After Bobby Godsell's talk, I went home and did some reminiscing of my own. I was at the very first Founders' Tea – no, definitely not as a guest! I don't remember exactly which year it was – maybe late 1980s or early 90s perhaps. If my memory serves me, I think it was for graduates up to the start of World War II, i.e., end-1938. The West Campus was still a talking point and I was asked to do a tour – which I actually did for the Founders for several years, until it just got too big. But I do know that at that first one, the oldest graduate was a Mr Hirsch. There used to be a very well-known wholesale company called Frank & Hirsch, and he was one of the original founders. Amongst other things, they were importers of watches and jewellery. Again, I really can't be sure, but I think Mr Hirsch graduated in about 1939 – he certainly was a very old man.

Gail Levin (BA 1966)



It is 11:00 on 14 November 2013. More than 500 alumni are seated in the marquee on the Gavin Relly Green on the West Campus. By all intentions I would be with them, accompanied by my wife, Pam to enjoy the tea, the comradeship, old friends such as Noel Peverett, Annabelle Lucas and Peter Spence, and to listen to the new Vice-Chancellor, Adam Habib, and to Bobby Godsell, the guest speaker.

Sometimes I alone, and sometimes both Pam and I have attended this lovely function each year for many years. But this year I am incapacitated to the extent that I cannot walk the ground to a table.

The earlier Founders' Teas were held at the Vice-Chancellor's residence – Saverlake – where one had the opportunity to explore the public rooms of this historical house on the Parktown Ridge. On one occasion I saw Helen Suzman there shortly before her death. Teas at Saverlake were arranged by Pooven Naiker and Raelene Robertson.

Raelene I had got to know well, as she had once invited me to lunch on campus, for me to hand over to the curator of Wits Archives some documents belonging to my father – Percy Freer, the first Wits Librarian, 1930 to 1953.

As far as I can remember the weather for the teas was always glorious – full sunshine with the gardens at their best and jacarandas in full bloom all around. Parking and presumably privacy became problems at Saverlake with increasing numbers of alumni attending.

Enjoy your morning together. Enjoy the speeches and the tea, and spread the word.

John Freer (BSc 1949, BSc Hons 1950)



YOUNG ALUMNI IN CONVERSATION WITH ADAM HABIB

The President of Convocation, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, hosted a forum for young alumni (age 35 and younger) to engage with Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Adam Habib on Wednesday 23 October 2013.

CAPE TOWN REUNION

Sixty alumni in Cape Town met the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Adam Habib, at a reunion held at the Pepper Club Hotel on Saturday 9 November 2013.



1963



ENGINEERING BRIGHT SPARKS REUNITE

Twenty-seven Electrical Engineering alumni of the class of 1963 met for their 50th reunion on 23 November 2013. They convened at Wits for a tour of the West Campus, followed by lunch at the Wits Club with the former Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, alumna Prof. Beatrice Lacquet and the Head of the School of Electrical and Information Engineering, Prof. Fambirai Takawira.

Top left: The graduating class of '63 Electrical Engineers Above: The class of '63 alumni in 2013 Back (l-r): Steve Verster; Henk Lantermans; Paul Nitschmann; Andre Bollo; Neville Frewin; Piet Greyling; Pierre Ballot; Eddie Coulson; Jack Rowan; Trevor Page; Lawrence Hyslop; Alan Brigish; Prof. Ivan Hofsjager. Middle (l-r): Buster Sefor; Prof. Fambirai Takawira; Rob Wodley-Smith; Stanley Deacon; Clive Rutter; Mike Brown; Neville Lock; Peter Martin; Prof. Rex van Olst; Prof. Beatrice Lacquet; Prof. Ken Nixon; Navin Kalida. Front (l-r): Roger Airy; Dominic Desi; Clive Leyland; Martin Gibbs; Mike Dunn; George Jaros; Noel De Villiers.



RFK SCREENING

Fifty alumni gathered in the Senate Room at Wits on Sunday 20 October 2013 for a screening of *RFK in the Land of Apartheid: A Ripple of Hope*, produced by Wits alumnus Larry Shore. The film elicited nostalgic responses from alumni who were students at Wits when US Attorney-General Robert Kennedy delivered an address in the University's Great Hall on 8 June 1966.

News

IG NOBEL PRIZE NOT TO BE POOH-POOHED



Dung beetles sporting caps and boots entered the annals of the Ig Nobel Prize at a ceremony at Harvard University on Thursday, 12 September 2013. Professor Marcus Byrne (PhD 1998) of the School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences and colleagues

from Lund University, Sweden, won the Ig Nobel Prize in Astronomy and Biology for discovering that when dung beetles get lost, they can navigate their way home by looking at the Milky Way. *Annals of Improbable Research* magazine and Harvard organise the awards to honour science achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think.



That's how they roll: (L-R) Professor Eric Warrant; Dr Emily Baird; Dr Marie Dacke (Lund University); and Professor Marcus Byrne, South Africa's second winner of an Ig Nobel Prize.



Rising Star Expedition spelunkers: (L-R) Hannah Morris; Marina Elliott; Becca Peixotto; Elen Feuerriegel; Alia Gurtov; and Lindsay Eaves.

FOSSIL TREASURE TROVE

Wits palaeoanthropologist, Professor Lee Berger, and his Rising Star Expedition team in November 2013 unearthed thousands of specimens from a cave in the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site. The site is now the richest in early hominids in southern Africa. Berger (PhD 1994), a Research Professor in Human Evolution and a National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, is directing the expedition which includes a six-woman specialist team who fit strict criteria: diminutive (to fit in caves), expert spelunkers (cavers), with excellent excavation skills. The expedition began on 7 November and more than 1 000 fossils were recovered by month-end. The age, species and number of individual fossils is unknown. "We need to go back, rethink and rework our plan on how we are going to deal with this site in future. We have not yet scratched the surface and this work will go on for decades!" said Berger.

GLOBALRANKINGS

In various prestigious ranking systems published in 2013, Wits University and its alumni remain global leaders.

24th

ALMA MATER INDEX

The *Times Higher Education's* 2013 Alma Mater Index is based on the number of Global Fortune 500 companies that were produced by a university. Wits topped the list in Africa and Harvard University was ranked 1st .

15th

BRICS & EMERGING ECONOMIES TOP 100 RANKING

The world's first global ranking of universities in Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and 17 other countries classified as emerging economies by the Financial Times Stock Exchange was published by *Times Higher Education* in December 2013, using rigorous performance indicators covering all aspects of teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook. Of the BRICS economies, China emerged as the higher education leader with 23 institutions in the Top 100 compared with India's 10, South Africa's five, Brazil's four and Russia's two.

56th

TOP 100 UNIVERSITIES FOR PRODUCING MILLIONAIRES

Extensive data on the world's top 500 universities was compiled for wealth management and luxury lifestyle media brand Spear's in association with WealthInsight, a leading wealth consultancy company, to publish a list in 2013 of global universities that produce the most millionaires. Wits topped the list in Africa and Harvard University was ranked 1st.

139th

GLOBAL EMPLOYABILITY SURVEY

This 2013 survey, designed and commissioned by the French education consulting firm Emerging Associates, asked recruiters and senior international executives to profile an ideal university graduate. Wits is the only university in Africa to appear in this ranking and Oxford University was ranked 1st.

Airports & clarinets

the world
of Stanis Smith

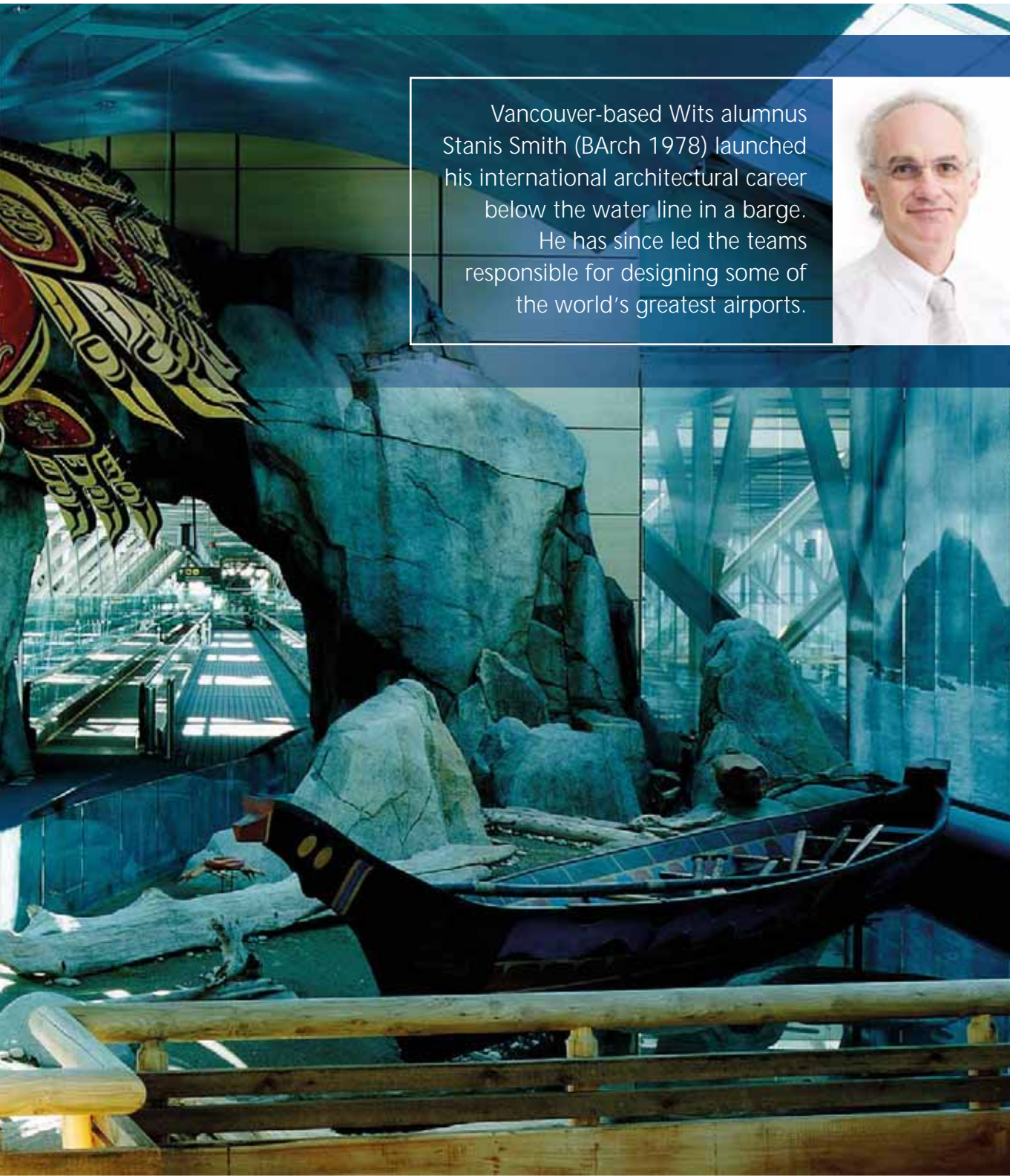
BY HEATHER DUGMORE



..... Vancouver Airport,
Thunderbird and Canoe

Vancouver-based Wits alumnus Stanis Smith (BArch 1978) launched his international architectural career below the water line in a barge.

He has since led the teams responsible for designing some of the world's greatest airports.



//

“It blew me away,” is how *WITSReview* Editor and Director of Alumni Relations Peter Maher described Vancouver International Airport, where this story begins. He was visiting Wits alumni

in that part of the world when he experienced this unique building, which has won many awards and is listed as one of the top ten airports in the world.

On arrival you cross a platform spanning a large waterfall; everywhere you look are giant totem poles and First Nation sculptures from the Pacific Northwest Coast in a backdrop of blues and greens that reflect the land, sea and sky. Here, precision and functionality meet art gallery and wildlife adventure in an exciting space with wonderful acoustics.

Maher was delighted to discover that it was designed by Stanis Smith who studied architecture at Wits in the 1970s and who is today one of the world’s top airport architects. When Maher contacted him and recounted his experience, Smith replied: “I’m really pleased that you like it – tell any of your friends who are thinking about hiring an architect to design their next airport!”

