

Media Report for 18 June 2012

In the news today in *Cape Times* UCT Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price writes: “News headlines about education give a bleak outlook for SA. On one day in the *Cape Times*, June 5, the same page carried the following headlines: ‘Teachers leaving SA in their thousands’, ‘27 underperforming schools in province may face closure’ and ‘Education authority in court over Eastern Cape schools’. Every article offers a different reason to be worried about the state of our schools and the quality of teaching. UCT’s School of Education has, for decades, been training teachers to complete both full-time postgraduate diplomas and part-time, in-service certificate courses. We also have courses for principals. But we also have to address the problem more directly in the schools. On May 28 in Khayelitsha, we launched the Schools Improvement Initiative (SII), which is an outreach activity to schools and learners in the region, to try to have more impact on the system. The SII will draw on a wider range of academic resources and departments at UCT beyond the School of Education. We don’t have the resources to reach every school in the Western Cape or in the country, but we think we can make a difference if we concentrate our resources on Khayelitsha. We also hope to use the experience we gain to make proposals on how to improve the school system nationally.” (Pg.9)

Die Burger reports: “Dr Mamphela Ramphele, former vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town says the post-apartheid government is crippling the South African education system by trying to lower standards.” (Pg.4)

University World News reports:

“The recently established Namibia-based Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Use is working with higher education institutions across the region to develop new postgraduate courses on climate change. The newly established Namibia-based Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Use, SASSCAL, is working with higher education institutions across the region to develop new postgraduate courses in the field of climate change.” (Online)

“A new Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability was officially launched by the United Nations Environment Programme and participating universities earlier this month, in advance of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20 – in Rio de Janeiro on 20 June. A new Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) was officially launched by the United Nations Environment Programme and participating universities this month, in advance of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20 – starting in Rio de Janeiro on 20 June.” (Online)

Dr John Akec writes: “Private universities give many South Sudanese a second chance. Closing them will not improve the quality of education, but will restrict access. The government needs to learn from the mistakes other countries have made and focus on quantity as well as quality. While South Sudan is the newest and one of the world’s poorest nations, it has the great advantage of being able to learn from others in order to leap-frog into the 21st century. South Sudan can avoid the costly mistakes of trial-and-error approaches to developmental policy design, including policies regulating private higher education institutions.” Akec is vice-chancellor of the University of Northern Bahr-El-Ghazel in Sudan, and chair of Academics and

Researchers Forum for Development, an academic-led think-tank and advocacy group in South Sudan. (Online)

Sake24 reports: “The international trade union UNI Global Union supports the Stiglitz-Hodge, findings that Massmart's development fund of R100 million is too small to benefit South African workers.” UCT’s Professor Mike Morris is cited (Pg.16).

Cape Times reports: “Acclaimed South African painter Stanley Pinker has died in Cape Town at 87. Pinker was awarded the Molteno Medal 11 years ago in acknowledgement of a lifetime devoted to painting. Pinker studied in Cape Town, lived in Europe for several years and returned to SA. In 1969 he took a post at the Michaelis School of Fine Art at UCT where he taught until 1986.” (Pg.3)

Free State News and *Die Burger* reported: “A total of 481 master's degrees and 82 doctorates were conferred to graduates at the University of the Free State in two ceremonies this [last] week. This is the most postgraduate qualifications yet to be awarded at a single graduation ceremony, the university said. This is an achievement for the university, because generally South African universities do not produce enough post-graduates to compete with other developing countries. An honorary doctorate in Literature was also awarded to author Etienne van Heerden. He is currently Head of the Department of Afrikaans and Dutch studies at the University of Cape Town and is one of the most acclaimed Afrikaans writers.” (Pg.2 and Pg.10 respectively)

Business News reported: “The University of Cape Town’s Graduate School of Business (GSB) is hosting its annual Business of Social and Environmental Innovation (BSEI) conference in October, and is calling for interested academics and leaders in the sustainability and inclusive markets movements to submit research papers or case studies.” (Online)

News over the weekend M-net *Carte Blanche* reported: “The crash in the world economy has had a dramatic effect on the shipping industry and the condition of vessels sailing around our coastlines has deteriorated”. Prof John Hare of the Shipping Law department at UCT is interviewed. <http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/email/MnetCarteBlancheVesselcond17June.avi>

SAFM held a discussion with UCT Chemical Engineering student Mandisa Mazibuko who is nominated in the Young Women Achievers Initiative. <http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/email/SAFMDiscussionWithYoungwomen15June.mp3>

Daily Dispatch reported: “As the International Labour Organisation (ILO) debated the high rise of unemployed youth in an annual conference in Switzerland this week until yesterday, the crisis of unemployment and under-employment in the Eastern Cape and South Africa is growing every day. According to the Eastern Cape Socioeconomic Consultative Council (Ecsecc) this year, 37% of the unemployed youth in the country are from the Eastern Cape. Last year, more than 60% of youths between 15 and 19 and more than 50% of youths between 20 and 24 in the Eastern Cape were unemployed. South Africa currently has 3.1 million unemployed youth while worldwide, up to 75 million are unemployed.” (Pg.18)

SAFM reported: “COPE's Youth Movement in KwaZulu Natal has called on Higher Education Minister, Blade Nzimande to intervene in what they call the exclusion of black students in certain fields of studies in the University of KwaZulu Natal.” <http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/email/SAFMCOPEExclusionBlack17June.mp3>

CNBS Africa reported: “More than a year after a youth wage subsidy announced by the Finance Minister, Pravin Gordhan, debate still rages on how effective this proposed

employment subsidy will be in sorting out the country's job problem.” UCT Associate Professor Justine Burns is interviewed.

<http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/email/CNBSAfricaYouthUnemployment17June.avi>

Talk Radio 702 held a discussion about South Africa not having a culture of celebrating excellence. University of Cape Town is mentioned.

<http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/email/TalkRadio702YouthCelebration16June01.mp3>

<http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/email/TalkRadio702YouthCelebration16June02.mp3>

Sentinel News reported: “A stamp to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Faculty of Health Sciences was launched on Wednesday June 6, at UCT exactly 100 years after the establishment of the medical school. The mural depicted in the stamp is one of three mosaics in the old entrance of the faculty of Health Sciences library.” (Pg.6)

Tatler reported: “Southern suburbs schools cleaned up in the University of Cape Town Mathematics Competition this year. Rustenburg High maintained it's a high standard with two pupils gaining gold and the school being placed sixth overall. Seventy-five Rustenberg I pupils entered the competition, which took place on the UCT Campus on Monday April 16. A record 150 schools took part, either individually or in pairs from Grade 8 to 12, says Rene Forbes, Marketing manager for the school.” (Pg.3)

Pretoria News reported: “In 1976 it led to bloodshed and today it remains a thorn in the side of the education system. Although education policy in schools has evolved and is aligned to rights entrenched in the constitution, the issue of the language in which pupils are taught remains contentious. In 1976, white pupils were taught in their home language - English or Afrikaans. The Bantu Education Act of 1953 stated that black pupils were to be taught in their mother tongue in primary school and switch to English and Afrikaans in high school. The language policy for schools today says that parents, when registering their children, must specify the language in which they want their children to be taught. The SA Schools Act of 1996 says that it is the responsibility of the school governing body to develop policies that ensure and promote multilingualism.” (Pg.8)

In Business Report: “While the local platinum mining sector is being crippled by a crisis that could lead to thousands of job cuts, research into extra uses for the metal is currently under investigation by the national mineral research organisation, Mintek. The drop in the platinum price combined with persistent cost pressures, low productivity brought about by illegal strikes and a bleak economic outlook has so far contributed to the closure of several shafts. This week, Makhapa lakhafola, Mintek's general Manager for research and development, said Mintek was investigating the development of fuel cell products through the Department of Science and Technology's (DST) Hydrogen South Africa (HySA) Catalysis programme. Mintek co-hosts the HySA programme with the University of Cape Town which aims to build a fuel cell and hydrogen fuel cell industry to ensure the country derives the maximum value from having 80 percent of the world's known platinum reserves.” (Pg.1)

In City Press Njabulo S Ndebele wrote: “President Zuma comes across as being highly tolerant of criminality. In the context that criminal charges against him were unsatisfactorily withdrawn, his conduct in this respect should not be surprising. ANC party members caught on the wrong side of the law are likely to receive active support or admonitory leniency. This presents an image of the president as not being committed to upholding, defending and respecting ‘the Constitution as the supreme law of the republic’.” (Online) Ndebele is a writer

and research fellow of the Archive and Public Culture Research Initiative at the University of Cape Town.

City Press reported: "University degrees or diplomas no longer hold the promise of jobs for young South Africans as hundreds of thousands of them battle to find work. Labour market analyst Loane Sharp says that about 600 000 university graduates are languishing at home, unable to put into practice what they have learned. A growing army of unemployed graduates are now forced to either rely on their families to support them or find jobs as unskilled workers, such as waiters, clerks and office assistants. University qualifications, Sharp says, are not the only qualities employers look for when recruiting. Dr Haroon Bhorat from the Development Policy Research Unit of the university of Cape Town found that those who have a tertiary qualification but not a degree have a 50% chance of finding a job, while those with a degree have a 17% chance of being unemployed. Early school leavers make up the bulk of the jobless." (Pg.28)

Sunday Tribune reported: "Headmistress Gail Teunissen is the first to admit that the school she is so proud of has weathered its share of criticism in the past. Located in the Point area, elitists traditionally regarded Addington Primary as a dumping ground for kids with limited potential. But today all Teunissen's faith is paying off as pupils soar to previously undreamed of heights. 'One of our Rwandan pupils was 15 and in Grade 5 when he came to us. He had no English, but through a translator he told his teacher: Please teach me everything you know. I want to make a better life for my father so that he does not have to work as a car guard. He became head boy in his last year' she said. 'It was the first time I saw our kids lift a boy onto their shoulders and carry him through the school gate in triumph. He won a scholarship to Clifton and became their first refugee head boy. He then won a scholarship to UCT and two weeks ago I attended his honours B Com graduation'." (Pg.33)

Sunday Tribune also reported: "The upcoming 10th Annual Investment Property Databank (IPD) Property Investment Conference is set to identify future trends and look at important lessons from the past in the midst of the current challenging global and domestic property investment marketplace. The conference, titled '10 Years Back — 10 Years Forward', recognises a decade of South African property and sets out to provide professionals with valuable strategic insight to tackle the opportunities of the next 10 years. It is set for July 2012 in Cape Town. Local presenters delving into specialist property disciplines include Professor Francois Viruly of University of Cape Town." (Pg.55)

Southern Cross reported: "The ninth Bishop Hans Brenninkmeijer Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Dr Mamphela Ramphele in Johannesburg on July 24. Hosted annually by the Catholic Institute of Education, the lecture commemorates the late Bishop Johannes Brenninkmeijer, a Dominican who headed Kroonstad diocese from 1977 to 2003. Dr Ramphele will speak on the theme 'Educating for Citizenship'. When she was appointed vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town in 1996 she became the first black woman to hold such a position at a South African university." (Pg.2)

Weekend Argus reported: "In the last six months there has been a huge pick-up in demand for homes in Observatory, which has caused a serious stock shortage, according to Craig Gilfillan. However, it has not yet affected prices, which, he believes, remain reasonable. 'Demand throughout the entire precinct is driven by the steadily growing student population, most of whom need to be close to their campuses. In addition to the UCT campus, in this area or close to it we have the UCT Medical School, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, the Ruth Prowse School of Art, the AFDA Film School, Damelin and other

tertiary education centres'. Gilfillan says these students pay R2 000 to R3 000 a month for rooms." (Pg.9)

Weekend Post reported: "Dishing up a smorgasbord of facts on the weighty issue of diets garnished with a sprinkling of conspiracy theory, celebrated South African sports scientist Tim Noakes this week had a Port Elizabeth audience eating out of his hand as he revealed an eating plan that rubbishes all others. Noakes, a professor of exercise and sports science at the University of Cape Town and co-founder of the Sports Science Institute of South Africa, has increasingly been grabbing headlines for his taste in nutrition." (Pg.5)

Business Live reports: "Transport utility Transnet's plan to invest some R330bn in infrastructure over the next seven years should create an incentive for more black people to pursue engineering as a career, speakers at the fourth National Society of Black Engineers Conference said on Thursday. South Africa's engineers are highly regarded worldwide for their expertise and educational background." (Online)

Without Prejudice Magazine profiled top students of 2006. Some of the students profiled are University of Cape Town graduates. (Pg.1 to Pg.16)

SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

Inspiring kids to aspire to university

Max Price

NEWS headlines about education give a bleak outlook for SA. On one day in the Cape Times, June 5, the same page carried the following headlines: "Teachers leaving SA in their thousands", "27 underperforming schools in province may face closure" and "Education authority in court over Eastern Cape schools". Every article offers a different reason to be worried about the state of our schools and the quality of teaching.

Some time ago, the University of Cape Town took stock and asked: "What are the big challenges that face South Africa - that if we don't get them right the country will fail, we'll have chaos on our hands?"

There were five big issues that we identified, and we are trying to address each of them with a big initiative.

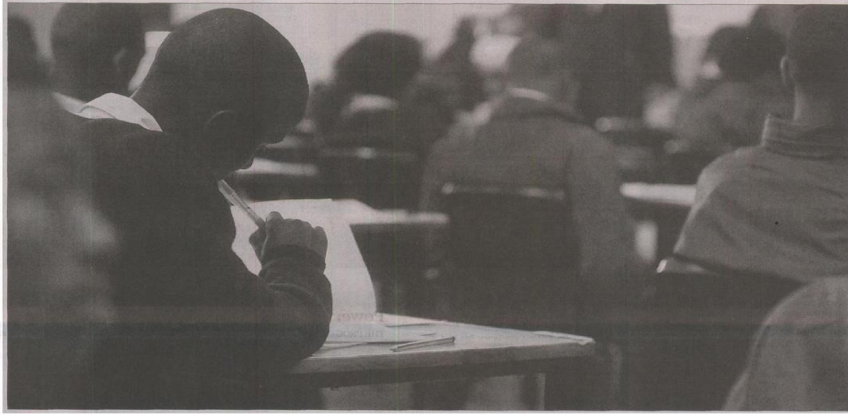
One is HIV/Aids and tuberculosis - our biggest public health problems. Poverty, inequality and jobs is another such issue. UCT is convening brainstorming and research initiatives with economists, with people who look at education, who think about industrialisation and industrial policy, with NGOs and social entrepreneurs and those who specialise in many other related disciplines, trying to address that problem.

A third issue is climate change, which we are tackling as a university from a multi-disciplinary point of view, drawing on our academics' expertise in energy, city planning, rural issues, economic issues as well as the pure science of monitoring climate change and its effect on the oceans, the weather and biodiversity.

UCT's Safety and Violence Initiative involves research into the background factors that lead to violence: substance abuse, gender and family issues, economic and financial issues, social and psychological motivations, among others.

The aim is not only to track trends in violence but to identify ways we can increase the safety of our communities and homes.

And finally there is the issue of school education, which unfortunately has not made the progress



REALITY CHECK: UCT's School Improvement Initiative aims to help to "fix" education in Khayelitsha by helping individuals and schools, says the writer.

that it should have made over the past 18 years.

The majority of our young people, maybe as many as 90 percent, get a poor education. And that is going to kill the economy if we can't help fix it.