Understatement and whimsical self-deprecation

Smith’s response sums up his characteristic understatement and whimsical self-deprecation, both of which confirm his confidence and ability.

He heads the airports and aviation sector as well as the buildings group in the global firm Stantec, of which he is Senior Vice-President, and which has 13 000 specialists working in over 200 locations worldwide, designing and constructing airports, hospitals, healthcare and educational institutions, commercial buildings and buildings for NASA.

A string of major airport projects

Smith has a string of major airport projects to his name and is currently leading the team designing the Arturo Merino Benitez International Terminal in Santiago, Chile, one of the most significant airport projects

in the world. He was also the project architect for a NASA building at the Kennedy Space Center in Orlando, Florida, that celebrates the Apollo moon landings and has at its heart one of three Saturn V rockets still in existence. And he designed the Applied Science Building at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.

If he had to choose a favourite project – which he says is as difficult as choosing a favourite child – it would be Vancouver International Airport because it was the first project where he was able to take the whole airport experience to an entirely different level.

“THE BEAUTY OF ARCHITECTURE IS THAT IT MARRIES THE CREATIVE SIDE OF LIFE WITH THE ANALYTICAL”

Below the water line

Smith’s career in Canada began below the water line in a barge in Vancouver harbour – the premises of his first job with Architectura, the architectural firm he joined when he moved to Vancouver in 1986 with his wife Joanne, whom he met at Wits. Joanne (née Catzel) graduated with a BSc in Occupational Therapy in 1982, and is today a leading hand specialist with a practice in Vancouver.

Young and qualified, they decided to try their luck in Canada as they were concerned about where the apartheid regime was heading, Smith had completed his two years in the army, and Vancouver seemed like a big adventure. They had visited before, they enjoyed the sense of collective goodwill in Canadian culture and they thought Vancouver was as beautiful as Cape Town.

Right: Exterior Nassua
Airport, Bahamas Centre:
Nassua Airport entrance
Below: Interior Nassua
Airport, Junkanoo dancers





Left: Interior Edmonton Airport, wide angle
 Below: (left) Interior Edmonton Airport (right) Edmonton Airport exterior, computer model



“MY INTEREST
 IN MUSIC ALSO
 INFLUENCED THE
 AIRPORT’S ACOUSTIC
 DESIGN, WHICH
 CAN INCREASE OR
 DECREASE STRESS”

Architects not on the desirable list

On the strength of Joanne’s qualifications they were accepted into Canada. Architects were not on the desirable qualifications list, not then and not now.

“I was 30 at the time and I literally and figuratively joined at the bottom of the company,” says Smith. “I was fortunate to get a job, largely on the strength of my experience in Computer Aided Design (CAD), which was still a rare skill in Canada.”

CAD presented a major shift in the way projects were designed at the time – from paper and pencils to virtual designs on computers – and it’s never looked back. Today that trend has evolved into Building Information Modeling (BIM) using three-dimensional models.

Right: Vancouver Airport, Aquarium
Far right: Interior Vancouver Airport, welcome totems at Arrivals



Pioneering approach to the airport experience

The Vancouver airport project was completed on CAD in the mid-1990s and all these years later still makes the 'Best 10' list of airports worldwide because of its pioneering, people-friendly approach to the airport experience, as Smith explains:

"We all know that air travel is stressful, most people don't travel that often and getting through the invasive string of airport procedures makes people tense. We wanted to create a calming environment, which on a functional level is easy to understand and where the way-finding is intuitive and friendly.

"To achieve this we chose soothing natural materials that people relate to at an instinctive level, like stone and wood, and we used calming colour schemes, blues and greens, to tell the story of the region through the design elements and collection of artworks that we installed.

Meet you at the totem poles

"This helps the people who are going to use the building to enjoy the whole experience and also to orientate themselves. They can say 'I'll meet you at the totem poles or at the Jade Canoe'," he explains. The Jade Canoe or Spirit of Haida Gwaii is an iconic mythological sculpture by renowned British Columbia Haida

artist Bill Reid, permanently installed at Vancouver International and featured on the Canadian \$20 bill.

"My interest in music also influenced the airport's acoustic design, which can increase or decrease stress," continues Smith, who is also an accomplished classical musician with a Licentiate from Trinity College London. "If you are in an environment with a lot of noise, it is stress-inducing; in an airport you need the acoustics to be far more soothing than they generally are."

Combining very real world issues and aesthetics

His work requires a daunting level of responsibility and skill, absorbing every side of his and his team's collective brain. "The beauty of architecture is that it marries the creative side of life with the analytical; it combines very real world issues like budget and completing large projects on time with the aesthetics and quality of the environment."

The best architecture is "a dialogue", he explains.

"There is some mythology about architects being lone artists struggling against the odds whereas the real world is nothing like that. It's a collaborative effort between architect and client and between the members of the architectural and engineering teams within the firm.

DESIGNER WITSIE

“I work with very talented teams where the end result is very much a team effort, not only of architects but of a whole array of professionals – from structural and mechanical engineers to lighting and sound specialists. For me, as the design team leader, the most meaningful analogy is that of the conductor of the orchestra rather than the star soloist.”

A choice between music or architecture

A fitting analogy, since Smith had to choose whether he was going to study architecture or music at Wits. “One of my high school teachers at Parktown Boys’ encouraged me to consider architecture as a career. My father, Hylton Smith, was an architect and also a Wits alumnus, so it was a natural consideration, but I also loved music.”

He was in the junior SABC orchestra and had been performing as a classical musician – on the recorder and clarinet – from a very young age. His clarinet teacher, Mario Trincherro, the principal clarinetist at the SABC at the time, gently encouraged him to choose architecture, as he well knew the hardships of life as a classical musician.

“Without giving it too much further thought I settled on architecture. These big decisions are often the ones we give the least amount of time.”

Smith says he felt “an enormous sense of freedom” going to Wits. “Parktown Boys’ offered a good education but the school environment in my day was rigid and there was not much room for individualism or self-expression. Going to Wits was liberating for me in this way, and I remember feeling transported by the freedom.

I owe a lot to Wits

“I owe a lot to Wits for the exploration it encouraged on a personal and academic level. As architectural students we were able to explore a multidisciplinary environment, integrating the work of related professions such as structural and mechanical design, which proved very influential on my career.”

At the same time he continued with his music, playing predominantly baroque pieces with fellow Wits student Simon Wynberg, who was studying music and with whom he formed a group called Quodlibet.

Wynberg today is a prominent musician in Canada and Artistic Director of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. Smith has continued with his musical involvements, and produced an album in 2011 titled *Clarinet Music of Rota and Brahms*.

Nino Rota wrote superb clarinet music and is best known for some exceptional film scores, notably for Franco Zeffirelli’s *Romeo and Juliet*, Francis Ford Coppola’s *The Godfather* and Federico Fellini’s *8 ½*.

“IT’S ABOUT DOING MORE WITH LESS, WHICH HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY NECESSARY IN THIS ERA OF SUSTAINABILITY”

Economy of expression

Good baroque music appeals to Smith. “I appreciate its economy of expression,” he explains. “With very economical means it speaks to one at a highly personal but quiet, restrained, sparse level. Good architecture does the same. It tells a story and satisfies its functional requirements with an economy of means. It’s about doing more with less, which has become increasingly necessary in this era of sustainability.”



..... Top & right:
..... Interior Ottawa Airport



IF THERE IS ONE BUILDING HE WOULD STILL LIKE TO DESIGN, IT WOULD BE A BUILDING FOR WITS.

Designing for clients all over the world, he says the trend is towards not only sustainable, green buildings but also towards buildings with a global stature that at the same time reflect a strong sense of local culture and community. "It's absolutely possible and it's what we set out to do all those years back with Vancouver International," says Smith.

"We've come a long way since then and we now work with experts from around the world in local offices in many different regions. This ensures that we plug directly into that community and develop strong relationships there, whether it's in North America or the United Kingdom or India."

Not for the faint of heart

Smith is on an aeroplane several times a week to oversee projects and nurture relationships. Many of the projects he leads take several years to complete. "The architectural world is not for the faint of heart. You need to have the courage of your convictions and to maintain your client relationships and your vision over a long period of time, through all the ups and downs."

In two years' time he and Joanne will have lived in Vancouver for 30 years. They no longer feel like immigrants, and their two daughters are born-and-bred Canadians. Chloe (24) is a marketing coordinator and social media consultant for a large electrical contractor. Maia (21) is in her fourth year at Simon Fraser University, specialising in bioinformatics.

"Neither of them show much interest in architecture," he smiles. But they do share their father's love of music: Chloe sings, Maia plays the oboe and both are in an a cappella group.

The Smith family lives in a magnificent home in the city of Burnaby to the east of Vancouver. It overlooks the river and has been featured in leading design magazines (one would expect nothing less of Smith).

Education without Borders

On weekends he makes a point of spending time at home and he and Joanne go cycling on their tandem bike or hiking or to the opera or a musical performance. Smith is on the Board of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and regularly performs chamber music. Towards the end of 2013 he performed in a benefit concert for the Vancouver-based Education without Borders, which helps to build schools in South Africa's Western Cape.

He still gets nostalgic about the country of his birth and recently visited Cape Town and Kruger National Park for a joint celebration of his mother's 80th birthday and his daughter's 21st.

"I miss South Africa"

"I miss South Africa. I especially miss the climate, the wildlife and the energy. Canada is a wonderful country that has achieved a remarkable balance and safety as a society. We owe a lot to it and feel privileged to live here, but what it doesn't have is the real electricity in the air that South Africa has as a society in transition, with all the pros and cons of that. You feel it when you are there."

Let it be known that Smith has his eye on us. If there is one building he would still like to design, it would be a building for Wits. "I'd really love to do that," he says. "So if you have any friends who are thinking about hiring an architect to design their next academic building..."



Walking with giants
Achieve greatness. Choose Wits

From top left to right:
Maria Ramos, Patrice Motsepe, Adrian Gore, Mamokgethi Phakeng, Sibongile Khumalo, Ridwan Mia, George Bizos, Gwede Mantashe,
Ferial Haffajee, Graham Mackay, Claire Johnston, Helen Zille, Aaron Klug, Nkhensani Nkosi, Helen Suzman, Brian Joffe, Phillip Tobias, Bernie Fanaroff.

Stand tall amongst our illustrious alumni.

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Steve Collis

billionaire
boykie



From his distinctly South African accent to his turn of phrase, Wits alumnus Steve Collis is the boy next door who left for America to seek his fortune and now heads a multibillion-dollar company.

BY HEATHER DUGMORE

//

received an e-mail this morning from Steve Collis, with whom I went to primary school and who was my mixed doubles partner at many tennis tournaments when we were growing up in South Africa. I believe you interviewed him. He's been phenomenally successful in the US, and is as nice as he is successful."

So reads the e-mail I received from Wits alumna Arlene Smukler, with whom I attended high school and who is now a lawyer in Los Angeles. Such is the beauty of the Wits alumni network.

"I feel like I know you," says Collis after we establish our direct connection to Arlene. The feeling is mutual. I feel like I'm talking to the boy next door whom I used to meet at the mobile ice cream van when we heard its eerie jingle in our neighbourhood. Except this boy next door no longer counts our cents to see if we have enough money for a flake and soft serve, he now counts in billions of US dollars.

A chartered accountant by profession, Collis is the CEO of AmerisourceBergen Corporation – one of the world's largest pharmaceutical services companies. Based outside Philadelphia in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, the company's annual revenue is US\$87 billion. It delivers 20 percent of all the pharmaceuticals dispensed in the US, employs 14 000 people and has 150 company-owned offices around the world. Its services range from clinical trial logistics and pharmaceutical distribution to pharmaceutical consulting services.

Dealing in billions of dollars

Asked what it's like dealing in billions of dollars, he says: "You get used to it. It's like you're talking in rands one day and next thing you're talking in billions of dollars. I've no idea how it happens; it just evolves when you are working with significant amounts of money every day. You become very conscious of the numbers, place a strong emphasis on fiscal accountability, metrics, cash flow, and the amount of risk that the company is willing to take, and then the numbers grow."