At UCT, we think we have some resources we can apply to this problem. UCT's School of Education has, for decades, been training teachers to complete both full-time post-graduate diplomas and part-time, in-service certificate courses. We also have courses for principals. But we also have to address the problem

more directly in the schools.

On May 28 in Khayelitsha, we launched the Schools Improvement Initiative (SII), which is an outreach activity to schools and learners in the region, to try to have more impact on the system. The SII will draw on a wider range of academic resources and departments at UCT beyond the School of Education.

We don't have the resources to reach every school in the Western Cape or in the country but we think we can make a difference if we concentrate our resources on Khayelitsha. We also hope to use

the experience we gain to make proposals on how to improve the school system nationally.

We have a self-interest in getting this right: we want more students to come from the communities of the Western Cape to UCT. It's a great sadness to us that of 2 900 students who wrote National Senior Certificate in the 20 schools in Khayelitsha last year, 496 achieved a Bachelor degree pass and only 20 got into UCT.

Ten of those students came from Coast (Centre of Science and Technology) and the other 10 from the other 19 schools. Now if that's the

pipeline of students in Khayelitsha, then as a university we're not serving our own communities.

We have to get more Khayelitsha students into UCT. The main problem is their maths and science marks. Another problem is that they do not believe they can ever go to UCT, so they don't aspire to do what it takes to get in.

Our aim in this project is that in a few years' time there will be dozens, if not hundreds of students coming from Khayelitsha to UCT. We want them to look at the university when they ride to town and we want

them to think: "That's where I'm going to study law or languages or to be a teacher, or an engineer or a businessperson - that's my university".

And we want them to know that they have the potential to become a student at UCT.

It's clear that improving the schools, improving teachers' success and making a difference in education is a team effort in which we are all partners - the students, the teachers, the principals, the Western Cape Education Department officials, the circuit teams, the

Khayelitsha Education Forum, the politicians and the university.

There are really two kinds of projects in SII.

One takes individual students from Grade 10 for three years and provides them with extra teaching every Saturday as well as at summer and winter study camps.

We need to get the message out that all 20 schools can achieve the results we have seen in the past from just a handful. So we've asked the principals from all 20 schools each to choose five pupils to be part of the 100-UP programme, where we tutor and counsel young people who have demonstrated potential to benefit from the extra opportunities such a programme can offer.

But an initiative that focuses on individual children won't fix the system or the schools; it won't change the opportunities for the other several hundred students in each school who are not in the 100-UP programme. So the other part of SII will focus on a wider scale.

For example, iKwezi 2 is a programme that looks at the foundation years: Grade R and Grade 1. It looks at teacher development, at principal development. It works with governing bodies in the schools, with Education Department officials, to try to improve the school system and make a difference in the early years. And we think that will affect all the pupils in the schools, not just a few at the higher end.

Finally, our partnership is with the community more generally. UCT students come to Khayelitsha and work in the clinics; they assist in legal services and in teaching.

Our staff in social development, our psychologists, our occupational therapists are all involved. Shawco alone takes about 200 UCT students into Khayelitsha three times a week to run extra lessons for pupils in all grades.

Our big constraint will be financial, since all SII activities are heavily dependent on donor funding. But with support, and in partnership with those whose job it is to run the education system, we believe we can make a difference.

● Dr Price is the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town.

DIE BURGER

BURGER (Oos Kaap)
18 Jun 2012, p. 4

Onderwys se foute 'met laer standarde verbloem'

Marelize Potgieter

KAAPSTAD. – Die post-apartheid-regering het die foute in die Suid-Afrikaanse onderrigstelsel probeer verbloem deur standarde te verlaag.

Só het dr. Mamphela Ramphela, gewese visekanselier van die Universiteit van Kaapstad, Saterdag op die TEDxCapeTownED-saamtrek by Ratanga Junction gesê.

Sy het die Suid-Afrikaanse on-

derwysstelsel met 'n reuse-skip vergelyk.

"Die onderwysstelsel het op die rotse geloop. Ons het 'n stelsel geërf met die wete dat dit fatale foute het. Wat het gebeur? Ons het 'n indrukwekkende kurrikulum ingestel en die foute toegeplak deur standarde te verlaag."

TED is 'n organisasie sonder winsbejag wat hom vir vindingryke idees beywer. Die "x" dui daarop dit is 'n onafhanklike geleentheid

wat deur TED gehou word. Die "ED" verwys na opvoedkundiges wat hul idees in minder as 12 minute oordra.

"Hoe kon ons dit (die agteruitgang van onderwys in die land) toelaat?" het Ramphela gevra.

Sy meen wit mense is te bang om iets te sê, want hulle is bang hulle word rassiste genoem, en swart mense is bang hulle word as veraaers gesien. "Ons is 80% onder die water. Afen toe kom daar 'n red-

dingsbootjie en red 'n paar leerders, maar ons het 'n revolusie nodig. Mense moet hul wonde identifiseer en kinders moet eerste gestel word."

Volgens haar moet daar 'n kurrikulum wees wat meer aanpasbaar is en kinders se belange dien.

Meer moet gedoen word om jong mense met vaardighede op te lei en ambagskap te bevorder.

"Ons moet die ekonomie weer laat werk."

AFRICA

New regional research centre develops courses on climate change

Moses Magadza

17 June 2012 University World News Global Edition Issue 226

The recently established Namibia-based Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Use is working with higher education institutions across the region to develop new postgraduate courses on climate change. The newly established Namibia-based Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Use, SASSCAL, is working with higher education institutions across the region to develop new postgraduate courses in the field of climate change.

Peter Erb, one of two SASSCAL national programme directors, told *University World News* that the courses, to be offered at masters level, would boost efforts to build the capacity of Southern African countries to mitigate or adapt to the impacts of climate change.

SASSCAL works with institutions in Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia.

It was initiated by the German government, and is one of two regional science service centres funded by Germany in Africa, the other one being in West Africa.

The programme seeks to become the regional driver of innovation and exchange aimed at enhancing adaptive land use and sustainable economic development in Southern Africa, in the face of global change.

It suffered a setback recently when Dr Anna Matross-Goreses, who was its other national director in Namibia, left to join an academic institution. Efforts are under way to replace her.

Climate change experts have identified Southern Africa as one of the

regions bearing the brunt of climate change. They have predicted that parts of the region will become drier and hotter, with worrying consequences for crop production.

Erb said that since Namibia is one of the driest countries in Southern Africa, it is an appropriate host nation for the SASSCAL secretariat.

He said the centre's work would be in three broad areas: building the capacity of people in the region to cope with climate change; providing research-based services and products in an attempt to fill knowledge gaps on how to better protect natural resources such as water, forestry and agriculture; and improving bio-diversity.

"Services will include advising governments on how better to deal with and adapt to climate change. The idea is to enable countries to better manage natural resources and to deal with extremely dry conditions or even floods," Erb explained.

"Rains can become erratic, rainy seasons might shift and we need to understand how this can affect agriculture and people's livelihoods," he said, adding that the region also needed to deal with swelling human populations and dwindling finite resources.

"Minerals are not getting more, water is not getting more, oil is not getting more, coal is not getting more. Hence we need to get smarter in the way we utilise these resources, and how we manage our national populations," Erb added.

SASSCAL has already identified some 150 research projects in participating countries and is now trying to align them to its aims and objectives. "These are issues that are not well understood but they focus on the effects of climate change, water and biodiversity."

Erb said the centre would not compete with but would work with universities and polytechnics in participating countries "to see how we can strengthen their capacity to offer additional courses related to climate change.

"We want to complement and strengthen what is there."

He said higher education institutions in the countries were excited about developing and offering courses related to climate change. "There is a lot of interest."

The centre has already started identifying courses, but it was too early for

details. However, Erb added, they will all have in common the aim of strengthening Southern African countries' responses to climate change.



GLOBAL

New global universities partnership on the environment launched

Yojana Sharma

16 June 2012 University World News Global Edition Issue 226

A new Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability was officially launched by the United Nations Environment Programme and participating universities earlier this month, in advance of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20 – in Rio de Janeiro on 20 June. A new Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) was officially launched by the United Nations Environment Programme and participating universities this month, in advance of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20 – starting in Rio de Janeiro on 20 June.

The launch of GUPES at China's Tongji University in Shanghai from 5-6 June was part of a joint UN [Higher Education Sustainability Initiative](#) (HESI) involving other UN bodies including UNESCO and the UN [Academic Impact](#).

GUPES will provide universities with a platform to interact with policy-makers and others within the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and other international organisations as well as with one another specifically on sustainability issues.

"There is a deliberate attempt within UNEP to focus on universities," said Mahesh Pradhan, chief of UNEP's Environmental Education and Training Unit in Nairobi, who was at the Shanghai launch.

Many of UNEP's reports and scientific assessments "include a lot of inputs from universities around the world, and they are relevant to the higher education sector, which also provides a reality check."

In particular, UNEP says it is looking to boost university networking through joint research projects. “We are looking at South-South collaboration, focusing mainly on developing regions such as Africa and Latin America and Asia.

“We have laid the foundation now,” Pradhan told *University World News* after the launch.

Knowledge hubs

For example, with countries like China investing heavily in Africa, there is a great deal of focus on Africa’s resources and planning on how they can be better used and preserved.

African governments and GUPES universities set up a water resource management research initiative last year with funding from the Chinese government, based at Tongji University.

‘Knowledge hubs’ such as GUPES would provide a clear point of contact for government and higher education institutions – like the urban knowledge hub at Tongji and the Asia-Pacific Center for Water Security, where UNEP partnered with Peking and Tsinghua universities.

The global GUPES network grew out of a network of 80 universities in Africa, called Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in Africa (MESA). It has been credited with some small but tangible changes, according to Pradhan. For example, Botswana did not have any environmental programmes until a MESA masters was set up.

Newer university networks based on MESA are being developed in the Caribbean under the Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in the Caribbean (MESCA) partnership programme, and in Asia-Pacific with the Regional University Consortium on Environment for Sustainable development.

Rio+20

Although GUPES held its first meeting in Nairobi in 2010, and another in Chile last year, it has become more international. Rio+20 is being seen as an arena where universities can provide leadership and influence policy on the sustainability agenda.

Delegates at the Shanghai launch said one of the major contributions of

universities would be to elaborate the concept, principles and parameters for a green economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, one of the major agenda items of the Rio+20 Summit.

In particular, universities could play a critical role in developing metrics for measuring progress in green economy initiatives, which are being discussed at Rio+20. For example, the government of Barbados linked with a local university for a green economy scoping study and, using the main findings, the university provided guidance for a national green economy initiative. Universities have already been important providers of inputs to UNEP's sourcebooks on the green economy and on ecosystem management, which will lead to masters degrees at GUPES partner universities on these issues, according to Pradhan.

Through GUPES, UNEP will support universities in developing sustainability curricula and low-carbon (green) campuses, and in developing and delivering training courses for policy-makers on environmental and sustainability issues and management. It will also work to strengthen regional higher education networks.

Training for the green economy

Universities will also be hubs to engage with policy-makers on training. "It is critical that policy-makers ensure long-term productive capacity by promoting a new cadre of engineers, technicians and scientists sensitive to sound environmental development," said Bindu Lohani, vice-president of knowledge management and sustainable development at the Asian Development Bank, in a keynote speech at the GUPES launch.

He pointed out that in many regions of the developing world and emerging Asia, huge benefits have been reaped from knowledge and innovation produced elsewhere. "The next level of development means we bring this expertise and innovation home."

And he added: "Most importantly, it means we must constantly retool our education systems to ensure graduates are ready for the task."

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GLOBAL

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SOUTH SUDAN

Quality before quantity? Closing private universities will not work

John Akec

17 June 2012 University World News Global Edition Issue 226

Private universities give many South Sudanese a second chance. Closing them will not improve the quality of education, but will restrict access. The government needs to learn from the mistakes other countries have made and focus on quantity as well as quality. While South Sudan is the newest and one of the world's poorest nations, it has the great advantage of being able to learn from others in order to leap-frog into the 21st century. South Sudan can avoid the costly mistakes of trial-and-error approaches to developmental policy design, including policies regulating private higher education institutions.

I have waited so long to air my views on the recent closure of many private higher education institutions in my country, with the hope of presenting such views within the newly formed National Council of Higher Education.

But to my great disappointment that was not to be, because the minister of higher education, science and technology, who is empowered to nominate the members of the council, decided that he was not going to be guided by his own bill and excluded all the new universities – including the University of Northern Bahr El Ghazal – from council membership.

I have written to the minister to protest this exclusion. My view is that it is vital to include new blood if the government wants to succeed in designing policies fit for educating the 'Twitter and Facebook generation', also called the 'millennial generation'.

In my view, South Sudan would be better off starting where others are at this moment in time, as opposed to starting where they were many decades ago.

Many private institutions closed down

Last month the ministry took a bold decision to close down 22 of the country's nearly 30 private higher education institutions. An enraged hotel manager in Juba, who was studying human resource management in one of the affected institutions, told me:

"We cannot find fuel...now we cannot find education. The government is inciting public anger by doing this. What else are we left to do? Play cards or go to the disco? How beneficial is that for our wellbeing?"

Another young man affected by the closure said: "Professor, I am an orphan. I lost my father in the war. With these private institutions I could work to pay my fees and at the same time support my family. Now I have no idea what to do!" And to be honest, I have no idea what he can do, save putting his cry of anguish in print in the hope of making it heard by many more people.

Something is better than nothing

For his part, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology Dr Peter Adwok Nyaba maintains that he intends to "transform the education system from quantity to quality. This is not to deny people the right to education, but we want our people to be highly educated in a correct and legal way."

But denying people access to education is exactly what the ministry has done by closing private institutions and sending their students home with the promise of providing 'quality education', which no university can currently provide and given that no one knows when it is going to materialise.

It is not unlike preventing children from eating breadcrumbs, which are within their reach; and sending them to bed with empty stomachs, with the promise that when they wake up the following morning there will be cake on their plates. It is no exaggeration to say that not many children would be persuaded by this promise to let go of the few crumbs that they can lay their hands on.

The same applies for the grown-up ex-SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army) combatants and many working adults whose education was interrupted by war and who are now looking for the kind of second chances that only private institutions have been able to provide.

A little bit of something is better than nothing, conventional wisdom would

suggest.

Quantity precedes quality

Quality, as I perceive it, must necessarily be preceded by quantity. It is neither a commodity that can be bought off the shelf, nor an event that can be launched like a new book.

In fact, quality is a continuous process of improving what is at hand and is like a sea without shores that we can never quite reach. Quality education in particular is an extremely elusive concept that melts away like a desert mirage once we approach it.

If we want to place 'quality' as a precondition for expanding opportunities in higher education in both the public and private sectors, as the ministry says, then South Sudanese will have to wait for a long time for fewer opportunities to study at the post-secondary level – unless the quality dogma is reviewed.

The sooner this is done, the better.

However, it would be foolhardy of me to deny that there are no genuine concerns regarding the quality of education provided by private- and foreign-owned institutions in South Sudan. It is how we deal with these concerns that I find rather irksome.

A quick glance around our vast continent and the wider world could provide us with ample clues as to how we might handle these concerns more sensibly.