But it's more than that. The Collis approach is to listen and to inspire his associates to exercise intellectual confidence in what they say and do. "At meetings I like to listen more than I like to talk because I want to hear what others have to say and then to take our collaborative experience and our products and adapt them to what people need," he explains.

Fanatical about customer service

"I think it also helps that I'm a good networker and I have a genuine enthusiasm for meeting and engaging with people. This respect and interest in people is one of the reasons why our company is fanatical about customer service. If you love people, you want to give them the best possible service, no matter how big or small a customer they are – and our customers range from individual patients to global companies like Pfizer."

Collis joined what is today AmerisourceBergen Corporation in 1994. It was a bold move considering he had immigrated to the US just five years earlier.



Top left: (L) Michala (16), Jordan (19) and Olivia (11) Top right: Steve and Toni Left: Michala in SA in 2012 at a community service programme.



Steve and Toni at the London Olympics 2012



A family of Witsies: (l-r) Steve Collis, Lindsay Isserow (née Collis, BA Hons 1986), Andrea Isserow (née Collis, BA 1983), Julian Collis (BDS 1954, HDip Dent 1960, MSc Dentistry 1974), Maureen Collis (née Young, BA 1958), and Saul Isserow (MBBCh 1986). Absent: Dan Isserow (Bcom 1981, BAcc 1983).

“WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE A LOVELY LIFESTYLE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF PHILADELPHIA IN A GREEN, LEAFY SUBURB”

Fascinated with America

His move was motivated by his fascination with America. To a young South African man, America was a beacon of opportunity, a place of glittering dreams served up on our cinema screens, and a place where the political landscape was vastly different to South Africa.

“After I completed my national service in the South African Air Force I took up an offer made by some family friends who had emigrated to the US to join their small orthopaedic supplies company in California. It sold braces, splints, knee guards – that kind of thing,” he explains.

It wasn't easy to grow the company but the team worked hard and built it up. There was nothing glamorous about it but it was a starting point and it was also where he met and married his wife Toni, who worked for the company in sales.

Having acquainted himself with the medical and pharmaceutical supplies industry through his first American job, Collis moved on and joined Alternate Site Distributors, a division of Bergen Brunswig, in Dallas, Texas in 1994. Collis was the fourth employee and the first General Manager there.

“We'd bring in another South African”

“One of the first people we hired after moving to Dallas was a South African fellow called Neil Herson, who was also a Wits alumnus. He played rugby for Wits and was a cool, *fris* guy with an earring in his ear – and he's still like that! Every time our division in Dallas needed to hire someone we'd bring in another

South African until the head of the company asked us if there were any people in Dallas who were not South African who needed a job. So we had to diversify!” smiles Collis.

CEO of AmerisourceBergen

In 2001, Bergen Brunswig Corporation and Amerisource Health Corporation merged to form AmerisourceBergen Corporation. Collis was a member of the steering committee that shaped the new AmerisourceBergen following the merger.

At the time of the merger the small division that Collis had helped found seven years before had grown to over US\$2 billion in sales and employed over 1000 associates.

In 2009, Collis was appointed President of AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation (ABDC), the core wholesale division of AmerisourceBergen. Two years later he was appointed CEO of AmerisourceBergen Corporation.

This meant moving to the headquarters in Philadelphia.

“We were reluctant to leave Dallas because we had established a great life and a lekker circle of friends there, but that's what you have to do – it's part of the job.”

Philadelphia is the fifth-most-populated city in the US and is situated halfway between New York and Washington, D.C. It's a historical city dating back to the late 1600s and it's home to many respected universities. “It's a great city with an energetic downtown atmosphere and a renewed focus on urban revitalisation,” says Collis.

“WE WERE ALL AMBITIOUS, AND WE DID OUR HOMEWORK BEFORE INVESTING”

A lovely lifestyle

“We are fortunate to have a lovely lifestyle on the outskirts of Philadelphia in a green, leafy suburb called Bryn Mawr, which is not unlike Atholl in the northern suburbs of Joburg where I grew up,” he says. They live in a 100-year-old home, which Toni has furnished beautifully, where they host fundraising and charity events.

“I thoroughly enjoy time spent at home,” says Collis, who travels on business an average of 10 days out of every month, and has done so for the past 20 years. “For me it’s not a problem because it goes with my job and I love what I do. It also gives me the opportunity to see the customers and friends I have made all over the US and beyond. I’m fortunate that Toni understands this and she is there for the kids when I can’t be.”

The Collises have three children: Jordan (19), Michala (16) and Olivia (11). Jordan is at the University of Hertford Connecticut and the girls are at private schools.

Travelling to interesting places

“Every year we make a point of spending a few weeks together, travelling to interesting places. We’ve been to Peru, the Galapagos, India, Thailand and Japan.

In 2013 we visited Australia for the first time, where most of my Wits BCom friends now live. Some of us hadn’t seen each other since we left Wits,” says Collis, who hasn’t been back to South Africa for 11 years. “It’s long overdue to visit all my old haunts, including my old high school, King David Linksfield,” he says.

In 2012 their eldest daughter Michala came out to South Africa to do community service in the Kruger Park area, and outside Durban and Cape Town,

through a community service pre-college enrichment programme called Westcoast Connection.

“She wants to teach young kids one day. She loved the experience and the children, and she was concerned about the poverty she saw,” says Collis, adding that he puts no pressure on his children when it comes to choosing careers. “I’d be happy if they followed their vocational calling in life rather than base their career decision on material gain,” he says.

“I’m pretty sure one or more of our children will pursue philanthropic goals. It runs in the family – both my sisters, Andrea and Lindsay, trained as social workers at Wits and Andrea teaches children with special needs.”

Intrigued by the idea of a global business landscape

Collis set his sights on a different path. From a young age he was fascinated by the idea of a global business landscape. His uncles ran private and public companies, and he witnessed his cousins’ involvement in international travel and business ventures. This intrigued him.

At Wits his interest in the financial market escalated.

“We had a stock market club, and a couple of us would put in R100 each and buy shares. We were all ambitious, and we did our homework before investing. We all read the business section of the *Rand Daily Mail* and we did pretty well.”

His drive for success can be traced back to his parents.

“My dad, Dr Julian Collis, is a prominent and active prosthodontist who trained and lectured at Wits. My mom, Maureen, got her teaching degree from Wits and helped my dad in his practice. They inspired us to do well and gave my sisters and I a good life and we were fortunate never to want for anything.”



Celebrating the signing of a 10 year agreement between the three companies, (l-r) Stefano Pessina, Chairman and CEO of Alliance Boots, Steve Collis and Gregory Wasson, President and CEO of Walgreen Co.

“OUR GOAL IS TO BECOME THE LEADING GLOBAL PROVIDER OF SPECIALTY DRUG PRODUCTS AND SERVICES”

Inking multi-billion dollar deals

Today it is second nature for Collis to be inking multi-billion dollar deals, including a strategic distribution contract with US-based pharmacy giant Walgreens and UK-based Alliance Boots in March 2013. This US\$25 billion deal means all 8 200 Walgreens stores will buy their generic and brand drugs from AmerisourceBergen – a groundbreaking contract for the company’s core drug wholesale business.

“Our goal is to become the leading global provider of specialty drug products and services,” says Collis, who is unreservedly optimistic about his company’s future and cautiously optimistic about the US economy’s. “It’s definitely improving, albeit slowly,” he says.

“It came as such a shock”

Collis has read every available book and analysis of the 2008 financial crash.

“It came as such a shock to realise it had all got so out of whack. It’s common sense that you cannot give people money that they have no chance of repaying – you should not put your shareholders, the government and citizens at risk like that – yet the ratings agencies failed to recognise this. How could they have allowed those junk bonds to be given AA ratings? It’s deeply disappointing that the whole system failed and the question is how you legislate to stop this from happening again. It’s a fundamental challenge.”

Five years after the crash, unemployment is still high and technology has replaced a significant percentage of jobs formerly undertaken by humans.

The US remains a beacon of hope

“But despite all this, the US remains a great beacon of hope for immigrants from all over the world,” says Collis. “We see first generation medical professionals here from countries like India and China. It’s an encouraging reminder that while there are many challenges to face, it remains a great country and I’m extremely grateful for what the US has given us. After all, I too am an immigrant.”



LET'S TALK ABOUT
**the
weather**

PHOTO: ROBERT VAN WAARDEN

Is the weather really changing? Is global warming real? We hear so many conflicting opinions that many of us don't know whether to head for the hills or stick our heads in the sand.

BY HEATHER DUGMORE



CLIMATE CHANGE

love the taste of solar-powered coffee in the morning. A nice strong cup, freshly ground, and served by electrical engineer Professor Willie Cronje in his office in the Chamber of Mines Building at Wits.

On the roof is a set of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, which provides electricity to the building, including Cronje's coffee machine. "It's giving us the opportunity to see how renewable energy can complement the electricity we get from City Power on campus," explains Cronje, who is the new Alstom Chair for Clean Energy Systems Technology (ACCEST).

"We've run the PV system for a year without any maintenance issues and we are keen to build on it for Wits. The University has the ideal rooftop space for solar panels. It would lower the carbon footprint and show a significant saving in electricity."

IS CLIMATE CHANGE REAL, ARE HUMANS CAUSING IT AND SHOULD WE REALLY BE CONCERNED?

Cronje is passionate about energy and getting citizens in tune with our energy needs. We are rapidly depleting and destroying the planet's natural resources, including fossil fuels, with all manner of side effects, including weather gone wayward.

Weather gone wayward

Enjoying a cuppa with us is Professor Mary Scholes from the Wits School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences. If you want to talk about the weather and climate change, speak to Scholes.

She recently attended a global pow-wow in Geneva to negotiate solutions to global emissions, climate change and the future of the planet via a group of objectives called the Sustainable Development Goals.



Dr Mike Seeger, who installed solar photovoltaic panels on the roof of the Chamber of Mines Building at Wits.

"These goals, which are set to replace the Millennium Development Goals, are negotiated by the governments of the world with the intention of improving the overall wellbeing of society and the planet through behavioural and attitudinal change," Scholes explains.

In short, unless we change the way we think and behave in terms of excess, wastage, carbon emissions and abuse of our natural resources, our chances of survival are not looking rosy. Climate change is symptomatic of this, we're told.

Is climate change real?

But is climate change real, are humans causing it and should we really be concerned?

"Yes, it is most certainly real, and yes, humankind and industrial development is responsible for about 75 percent of the changes we are seeing in global temperatures and ambient CO² concentrations," Scholes replies.

“CLIMATE CHANGE OR GLOBAL WARMING IS PART OF A BIGGER PROBLEM THAT WE CALL GLOBAL CHANGE”

“The reason the temperatures are rising and rainfall patterns are changing – which is what we call climate change – is that the CO² concentrations or greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are increasing.”

Climate change or global warming is part of a bigger problem that we call global change, she explains.

“Global change includes the full economic, environmental and social change linked to changes in climate. So, for example, if the intensity of the rainfall increases, resulting in floods, then people are often displaced, which has all sorts of social and economic impacts, including insurance and reinsurance.”

Climate denialism

So why would anyone deny that climate change or global change is real? A Google search unearths spates of feisty climate denialism from cranks and authoritative-sounding sources alike.

“There are a number of critics who say that throughout time there have been fluctuations in CO² and oxygen concentrations on the planet and that it has existed under far higher concentrations,” Scholes responds.

The critics' contention is that it is a well-known cycle and that it is alarmist and sensationalist to claim it is threatening our survival. Many climate denialists claim this is propaganda mongering by the enemies of the oil and gas companies.

Not the kind of planet that humans could inhabit

Scholes is aware of the conspiracy theories but says the answer is simple: “While fluctuations certainly occurred throughout our planet's history, the kind of

planet Earth that existed millions of years ago when the concentrations were higher is not the kind of planet Earth that humans could inhabit.”

On top of this, the periods of glacial and interglacial change that formerly lasted 400 000 years are now happening in 50 years because of escalating concentrations of CO² and CO²-equivalent or “carbon emissions,” predominantly from the burning of fossil fuels.