Lessons from Africa and elsewhere

First we must admit that higher education is expensive and only public funding can afford the kind of infrastructure most universities require to function satisfactorily, such as laboratories, well-stocked libraries and research and training facilities.

That explains why in Europe, 95% of tertiary education is funded and owned by the state, and in the United States, more than 80% of the student population attends public universities. In East Asia and Central America, the private sector plays a dominant role in higher education.

In Africa, structural adjustment policies in the 1980s channelled more public funding to general education (then perceived as providing a greater return

on investment) and away from public higher education.

The private sector moved in to meet the increasing social demand for higher education. As of 2009, there were more than 468 private higher education institutions in Africa compared to some 200 public universities. However, private institutions account for one third of total student enrolment.

The private tertiary education sector tends to focus on humanities, business studies, ICT subjects and commercial subjects that are not easily provided by public universities.

Many African countries have laws that define the steps to be followed leading to registration, accreditation and recognition of private higher education institutions.

In many other African nations, private institutions are neither registered nor recognised by accrediting bodies, yet still attract students. In Cameroon, for example, many private institutions operate illegally, and yet many of their graduates still find jobs.

What that demonstrates is that even bad education is better than no education. In India, 90% of undergraduate education is carried out by private institutions that are funded by the government.

Another important issue raised by a recent report into the state of private higher education institutions in South Sudan, commissioned by the ministry, concerns the lack of entry qualifications for a large number of students attending private universities. The ministry was alarmed that many students accepted have no formal qualifications such as a Sudan School Certificate or its equivalent.

However, one of the main reasons many 'second chance' learners turn to the private sector in South Sudan is because to apply to public universities they need a school certificate or equivalent.

Private higher education institutions make fewer demands than public universities in South Sudan. This situation has arisen due to the war. Even without war, there could still be a significant number of people who drop out of school and later on in life decide to seek a university qualification.

Small wonder that many countries in Europe, the US and Africa have bridging or access courses that allow people who dropped out of formal education to study at university.

For example, South Africa, where the black majority suffered the discriminatory effects of apartheid, has developed an elaborate access system for those seeking a second chance at university. South Africa also has 71 private institutions, one of the highest number on the continent. South Sudan has no bridging courses. It needs to learn from the enormous wealth of experience and from the well-tried models of others, rather than trying to reinvent the wheel.

What the ministry is currently doing is similar to its attempt to fix the prices of essential commodities by sending troops to close down shops that do not comply with the government price tag list. As economists have shown, this approach just does not work. The price of commodities can only be lowered by increasing supply. Similarly, higher education is now a marketable commodity that can be shaped by the market forces of demand and supply.

Conclusion

The government can improve the quality of education provided by both public and private higher education institutions by encouraging competition, providing incentives and recognising good performers through the publication of league tables and the award of marks of excellence. There's no need for courts and teargas! The fittest will thrive and the weak will die a natural death.

It goes without saying that the ministry should expend its energies on fixing the battered public higher education sector before turning to address challenges facing higher education in the private sector (at least for now).

Moreover, the current resistance by the ministry to the expansion of public higher education in South Sudan will only accelerate the mushrooming of private higher education institutions, legally or otherwise.

The damage being incurred as a result of the current policies will become apparent in a decade from now, by which time it will be too late to do anything to recover the missed opportunities for charting a better path that would make South Sudan more competitive in the global marketplace.

** Dr John Apuruot Akec is vice-chancellor of the University of Northern Bahr-El-Ghazel in Sudan, and chair of Academics and Researchers Forum for Development, an academic-led think-tank and advocacy group in South Sudan. This is an edited version of an article that was first published by <http://AllAfrica.com> and on John Akec's [blog](#).*

MASSMART-ONTWIKKELINGSFONDS

UNI sê geld is te min vir werkers

Heléne Cilliers

Pretoria. – Die internasionale vakverbond UNI Global Union steun die Stiglitz-Hodge-bevinding dat Massmart se ontwikkelingsfonds van R100 miljoen te klein is om sy verantwoordelikhede teenoor Suid-Afrikaanse werkers na te kom.

UNI, wat die South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union (Saccawu) gesteun het in sy mededingingsaak teen die Walmart-Massmart-samesmelting en glo sy regskoste van R3,1 miljoen betaal het, lei dikwels aksies teen Walmart in verskeie lande.

Die vakverbond steun die ekonome prof. Joseph Stiglitz en James Hodge se bevindinge oor die manier waarop plaaslike verskaffingskettingvermoë gebou moet word met die koms van Walmart.

Philip Jennings, UNI se

hoofsekretaris, sê in 'n verklaring die fonds van R100 miljoen wat Walmart moes stig as 'n voorwaarde wat die Mededingingstribunaal vir die samesmelting gestel het, is net 'n druppel aan die emmer vergeleke met wat regtig nodig is om werkgeleenthede in die verskaffingskettingbestuur te bevorder. Stiglitz en Hodge moes in opdrag van onderskeidelik die regering en Saccawu 'n verslag vir die mededingingsappèlhof voorberei om hom te help om ingeligte voorwaardes vir die samesmelting te stel.

Hulle stel 'n fonds van tussen R500 miljoen en R2 miljard vir 'n tydperk van tien jaar voor.

Die bevindinge van prof. Mike Morris van die Universiteit van Kaapstad wat in die saak vir Walmart-Massmart getuig het en ook aan die verslag moes werk, het uiteindeelik in 'n afsonderlike verslag

verskyn omdat die drie ekonome te veel verskil het. Volgens Morris kan so 'n groot fonds tot wanbestuur en korrupsie lei.

Jennings meen Stiglitz en Hodge se verslag is gegrond op die harde werklikheid van die situasie – miljoene Suid-Afrikaners in die verskaffingsketting kan hul bestaansmiddele verloor as Walmart nie verplig word om sy verantwoordelikhede na te kom nie.

“Ons wil die spel se reëls verander en seker maak die belegging is daarop gemik om plaaslike verskaffers, produkte en werkgeleenthede te bevorder. Walmart is in 14 Afrika-lande bedrywig en daar is 'n geleentheid om plaaslike kapasiteit te bou eerder as om die lewe daaruit te wurg,” sê hy.

Saccawu en staatsdepartemente is gekant teen Walmart se belang van R16 miljard in die Massmart-groep.

CAPE TIMES

The wheel of life comes full circle for city artist Stanley Pinker

Staff Writer

ACCLAIMED South African painter Stanley Pinker has died in Cape Town at 87.

Pinker was awarded the Molteno Medal 11 years ago in acknowledgement of a lifetime devoted to painting.

In recent years, his works

have begun to appear at more and more auction houses. Strauss & Co auctioneers sold his *The Wheel of Life* for R2.4 million in October 2010.

In recent years Pinker had stopped painting but would do some sketches from his bed, mostly for his family, his son Matthew said yesterday.

An incomplete portrait of Pinker's only grandchild, Mateo, 6, has been on his easel for the past three years.

Pinker's son said his ailing father never fully recovered from an operation he had just over a week ago. He died on Saturday.

Pinker started painting

after World War II, when travelling in Italy as an 18-year-old soldier.

Seven years ago, a retrospective of his private collection was hosted at the Michael Stevenson gallery for his 80th birthday. According to the gallery's website, Pinker negotiated the "angst-ridden land-

scape of apartheid South Africa through the use of humour, metaphor and subversive allusion which set him apart from many artists working at this time when overt reference to the political situation was common practice.

Born in Windhoek, Pinker studied in Cape Town. He lived

in Europe for several years and returned to SA. In 1969 he took a post at the Michaelis School of Fine Art at UCT where he taught until 1986.

He is survived by his children Stephen, Merete and Matthew and grandson Mateo. Details for his memorial service are yet to be finalised.

FREE STATE TIMES

FREE STATE TIMES
15 Jun 2012, p.2

UFS confers record postgraduate degrees

Kamogelo Seekoei
Bloemfontein

A TOTAL of 481 master's degrees and 82 doctorates were conferred to graduates at the University of the Free State in two ceremonies this week.

This is the most postgraduate qualifications yet to be awarded at a single graduation ceremony, the university said.

This is an achievement for the university, because generally South African universities do not produce enough post-graduates to compete with other developing countries.

"The University of the Free State is celebrating an increase in postgraduate success with a record number of master's degrees and doctorates to be awarded during the winter graduation ceremony on 14 June 2012," the university's spokesperson Lacea Loader said.

A report that was commissioned by the Council on Higher Education which was released in 2010 showed that in 2005 a total of 30 803 students graduated with postgraduate qualifications from South African universities.

This figure is slightly less than the 31 573 graduates recorded for 2004 but still represents a significant improvement on the 21 572 head counts in 1995.

That report also showed that in 2005 531 students completed their master's degrees at the university while 63 graduated with a doctorate.

The reports state that it is generally recognised that South Africa does not have sufficient numbers of highly skilled people in most professions, hence the priority given to a host of initiatives by state de-

partments, focused on fast-tracking skills development.

The greatest shortage is at postgraduate level, and recent initiatives, such as those by the Department of Science and Technology and the National Research Foundation to accelerate the production of PhDs in the system, target this reality.

"Average growth rates in Honours, Master's and Doctoral students remain small with significant field differences. Overall, growth has been highest for the social sciences and lowest for the humanities and health sciences," the report had said at the time.

The report further reads that the average annual growth rate of doctoral graduates of 7.7 percent translates into an annual gain of only 73 head counts — signifying in another way the huge challenge of making substantial inroads into increasing overall doctoral output in the country.

Loader said an honorary doctorate in Literature was also awarded to author Etienne van Heerden. Van Heerden, the author of *Dertig Nagte in Amsterdam* and *Toorberg*, among others, was honoured with a D. Litt degree. He is currently Hofmeyr professor and Head of the Department of Afrikaans and Dutch studies at the University of Cape Town, is one of the most acclaimed Afrikaans writers.

"His novels have been translated into eleven languages and his contributions are included in anthologies worldwide.

"One of his most important contributions to South African society is his creation of LitNet and the development of this powerful digital website that now also includes two accredited journals," Loader said.

Van Heerden kry graad 'namens skeppendes'

BLOEMFONTEIN. – Hy aanvaar dit namens alle skeppende mense te midde van die oorgangsfase in Suid-Afrika. Sô het die bekroonde skrywer Etienne van Heerden gesê toe hy onlangs 'n eredoktorsgraad in letterkunde van die Universiteit van die Vrystaat (UV) ontvang het.

Van Heerden sê dit is veral 'n besonderse eer om dit van prof. Jonathan Jansen, rektor van die UV, te ontvang, aangesien hy aktief vir transformasie en die vryheid van skeppende mense stoei.



Etienne van Heerden

Van Heerden is as professor tans die Hofmeyr-hoogleraar en voormalige hoof van die departement Afrikaans en Nederlandse studies aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad (UK), waar hy steeds die talent van jong skrywers koester.

Hy spoor graag jong skrywers aan om binne hulself te kyk en te skryf oor dit waaroor hulle

die sterkste voel.

"Mens moenie dink waaroor mense wil hê jy moet skryf nie. Elke mens is 'n museum van gevoelens, ervarings, 'n soort drama. Ons koppe raas mos maar almal, ons is immers mense!"

Van Heerden, wat in die Karoo grootgeword het, is juis besig met 'n "protesverhaal" genaamd *Gifkaroo*, teen hidrouliese rotsbreking vir skaliegas (*fracking*) in die Karoo. Hy werk ook aan 'n bundel kortverhale genaamd *Haa! Karoo* en 'n nuwe roman oor 'n klimtolspeeler. Hy sê die Vrystaat se oop ruimtes herinner baie aan die Karoo.

Van Heerden het sy LL.B.- en honneursgraad (in Afrikaans Nederlands) aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch voltooi. Hy het daarna sy meestersgraad aan die Universiteit van die Witwatersrand en sy doktorsgraad aan die Rhodes-universiteit behaal. *Dertig nagte in Amsterdam*, *Toorberg* en *Asbesmiddag* is van sy bekroonde werke.

As stigter van die webwerf *LitNet* verseker hy dat Afrikaans se aanlyn-teenwoordigheid groei en in 'n digitale era toeganklik bly.

"Die internet het die tradisionele papierboek 'n taai klap gegee. Natuurlik is baie skrywers bekommerd oor die gedrukte boek as voertuig, maar stories sal altyd soek na ander voertuie." – **Jana van der Merwe.**

18 Jun 2012: GSB Conference To Highlight Role Of Business

The University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business (GSB) is hosting its annual Business of Social and Environmental Innovation (BSEI) conference in October, and is calling for interested academics and leaders in the sustainability and inclusive markets movements to submit research papers or case studies.

Travel bursaries have been made available to facilitate applicants' participation, and to ensure that the highest standard of regional and international content is made available.

Through these papers and studies the GSB aims to tackle issues plaguing the implementation of sustainable action. Building on the success of the inaugural conference last year, the event will continue and extend the debate on the role of [business](#) in developing innovative responses to complex social and environmental problems.

"In hosting this conference, the GSB hopes to provide a bridge between research and the practical implementation of sustainability initiatives, which we hope will in turn lay the ground for real solutions to pressing issues to emerge," says Dr Francois Bonnici, Director of the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the UCT GSB.

Bonnici says that [business](#) schools have had to accept responsibility for having created the current paradigm that has dominated the world of [business](#) for the past 100 years and led to the financial collapse of 2009 and that it is now up to them to contribute to the creation of the new paradigms. The BSEI conference is a key part of this. Prof Ralph Hamann, Director of Research at the GSB was the driving force behind the first BSEI conference in 2011. "Building on the discussions at the first GSB Conference on the Business of Social and Environmental Innovation, we are excited to invite abstracts of papers or cases for presentation at this year's event. We will again emphasise cross-pollination between different disciplines, themes, and geographic experiences, and productive interactions between researchers and practitioners – these were hallmarks of our first event highlighted in delegates' feedback," says Hamann.

This year content and presentations will be focus on two main themes: social entrepreneurship and informal sector entrepreneurship in order to create coherent threads of conversation within the broader theme of the conference series.

The first focus theme, social entrepreneurship, relates to the development of innovative, market-linked solutions to social and environmental problems. While such initiatives vary in objectives, scale, or their organisational form, Bonnici says that a common denominator is the application of [business](#) principles to a social purpose. In the context of South Africa, there is particular interest in how this theme intersects with the second focus theme, of informal sector entrepreneurship.

Hamann, notes that "informal sector entrepreneurship has received remarkably little attention from academic research. The GSB now is seeking to uncover a better understanding of the opportunities and constraints faced by entrepreneurs in the informal sector, their impacts and consequences, and how they interact with broader societal and institutional forces." Adding another interesting dimension to the conference is the fact that it will overlap with the inaugural Sustain our Africa Summit, Expo and Festival – an initiative that the GSB is supporting. The event will assemble thought leaders from across the globe to grapple with the issues of how to achieve positive environmental, social and financial change in Africa; and will naturally feed into the discussions of the 2nd BSEI Conference. "If the BSEI conference is the vehicle to provide practical solutions, then Sustain our Africa is the ideal mouthpiece to spread awareness of these solutions," said Bonnici.

SATURDAY DISPATCH
16 Jun 2012, p.18



VIEW FROM THE TOP: Community development activist Thabang Masoko shows the piece of land he envisions as changing the face of Maitaneane and creating employment.