“If you look at the CO² concentrations over the 400 000 years when the planet was cold and covered in ice, there were 180 parts per million (ppm) CO² concentration in the atmosphere. Then the ice melted and the CO² concentration went up to 280ppm. The line wavered between 180ppm and 280ppm until we got to the 1600s and the start of rapid industrialisation. Today we sit with 400ppm, in other words the highest concentration in the last 500 000 years.”

Humans are comfortable at 18 degrees C

And while this is still significantly lower than the period prior to that, humankind does not have enough time to adapt. Humans are comfortable at 18 degrees C, which is the global mean temperature. However, the planetary temperature is rising by one to six degrees. Over the subcontinent of Antarctica the air temperature has already gone up by six degrees, which is why the ice shelves and glaciers are melting.

The further away from the equator, the more dramatic are the changes in temperature. “Because there is less land mass as you move towards the poles, the changes are felt more acutely,” Scholes explains.

At the same time, hot areas like Saudi Arabia will get hotter.

“IT TAKES ONLY A 2.5-5 DEGREE
RISE TO CHANGE THE PLANET
INTO AN ENVIRONMENT THAT
WILL BE VERY UNCOMFORTABLE
FOR HUMANS TO INHABIT”



“Climate scientists worldwide are putting together predictive models to determine where you will get higher and lower temperature increases. Modelling for South Africa predicts a 1.5-2 degree rise in the next 100 years. It takes only a 2.5-5 degree rise to change the planet into an environment that will be very uncomfortable for humans to inhabit, but this will be felt differently across the globe,” says Scholes. She adds that we are already beyond the point of no return, and into what is known as the Anthropocene period, where people are the major drivers of the functionality or non-functionality of our planet.

South Africa is in a tricky position

South Africa and other developing countries are in a tricky position because we are on an upward development curve, which needs to be carefully managed.

The South African government has committed to reducing the country's carbon emissions by 34 percent by 2020 and 42 percent by 2025 off a “business as usual” trajectory.

Emissions from transport account for at least 12 percent of South Africa's total greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂-equivalent or carbon emissions) that cause global warming. About 87 percent of this is from the combustion of diesel and petrol on our roads. Trends show that transport emissions are growing the fastest.

South Africa has to decide how best to achieve its development objectives while transforming the economy from one of high emissions intensity to a low-carbon economy that includes green jobs.

Which sectors and activities will need to shrink, and which must grow?

In our cities we have to move away from private cars towards public transport. In our freight transport we have to move from the roads back to the rails. How can this be achieved in a society where the first item people want to buy when they start earning more is a motor vehicle and where our railways leave much to be desired?

These are some of the issues the WWF Nedbank Green Trust's low-carbon transport programme is currently researching.

“Our research and engagement is across business, labour and government to find transport solutions in the passenger and freight sectors that deliver emission reductions, economic development and social equity,” says Louise Naudé, who heads the programme.

The Gauteng government has plans around public transport, including integrated bus, train and taxi networks based on a one-ticket system. So, for example, people will be able to get off their bus or taxi and catch their train right there without having to walk long distances between stations or buy multiple tickets.

Public transport needs to be a safe, pleasant and convenient experience, and stations need to be welcoming, safe places, Naudé explains. However, even with improved public transport, we still have the problem of trying to get people out of their private motor vehicles and into public transport.

“We are currently researching how best to incentivise all income groups to use public transport. At the same time we are researching what effect this would have on the motor vehicle manufacturing industry and the jobs it provides. We look at the web of cause and effect loops in our model.”

Getting the railways back in good working order

In the freight sector the programme is researching the emissions per commodity per mode, such as moving coal on trains or foodstuffs on trucks. It's also looking at the costly and complex issue of getting the railways back in good working order.

“WWF's standpoint is that we have to commit to systems that will reduce our emissions. We cannot afford to invest in infrastructure and other initiatives that take us in the wrong direction, hence WWF's ‘Seize Your Power’ campaign, which calls for investment to be shifted from fossil fuels into renewables,” she says.



HABITAT

CLIMATE

AIR NATURAL

GLOBAL WARMING

ECO

ENVIRONMENT

GEOLOGY

GREEN

LIFE

SOUTH AFRICA IS BLESSED WITH ABUNDANT SUNSHINE – A NATURAL RESOURCE THAT CANNOT BE DEPLETED

The shift from coal-based energy provision in South Africa cannot take place for many years, even decades, because we are heavily dependent on coal and other fossil fuels for the generation of electricity and energy.

We need to conserve oil for key products

Cronje says it's a non-debate as to when this should happen and whether we should be using fossil fuels or renewables: "Right now and for the foreseeable future we need both," he says. "We need the government to invest in renewables while continuing with coal and oil to meet our escalating energy and electricity needs. Fossil fuels are definitely going to get even more expensive than they already are and the reserves are dwindling. We will need to conserve a fossil fuel like oil for the production of key products such as plastic and use renewables for electricity and energy."

Blessed with abundant sunshine

Since South Africa is blessed with abundant sunshine – a natural resource that cannot be depleted – Cronje says it's a "mystery" why we haven't started using it in earnest. "In my mind we have to look at renewables in all their shapes and forms, including solar, wind, wave and biomass energy, which is what the Europeans are doing.

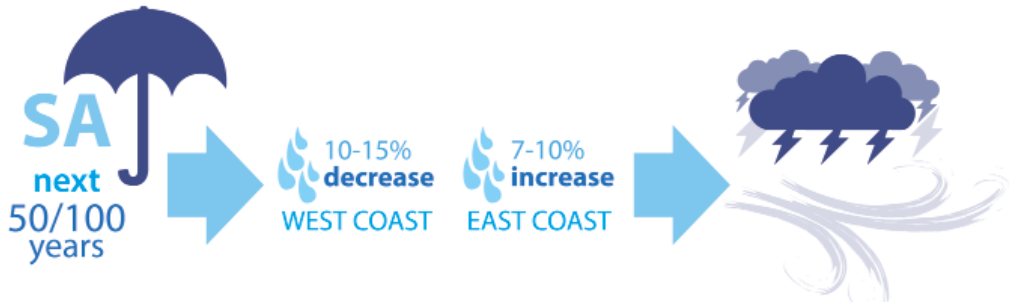
"We need a far more distributed energy generation system with an improved electrical energy supply, where we move away from being as reliant on the national grid as we are now. Households and communities need to become more independent and produce a larger portion of their own energy, and ideally receive tax rebates and incentives for doing so," he explains.

The fact that Eskom cannot currently supply enough energy, in the form of electricity, to meet South Africa's growing demand is already forcing developers to look carefully at the use of renewable energy sources in their new designs and projects. This will have a positive knock-on effect, such as bringing down the price of solar photovoltaic panels by growing the demand for it.

South Africa will then finally start harvesting its wealth from the sun and all over the country we'll be switching on our solar-powered kettles, making delicious renewable-energy beverages, sporting carbon-neutral clothes produced by off-grid factories and catching the wind-powered underground to our energy-efficient offices. Welcome to the future.



“IN SOUTH AFRICA WE WILL
HAVE FEWER COLD NIGHTS
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
WHILE THE DAYS WILL STILL
BE LOVELY AND WARM”



The weather report

Professor Mary Scholes from the Wits School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences predicts: in the next 50-100 years, the western side of South Africa – from Beaufort West towards the Atlantic Ocean – will be getting drier with a 10-15% decrease in rainfall.

Cape Town is different because of the ocean's influence. It probably won't be getting drier but the winter rainfall period might become shorter.

The rest of the country will receive about the same amount of rainfall except for the northern KwaZulu-Natal coastal area, which will have a 7-10% increase in rainfall.

The severity of storms will become a serious issue with high winds and high intensity storms occurring to a much greater degree.

With a shorter duration of the rainy season in many areas – where the rains start later and finish earlier – farmers will need to plant seed that can germinate in a shorter period.

Science is showing the fruit-producing sector in the Western Cape, for example, will be confronted with increasing, extreme climate variability and we need to know how to reduce these risks and impacts.

In the Grabouw-Villiersdorp apple and pear growing area, for example, farmers are con-

cerned about not getting long enough periods of cold in winter, which the apples and pears require during their dormancy stage. Instead, they are getting waves of warm weather during the winter, which is triggering premature budding that has a negative impact on yield.

Another example of climate-related harm is in the stone fruit sector (peaches, apricots, plums, nectarines) of the Little Karoo (from Worcester to Robertson to Oudtshoorn), where growers are experiencing frequent extreme hail and wind events during harvest time.

They also face changing seasonal patterns of rainfall and the risk of not having enough good quality water.

Water supply and quality is already a major issue in South Africa. We will be paying far more for water and there will be far stricter permitting.

So is there anything we can look forward to on the future weather score?

Yes, says Scholes: in South Africa we will have fewer cold nights throughout the year while the days will still be lovely and warm. We will also have less frost, so we will be able to grow certain foods more widely, such as our delicious subtropical fruits.

Sidney's Johannesburg

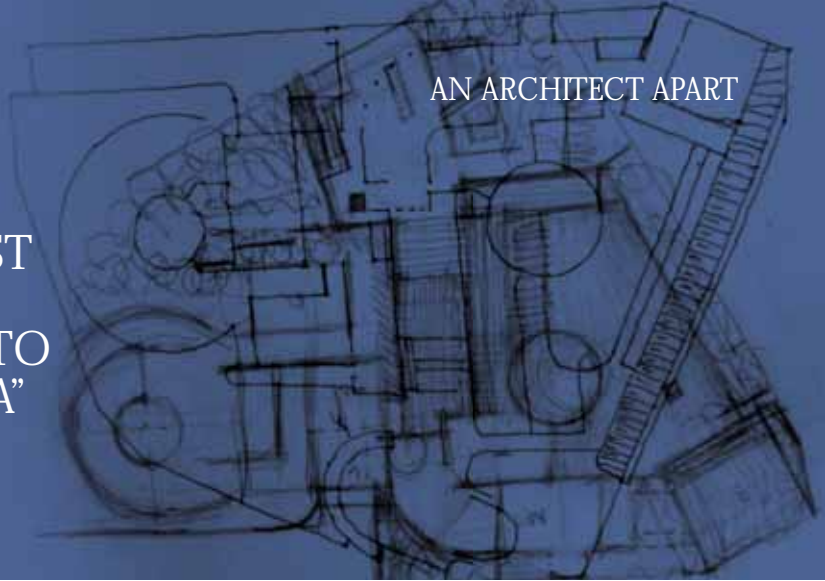


Publications featuring Abramowitch's architecture
(top-left: Innes Law Chambers)

Sidney Abramowitch's sharp blue eyes belie his 90 years. The nonagenarian, the same age as his alma mater, designed the Apartheid Museum and a host of Johannesburg favourites – even influencing the design of the city itself.

BY DEBORAH MINORS

“...OUR MUSEUM
– IS THE GREATEST
NEW PIECE OF
ARCHITECTURE TO
APPEAR IN AFRICA”



Abramowitch's original design sketches
of the Apartheid Museum

Abramowitch was comfortably en-
sconced in retirement when Nelson
Mandela's secretary called in 1999. She
wanted to know if he would consult on
the Apartheid Museum; the initial de-
sign submitted by an American architect had featured
Zulu kraals... Two days later, Abramowitch accepted
– on condition that, as senior consulting architect, he
had the final say. “You've got your requirements,”
museum committee chairman Reuel Khoza said.

The Apartheid Museum opened in 2001 to global
critical acclaim. “Some well-known architects have
said that this building – our museum – is the greatest
new piece of architecture to appear in Africa,” says
Abramowitch.

Sidney Arnold Abramowitch was born on 30 Novem-
ber 1923 – a year after Wits became a University. Here
he earned a BArch (1947) and a Master's in Urban
Design (1989).

“I spent a lot of time envisioning how people should
live ... people have to live, and children have to
grow up, and the setting is all important, all over
the world,” says Abramowitch. “I did many tours to
developments I thought were great. Then I started
writing on how designs should be made and I got very

big appointments – about the size of this one, which
is the development of an African city [Johannesburg].
And I turned it into a thesis.”

The thesis was essentially a master plan for Johannes-
burg. Entitled *Development of an African City: With
reference to the re-urbanisation of Johannesburg and
the Development of an Inner Core*, the opus earned
Abramowitch his Master's. This blueprint, written
over three years, was ultimately submitted to the
Johannesburg Municipality Planning Department at
their request.

Abramowitch's legacy has permeated Johannesburg
since 1976, when he completed the glass IBM building
in Fox Street. The Innes Law Chambers on Pritchard
Street followed, then the country's first Holiday Inn
at Milpark, and finally, at the turn of the century, the
Apartheid Museum. “I don't think I have a favourite,”
he smiles.

These days Abramowitch is “thoroughly retired” but
indulges his creativity by water-colour painting. He's
previously held solo exhibitions in the USA and in
South Africa. A retrospective is scheduled for May
2014 and it's fitting that this will take place at the
Apartheid Museum, in Sidney's Johannesburg.



PHOTO: DEBBIE YAZBEK

Witsie with the Midas touch

In 1977 Alan Demby, a young Wits graduate, made his first big investment – putting his entire fortune of R1 500 into buying three gold Krugerrand coins. He had never seen a Krugerrand before.

BY LANA JACOBSON

At the time he was serving his compulsory two-year military training in Pretoria, and when a friend suggested they should deal in gold coins he followed the advice. The budding entrepreneurs placed an advertisement in the local newspaper and when they received a response, his friend gave him a pep talk and a bank-guaranteed cheque. Demby changed from army uniform into a suit in his friend's car en route to the agreed meeting place. The seller was a perfect gentleman sporting long socks and a safari suit, and seller and buyer swapped bank paper for gold for the princely sum of R500 per Krugerrand (currently the golden coin sells for about R14 000).

Later, the entrepreneurs drove to The SA Gold Coin Exchange (SAGCE) in Johannesburg to sell the coins for a profit. Just fifteen years later, in 1992, Demby was back to buy out the SAGCE itself – the largest distributor of gold investment, bullion and collectable coins in South Africa.

WITSIE COINS IT

Starting out

Between leaving the army and buying the SAGCE he rented an office in 1979 in downtown Johannesburg and found a novel way to sell Krugerrands through a mail order company he formed called The Gold Club.

In 1989 he bought the Gold Investment Corporation (GIC) from Sage Holdings, a logical move as GIC involved direct selling of coins, which perfectly complemented his Gold Club mail order business.

The 1990s, with unstable gold prices, were a difficult time in the gold coin business, but it was then that Demby took the biggest risk of all, relocating to Sandton City in 1995.

On a whim, or what could have been a huge gamble, but in truth was desperation, he opened The Scoin Shop, selling coins directly to the public.

"I wanted to become a retail business; in previous years dealers treated clients like suspects instead of prospects. They didn't engage with or endear themselves to prospective clients. My thinking was to use quirky marketing methods. I wanted coins available to the general public, seven days a week, in a mall in a bright, clear setting in an inviting atmosphere with friendly staff," he explains.

It was a slow start, and Demby even thought at one stage of closing the shop. But after persevering for a few years, Scoin opened a second, third and fourth shop.

Growing success

Today there are 35 Scoin shops in all major shopping centres and airports in South Africa, including Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth, East London, Nelspruit and even Rustenburg.

"We have one shop in London and a presence in America. We re-engineered the way a coin shop is run and today the Scoin shops are the only retail chain of coin shops in the world, with a recorded clientele of 50 000 customers. They employ some 500 personnel, making them one of the biggest coin companies in the world in terms of staff."



PHOTO: DEBBIE YAZBEK

The SAGCE has generated sales of some R40bn over the past 40 years, and has become one of the biggest philanthropic contributors to the Nelson Mandela Foundation as well as to the Nobel Institute.

Demby proudly talks of attending three Nobel Peace Award ceremonies, and meeting and sharing the same dance floor with Michelle and Barack Obama and the King and Queen of Norway.

Perhaps Demby's proudest moment was presenting Aung San Suu Kyi with her own Nobel Laureate gold medallion and having her autograph her own medallion and certificate.

The Manchester United medallion has recently been launched and nowadays Demby is doing deals with the Rand Refinery, SA Mint, the British Royal Mint and the Royal Mint of Canada, to name a few. He recently established the Peacemakers Museum in Sandton's Nelson Mandela Square shopping mall to honour South Africa's four Peace laureates.



“THERE IS AN
UNDERLYING
COMMONALITY
BETWEEN COINS
AND ART”

Getting into art

In his usual maverick style, in 2012 Demby diversified into the art world when the SAGCE bought famed auction house and leading art dealer Stephan Welz & Co., thus enabling Demby to trade in stamps, coins, collectors’ pieces as well as fine art.

“There is an underlying commonality between coins and art,” he says. “All clients are collectors, and this offers another channel whereby clients can buy and sell their coins, turning us into a one-stop collectable business. Clients can now swap art for Krugerrands and Krugerrands for art.”

Building the foundation

To cynics, Demby’s Midas touch comes too easily; they claim he has always walked down a road paved with gold.

Nothing could be further from the truth. His business career began when he was 15 years old. While other boys were playing soccer or marbles, he was already honing his marketing skills on the school playground. To earn a few rand, he spent every spare moment writing advertisements, arranging film evenings and selling clothes. This was the only pocket money he could count on. “When we grew up we were poor. Now that is something money can’t buy,” he jokes.

Demby was born one of two sons to parents who migrated from Manchester to South Africa in 1958. They were in search of a warmer climate for his father, an asthma sufferer. In his formative years the Dembys lived in Port Elizabeth before moving to Glenhazel, Johannesburg.

His father found work in the rag trade but the pay was meagre and money was very scarce.

Despite many long debates about socialism versus capitalism between father and son, Demby’s father remains the strongest influence in his life.

Alan returned to live in Glenhazel many decades later, this time with his wife and three children, where the family remains to this day.



“WHEN WE GREW UP WE WERE POOR. NOW THAT IS SOMETHING MONEY CAN’T BUY”



Choosing Wits

He says, “ After matriculating I had three options: Israel, the South African Defence Force or Wits University. I had heard wonderful things about Wits, which made my choice easy. I obtained my BCom at Wits and it was there that I learnt about the importance of structure and the art of balancing priorities. At that time, to get by financially, between lectures and studies I managed a friend’s band, ‘Flash Harry’, designed advertising posters and sold jeans, crockery and watches.

“ After qualifying I sold mass-produced Chinese oil paintings door-to-door in my spare time, and even organised an art exhibition.

“ My most famous client while selling door to door in the army was a Miss South Africa contestant. Our association was short-lived. Her father kicked me out and I retired from door-to-door selling. Then my life as a coin dealer took root.”

Top: Alan Demby presents Aung San Suu Kyi with her Nobel Laureate gold medallion, June 2012
Above: Alan Demby and Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe



ALUMNI EVENTS



ALL 2014 NETWORKING EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE SENATE ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, SENATE HOUSE, WITS, AT 17:30.

ENQUIRIES:

011 717 1093 | purvi.purohit@wits.ac.za

30 JANUARY

Networking cocktails with alumna Helen Nicholson, Director, The Networking Company

20 FEBRUARY

Networking cocktails with alumnus Dr Martyn Davies, CEO of Frontier Advisory, an emerging markets consultancy

19 MARCH

Networking cocktails with alumna Ferial Haffajee, Editor, *City Press*

22 MAY

Networking cocktails with scenario-planner and strategist Clem Sunter

12 JUNE

Networking cocktails with alumnus Stephen Koseff, CEO of Investec Bank

27 NOVEMBER

Founders' Tea, Gavin Relly Green, West Campus

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ALUMNI EVENTS:
TEL. + 27 11 717 1091 OR EMAIL: ALUMNI@WITS.AC.ZA

AlumniAchiever

DEBORAH GLENCROSS



∴ *Eve Hypothesis*, Origins Centre

Professor Deborah Glencross combines her expertise as a pathologist and a printmaker to create *Facing Origins*. The exhibition, at Origins Centre in February, features *One Being*, an enormous montage of 440 etched heads. Although each head is born from the same etching matrix, each is rendered a little differently to create an entirely unique face – just like human DNA creates diversity.

BY DEBORAH MINORS

Imprints in her DNA

Glencross (MBBCh 1985, MMed 1992) is Associate Professor and Specialist Haematologist in the Department of Molecular Medicine and Haematology at Wits. Since her student days she has been fascinated with the diversity of life created from just four DNA nucleotide “building blocks” – adenine, thymine, guanine and cytosine – which combine in multiple variations to create unique and diverse human beings.

Similarly, *One Being*, a montage measuring 3.3 x 5.5 metres (± 10 x 18 feet), illustrates the unlimited potential of four building blocks.

It uses the technical process of four-plate colour-etching: the four basic printing colours – cyan, magenta, yellow and black – are inked onto separate plates which, when their impressions are combined, produce a single multi-coloured image.



Evolution of Eve (collection of the artist)

According to her artist's statement: "Although some works are printed as a typical edition (like a clone), Debbie deliberately strays away from this convention and introduces random variation into each work by using different combinations of colours of ink, different types and colours of paper, as well as varying the number, the offsets and order in which the four etching plates are printed. This random approach creates individual works, each of which is unique, despite being created from the same basic etching matrix. Individual works are then assembled into larger composite pieces."

One Being aims to dispel misconceptions about "race" – which is a human construct with no physiological grounding. "When it really comes down to it, our DNA is more than 99 percent similar," says Glencross. "It's not a new idea; well-known Wits geneticist, Trefor Jenkins ... was one of the Wits activists campaigning for equal rights for black and white patients ... He kept saying that, genetically, we're identical, there's absolutely no reason for this segregation."

Emeritus Professor Jenkins, former Dean of Wits Medical School and a human rights activist, was one of six doctors who questioned the ethics of the previous dispensation, after the death in custody of Steve Biko in 1977.

"Trefor actually opened my first exhibition of related work," continues Glencross. "His background was also haematology, like mine. [He was] certainly one of the Wits professors who made an enormous impact on me as a student, and as a pathology graduate."

"WHEN IT REALLY COMES DOWN TO IT, OUR DNA IS MORE THAN 99% SIMILAR"

That impact is evident in Glencross' *Facing Origins*, which reflects that it's only our outwardly different physical characteristics that have artificially divided us along racial, cultural and religious lines. Glencross hopes that her works will enable a better understanding of the vast potential for genetic diversity while simultaneously emphasising our genetic similarity.

Glencross' art and her work enable her to promote this understanding, while indulging her passion. She told Wits Psychiatry students during a motivational guest lecture in June 2010: "Find a meditation. For me, it's compulsively drawing or painting, and reading about science. Science and art: the endless dichotomy that feeds my soul."

"Take risks," she advised. "I have learned this best through my painting and etching where I have created my best work by taking risks with pieces that were probably not bad, but not great either. By not being precious about the piece, by destroying it, resuscitating and bringing it back again creates opportunity for unrealised potential and opportunity for invention."

One Being may very well be one of those pieces.

AlumniAchiever

MAMPHO LANGA



Return to [Square]Roots

Mampho Langa left her post as Head of Academics at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls to lead the first African School for Excellence (ASE), in Tsakane Township, Johannesburg.

BY DEBORAH MINORS

“ They head-hunted me ... the CEO was very patient – persistent – he talked to me about the idea. I liked the idea,” Langa recalls. Chief Executive Jay Kloppenberg’s ASE scalable model replicates elite-quality high school education for low-income students. It’s funded through scholarships and nominal fees.

Langa says, “Originally I’m from the townships and I thought, ‘I’m not going back – there’s no culture of teaching and learning, parents are not supportive ... and he said, ‘Mampho, that’s the whole point. That’s where we want to make a difference.’”

Langa (BSc Hons 2004, MSc 2006) became Principal of ASE Tsakane in January 2013. She’d previously run a programme in the Wits School of Actuarial Science, recruiting promising pupils into the field. She’d taught high school mathematics in Soweto for 14 years and her 2003 class averaged 78 percent, the best in the district.

The ASE’s Cambridge-based curriculum focuses on mathematics and literacy – the lenses through which other subjects are taught. The aim is to elevate the 80 (exclusively) Grade 7 pupils (the “remedial phase”) to international Grade 8 levels.