WAITING FOR WORK: A group of jobless men wait for a chance of getting hired for renovation and maintenance work in Maitaneane, Johannesburg. Scenes like these are common in all major South African cities.

Battling rising tidal wave of jobless youth

Today South Africans commemorate the struggle led by the Soweto youth against apartheid policies 36 years ago, but today's youth face a different struggle, that of a high unemployment rate with at least 400 000 matriculants joining the country's millions of unemployed annually, write **Siya Miti** and **Khuthala Nandipha**

AS THE International Labour Organisation (ILO) debated the high rate of unemployed youth in annual conference in Pretoria this week, the crisis of unemployment and under-employment in the Eastern Cape and South Africa is growing every day.

According to the Eastern Cape Socio-economic Committee (ECSEC) of December this year, 27% of the unemployed youth in the country are from the Eastern Cape.

Last year, more than 10% of youth between 15 and 19 were more than 50% of youth between 20 and 24 in the Eastern Cape were unemployed. South Africa currently has 11 million unemployed youth worldwide, up to 15 million are unemployed.

The latest research by the Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa shows that 30% of current matriculants will hold jobs before they turn 25.

The general consensus among economists and government is the youth should be part of the solution in creating employment, but lack of support and bureaucratic hurdles sometimes bring these efforts to naught.

Matriculation ceremony activist Thabang Masoko says he is vision centred on developing one of South Africa's biggest townships in need of housing employment and encouraging the community to participate directly and reap maximum rewards from the local economy.

Masoko believes the development of a tourist attraction site in and along the banks of the Maitaneane river could boost employment and create opportunities for entrepreneurs.

Masoko said the tourist attraction site would include an entertainment centre and a "living museum" in a forest setting along the Maitaneane River.

He vision draws on the magic of the Maitaneane River and the breathtaking views from the nearby heights.

He does not think the river banks was the best place for Maitaneane political activists to be, but he believes it is the best place for the river banks was the best place for Maitaneane political activists to be, but he believes it is the best place for the river banks was the best place for Maitaneane political activists to be.

At 15, Masoko is unemployed and on the verge of exiting the school system. He has been a member of the Eastern Cape Socio-economic Committee (ECSEC) since 2008.

He says he is not looking for a job, but he is looking for a way to make money. He says he is not looking for a job, but he is looking for a way to make money. He says he is not looking for a job, but he is looking for a way to make money.

In the past few years, even western countries have come to realise poverty and unemployment increase the possibility of social unrest, with the Occupy Wall Street Movement and protests in Spain and Greece bearing testimony to that.

Masoko and his friends, the matriculation, youth unemployment carried much time in the unemployment.

"There is a lot of frustration that results from unemployment and so we see a growing trend of girls moving into town to become prostitutes."

"There are young men being used to sell drugs because they need quick cash. Some of them end up abusing drugs or alcohol to drown their sorrows because they have no hope," said Masoko.

Unemployed youth cannot contribute to the focus through taxes



UNEMPLOYED GRADUATE: Tracy Palmer supports the proposed youth wage subsidy for young people, and graduates in particular, to gain experience.

and therefore are not helping to grow the economy. In his report, Youth Employment Crisis: Time for Action, the ILO says social partners have a role to play in mitigating the effects of youth unemployment and underemployment.

It adds it is the responsibility of governments to ensure there is a job for all. It says the responsibility of governments to ensure there is a job for all. It says the responsibility of governments to ensure there is a job for all.

While Masoko's vision is economic development, as a community activist he acknowledges the role of sport and play on youth who had artistic or sporting talent and an interest in business.

Masoko said current youth development programmes focused on job creation or business.

He said the evidence dependence on employment or drives people to go into business because they believe that is a way to get support. He said government programmes since the 1990s have been to create jobs and create income-generating schemes.

Masoko said the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) could play a role in sports and arts development in Maitaneane.

"Maitaneane used to be known as a housing town. The NYDA could support sports and art as well. All youth should benefit from the NYDA. It should be accessible to everyone, not just business," said Masoko.

He added the NYDA should stretch its tentacles to the minds of the youth and be easily recognised by coming close to the people it works to serve.

"The NYDA is far from our area. In the same way that even a child can recognise Nelson Mandela, youth in the township should be able to tell you what the NYDA does. It spends a lot of money on conferences, but has no specific programme," said Masoko.

As a basketball development activist, Ayanda Mkhabela agreed. Mkhabela works with township youth, some of whom are disabled. However, with little support, Maitaneane-sporting enthusiasts are constrained by a lack of facilities, resources and sponsorships.

While basketball was a growing sport in South Africa and East London, Mkhabela believed that proper facilities could draw more interest to the sport, a role he said the sports department could take.

"There's a lot of money in the budget for sports. We see very little of it coming to the township. The town, which started out as a basketball club, was changed into a basketball club. There were other things going on, but basketball was the main thing."

Mkhabela was developing basketball for a disabled team that is seen to be the town's national team. The team, which started out as a basketball club, was changed into a basketball club. There were other things going on, but basketball was the main thing.

Mkhabela said the town's youth were not taking on an issue central to the township's life struggle and refused to be stopped by the township. Mkhabela said that should not be just a one-day event, but there should be ongoing programmes for youth development.

According to Eastern Cape government has developed a "youth strategy". The aim of the strategy is to create jobs, create existing jobs and build the local economy.

The strategy requires a range of measures to address youth unemployment, including training and skills development, and the creation of a "youth wage subsidy" as an incentive for on-the-job training. It had a proposed allocation of about R1 billion to the Treasury budget estimates.

Recent also supports the youth wage subsidy, which was meant to be made official in April this year, but has been met with a lot of resistance from business.

Unemployed Eastern Cape graduate Tracy Palmer says she would reduce youth unemployment.

The 20-year-old says the youth wage subsidy would at least solve the cash flow of lack of experience.

"I think it's a good idea because employers don't want inexperienced youth. The subsidy would give them youth a chance in the work environment to get experience. We need someone to take a chance on us," says Palmer, who moved to East London in February.

adding she would be satisfied with a part-time job. The bill proposed by the ANC and supported by the DA is currently before the National Economic Development and Labour Council. The DA recently clashed with Coates when it marched in Coates House over the youth wage subsidy, which Coates opposed.

Recommendations have been made to national and provincial colleges. In 2011 the South African government set up a National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS) as a work plan to address skills development of the unemployed. In 2008 the programme was moved from the Department of Labour to Higher Education and Training in order to accommodate and meet this growing demand for school leavers.

In March this year, the strategy was reviewed using the Eastern Cape and four other provinces as case studies. In November 2011, research manager at EE Research Trust, a labour market research organisation, found the NSDS has come across framework challenges.

Although its placement rate was satisfactory at 10%, the skills offered were deemed to be not skills and the courses too short. Minister of Higher Education and Training, Blade Nkomo, has said too much money was spent on short courses that provide little lasting benefit to the unemployed in terms of skills development.

"This is disappointing in the light of the many years skills in certain technical fields in South Africa."



ACTIVIST: Ayanda Mkhabela comes back of support in BCM sport, particularly basketball, as training development of talented youth.

The Sentinel-News

SENTINEL NEWS
15 Jun 2012, p.6

■ A stamp to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Faculty of Health Sciences was launched on Wednesday June 6, at UCT exactly 100 years after the establishment of the medical school. The mural depicted in the stamp is one of three mosaics in the old entrance of the Faculty of Health Sciences library. Artist and teacher Lovell Friedman was commissioned to create the mosaics which were inspired by a series of "body maps" (artworks originally fashioned on paper) created by the women of the Bambanani HIV/Aids support group in Khayelitsha. The image depicted on the stamp set is that of Nondumiso Hlwele and tells a story about antiretroviral (ARV) therapy for HIV/Aids and fighting for, and celebrating, life. The stamp is available from post offices or visit www.postoffice.co.za for more information.



SOUTHERN SUBURBS TATLER
14 Jun 2012, p.3



■ Bishops winners in the UCT Maths competition: Back row: Warren Black, Murray McKechnie, Sevi Steingaszner, Daniel Chung, Michael Thomson and Jonti Oehley; front row: Ziyad Adam and Jaydon Farao (first pair in Grade 11) Guy Patterson Jones (1st Individual Grade 11) Soo-Min Lee (1st individual Grade 9) Sam Jeffery and Christian Cotchobos (First pair Grade 9)



■ Lauren Denny of Rustenburg High School achieved second place, which meant winning a Top 10 Gold award, and she also won the Di Tucker Award for the best performance by a girl overall in the UCT Maths competition.

Winners make it all add up

KAREN KOTZE

Southern suburbs schools cleaned up in the University of Cape Town Mathematics Competition this year.

Rustenburg High maintained its high standard with two pupils gaining gold and the school being placed sixth overall. Seventy-five Rustenburg pupils entered the competition, which took place on the UCT Campus on Monday April 16.

"A record 150 schools took part, either individually or in pairs from Grade 8 to 12," says René Forbes, marketing manager for the school.

A Gold Top 10 Award was presented to Lauren Duckitt in Grade 11, who came sixth in the grade," Ms Forbes says.

"Lauren Denny in Grade 11 who was awarded gold by earning second place also won the Di Tucker Award for the best performance by a girl overall," Ms Forbes says.

This was the first time that a Rustenburg girl earned the trophy dedicated to the memory of Di Tucker, a former head of mathematics at Rustenburg and involved in the organisation of the competition.

Ms Tucker who died in 1999 at the age of 29, also completed a Master's dissertation on gender differences in mathematics ability as shown in competition work and used this for her research. The Di Tucker Cup was instituted in her memory.

"It is really special to be the first Rustybug to win the trophy. I was so excited when I won. I couldn't stop smiling, as it has been my goal to be

the top girl ever since Grade 8, when I first entered the competition," Lauren says.

Joyce Lamont, head of the mathematics department at Westerford High School, says: "We were absolutely delighted with the results. Our pupils placed in the Top 10 were Mu-aath Upadhey, fifth in Grade 8, Ryan Broodryk, fifth in Grade 10, Tim Meier fourth in Grade 12 and of course Sanjiv Ranchod, first in Grade 8; and Robert Spencer, first in Grade 12," Ms Lamont says.

"These individuals have natural talent, which has been developed through self-motivated training in previous years and our school is enriched by having such capable pupils in our student body."

"We are very proud of Robert's selection to the international team and wish him well in Argentina," she says.

Robert says: "I have taken part in the competition for five years and many hours of training and practise have gone into this."

"To win in my matric year is a great affirmation that these efforts have paid off."

"My training has been primarily with Professor John Webb and Phil Labuschagne at the UCT Mathematics Circle, but my school has been a great support and foundation."

He says he is looking forward to going to Argentina in July to represent South Africa at the International Mathematics Olympiad as part of a team of six selected from around the country.

Sanjiv says: "I was told that I was in

the Top 10 in the Grade 8 division but we did not know our positions before the prize giving. I didn't expect to do so well and was very excited when I took the top position."

"I've always enjoyed maths competitions and Olympiads. I am enjoying maths at Westerford and have a great teacher."

The Mona Leeuwenburg Trophy, named after one of the founders of the UCT Mathematics Competition, is awarded on the basis of an overall school score.

This is calculated by adding up the scores of the school's best 30 entrants.

The maximum score on a paper is 180, with a maximum school score of 5 400.

This year's top-performing high school was Bishops, with a score of 4153.

They won the trophy 15 times since the inception of the competition in 1987.

Soo Min Lee, Guy Paterson Jones, Daniel Chung and Warren Black have all been gold award winners in the South African Maths Olympiad.

Soo Min Lee, who came first in Grade 8 and 9, says: "The UCT Maths Competition was one of the best organised competitions, the problems were challenging, the socialising was great and even the

prizes were awesome. Overall, it was a great vibe and I look forward to writing it again next year."

Guy Paterson Jones, who came third in Grade 8 and first in Grade 9, 10 and 11, says: The UCT Trophy is awarded for the best performance by a school that has taken part in the competition no more than three times. This trophy is to encourage new schools, and may be won only once by any school.

This year it went to a school competing for only the second time in the competition: Claremont High School.

They are delighted with their trophy. Deputy principal Murray Gibbon says: "The trophy was for the Best New School at the UCT Maths Competition. We are very proud of our pupils and our maths department."

He says the pupils at Claremont High are hard-working and eager to take part in Olympiads, competitions and other enrichment activities.

"We had 12 pupils receive merit awards placed in the top 200 in their grade, out of more than 1000 entrants per grade. This shows that our pupils are able to compete and hold their own at the highest levels."

Claremont High will have its first matric class in 2012.

The first winner of the Moolla Trophy was Manyano High School in Khayelitsha.

The Moolla Trophy is a new award, established by the Moolla family, whose three sons, Saadiq, Haroon and Ashraf, all consistently won gold awards in the UCT Mathematics Competition from 2003 to 2011.

Today the Moolla boys are all studying at UCT. To put something back into the competition, their parents have sponsored a new trophy, to be awarded to a disadvantaged school that has made a particularly noteworthy performance.

This year 12 Khayelitsha schools took part for the first time. Manyano High School stood out because it had almost a full entry of 75 pupils, and their combined score was the best of the 12 new participating schools.

The competition had a record entry of more than 7 200 pupils.

"This year's event went very smoothly, entirely due to the experienced team of teachers who help run the event."

"A team of UCT students, many of them veterans of the competition, also gave a hand in many ways," says Professor Webb.

Thirty schools had gold award winners and 82 qualified for school prizes.

PRETORIA NEWS WEEKEND
16 Jun 2012, p.8

Concern over SA's failure to promote its indigenous languages

NONTOSBEKO MTSHALI

IN 1976 it led to bloodshed and today it remains a thorn in the side of the education system.

Although education policy in schools has evolved and is aligned to rights entrenched in the constitution, the issue of the language in which pupils are taught remains contentious.

In 1976, white pupils were taught in their home language – English or Afrikaans.

The Bantu Education Act of 1953 stated that black pupils were to be taught in their mother tongue in primary school and switch to English and Afrikaans in high school.

The language policy for schools today says that parents, when regis-

tering their children, must specify the language in which they want their children to be taught.

The SA Schools Act of 1996 says that it is the responsibility of the school governing body to develop policies that ensure and promote multilingualism.

The Language in Education Policy, developed in terms of the National Education Act of 1996, states: "Where there are (fewer) than 40 requests in Grades 1 to 6 or (fewer) than 35 requests in Grades 7 to 12 for instruction in a language not offered by a school in a district, the head of the provincial department of education must determine how the needs of these pupils will be met."

Education analysts, however, say

that the promotion of multilingualism in schools barely goes beyond policy documents, although countless studies have shown that for children to grasp and understand what they are taught, the medium of instruction should be their mother tongue.

However, black parents still opt to have their children taught in English.

Research conducted by the Department of Basic Education in 2007 found that close to 80 percent of pupils were being taught in English or Afrikaans.

It is argued that black parents opt to have their children taught in English because it's an international language that will enable children to succeed in higher education and in

the workplace. That vernacular languages were previously marginalised and not developed in the academic sector as English and Afrikaans were, also contributes to this.

There is also the argument that even if parents insist that their children be taught in their mother tongue throughout their school years, teachers are not appropriately trained to teach in vernacular languages.

In April last year, the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Blade Nzimande, said if he had his way, students graduating from university would not do so without having studied at least one vernacular language.