“Our curriculum design is rotational,” explains Langa. “In team maths, they are not taught but work independently as teams. New concepts are introduced in that class before formal instruction. This is where the inquiring skills are instilled. They would attempt it ... and they’ll struggle! From the team maths, they are working as a group, and when they go to instructional maths, a teacher will intervene.” Langa says the first cohort “compared very well with Cambridge results.”

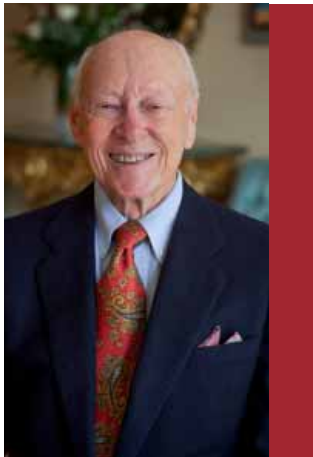
Langa’s a no-nonsense principal and expects punctuality and diligence from teachers and pupils alike. “We are a no excuses school. We start at half-past-seven. No one is late in my school. We don’t have a problem where they wait for the teacher. No. It’s more of that ‘every minute counts’, that sense of urgency.” She snaps her fingers rapidly. “It’s something we really emphasise in our school.”

It’s clear Langa relishes “doing extraordinary things in an ordinary environment.”

“We have students who come from around the area who are in a new environment altogether, so that’s so rewarding. I’ll make a bigger difference and the impact will be greater.”

Witsies with theEdge

BY DEBORAH MINORS



HONORARY DEGREE FOR 'GIVING' ALUMNUS

ISRAEL: David Lopatie (BCom 1950) received an honorary PhD from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel on 4 November 2013. Lopatie was born in Johannesburg in 1928. He is a Wits Accountancy alumnus (1953). In 1971, he received the Wits Alumni Giving Award and received the Diploma of Charity from the RAG committee in 1974. Lopatie is a chartered accountant and, in a career spanning three decades, was a director of Pioneer Holdings & Finance Corporation and of the Allied Building Society which eventually became part of ABSA. He retired to England in 1988 and returned to South Africa in 2010.



ORDER OF AUSTRALIA FOR FORMER MAYOR

SYDNEY: Isabelle Shapiro (BA 1971) received a Medal in the Order of Australia for her community work in Woollahra, Australia, on 10 June 2013. Shapiro was mayor of Woollahra in 2010 and a Councillor since 2004. Her contributions include the 'Gap Park Master Plan' project to prevent suicide, a project to clean and prevent graffiti, and establishment of the Woollahra Public Art Trust. Shapiro is also active in breast cancer advocacy and is herself a breast cancer survivor. She continues to work in suicide prevention.



NUCLEAR PHYSICIST JOINS WITS TO WOO TALENT

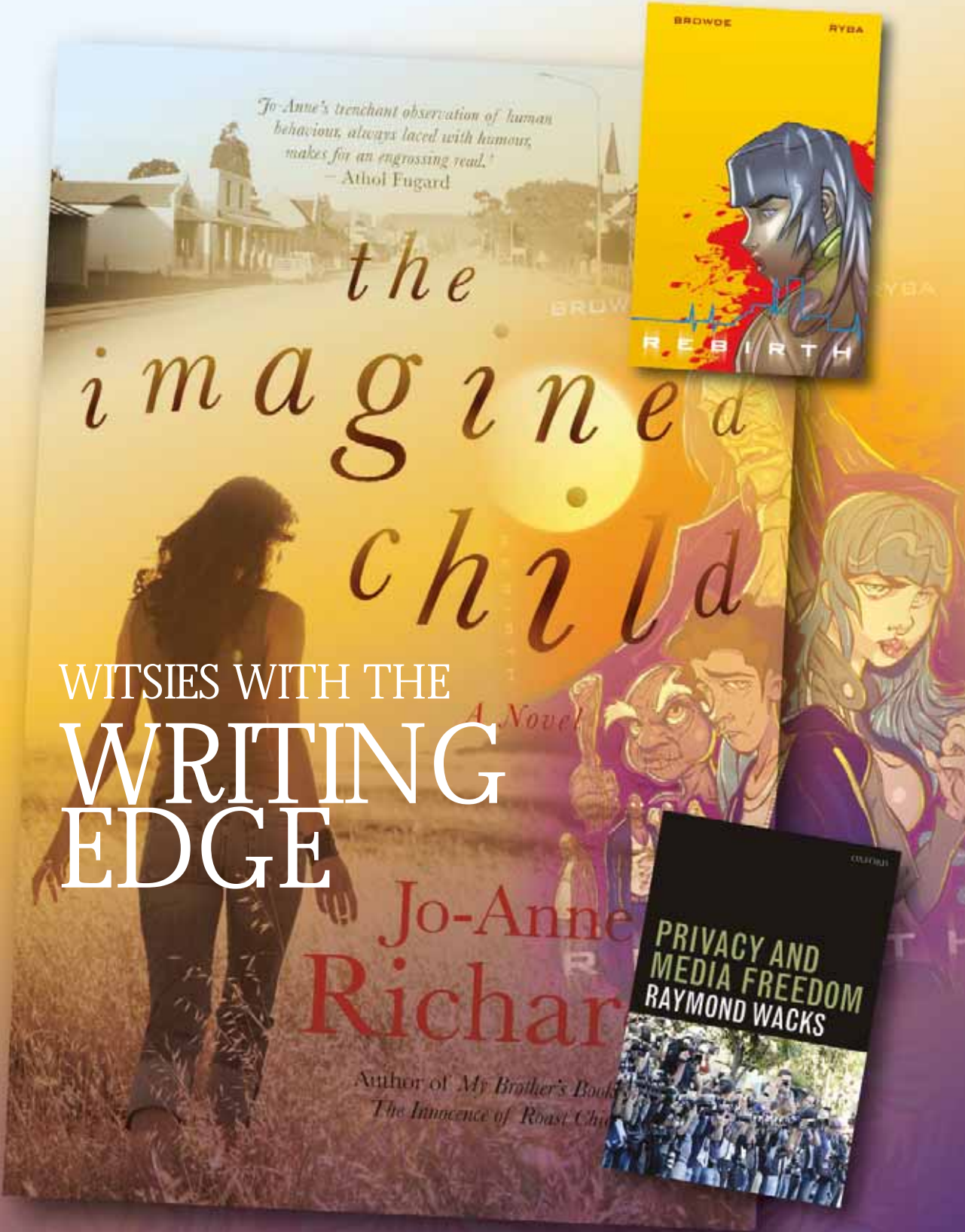
JOHANNESBURG: Dr Zebulon Zenzele Vilakazi (MSc 1994, PhD Science 1998) joined Wits on 1 January 2014 as Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Postgraduate Affairs. Since 2011, Dr Vilakazi was Group Executive for Research and Development at the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation, and director of iThemba LABS since 2007. He holds an Honorary Professorship in the Department of Physics at UCT. The late Professor J. Sellschop – who also served as DVC: Research at Wits – supervised Vilakazi's PhD. Vilakazi's mandate is to attract talent to Wits in support of the University's strategic research plan.

WITS ENGINEER WINS JOURNALISM AWARD

CALIFORNIA: Lindsay Leveen (BSc Eng Chem 1973, MBA 1975) won the National Newspapers' Association competition in the category Serious Writing for non-daily small newspapers, on 20 July 2013. Leveen's article, *The Bloom Box Boondoggle*, exposed "green-washing" claims by promoters of BloomEnergy's Bloom Box energy servers. Leveen challenged those who promoted the technology, writing: "The faked claims by the company have allowed it to extract over a quarter of a billion dollars of citizens' money in California alone. My reporting has made the story visible to millions and we hope that soon the Federal Trade Commission will bring suit against Bloom, its officers, and its directors."

WITH HONOURS

- Wits awarded former Chief Justice **Pius Langa** a posthumous honorary LLD on 21 November 2013. His brother, Mandla Langa, accepted the doctorate on his behalf. The award acknowledges Langa's "unselfish, inspirational and steadfast service to his country and his profession." An advocate of democracy, Langa was instrumental in multiple forums committed to ending apartheid and enabling transformation afterwards.
- **Irwin Manoim** received an honorary doctorate from Wits on 22 November 2013. In 1985, Manoim co-founded and co-edited *The Weekly Mail*. It was the world's first example of a newspaper produced using desktop publishing. Manoim's contribution to newspaper design influenced digital news presentation in Africa. He was instrumental in *The Weekly Mail* Training Project, which produced leading journalists. Manoim teaches newspaper design at Wits.



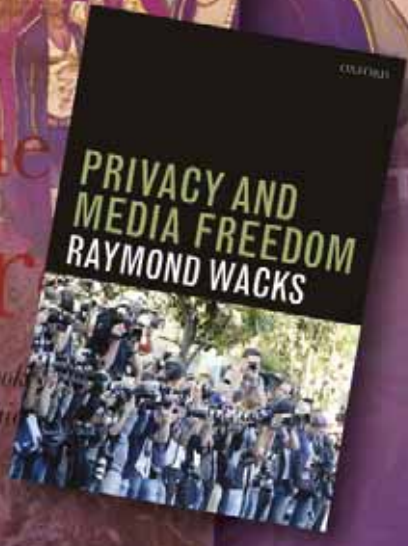
Jo-Anne's trenchant observation of human behaviour, always laced with humour, makes for an engrossing read.
— Athol Fugard

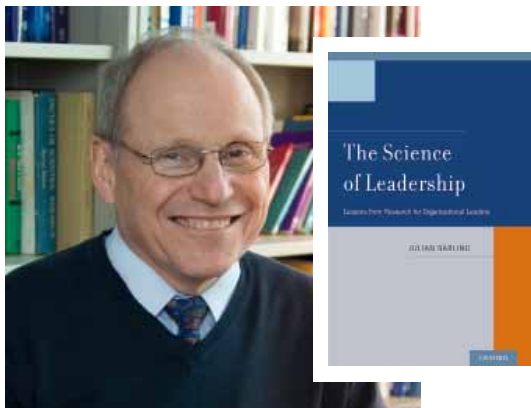
the
imagined
child

WITSIES WITH THE
WRITING
EDGE

Jo-Anne
Richardson

Author of *My Brother's Book*
The Innocence of Roast Chicken





SELF-HELP

The Science of Leadership: Lessons from Research for Organizational Leaders, by Julian Barling

Julian Barling is the Borden Professor of Leadership at the Queen's School of Business, Ontario, Canada. He also holds a Queen's Research Chair in Organisational Behaviour. He is an elected Fellow of the Canadian Psychological Society and an honorary professor in Psychology at Wits. From 1981 to 1984, Barling was head of Industrial Psychology at Wits. He completed four degrees in psychology here, including a PhD (1979).

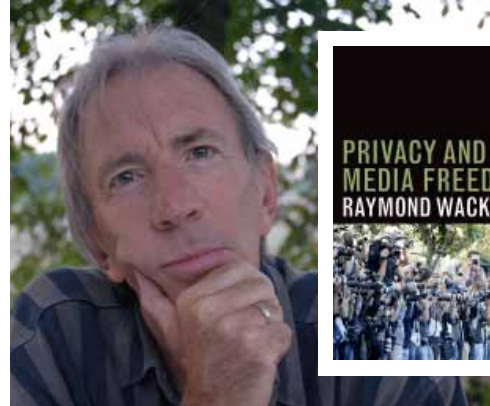
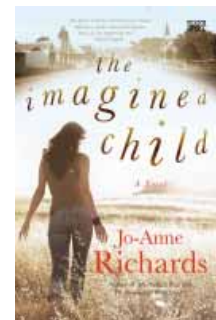
Do leaders matter? Are leaders born or made? *The Science of Leadership* (Oxford University Press, 2014) focuses on the psychology of leadership. Findings from psychological research enable an evidence-based approach that explores global research in organisational leadership. Barling incorporates personal reflections based on 20 years' involvement with leadership research and executive leadership development. The book translates leadership theories and research into everyday behaviours, and explains how researchers generate knowledge on leadership. Barling explores what leadership can teach us beyond the boardroom, for example, in sports, politics, and schools. Separate chapters cover topics including gender and leadership, destructive leadership, and followership.

GRAPHIC NOVEL

Rebirth, by Daniel Browde & Josh Ryba

The year is 1651. The Council of the Undead that controls the Dutch East India Company dispatches rogue vampire Jan van Riebeeck to its new colony at the Cape of Good Hope. Almost 500 years later, in today's Johannesburg, the vampires remain but they're infected with a virus that renders them mortal. A Council decree quarantines them in the city. The surviving vampires' only hope for a cure lies in the hands of a disgraced doctor and a mysterious boy...

Daniel Browde co-wrote *Rebirth* (Red Giant, 2012) with artist Josh Ryba. Both Witsies, Browde holds a BA (English) (2000) degree, and Ryba a degree in Fine Arts (2007). Ryba travelled to the USA after graduating to explore animation and comics, and returned determined to create a South African graphic novel. The first sketches for *Rebirth* emerged in 2008. Ryba, who works as an illustrator, approached Browde (and Thenjiwe Nkosi) to collaborate. Browde is a journalist and is currently writing a book about his grandfather, legal luminary and alumnus Jules Browde.



FICTION

The Imagined Child, by Jo-Anne Richards

Jo-Anne Richards is a novelist and journalist whose work has been published internationally. She is academic co-ordinator of the Honours programme in Journalism and Media Studies at Wits. She teaches writing skills in creative writing and narrative journalism.

Richards' fifth novel, *The Imagined Child* (Picador Africa, 2013), tells the story of Odette, a writer who leaves Johannesburg for a new start in a small Free State town, Nagelaten. Odette is either pursuing a simpler life or escaping demons – and Nagelaten holds its own dark secrets. Odette becomes entangled in the death of a baby in the UK, whom her troubled daughter, Mandy, is suspected of killing, and a brutal farm murder. Ultimately, Odette must find the courage to face the truth that will save herself and her daughter.

Richards' debut novel, *The Innocence of Roast Chicken* (1996), remained at number one on the South African best-seller list for 15 weeks. She has since published *Touching the Lighthouse* (1997), *Sad at the Edges* (2003), and *My Brother's Book* (2008).

NON-FICTION

Privacy and Media Freedom, by Raymond Wacks

Privacy and Media Freedom (Oxford University Press, 2013) explores the right to privacy from a legal, philosophical, and social perspective. The author considers the recommendations of the Leveson Inquiry, which the UK Prime Minister, David Cameron, established in 2011 to review the Press following the exposure of phone hacking at the *News of the World*.

Raymond Wacks is Emeritus Professor of Law and Legal Theory. He is an international authority on the protection of privacy. He was head of the Department of Law at the University of Hong Kong from 1986 to 1993. He holds BA (1968) and LLB (1969) degrees from Wits – where he was President of the Law Students' Council – and he studied at the London School of Economics and University College, Oxford. Of his many, multiply translated books, *Understanding Jurisprudence: An Introduction to Legal Theory* (Oxford University Press, 2012) is widely used by students. Wacks also wrote a novel, *White Lies* (2010), set in 1960s South Africa. He lives in Tuscany.

BY DEBORAH MINORS

BookReview

■ *DEFINE AND RULE*

BY MAHMOOD MAMDANI

Published by Wits University Press, 2013

Define and Rule: Native as Political Identity reproduces Mahmood Mamdani's three WEB Du Bois Lectures delivered at Harvard in 2008 and originally published by Harvard University Press in September 2012.

The WEB Du Bois Lectures, established in 1981 with funding from the Ford Foundation, collectively offer a serious and important platform for scholars of African American life (the full list can be found online at <http://dubois.fas.harvard.edu/w-e-b-du-bois-lectures>).

Define and Rule is a dense but important little book explaining and interpreting big ideas and the political and legal theories that shaped 19th century British colonial rule. However, the work resonates with contemporary African analysts who face the challenge of understanding the past, overcoming that divisive colonial heritage and forging rational, unifying identities for the future.

To coincide with the publication of the book, Mamdani also wrote an excellent summary article in the *London Review of Books*, titled *What is a Tribe?* (LRB Vol 34, No. 17, 13 September 2012). This article, available online, encouraged me to track down the fuller lectures.

MAHMOOD MAMDANI

DEFINE AND RULE

Native as Political Identity



Wits Alumni qualify for a 20 percent discount on all Wits Press books if bought directly from the Wits Press offices on the 5th floor, above the Wits Art Museum, University Corner building, corner Jorissen Street and Jan Smuts Avenue. Cash or credit card only. Mondays – Fridays, 9am-4pm.

The post-1857 crisis of empire in the wake of the Indian mutiny led the historian Sir Henry Maine to develop a theory of nativism that underpinned the practice of indirect rule within the British empire. This approach became the touchstone for defining, organising and ruling tribal societies, whether in India, Egypt, Malaya, Natal, East Africa or the Sudan. The colonial administrators, such as Shepstone in Natal, Lugard in Nigeria and Lord Cromer in Egypt, relied upon Maine's text, *Ancient Law*.

Mamdani rejects the view that indirect rule was a response to a lack of financial or human resources to run an empire; he sees this 19th century theory of government and switch from direct to indirect rule as evidence of an ambitious and strong state rather than a way of creating and retaining an empire on the cheap. Mamdani deftly considers the application and impact of Maine's ideas in government, law and religion in India, Malaya and in Indonesia (under Dutch rule). There was a distinct switch from "divide and rule" to "define and rule". Whether you belonged to a race or a tribe determined the type of law applied, whether civil or tribal and customary. Access to land, participation in government and dispute resolution became group rights to be enjoyed within the tribe. This shaped political power; tribal identity became an imposed label and a self identifier.

The final lecture shoots forward to the era of 20th century decolonisation and the legacy now carried by the new nationalist leaders facing the challenges of nationalism, nation building and modernisation. Historians in Africa have a particular role in educating leaders to understand the distortions of past realities. Race, kinship, tribe and tradition need to be reinterpreted and rethought to claim new identities and build effective states. Mamdani has some interesting things to say about Julius Nyerere's statecraft and his ujamaa villages in Tanzania. This work can be read profitably by any aspiring leader in an emerging economy or indeed in South Africa to inform reflection on the possibility of forging durable political citizenships based on social justice and new identities. Unless the issues of identity (and I should add religious tolerance) are addressed, prescriptions from the structural adjustment school of economics will be destined to fail. Mamdani is a powerful intellectual voice for our age and his work is worthy of close study.



PROFESSOR KATHY MUNRO,
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
AND PLANNING



WITS UNIVERSITY
FONDLY REMEMBERS
THOSE WHO HAVE
PASSED AWAY

Obituaries

MYRTLE LILY ARON (1929 – 2013)



Former head of the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at Wits, Professor Myrtle Lily Aron died on 27 September 2013, from cancer. She was 84. Aron was born on 13 July 1929. She held an MA from Wits (1962) and served the University from 1954 until she

retired in 1990. She was responsible for introducing Audiology into the degree, and for many advances in the profession. A University benefactor, Aron served as Emeritus Professor after retiring and then relocated to England. There she continued lecturing part-time, practised privately and consulted for many years.

GEOFF BLIGHT (1934 – 2013)



World renowned A-rated researcher Geoffrey Eustace Blight died on 7 November 2013, aged 79, from cancer. Blight was Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Wits. He was born on 30 July 1934 and held seven degrees – including five doctorates

– two from Wits, two from London University and one from UCT, each a unique investigation. Internationally lauded, Blight was the only South African to receive the J. James Croes Gold Medal from the American Society of Civil Engineers, in 1975. He was a founding member of the South African Academy of Science and the South African Engineering Academy. His wife and his three children survive him.

THOMAS PINFOLD (1931 – 2013)

A Professor of Chemistry at Wits for 30 years, Thomas Arthur Pinfold died of pneumonia on 23 August 2013, aged 82. Pinfold was born on 12 June 1931 and grew up in Cape Town. He held BSc, BSc Hons degrees and a PhD (Chemistry) from UCT. He joined Wits in 1961 after

studying in the US on scholarship. He was an active and enthusiastic mountaineer and road-runner. In 1985 he participated in naming the Drakensberg's Uklebe Pass. He retired to KwaZulu-Natal in 1991 and indulged his climbing passion in the Drakensberg. Pinfold married Moira in 1998 and she, his son and daughter and step-daughters survive him.

RALPH BERNSTEIN (1914 – 2013)

Former Senior Lecturer in Physiology at Wits, Professor Ralph Ernest Bernstein died on 19 October 2013, aged 99. Bernstein was born on 7 February 1914. He held BSc (1934), BSc Hons (1936) and MSc (1937) degrees, and an MBBCh (Cum Laude) (1940) from Wits. He

won the William Cullen Medal for the most distinguished science graduate in 1934. Bernstein began lecturing at Wits in 1945. His research field was renal and chemical physiology. He went on to obtain a Diploma in Clinical Pathology from the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London, studied for a time at King's College Hospital Medical School, London, and spent a year at the University of New York Medical School.

He was appointed head of the Human Genetics and Metabolic Research Unit at the South African Institute of Medical Research in 1957. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathology (London) and Wits appointed him Honorary Professor in Chemical Pathology in 1975. He retired in 1976. He was an avid reader and a keen gardener, and served as President of the South African Iris Society.

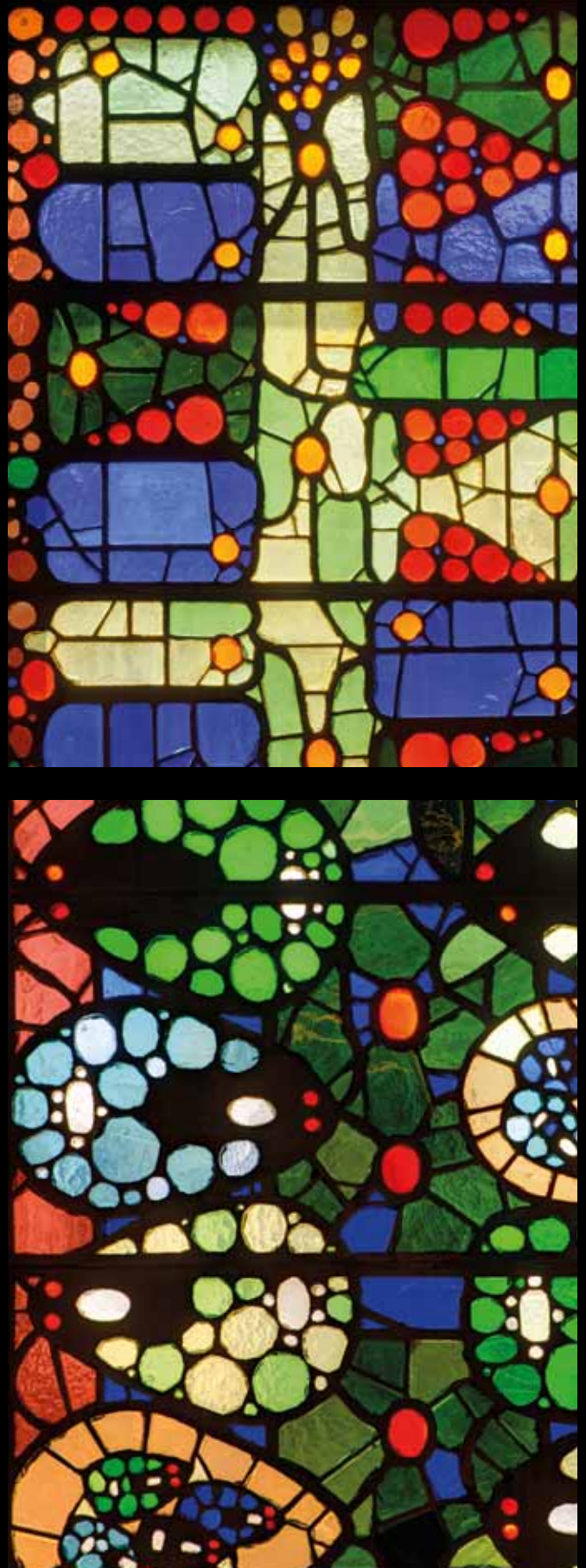
The Bernstein association with Wits spans 85 years. Ralph's older brother, Bertrand, first graduated in 1928, earned subsequent degrees and became Wits Chancellor from 1975 to 1982. Their sister, Dr Elaine Epstein was a Medical School graduate (1940). Ralph was married to Dr Mary Salkinder (MBBCh 1954) and their children Irene (BSc 1975, BSc Hons 1979) and Geoffrey (MBBCh 1982) are alumni, as is grand-daughter Dr Penny Bernstein (MBBCh 2000, MMed 2009). Ralph's wife, children, grandchildren, Penny, Zeev and Talia and great grandchildren, Gabriella and Jack, survive him.