This was largely welcomed by

analysts, who said implementing this would go beyond improving academic performance, to fostering social cohesion.

Some even called for this to be implemented in schools and not only at tertiary level.

"African languages need to be assigned greater value in the system. I believe (in) nothing short of making an African language compulsory at matric," Michel Lafon, a research fellow at the Centre for Research in the Politics of Language at the University of Pretoria, said in commenting on Nzimande's proposal.

Masennya Dikotla, the chief executive of the Molteno Institute for Language and Literacy – a non-profit organisation specialising in

language literacy programmes – said if people learnt one vernacular language, they would gain an understanding of other languages.

"If you learnt Northern Sotho (Pedi), for instance, you would be able to understand Southern Sotho (Sotho) and Tswana without much additional effort," Dikotla said.

"Learning Zulu would enable you to understand Xhosa, Ndebele – also applicable to Zimbabwe – and Swati, applicable to Swaziland, and so on."

During a meeting of ministers of higher education from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region held in Joburg last week, the then-Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Hlengiwe Mkhize, said the fact

that most students were taught in their second language had an adverse impact on their academic performance.

"We are not developing our indigenous languages to make them languages of scholarship and research," she said.

"Our youth are struggling to grasp learning content because they are taught in a second or third language."

This, Mkhize said, was a large contributor to the fact that although the global average of enrolment and participation in institutions of higher education was 30 percent, the participation rate in the SADC region sat at 6.5 percent – a level that was on par with global rates in the 1970s.

BUSINESSREPORT

BUSINESS REPORT (Sunday Independent)
17 Jun 2012, 8

Lifeline for embattled platinum mines

Dineo Faku

■ Research aims increase uses for the metal in a bid to save jobs and revive the industry

WHILE the local platinum mining sector is being crippled by a crisis that could lead to thousands of job cuts, research into extra uses for the metal is currently under investigation by the national mineral research organisation, Mintek.

The drop in the platinum price combined with persistent cost pressures, low productivity brought about by illegal strikes and a bleak economic outlook has so far contributed to the closure of several shafts.

This week, Makhafola, Mintek's general manager for research and development, said Mintek was investigating the development of fuel cell products such as portable power devices through the Department of Science and

Technology's (DST) Hydrogen South Africa (HySA) Catalysis programme.

The long-term aim is the establishment of a platinum group metals (PGM) catalyst manufacturing industry in South Africa," he said.

Mintek co-hosts the HySA programme with the University of Cape Town (UCT) which aims to build a fuel cell and hydrogen fuel cell industry to ensure the country derives the maximum value from having 80 percent of the world's known platinum reserves.

HySA's goal is to provide 25 percent of the global catalyst demand for the hydrogen and fuel cell market by 2020.

During her budget speech vote, Science and Technology Minister Naledi Pandor said Mintek and UCT had developed a very promising platinum-based catalyst for fuel cells. This was being tested to benchmark it with those already commercially available.

According to Pandor, the potential hydrogen fuel cell components being developed by HySA centres can be used for portable power applications to provide quieter and cleaner alternative sources of energy compared with diesel generators. There is also a combined heat and power application for domestic and commercial use.

"We believe that with platinum at its heart, a South African fuel cell industry would support the country's drive for jobs and help to meet its energy challenges," she added.

Makhafola said Mintek's Advanced Materials Division was involved in two long-term projects both funded by the DST and focused on the beneficiation of the mineral.

He explained that the first project, which forms part of the DST's Advanced Metal Initiative (AMI), was researching methods to produce powdered PGMs and alloys.

He said the technology would be applied in powder and metallurgical processing and manufacture of pressed powdered parts containing some PGM in the final product.

The second project of the AMI focuses on the research and development into aspects of PGM catalyst production where the catalysts are used in the chemical processing industry.

PGMs are used mainly for aircraft engines, anti-cancer drugs, cellphones and catalytic converters for motor vehicles. Platinum is also used in jewellery.

Percy Takunda, an analyst at Imara SP Reid, said on Friday that 70 percent of mines were operating with costs at unsustainable levels, while the price of the commodity remained weak.

Without giving details, he said the platinum sector was expected to shut yet another shaft before the end of the month.

"Something has to happen to make the platinum industry sustainable, because if something does not happen there will be severe job losses," Takunda said.

Frans Baleni, the general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers said four platinum producers had told the union that they intended to reduce the number of employees because of tough trading conditions.

"Other companies have said they will delay certain projects. This is sad because mining is supposed to create thousands of

jobs as part of the New Growth Path," he said.

Susan Shabangu, the Minister of Mineral Resources, is expected to meet organised labour and mine bosses tomorrow to address the shedding of jobs in the platinum sector.

The platinum price was fixed at \$1 420 an ounce on Friday compared with a spot price high of \$1 916.10 last August and slightly better than the spot price low of \$1 371.30 in December.

The car industry slowed down in August and September because of the economic turmoil in Europe.

Mining production contracted an annualised 16.6 percent in the first quarter, after growing 0.7 percent in the previous three months, according to Statistics SA. See page 3

City Press

The Emperor is naked

2012-06-17

Njabulo S Ndebele

A reincarnated Hans Christian Andersen may have painted The Spear for those denying the testimony of their eyes

'The Emperor's New Clothes' is one of the most enduring tales by Hans Christian Andersen. It tells the story of a fashion-obsessed Emperor who has no time to govern his country, care for his people and show leadership. With a coat to show off "for every hour of the day", he spends all his time and money on clothes. One day two swindlers come into town posing as master weavers. They claim to make clothes out of the most fabulous fabric. The clothes made from this fabric became invisible to anyone "unfit to hold office" or who is "unpardonably stupid".

Such clothes, the Emperor reasoned, should enable him to discover not only those in his service unfit for office, but how to distinguish the clever from the stupid. Without hesitation, the Emperor advances huge sums of money for this wonderful “fabric” to be manufactured. Soon, through astute marketing, the weavers ensure everyone in the city knows of their wondrous creation. The entire population is curious to see who among them will be found unfit for office and stupid, no! It isn’t long before the Emperor wants to satisfy his own curiosity. He starts out cautiously. Despite feeling pretty sure of himself as clever enough and fit for office, he sends an old and supposedly honest minister to check things out first. The minister finds the swindlers busy “at work”. But where are the looms? Where is the cloth? Yet curiously, the swindlers’ hands are “weaving” furiously.

“Look at this wonderful work!” the swindlers tell the minister. Bewildered, the minister decides he cannot risk being thought unfit for office and stupid. “Extraordinary!” he exclaims, nodding in praise. When the swindlers ask for more money, it comes. After a second minister vouches to the Emperor for the fabric and designs of miraculous quality, the Emperor feels confident it is time for him to go see the fabric himself “while it is still on the loom”. He takes along his two ministers and a company of other courtiers to see the precious cloth that is now the talk of the city.

This time the swindlers do not have to do any marketing; the two enthusiastic ministers did it all: “Is this not magnificent? Your Majesty must admire the astonishing colours and patterns!” Despite the evidence before his eyes, the Emperor, who does not want to be thought of as stupid and unfit for office, tells the swindlers: “Your cloth has the most gracious approval!” Indeed! Everyone present emphatically agrees. The Emperor immediately appoints the swindlers as “imperial court weavers”. They are now to begin to make the Emperor’s new clothes. Soon the clothes are ready and the day is announced on which the Emperor will stride out into the city to show off his new clothes to his people. Both swindlers assist him, while mouthing the most flattering compliments, as the Emperor takes off his old clothes. They then “dress him” in his new outfit.

“A magnificent suit of clothes!” everyone present approves, confirming what the Emperor is apparently seeing in his reflection in the mirror.

Who among them would risk others knowing they did not see anything other than a naked man? But as the Emperor struts out in public, only a child sees the reality: “The Emperor is naked!” In a most uncanny manner, Hans Christian Andersen was recently reincarnated in South Africa. He was reborn in the form of Brett Murray, who painted an image of a South African Emperor. A carnival of outrage ensued with many citizens, including some of the most prominent, making every effort not to be seen as unfit for office and as idiots, no! To crown it all, not in his wildest dreams would the 19th-century Danish storyteller have guessed when he died that in his reincarnation he would be declared a racist in South Africa. Somewhat bemused, he must console himself that the habit humans have of denying the testimony of their eyes is indeed a universal phenomenon.

The public space in South Africa recently displayed vividly the kinds of diversion and obfuscation that Andersen contemplated so well in his timeless story. Said President Jacob Zuma, reminding us that he was speaking on the anniversary of the establishment of the Union of South Africa in 1910: “In those days,” he quoted Seloape Thema, “the black man . . . was not allowed to travel first, second or third class on the trains. He travelled in trucks almost similar to those used for cattle and horses . . .” The president forgot to update Seloape

Thema: “Today,” he should have added, “the ‘black man’ can travel to New York in three trans-continental jets on the same visit.”

The Emperor is naked! Said Gwede Mantashe, declaring the streets as the site of validation of public sentiment: “What the ANC cannot win in the courts, it will win in the streets.” But the Emperor is naked! He is naked in the streets; he is naked in the courts. He is naked! Said Blade Nzimande, galvanising Lenin’s masses: “It is our democratic right not to read City Press. Let us use this weekend to call on all our shop stewards’ councils, our churches, our branch meetings, our stokvels, our calls to radio stations to say human dignity, especially black dignity, must be respected in this country.” But the Emperor is naked!

Said Jackson Mthembu: “Please apologise to the people of South Africa, the ANC and everybody . . . This pain has been so deep-seated.” But the Emperor is naked! Said David Makhura: “I would defend anyone who was insulted in the name of art.” But the Emperor is naked! Said the Cabinet: “This depiction also showed disrespect for the office of the president and the culture that he shares with millions of people.” But the Emperor is naked! Said Mathole Motshekga: (Mosiuoa) Lekota treats Parliament like a shebeen. But the Emperor is naked!

Said the Film and Publication Board (FPB) in a submissive preamble to their classification report: “We mark child protection week this week and as the FPB we are closely linked to government’s programme of promoting the safety of children under the theme ‘working together for protection of children’. Child protection is at the heart of our mandate and we exercise our duties with interests and needs of children in mind. A classification of ‘16N’ has been decided upon by the classification committee for the artwork by Brett Murray titled ‘The Spear’ in its uncensored form.” But the Emperor is naked! In the foreground to all the public statements and engineered drama he started in his bid to secure public sympathy as victim of a racist attack, President Zuma conducted himself “normally”.

There he was on television among school children with one on his lap; there he was among the aged, bearing gifts to cheer their hearts; there he was announcing that Nkandla was on its way to being a city; and there he was turning the tap to “deliver” water to a woman in Hammanskraal who had written to him in desperation. The president was taking care of his people. But the Emperor is naked! Exactly what did I feel when I first saw The Spear (Umkhonto) in The Times on Friday, May 18? I was jolted, but definitely not offended. I dug deep into myself to find out why I had this mixture of feelings. This got me looking at other artworks by Brett Murray on exhibition with The Spear. I saw the broader context and understood why I was not offended.

My capacity to be offended had been eroded cumulatively and decisively by Zuma’s conduct before he became president of the ANC and president of South Africa, and ever since. Numbed by disbelief at a string of disconcerting episodes, I found myself struggling to turn numbness into outrage. Hail to the Thief II, Murray’s exhibition, I had to admit, expressed my outrage. What kind of president of a country is not ashamed to be known to have brought political pressure to bear on his police services to have serious charges of murder and fraud dropped against an individual who does not inspire public confidence, so that this person can be reinstated as the head of crime intelligence?

Such conduct by the president is neither professionally nor morally justifiable. It does not “promote the unity of the nation which will advance the republic,” as the Constitution

enjoins. Prior to this, the president did nothing to reassure an anxious public when John Block, chairman of the ANC in the Northern Cape and its MEC for finance, was arrested and charged with tender fraud. Hazel Jenkins, the province's premier, even stood in firm support of Block. President Zuma comes across as being highly tolerant of criminality. In the context that criminal charges against him were unsatisfactorily withdrawn, his conduct in this respect should not be surprising.

ANC party members caught on the wrong side of the law are likely to receive active support or admonitory leniency. This presents an image of the president as not being committed to upholding, defending and respecting "the Constitution as the supreme law of the republic". Recently in Parliament, Zuma also declared that there was nothing wrong with politicians doing business with government. This implies he can be deemed to be permitting himself to do business with a government of which he is the head. President Zuma doesn't seem to have a clue about the fundamental conflict of interest.

Chancellor House is the most prominent, most visible and most disconcerting symbol of this. Is it any wonder then that tender fraud has spread like a contagion across the country? The president of the republic has accorded it parliamentary tolerance. The import of all this permits one to ask: just how far has South Africa gone down the path towards becoming a full-blown gangster state? What about the spate of senior public appointments made, only to be challenged successfully before the courts? What about attacks, some by ministers and senior ANC party officials, on the courts and the Constitution?

What about threats to the sovereignty of the republic as a result of highly suspect, undeclared favours granted to either the governing party or, by extension, the government, by powerful foreign interests? How much of our country has been given away in this manner? How much of our national dignity, respect and prestige have been lost as a result? Who is running the country right now? Is it the ANC?

Or is it Cosatu or the SACP, neither of which has been voted into office? Or has the "Tripartite Alliance" become the means by which they can exercise power after having avoided the rigours of winning an electoral mandate? Are these organisations just two among many other interests, invisible-cloth swindlers who exert a powerful influence on the president and his party? Can they be deemed to have achieved the status of *de facto* control? Are we in the throes of a benign coup d'état? Has the ANC become an empty shell, traded on the stock market of tenderpreneurship? Hail to the thief! These questions should send a chilling message to all South Africans that it is time to begin to take their country back. The cumulative effect of it all is strongly suggestive to me: President Zuma seems eminently impeachable.

But a probable impeachment is not the point of this reflection. The point is to amplify why I was jolted by the courageous sensibility that composed *The Spear* and yet was not at all offended by it. It was to point out the history of the corrosion or erosion of presidential dignity and respect as a result of consistent, even predictable, and questionable presidential conduct. *The Spear* did not cause the disrespect and the loss of dignity; it simply reflected it. The Emperor is naked! I watched with admiration as Zuma announced the removal from office of National Police Commissioner Bheki Cele. It seemed just right – until I remembered the Emperor.

The question was inescapable: would President Zuma survive the same investigative

» Ndebele is a writer and research fellow of the Archive and Public Culture Research Initiative at the University of Cape Town, and a fellow of the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study V Overhead The Emperor is naked



SUNDAY TRIBUNE, News & Views
17 Jan 2012, p. 33

As foreign nationals celebrate National Refugee Day on Wednesday, there are signs that the scars of past xenophobic outbreaks are healing, **Vivian Attwood** reports

[illegible]

Headmistress Gail Teunissen and her young charges at Addington Primary School. It is the achievements of the children who arrive with nothing that give her hope.

IPD conference focuses on real estate investment

PROPERTY REPORTER

THE upcoming 10th Annual Investment Property Databank (IPD) Property Investment Conference is set to identify future trends and look at important lessons from the past in the midst of the current challenging global and domestic property investment marketplace.

The conference, titled "10 Years Back – 10 Years Forward", recognises a decade of South African property and sets out to provide professionals with valuable strategic insight to tackle the opportunities of the next 10 years. It is set for July 2012 in Cape Town.

Stan Garrun, managing director of IPD SA said: "The conference will build on important lessons from the past and look at how to apply these to the future. Real

estate markets are continuously changing and speakers will focus on the key trends and opportunities."

He said over the past 10 years the conference had evolved to become the pre-eminent property event in the country and the 10th instalment promised to be top-notch.

Sponsored by Liberty Properties, the conference promotes South African commercial property against other asset classes, both locally and globally.

"It's packed with indispensable information for property investors, including: investment strategies in the local and global markets, the economic landscape, managing risk, sustainability, growth strategies, developing markets, listed and alternative investments.

"Each year we assemble industry leaders to call attention to and debate key issues. With unique access to IPD's contacts from around the globe, we're presenting an exceptional programme which gives exclusive access to speakers with unique knowledge," Garrun said.

Bringing international perspectives to conference goers are IPD UK senior director of business development Dr Peter Hobbs and Iain Reid, CEO and chief investment officer of Cornerstone Europe.

Local presenters delving into specialist property disciplines include CEO of Liberty Properties Samuel Ogbu; Professor Francois Viruly of University of Cape Town; head of listed property funds at STANLIB Keillen Ndlovu; top analyst Liliane Barnard; Nicola

Milne of the Green Building Council of SA; research manager of Broll Property Group Sanett Uys; and, director of IPD Research South Africa Jess Cleland.

"We are privileged to sponsor this landmark anniversary IPD conference. Property as an asset class is always popular and has a reputation for consistently strong results," said Samuel Ogbu, CEO of Liberty Properties.

"Historically, whilst other asset classes have experienced a dip, demand for high quality, property-backed investment has continued. This is never truer than now on the continent where, with African capital markets maturing, there is an ever-increasing popularity of real estate investment on the continent, making the IPD conference theme of looking forward whilst learning from past mistakes very apt. We

look forward to an engaging and enlightening conference line up," he added.

Property investors seeking to polish their expertise can do so at the not-to-be-missed interactive masterclass on the Business of Property Business. Professor Viruly, with a panel of property leaders, will take participants through the property process from design and development to managing facilities and income streams.

SA's top-performing property funds will step into the spotlight at the glittering Property Investment Awards dinner, sponsored by Nedbank Corporate.

The 10th Annual IPD Property Investment Conference takes place on July 18 and 19 2012 at Westin Grand Hotel Arabella Quays in Cape Town.

SOUTHERN CROSS

Dr Ramphele to deliver memorial lecture

STAFF REPORTER

THE ninth Bishop Hans Brennkmeijer Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Dr Mamphela Ramphele in Johannesburg on July 24.

Hosted annually by the Catholic Institute of Education, the lecture commemorates the late Bishop Johannes Brennkmeijer, a Dominican who headed Kroonstad diocese from 1977 to 2003.

Dr Ramphele will speak on the theme "Educating for Citizenship".

When she was appointed vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town in 1996 she became the first black woman to hold such a position at a South African university.

In the 1970s she was a lead-

ing activist in the Black Consciousness Movement and close associate of the movement's de facto leader Steve Biko. For her political activism, she was banished to Tzaneen from 1977-84.

She is the founder of Citizens Movement for Social Change (CMfSC), which focuses on promoting engaged citizenship, and is the author of several books and important publications on socio-economic issues in South Africa.

She has received numerous prestigious national and international awards, including several honorary doctorates acknowledging her scholarship, service to the community, and leading role in raising development issues and spearheading projects for disadvantaged persons in South Africa and else-

where in the world.

Dr Ramphele qualified as a medical doctor at the University of Natal in 1972. She holds a PhD in social anthropology from UCT, a B-Com degree in administration from the University of South Africa and post graduate diplomas in tropical health, hygiene and public health from the University of Witwatersrand.

Dr Ramphele is the chairperson of the Technology Innovation and Goldfields.

The Bishop Hans Brennkmeijer Memorial Lecture will be delivered at St Benedict's College, Bedfordview on July 24 at 14:00.

■ To reserve a seat at the lecture, contact Hilda Mushava at telephone 011 433 1888, or fax 011 680 9628 or hilda@cie.org.za

Weekend Argus

SATURDAY WEEKEND ARGUS, Property
16 Jun 2012, p.9

Demand for student accommodation in Observatory rises

IN THE last six months there has been a huge pick-up in demand for homes in Observatory, which has caused a serious stock shortage, according to Craig Gilfillan, Rawson Properties' franchisee for Observatory and Pinelands.

However, it has not yet affected prices, which, he believes, remain reasonable.

"Demand throughout the entire precinct is driven by the steadily growing student population, most of whom need to be close to their campuses. In addition to the UCT campus, in this area or close to it we have the UCT Medical School, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, the Ruth Prowse School of Art, the AFDA Film School, Damelin and other tertiary education centres."

Gilfillan says these students pay R2 000 to R3 000 a month for rooms.

"Investors are increasingly aware that this is an extremely good rental market, offering net returns from day one of 8 percent or more in many cases. Typically, the fastest-selling Observatory homes and those giving the best rental returns are in the R800 000 to R1.4 million bracket. These are almost all freehold houses, which can accommodate from four to 10 occupants. The number of apartments in the area is extremely limited.

"Homes priced at R1.6m or above, although charming and mostly well-maintained, will usually take a long time to sell, if only because similar (and similarly priced) homes can be found in Rosebank, Rondebosch and Pinelands, which many people tend to see as 'bet-

ter areas', although they lack Observatory's ambience.

"Apart from investors, among our potential buyers are many upwardly mobile managers and professionals, frequently with young families. Such buyers are, like the students, attracted to Observatory because it has a flourishing culture all of its own.

"This is one of the few areas in Cape Town – like Upper Kloof Street and De Waterkant, and there might be others – which is cosmopolitan with a lively night life, flourishing bistros and restaurants and a community spirit. Also, of

**'Investors are
aware this is an
extremely good
rental market'**

course, Observatory has the great advantage of being conveniently close to the CBD – even in peak traffic hours this can be reached in 20 minutes."

Gilfillan says at least 80 percent of Observatory's homes date from the Victorian era and have cast iron fireplaces, sash windows, Oregon pine floors and extensive verandas (often with wrought-iron decoration) that appeal to many buyers.

"The prices of homes in Observatory have bottomed out and are likely to start rising by early next year. Attendances at show houses are more than double what they were last year," says Gilfillan.

WEEKEND POST
16 Jun 2012, p 5

The ultimate eating plan for life

Tim Noakes talks to Shaun Gillham about his low-carb, protein-rich diet

DISHING up a smorgasbord of facts on the weighty issue of diets garnished with a sprinkling of conspiracy theory, celebrated South African sports scientist Tim Noakes this week had a Port Elizabeth audience eating out of his hand as he revealed an eating plan that rubbishes all others.

Noakes, a professor of exercise and sports science at the University of Cape Town and co-founder of the Sports Science Institute of South Africa, has increasingly been grabbing headlines for his taste in nutrition.

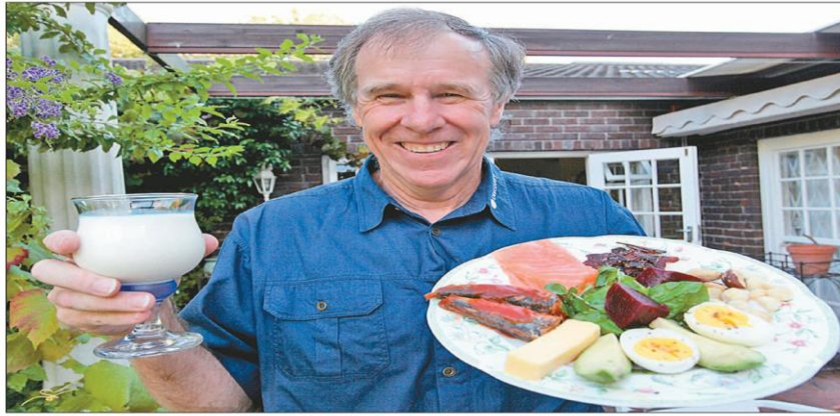
Speaking after eating what he labelled a "healthy omelette" at the Nelson Mandela Business Chamber breakfast event in Walmer on Wednesday, Noakes talked his way through the "political" history of nutrition before building his case against modern nutritional practices, which he called the "prudent diet".

The prudent diet has traditionally blamed cholesterol and saturated fats among the causes of thickening arteries and other effects.

However, Noakes disputed the diet as an "unsubstantiated dogma that does not stand up to an intelligent and independent interpretation of the complete scientific literature".

Using evidence of years of hidden and biased nutritional research and reports, Noakes demonstrated how the prudent diet – based on low-fat and high-carbohydrate intakes – was contributing to obesity, disease and other negative effects the world over.

By contrast, Noakes's eating plan – which he explained was not a diet but a change in



PROTEIN FEAST: Sports scientist Tim Noakes rubbishes the low-fat diet, high-carbohydrate diet and advocates a low-carb, protein-rich diet as the ultimate eating plan

eating habits for life – is based on the intake of high-fat, high-protein and low-carbohydrate foods.

While this is contrary to the long-held belief by athletes, in particular, that car-

bohydrates boost performance and provide many other benefits, Noakes contends that athletes will over time enjoy the same or better performance on a low-carbohydrate diet.

"What we have found is you can derive the same energy and performance from the intake of fats that you would get from carbohydrates, which are essentially bad for you. While some peo-

ple are carbohydrate tolerant and can take in carbohydrates, many others are carbohydrate resistant. This means that carbohydrate-resistant people put on weight and suffer other effects."

He explained that his eating plan had proved extraordinarily effective for himself because it matched his particular biological needs. "I inherited from my father and his lineage a predisposi-

“ You can derive the same energy and performance from the intake of fats that you would get from carbs, which are essentially bad for you

tion to develop adult-onset diabetes because I am what is known as carbohydrate resistant and pre-diabetic.

"My biology is such that I am unable effectively to clear from my bloodstream the breakdown product of ingested carbohydrate, glucose. As a result my pancreas must over-secrete the hormone, insulin, one of whose normal functions is to direct the glucose from the bloodstream into the liver and muscles.

"But instead, in my case, under the action of insulin most of the carbohydrate that I ingest is directed into my fat cells where it contributes to progressive weight gain, continual hunger, lethargy and, in time, pancreatic failure and the onset of the irreversible condition, adult-onset diabetes."

Noakes, an avid proponent of Omega 3, which is found in foods such as fish, and a vehement opponent of cereals and Omega 6, which he described as "poisonous", listed eggs, liver, sardines, chicken, dairy products including full-cream milk and cheese, and vegetables such as broccoli among the most nutritious foods for a healthy life.



South Africa has shortage of black engineers

Transport utility's R330bn infrastructure investment plan an incentive for transformation, says engineering society.

TRANSPORT utility Transnet's plan to invest some R330bn in infrastructure over the next seven years should create an incentive for more black people to pursue engineering as a career, speakers at the fourth National Society of Black Engineers Conference said on Thursday.

South Africa's engineers are highly regarded worldwide for their expertise and educational background. Engineering firms, however, have struggled to employ large numbers of non-white engineers because universities have not produced them at rates quick enough to meet project demands.

Even though finding black candidates for junior positions is not an easy task, doing so can reap rewards for companies, as it would boost their Black Economic Empowerment scorecards. It takes around five years to obtain qualifications for engineering, which is considered a skilled profession.

The University of Witwatersrand's engineering school is one of the few A-rated schools in the country.

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Where are they now? – Top Students of 2006

MYRLE VANDERSTRAETEN

This year our *Top Student* and *Top Students – where are they now?* features have been carried in three consecutive editions. These started with the final year LLB students of 2011 in April; carried the feature on those students who graduated 10 years ago in May and now, those who started their careers five years ago, appear in the June issue of **without prejudice**.

Ten years ago 16 graduates from five universities appeared. In 2007 the 40 top final year LLB students of 2006 graduating from seven universities appeared in the feature. The female/male ratio of top students was 69% to 31% in 2002 while in 2006 the figure for the men had dropped to 22.5%. It will probably be a relief to the male species to know that the figure in 2011 went up to 35%.

A large number of those featured studied or are currently studying for an LLM – 45%. And two were not satisfied with one Masters, so they did another. Of those, 39% have been or are studying abroad – Cambridge, Harvard, Geneva, NYU, London School of Economics and University of London. There is one PH.D among the graduates of 2006 and two graduates studying for an LL.D. Three of the 45% are currently studying full-time.

Of those graduates who have been articulated, 49% remain with the same firm. Though articles are not served with Davis Polk & Wardwell I have included the firm in this figure. Davis Polk has made a point of offer-

ing work to the brightest graduating from UCT. In 2006, from the information I have, 50% of the top 10 were offered jobs 40% of whom took up the offer either directly or after articles in SA. A Wits graduate has also subsequently joined the firm. In fact, just over 30% of the top students featured in 2007 are abroad, so it can safely be assumed that SA law graduates make their mark when competing for jobs internationally.

Once again, tracking down people was not the easiest of tasks and without my great friend Google and the assistance of others in the same year, many would not have been found. In this feature it is the graduates of UCT and Wits who have proved to be the most adventurous.

And it is those from UCT who seem to have formed the greatest bond and speak warmly of their peers and their achievements. They were happy to contact each other if I failed to do so and their responses were particularly thoughtful. It was, for me, one of the highlights of this feature to find how seriously they take their friendships, formed at university at the beginning of an exciting professional life.

There are always those who have taken a different, and sometimes fascinating, route to reading for an LLB and there are those whose work takes them in unusual directions. Some are, in the words of one top student about a peer, "doing awesome things ..." I have no doubt that everyone reading the feature will find it fascinating. ♦

University of Cape Town

Laura-Lee Atkinson-Hope graduated *cum laude*. She joined Davis Polk Wardwell straight out of law school and says the amount of responsibility she was immediately given was immensely satisfying. Passing the tough New York bar exam on her first attempt was a real cause to celebrate. Atkinson-Hope responds to the query whether the reasons that prompted her to study law had proved valid: "I had many reasons for studying law – to help people, to be intellectually stimulated, to learn from history, to earn a decent salary, to join a respected profession, the list goes on! Yes, these have all proven valid." Her greatest surprise was "to find work didn't end with law school."

Her plan was to start out in corporate law and then move to public interest litigation and this is exactly how things have turned out; she adds "the



Laura-Lee Atkinson-Hope

switch in specialities proved more challenging than anticipated at law school." She is particularly grateful for the strong *pro bono* programme at Davis Polk without which she would have been, in her words "a tough sell to non-profits."

Atkinson-Hope works for Sanctuary for Families, a large non-profit in New York where she litigates on behalf of victims of female genital mutilation and other forms of gender violence seeking asylum in the US. She has been "inspired by colleagues who work tirelessly to see that justice is done and my clients who rebuild their lives after experiencing great trauma."

She still manages to find time to run and has signed up for a half marathon and qualified as a yoga teacher last summer.

Jessica Axelson graduated *cum laude*. She served articles with Adams & Adams where she is now a senior associate. Her original interest was studying English and she only took Legal Theory as a "gap-filler." She



Jessica Axelson

quickly found that her love of reading expanded from novels to case law and law became her primary focus. Her selection of Intellectual Property Law, which requires continued study in order to qualify as a trade mark practitioner and a fellow of SAILPL, has allowed her original motivation and interest in law to follow through to her current position.