PATTABI RAMAN (1940 – 2013)

Former Head of the School of Architecture and Planning at Wits, Professor Pattabi Raman died on 12 May 2013, aged 72. Raman was born in India on 17 October 1940. He served Wits from 2002 until 2005, also as acting Head of the School of Construction Economics and Management. Raman originated the John Moffat Building ground floor suite of offices and the Fassler Gallery. He suggested the gallery name to acknowledge John Fassler (Head of Architecture 1948 – 1968). Raman was Head of Architecture at Cape Peninsula University of Technology at the time of his death. His wife, Anna, and their sons, Raju and Nathan survive him.

Stained glass artist
Stephanie Fassler
has an enduring and
extraordinary connection with
Wits. Not only did she graduate
from the University (in Fine Arts),
but she was commissioned
twice, 40 years apart, to create
works for the University in a
building that her father designed
and her sister completed.

BY KATHY MUNRO



Layers of light & meaning

Fassler is well known for her inspirational stained glass windows, commissioned by many churches in South Africa. After obtaining her Wits degree, she studied further to master her craft and worked in the studios of Patrick Reyntiens and John Piper in England. On her return to South Africa in the late 1960s she established her own studio and now works from Melville, Johannesburg.

In the early 1970s she created the richly textured windows in the Wits Senate Room and in 2012 Wits commissioned her again to create two more windows when the room was renovated.

Her father was Professor John Fassler, the architect of Senate House, who died before the building was completed. Her sister is the architect Mira Fassler Kamstra, who rose to the challenge of completing their father's project.

Stephanie Fassler's new windows each comprise four coloured glass panels. The window to the south draws its inspiration from the Nelson Mandela Bridge and gives a view towards central Johannesburg, the city that gave Wits life and purpose. This design shows the University's link to the towns of the Witwatersrand and represents the University as a bridge to knowledge and a link between past, present and future. Students enter Wits as young people and make a journey of development and personal growth.

The window to the north has the theme of Witwatersrand rivers. It overlooks the campus between the Central Block and the Physics Block. The design represents, in abstract lines, the waters flowing from the ridge where Wits is located – the African continental divide. It also symbolises the flow of knowledge and creativity generated by the University's research and teaching.



THE BACKDROP ADDS A 'LAYER' TO THE VARIOUS COLOURS AND TEXTURES OF THE GLASS

The sidelight windows framing the coloured glass panels are of clear glass, giving a framing view of the campus landscape to the north and the Braamfontein cityscape to the south. Fassler has also pointed out how the changing light of the day affects the scenes through the stained glass itself: "The backdrop adds a 'layer' to the various colours and textures of the glass," she says.

The designs are filled with meaning and metaphor and remarkably connect to the two windows that Fassler completed in the early 1970s, which remain as fresh and powerful as they did when first unveiled. The artist commented on her inspiration for these: "At the time I was fascinated with cellular structures which can be seen with the aid of a microscope. My intention was to create a rich, jewel-like quality in the windows with the round red glass pieces in the left-hand window and the green jewels in the right-hand window, set off by rich dark blues." The idea of multiplication of cells, she said, "could also represent the growth of new faculties within the University".

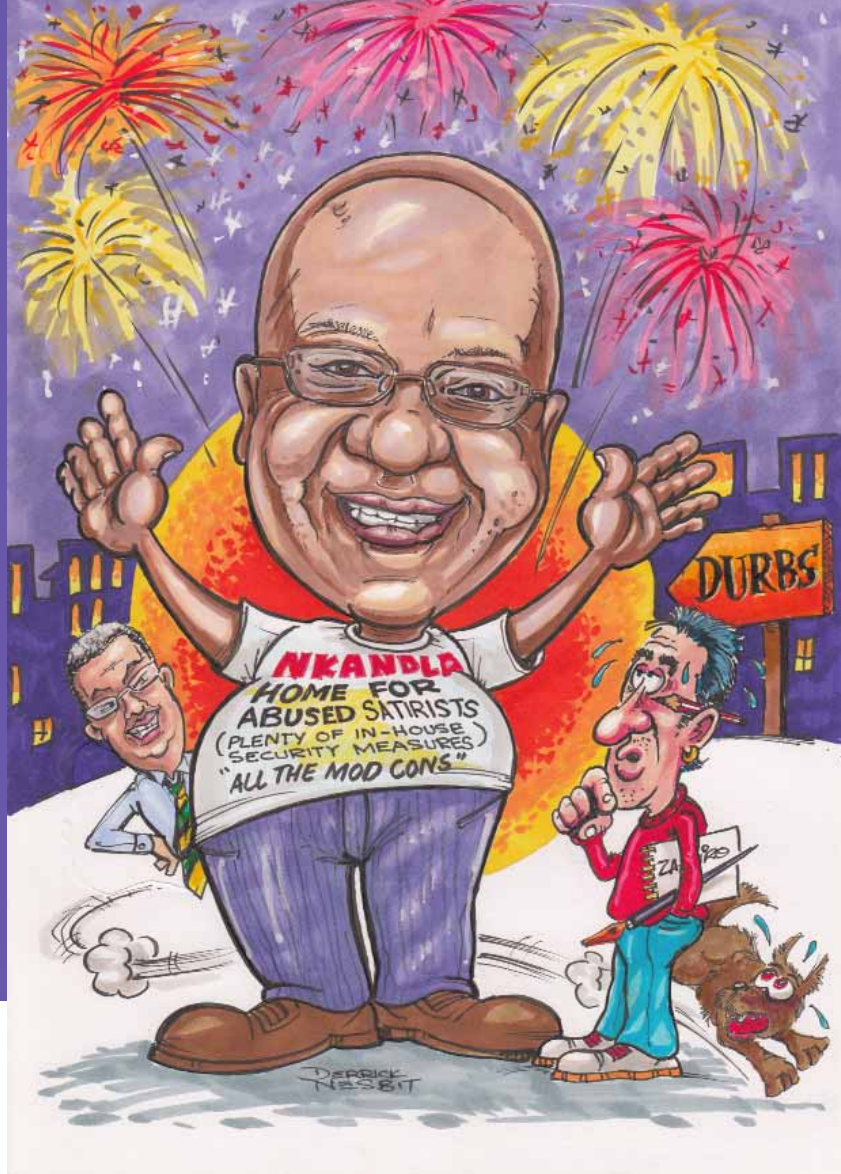
The technique used for these windows was "very challenging", Fassler said. It involved the dangerous work of cutting 2.5cm-thick glass and shaping it. "The pieces are then surrounded by resin mixed with silica sand, making a solid wall-like panel."

This "glass slab" technique was used by Fernand Léger in the Sacré-Coeur church in Audincourt in France in the mid-20th century, and by Le Corbusier in Notre Dame du Haut in Ronchamp. It particularly attracted the interest of John Fassler, who hoped that Stephanie would learn more about it when she studied overseas.

The new windows mark a flowering of Fassler's creativity in the place where it was first nurtured. Her work at Wits is a treasure and a gift for future generations.



Storm in a t-shirt



BY KEYAN G TOMASELLI

“When I make a law, people think it’s a joke, but when I make a joke, people think it’s a law.”

This was Minister of Co-operation and Development Piet Koornhof’s trademark speech opening. I was reminded of it when, after returning home from a month’s travelling in November, I was reading through back copies of some Durban newspapers. Not much happens in Durban. I know this ‘cos when I lived in Johannesburg and studied and worked at Wits, we

knew from our imperialist city-centric view that South Africa extends just as far as Welkom. Only after I left Wits to work at Rhodes did I realise that there’s a whole world out there where things happen. But these events don’t get into the national press.

Ex-Witsie law professor Barend van Niekerk, the scourge of the National Party and capital punishment when he was at Wits, just disappeared off the Johannesburg dial, hardly read about again, when he transferred to Natal University. But he was big news in Natal. Barend never considered apartheid law a joke and he took on the legal system that enforced it.

AT WITS END

So, what's the big news now? Well, some scholars at Westville Boys' High School (WBHS) got stick from a provincial politician. No, they had not burned down the school, had not abused their teachers, nor strewn the road with burning tyres. Rather, these were art students who had designed some mildly satirical T-shirt images. One of them was of our comical president, a visual take-off of an early poster of Baker's Biscuits, where the Prez's bald head and baker's coat was anchored with the label "Fakers. Est. 1994".

On seeing the display at the small shopping centre across the road from the school, the ideologue alleged racism and an unfinished project of reconciliation. He published a lengthy column in a Durban newspaper, and set the cat among the pigeons. All and sundry were soon commenting on the matter, and the letters to the editors never had it so good. One journalist suggested that the ANC develop a sense of humour. At least old Piet had a sense of humour, and later a Damascus experience when he joined his old foe, the ANC. In any event, much sensible debate ensued in Durban's stable of daily papers largely characterised by their syndication greyness. But things can get out of control, such as when SA Breweries tried to wreck freedom of expression with its court actions against Justin Nurse's "Black Labour White Guilt" T-shirt. I don't recall any ANC ideologues then accusing this shirt's author of being racist.

WBHS, better known for its cricket and rugby, found itself at the centre of the local public sphere. So did the local press that routinely prefers Gauteng-centric stories over local ones. Simultaneously, Zapiro, in his indomitable way, managed to irritate Hindus by lampooning one of their deities. This was the parallel story in a province with the largest Indian diaspora anywhere. The artists at WBHS are obviously in good company with Zapiro. Like him, they sensibly refrained from commenting on their art or the furore that ensued.

November is also the Diwali firecracker season, when opposing sides snap at each other. Durban becomes an interesting (if noisy) place, when terrified dogs make straight for the SPCA. While the debates rage about whether or not firecrackers are socially or dog inconsiderate or have any religious significance, the WBHS poster display struck a chord in the same month that the revised Protection of State Information Bill landed on the President's desk for signing. I think we should be penning a Protection of Cartoonists Act, to ensure the integrity of the public sphere. The jokers need legal protection from ideologues who interpret parody (the joke) as defamation (a legal action).

The simultaneous din of Nkandla and the welcome intractability of the Public Protector on her report on the (mis)use of public funds coincided with the resurrection of the bad boy bomber of Magoo's Bar, Robert McBride, as head of a police watchdog. McBride has a particular reputation in Durban. Only the schoolboys' art was able to rise intellectually above this flaming frothing fray. For once, letter writers joined the usual overexposed correspondents who daily have something to say about everything and anything. Sometimes key national issues coalesce around initially insignificant local events.

Talking about letters, my columns seem to be having the desired last page attentivity effect. I get missives asking about this and that, and one correspondent engaged me on my alleged Americanisms. Some see the joke, some ask serious questions while others respond with nuanced parody – unlike the ideologues. Just what my editor ordered. I have thus requested a 1000 percent increase in my writing fee – how else will I get to hobnob with overpaid CEOs of failed state-owned enterprises? Do keep the letters coming in.

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NEWS

- Wits Alumnus, MTN boss Sifiso Dabengwa highest paid
- Wits staff named as NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards Finalists
- Tribute to former Wits Vice-Chancellor, Loyiso Nongxa
- Alumnae Dame Janet Suzman and Lara Foot at Baxter Theatre

CALENDAR

- 19 - 27 Jun**
Enhance your commitment to quality care as a Healthcare Practitioner
- 4 Jul 17:30**
Alumni networking function and cocktail event
- 28 Jul**
Wits/702 Walk the Talk

Contacts have been updated

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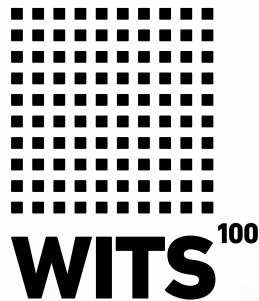
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