She does say however that while she was interested in IP during her LLB, and it did become her area of specialisation, "I don't think I really had an idea of what it would be like to practise in this field though – so it is probably partly coincidence!" Axelson feels she is where she belongs and can see herself in the same field for many years to come.

In addition to having "some brilliant mentors" at Adams & Adams to whom she knows she can always turn for help and advice she considers herself very privileged to work with interesting and innovative clients. She has had exposure to aspects of the jewellery industry, wine-making and marketing, she adds, "not to mention tasting!" and the clothing retail industry, all of which interest her. She comments that she has been happily surprised by the non-legal aspects of her position which may differ on an almost daily basis.

Her greatest disappointment? "Perhaps naively by the administrative delays involved in litigating. I am waiting for judgement in an urgent application for a matter heard in December 2008. I would not have anticipated delays of this kind from the confines of a lecture theatre."

Jessica Blumenthal graduated *cum laude*. Originally attracted by the integrity of the profession and the idea of helping to attain justice as a champion of the underdog, she quickly realised that "not only are legal issues seldom black and white but there is far more to the profession than court room drama!"



— Jessica Blumenthal

She intended specialising in human rights law and was involved in the Refugee Rights and Community Law clinics in the final years at UCT. She was, however, exposed to banking and finance law on rotation during articles and realised this was the field for her. She comments that while she believes her original motivation to study law remains valid, she finds commercial practice far more stimulating and nuanced than she originally imagined.

Blumenthal found that she actually missed studying and so enrolled at UCT where she is completing her Masters in Commercial Law on a part time basis. She considers herself very lucky in that her practice has an academic aspect to it so she can use skills she enjoyed using at university, research and writing papers, regularly. Blumenthal is a senior associate in the Banking and Finance department at Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs in Cape Town where she also served articles.

She finds it hard to believe that the years since university have gone so quickly and wishes there were more hours in the day – there are never enough.

She is married to a travel editor and travels on a regular basis. She says "In the past five years we've had many adventures - we have followed in the footsteps of Trappist monks in KwaZulu-Natal, watched leatherback turtles nesting, sailed down the Nile, scuba-dived with tiger sharks, wandered the spice plantations of Zanzibar and kayaked to forgotten islands in Mozambique.

She says of her work that the surprise has been that the learning never ends.

Lauren Kohn-Goldschmidt

(née Kohn) graduated *magna cum laude*. She was awarded a full scholarship to complete a Masters degree at Duke University and was offered the chance to work as an associate at Davis Polk but when her mother, to whom she is very close, fell severely ill she elected to stay in South Africa to look after her and used part of that year to teach at the UCT Law faculty. Her decision has had its reward in that her mother is well on the road to recovery.



— Lauren Kohn-Goldschmidt

Kohn-Goldschmidt found a passion for law in first year Business Science and she says "... at the risk of sounding clichéd, always had a dream to use the law to make a difference in South African society." She found her niche when she did her rotation in the public law department during articles at Webber Wentzel. She was fortunate to be exposed to a rich variety of really "sexy" legal work ranging from regulatory advice in the fields of tobacco control and clinical trials to various legal opinion work for the City of Cape Town in relation to the BRT among others.

And most rewarding was the work she did for various NGOs. Despite thoroughly enjoying the quality and diversity of work she found the pull of further study too great and was awarded the David and Elaine Potter Fellowship presented to "thoughtful academic men and women who are excited by the prospect of helping to lead South Africa into an ever more successful future" as well as the National Research Foundation DAAD scholarship award. She is now doing an LLM in constitutional and administrative law while also studying environmental and advanced contract law. She is to speak at the upcoming Potter Talks on the separation of powers doctrine in our current socio-political climate.

Her dream is to practise as an advocate and, long-term, "perhaps even thereafter serve as a judge."

Her greatest pleasure on a personal front was "marrying my soul mate (also a lawyer). We've been together for over seven years since sitting next to one another in law lectures back in 2004 and have always been a great team."

Kerry Kopke graduated *cum laude*. She chose to study law because she loved the academics of it and thought she would be able to empower herself and others by knowing the law and, in addition, it would allow her to be part of a respected profession and earn a good salary

She was one of the 2002 graduates offered an associate position at Davis Polk & Wardwell where she worked in the corporate department for two years. She is now with Bowman Gilfillan, Cape Town, in the Financial Service and Investment Management practice which is a combination of law and finance – a perfect complement to both her degrees (B.Bus.Sci and Law).



— Kerry Kopke

She says of her speciality "I always knew I wanted to be a corporate/commercial attorney. I was, however, a bit naïve about how specialised the different areas of this work could be and it took me a while to find my niche."

Kopke has written both the New York and South African bar exams. She says of ongoing study "I feel that because the law is constantly changing you need to have the mindset of a student when you practise law to be continually learning and up-to-date."

On practising law she says "I also realised that it is not just the content of the law or the type of work that you do that is important but a crucial part of job satisfaction with the people that you work with. I was able to negotiate my way into joining a new, young and dynamic team... The senior lawyers in my team are exceptional, intelligent and forward-thinking and I love interacting with and learning from them each day. Her opportunity to work in three different cities in five years – New York, Johannesburg and Cape Town has given her an amazing opportunity to meet a broad range of people and engage in experiences that are particular to each city thereby expanding her views.

While Kopke has not experienced any disappointments in her career choice she has managed to disappoint others perceptions about lawyers almost every day when she explains that "I never litigate or go to court and working at my law firm is not how it appears on *Ally McBeal*, *The Practice*, *Boston Legal* or *The Good Wife*!"

Julie Kourie graduated *magna cum laude*. She was conscious of a profound sense of injustice in the world while at high school and a desire to try and redress that attracted her to the law. Though a corporate lawyer, her *pro bono* work has enabled her to redress some of the injustices that exist.

Kourie was delighted to give up her books for a salary and spare time. She completed articles with Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr and then joined the environmental law department as an associate. But she says, "The pull to study again was too great!" And in April 2011 she headed to New York to pursue an LLM at NYU. She was nominated as the candidate for the NYU/UCT scholarship exchange programme and was also granted the Arthur T. Vanderbilt

scholarship. She completed an Advanced Certificate in Law and Business – a course through the NYU Stern Business School on a partial Vogelstein scholarship before the course started. She obtained her LLM in the Corporations specialisation.

She has found her niche in corporate law but also enjoyed family law litigation and environmental and says that her time in practice confirmed that no matter the subject, the common theme is her love of legal research (which she says feels like solving a mystery in a Dan Brown novel) and drafting.

Kourie is now practising as a law clerk at Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York City. She wrote and passed the New York bar exam and will be admitted to the NY State Bar Association once she has been interviewed in June by the Committee on Character and Fitness. She recently joined the Financial Institutions Group of the firm which provides strategic banking advice to clients on a number of regulatory issues, including the Dodd-Frank Act. She has become involved in the *pro bono* Elder Law Program with the firm and com-



Julie Kourie

ments "It has been such a pleasure to have been able to help those in need by using my legal skills."

A couple of minor disappointments are that the increase in electronic and telephonic communications has resulted in a decline in interaction with clients. Second, she is interested in many aspects of the law and it has been a challenge to accept that the nature of legal practice today requires attorneys to choose a specific area of law early on in their careers.

She lives in Manhattan with her husband of five years and her kitten, Doozie. They enjoy discovering new restaurants, seeing Broadway shows and road running.

Sima Ostrovsky graduated *cum laude*. She completed articles with Webber Wentzel where she is now an associate in the Competition Law



Sima Ostrovsky

Department. She says it was a huge relief when she finished her LLB "...and I really thought that six years of studying would be the end of it. But five years later I find myself at New York University doing an LLM in a specialised programme focused on Competition Law under the mentorship of Eleanor Fox, a world renowned Competition Law specialist."

She comments "I always wanted to contribute to the development of law in a cutting edge field. My specialisation in Competition Law allows me to do just that. Competition Law

is a fairly new discipline in South Africa and is a perfect combination of law, economics and public policy." Ostrovsky worked with the team at Webber Wentzel on the Walmart/Massmart deal. It represented Walmart and she had the opportunity to prepare the merger notifications in the five African jurisdictions and assisted with the litigation in Namibia, challenging the Competition Commission's decision to approve the deal subject to conditions.

Ostrovsky has taken a leave of absence from Webber Wentzel; once she graduates in May she will take the New York bar exam before taking up a position with top-ranked New York law firm Simpson Thacher & Bartlett for a year. She comments that it is a source of pleasure that she is constantly learning new things.

On a personal front the ability to travel is exciting. And of work she says that she always knew she would enjoy whichever field she chose but was pleasantly surprised to find an area of law about which she is passionate.

Jeannette Safi graduated *cum laude*. She says the idealistic notions of the profession and what prompted her to study law remain valid and as relevant as they were when she started her LLB.

She had no preconceived ideas as to an area of speciality and has been fortunate that she loves the work she has done in capital markets. She joined Davis Polk & Wardwell New York and spent her first three years in the capital markets group for which the firm is consistently ranked among the world's best capital markets practices. She later transferred to the firm's London office where she currently practises general corporate law with a special focus on capital markets work. She says of working in London "it has provided incredible exposure to multi-jurisdictional work and a diverse set of clients, which has been, and continues to be, an invaluable and enriching experience."

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Safi acknowledges that working at Davis Polk is an incredible experience. "Being surrounded by leaders in all fields of the law is very inspiring. The work is interesting, complex and intellectually engaging. It is exceptionally rewarding to be a part of collegial teams that consistently provide for clients innovative solutions to complex problems." And she is constantly struck by how work is



Jeannette Safi

most rewarding when it is at its most demanding and challenging.

At university she observes that there was a common sense of purpose with others in pursuit of excellence and the reason she is so fond of transactional work is that although "we represent one side of a deal, the entire working group has the common goal of putting together a successful transaction. Balancing client interests and deal interest with the overall common goal in mind is an exciting and interesting process." Her only disappointment is that "You can't know everything all at once. It

can be exasperating at times to appreciate that the acquisition of greater knowledge mostly serves to remind us how much we don't know!"

"Living far away from home and frequently away from family, friends become part of your family. As such, my greatest pleasures are the many amazing friends from UCT that I have remained close to, the many amazing new friends I have made during my time abroad, the interesting and influential people I have had the good fortune of meeting and generally experiencing life in two of the world's most exciting cities, New York and now London."

She says she once received good advice "Young lawyers should get really good in a particular practice area and then take liberties with pursuing personal interests later on – we all have to pay our dues." She adds "It helps if you enjoy playing your dues!"

Shaun van der Elst graduated *cum laude*. He served articles and practised as an associate with Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs in Cape Town. He is now in the International Capital Markets Department of Allen & Overy in London where he has been working on securitisation and covered bond programmes.

He viewed law as a service profession and "the impact that the law can have on peoples' personal lives is profound." He did not imagine himself as a corporate lawyer when he studied law but in the past five years the clients he has serviced have been predominantly corporate and banks. Despite this he says "... the matters I've worked on have often ultimately had an impact on peoples' individual lives on a much broader scale."

On further study "I somehow manage to both fondly reminisce about student life while still occasionally having a nightmare about being wholly unprepared for my final year jurisprudence and administrative law exams. I'm not



Shaun van der Elst

convinced time heals ALL wounds! I have not ventured into further study, while having never ruled it out either. The learning on the job never stops though, so on some level one is perpetually in a state of study – albeit without formal exams."

Van der Elst's response to the question of how the practise of law in London differs "The working culture in the UK is quite different from that in SA. It's a profession that never sleeps (except on Christmas day when London as a whole, surprisingly completely shuts down!). Perhaps attributable to the firms I've worked for in both SA and the UK, both work experiences have been very professional." He feels privileged to work with and learn from remarkable people and leaders in their practice areas and that some of them have been role models both professionally and in life.

His greatest pleasures in his personal life have been meeting and marrying his wife, the adventures they have had definitely stand out. And travelling and exploring different parts of the world have also been richly rewarding in many ways.

Any disappointments? "Working on more than one occasion during the end of year festive season knowing that some of your friends are in shorts and flip-flops in sunnier parts of the world!"

Andrew Welz graduated *cum laude*. He came to the law via a different route – a mariner, he qualified *cum laude* in both the ND and NHD, Maritime studies. And after completing his LLB he returned to professional seafaring for several months and passed the unlimited Master Mariner's exam during 2007 – "rounding off my seagoing career on a high note."



Andrew Welz

His initial reasons for studying law are continually vindicated. He wanted to work in a field where he could problem-solve, using his merchant marine background and "be in a position of trust and reliance while handling complex, high-value disputes." He comments that he was fortunate he began legal studies in his mid-twenties "with a clear vision of specialised shipping practice;" this remains the route he is committed to following.

He joined the shipping practice of Garlick & Bousfield where he completed articles. He found the Admiralty practice in the division interesting – the focus was mostly on ship arrests and transport contract litigation. However, in early 2010, he decided to move into the English legal market; it is here where many shipping disputes are resolved by agreement as to the choice of that legal system. This is seldom the case in South Africa.

Welz joined English specialist shipping law firm Mills & Co and passed the QLTT requirements to become dual-qualified. He now practises as a solicitor, "...litigating disputes that arise from all manner of marine incidents and casualties, which gives me exposure to the truly international nature of shipping law. I have been able to travel as widely as when I worked at sea, including a secondment period with a leading marine insurer in Norway."

Disappointingly the most stimulating aspects of legal studies are complex legal theories that Welz says "... are seldom of interest to clients (or colleagues!) and, the opportunity to indulge in all the arguments and case law on a particular legal point arises infrequently." And as far as further studies go he

found the conversion exams sufficiently challenging to satisfy his need for these. He would like to obtain a higher degree in due course but says "it is likely to be something based on research and not directly career related."

Legal practice has surprised him with the endless opportunities to acquire new knowledge and insights on a daily basis. It has, however, disappointed him when the quality of justice fails to match the merits of a particular client's case.

Since leaving university he has derived great pleasure in the international travel involved in his field, in working with people from many different cultures and backgrounds and in being part of the long and fascinating shipping law traditions of both South Africa and England. He adds "I was fortunate to meet my wife after leaving university. She has accompanied me with great patience and tolerance on the many interesting journeys which have brought me to where I am today."

University of Johannesburg

Amy Fourie (née Coyle-Dowling) graduated *cum laude*. She says of her career path that it has been rewarding, however, "The statement that all lawyers are rich is a myth. Your hard work, determination, loyalty and constant learning is what will get you success." In addition it is essential to keep up to date with the changing legislation and case law so one is always studying." She has now added to her qualifications with an Advanced Certificate in Labour Law.

She observes "What you study at university and what you practice day-to-day is very different. At university my favourite subject was always family law. In practice family law definitely brings with it its challenges. It's extremely difficult to separate your emotions from the matter at hand, especially when there are children involved. This has, however, brought with it advantages as my work has become my passion. Labour Law was one of the subjects I disliked at university, however in the field of practice, I enjoy it the most." Fourie runs her own firm, Fourie Attorneys and specialises in, among others, commercial law, litigation, labour law, family law and divorce law. This was her aim when she graduated, and, having achieved that goal, she now wants to grow her practice.

It came as a bit of a surprise to find that the work of a lawyer is not as glamorous as portrayed on television sitcoms; it actually involves long hours and dedication. And the public assumption that all lawyers are sharks is really disheartening. "The majority of us are good upstanding citizens who fight for what is right."

Fourie says "My husband and two children have brought me the most pleasure in life and continue to do so each and every day. It's because of my family that I am where I am today."

Vanessa Da Costa graduated *cum laude*. She says "Though my reasons for choosing this profession may have been somewhat rose-coloured, I have found a new appreciation for the profession and do not regret the choice."

She has completed short courses in Competition Law and Advanced Company Law through Wits and has also completed the coursework for an



Vanessa Da Costa

LLM in Corporate Law through Wits and is waiting for the final results in respect of her research report; she hopes to graduate this year.

She served articles with Routledge Modise and is now an associate in the Commercial, Mergers and Acquisitions department of Norton Rose Johannesburg. She most enjoyed the problem-solving element of law while at university and comments "As a corporate lawyer, problem-solving is an essential skill and therefore this element of law has definitely continued to provide pleasure."

She enjoys working at Norton Rose, "the opportunities that there are being with an international firm and working for clients who, when the team has achieved the best for them, are truly appreciative."

She is engaged and she and her fiancé are enjoying the excitement of planning their future together.

Yaniv Kleitman graduated *cum laude*. He served articles with Hofmeyr Herbstein and Gihwala and is now a senior associate in the Corporate and Commercial department of Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr (the merged entity of Cliffe Dekker and Hofmeyr Herbstein and Gihwala).

He says "Post LLB I always saw myself as advising in the fields of company and commercial law, which are indeed the fields I am involved in and I see myself continuing in that direction."

He embarked on further studies – an LLM in Commercial Law through the University of Johannesburg which he undertook mainly for the purpose of in-depth study of the new Companies Act. He hopes to complete the Masters by the end of this year.

The greatest pleasure and surprise from a work point of view has been the variety and the multi-disciplinary scope of the work – "... there may be perceptions out there about what corporate and commercial involves but these are not always accurate!"

On a personal front he continues to enjoy the things in which he has always been interested – particularly football and general current affairs.

Julie Maynard (née Nosworthy) graduated *cum laude*. She found it fascinating that the law is useful in everyday life and, more specifically, how companies need it to function. She says of tax law, "Tax



Yaniv Kleitman



Julie Nosworthy



Amy Fourie

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law to me has always been a sensitive subject to both individuals and especially to companies. It is largely determined by case law, which made it seem exciting." She found this to be true and it has proved useful on a personal level too.

She did an H Dip in tax law, the field she enjoyed most while studying and graduated from the tax academy programme at PwC. She enjoyed writing opinions of a topic of law using case law and statute to back up an opinion and says she had the privilege of working with this element writing opinions on tax law.

While Maynard envisaged herself still being in tax law 10 years down the line she has decided to change fields to contract or commercial law. She says of the practise of law that "in practise it seems to work differently from the way it does on paper."

This will not happen immediately, however, as she has taken time off to start a family and assist her husband's business with many areas of law, which have given her great pleasure.

Nicola Fanucchi (née Roux) graduated *cum laude*. She was articulated to Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs and is now a senior associate in the Banking and Finance Department where she specialises in the debt markets.

While she has attended several industry specific courses "which I will continue to do always," she does not feel the need to engage in any formal university studies at this stage. Always attracted by the corporate side of law which is her area of speciality, she only gravitated to finance law while doing articles.

Fanucchi left practice during the first year following articles and worked in-house at Investec. She found the experience very valuable and "... it contributed to my knowledge and skill as a lawyer. I realised that I preferred the nature of the work in practice and I returned to ENS after about 18 months."

She says this realisation that she is exactly where she wants to be, not continually doubting whether she has made the right choice, has been very satisfying. Since she had very different ideas about her life five years ago she "tries not to worry about the future too much and is happy, today, just where I am." This has allowed her not to take life too seriously and to enjoy constantly learning about and doing things about which she is passionate.

At university she imagined work being all business suits and serious talk so it has surprised her that they have a great deal of fun and she considers herself lucky to work in a "fantastic team, I never expected to have made so many great friends." She does regret not keeping in touch with certain university and work colleagues as the years go by although she says "networks such as LinkedIn do make that possible now."

The elements of law she most enjoyed while studying have definitely helped in life, "... in some surprising ways, even if it's just winning an argument about what TV show to watch!"

Nastascha van Vuuren graduated *cum laude*. She was articulated to Werksmans in 2008 and is now a senior associate with the firm. She has found a firm where she loves practising and says of where she sees herself 10 years after completing her LLB "... because the directors are some of the best



Nastascha van Vuuren

in their field and there are so many opportunities to grow, both professionally and personally, I most certainly see myself with Werksmans Attorneys 10 years down the line."

"My reasons for studying law after having completed by MSC (Hons) in Chemistry were to specialise eventually in Intellectual Property Law. Turns out that I love Commercial Litigation and, in particular, Insolvency and Business Rescue more than I could ever love Intellectual Property Law." She recently completed the AIPSA

Diploma in Insolvency Law and Practice through the University of Pretoria and will be happy to continue studying in order to stay abreast of the latest developments in her specialisation.

At university she found the South African legal system to be dynamic, particularly because it is not a codified system and it is the courts that interpret and develop statutes and common law; this remains the case. However, Van Vuuren says one of her great disappointments is "... the state of our courts. The buildings are falling apart, court files are lost, etc."

She says the people she has met at work are her best friends and the surprise is "that being a lawyer is nothing like the shows on TV ... it is much, much better!"

University of KwaZulu-Natal (Pietermaritzburg)

Paul Boyce graduated *summa cum laude*. He comments that though the reasons that prompted him to study law remain valid, "... the reasons that keep one in the law are far more important."

He thoroughly enjoyed the LLB "though of course there were nights – generally before exams – when 'the law was not for me!'" He jumped at the chance to

read towards a Masters at Cambridge University in 2008. Then, after practising for a number of years at Webber Wentzel, he decided to pursue his studies a little longer and is currently enrolled in the LLM programme at Harvard University. He feels particularly fortunate to have been able to reconnect recently with the theoretical side of the law. He hopes to move into the academic or policy sectors, "ideally a bit of both" in the future.

Boyce considers working with the many talented and highly motivated people in the Insurance and Legal Liability practice group at Webber



Paul Boyce

Wentzel one of the greatest work pleasures post LLB. He is surprised "how far work can take you if you keep and open mind and are prepared to seize opportunities when they present themselves!" And, on a personal front, he says he has the pleasure of "... wonderful friendships I have made both at home and abroad. I have had the opportunity to work and study with some truly exceptional people and keep growing through those relationships."

Rishi Inderparsad graduated *summa cum laude*. He worked with SARS – Special Investigations while studying and, at the time of completing his degree and articles of clerkship, he was Team Leader of a Criminal Investigations team. Two years ago he was promoted to Business Area Manager: Criminal Investigations Division of SARS KZN and is currently the Acting Enforcement Investigations Manager, KZN.



Rishi Inderparsad

Inderparsad was prompted to study Law in order to enhance his capabilities in his work. He says "I was greatly enriched by my studies and this has helped me make very informed decisions." He is constantly confronted with decisions involving the three areas of law that he most enjoyed at university, Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Criminal Law.

He says he actually misses studying. However, while he was doing his degree he and his wife had their two children and much of his spare time was devoted to studying, so he has made a decision to focus on his family and hopes to do an MBA at a later stage.

He would have liked to do pupillage after completing his degree but observes "It would have been difficult having a family and no income for a year." He thoroughly enjoyed his articles of clerkship at the office of the State Attorney. He sees himself, in the future, in a career in management where the law degree will assist him immensely.

Since completing his degree he completed his PLT where he was recognised as the best student in KZN. He has also travelled to Malaysia on an exchange programme with the Malaysian and Japanese Tax Authorities which was enriching.

On the personal front his greatest pleasure has been spending time with his wife and two daughters. He has also been actively involved with the Deccan Road Primary School Governing Body and comments "I enjoy my involvement as it allows me to give something back to the community as well as to use the skills I have acquired."

An area of disappointment has been to see how dysfunctional the magistrate courts are. "The Justice system appears to be in disarray. Furthermore the role that politics is playing in the Judiciary is disheartening."

Keren Oliver graduated *summa cum laude*. She chose law partly because she thought as an attorney she would spend a lot of time writing and analysing things – tasks which she enjoyed. "As it turns out, my abilities to write and analyse are used and refined daily. I also chose law because it just felt right. It still feels right."



Keren Oliver

But she says of further study "I enjoy a healthy work/life balance now and won't lightly take anything on which threatens it!" She finds practice forces

you to learn new things quickly and thoroughly – often more quickly and thoroughly than university." She adds that what she enjoyed when studying was the continuous mental stimulation and that has never stopped. "Throughout my time in practice I have always felt as though I were being challenged and pushed to think more creatively, more intensely and with greater precision." She practises Commercial Law and after a couple of years doing quite a lot of Consumer Protection Act work is currently more preoccupied with the new Companies Act.

Oliver took a holiday of several months just after completing articles to decide whether to work as an attorney or in another field as well as whether to base herself in Johannesburg or Durban. Despite being disinclined to return to practice while on holiday, she observes that towards the end of the break she was ready for the independence and stimulation of practice in a law firm again.

She takes great pleasure in the freedom and flexibility that seem to come with the job – "freedom from rigid working hours, mutual respect among colleagues, encouragement towards independence and absolute unfettered scope to grow in knowledge and confidence are things I experienced at Webber Wentzel (where I worked before returning to Durban) and now experience at Cox Yeats."

As she recalls, she was quite determined to remain in South Africa and use the skills she acquired in legal practice to uplift people, particularly the poor. "Even though I've had my eyes opened to the gravity of the challenges we face in South Africa, I intend to remain, to continue practising commercial law and to serve in the communities I find myself living in."

She comments that it is her faith that gives her greatest pleasure in her personal life.

The most disappointing aspect of practising law is the tendency attorneys (including herself!) have of working themselves "to the bone." "It saddens me that we allow it to happen to ourselves." But on the plus side she says it has surprised her how willing experienced attorneys are to give of their time to train the next generation. "I am able to work with confidence today because of the foundations more senior attorneys have laid in my career."

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

Carli Bothma-Kleu (née Bothma) graduated *cum laude*. She served articles with Francois le Roux Attorneys, a firm specialising in Labour Law, which was the area of law she most enjoyed studying and in which she wanted to practise. Bothma-Kleu decided to enrol for an LLM while completing articles and is now busy with doctoral studies in Labour and Administrative Law. She comments however "I concede that I am looking forward to the submission date."



Carli Bothma-Kleu

Bothma-Kleu is now employed in the automotive industry as a corporate attorney. She says that two things have most surprised her about her work, "One, the Law is always changing and evolving and two, the way every day legal practitioners come up with innovative proposals to address difficult problems."

On a personal front, her marriage in 2010 has been the singular most important event.

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Deborah Casalin graduated *cum laude*. She says of her decision to study law "I had been determined to study law since I was about twelve or thirteen so it's a bit difficult to remember the original reasons!" She thinks she wanted to have knowledge and skill to solve problems and says this is the aim of what she does but "in my current line of work it's not always so easy to see the connection between you work and concrete changes in the short term. "Your work is a drop in a bucket or, at best, a small seed being planted and this is a humbling experience."

Towards the end of her studies Casalin decided that international humanitarian law and human rights was the field for her. Thanks to a scholarship from the Swiss Confederation, she completed an LLM in International Humanitarian Law at the Geneva Academy of IHL and Human Rights (linked to the University of Geneva). She is now combining that knowledge and analysis in various areas, including development, which she says is "hugely enriching."

She works for CIDSE (International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity), an international alliance of development organisations based in Brussels. "I work as the policy officer for the Working Group on Israel and Palestine, which advocates for the EU to promote respect for international humanitarian and human rights law in that context."

Prior to this she worked at an humanitarian and development organisation in Jerusalem and at the International Review of the Red Cross in Geneva. She comments "During my LLM I was also able to get some work experience at a Geneva NGO and at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on issues as diverse as arbitrary detention and international disaster relief law. For good measure, I also spent a period teaching English in Italy when I first arrived in Europe."

She was conscious of the fact that the field in which she has elected to work has few certainties and set career paths and now "All I know is that whatever fixed ideas of this type I had on graduating I have even fewer now. This is a good thing I think – to stay open to possibility, and reconciled to the reality of change."

She has been surprised by the space for initiative and new ideas. She has had the chance to work in different countries with a range of inspirational people on a variety of issues. "Most of all I now have the pleasure of doing work which brings together what I've learned in many of those different experiences."

On a personal level people feature high on the list – "friends and family, both old and new." And she gets great pleasure getting to know more of the world, and visits home."

Lizanne Conradie graduated *cum laude*. She says practising law is very different from the picture most students have in their minds, though some elements remain true. "I have always been a peoples' person and practising law allows me to interact with different people on a daily basis. And it keeps me on my toes as every day comes with a different challenge. I never go home saying 'I had a boring day at the office'."

At university she enjoyed Property Law – she comments that she "... followed my heart and instinct, completed the Conveyancing course during articles and was admitted as an Attorney and Conveyancer on one day – that was a wonderful



Lizanne Conradie

thrown at her and gets pleasure looking back and knowing that the situations she faced have made her grow stronger and developed her into the person she is today.

One of her disappointments is how rude and ungrateful people can be. But, on the plus side, she is amazed by how great "a work load one human being can handle on a daily basis and still keep it together and be in complete control."

Christin Gowar graduated *cum laude*. One of her reasons for studying law was that she enjoyed solving problems in a logical fashion and she has done this both in practice and academics.

However, her road in law has not been as she anticipated; she did not foresee changing from practising as an attorney (she served articles with Jan S. De Villiers) and going into academics but says having completed her LLM at Wits she has found she is very suited to legal training and research.

She has learnt that life is unpredictable; she originally thought she would enjoy practising as a litigation attorney but realised it was not for her and "I think I have been surprised in the last year or two by how much I enjoy researching and writing in the area of law. I find research and writing academic publications very rewarding and enjoy the process, something I did not expect to be fond of."

She has derived a great deal of pleasure from having work published in peer reviewed, accredited journals within South Africa and says "These have been great achievements for me and have provided me with pleasure in my position."

"On a personal front, moving to Johannesburg and getting married would be the things which have provided the greatest pleasure since leaving university."

Gowar is currently a lecturer in law of delict at Wits University School of Law. She will be joining Norton Rose as a legal training specialist in June.



Christin Gowar

Tamara Klos graduated *cum laude*. She was a candidate attorney at the School for Legal Practice in Port Elizabeth, which she did at night school while completing research for an LLM in Mercantile Law (residential landlords and tenants)

She anticipated specialising in Property Law particularly since that was the area in which she did her Masters, however, she found herself practising all areas



Deborah Casalin

of law and still does. She is a professional assistant with Friedman Schechter and comments "I find that being a young attorney in a town the size of Port Elizabeth (small), trying to make a name for yourself, and gaining the requisite experience, does not necessarily allow me to be picky with the type of work I do, nor does it allow me to work in a special area of law. I take on all matters that come my way; it allows me to have a broader experience this way too." She continues to derive greatest pleasure in mercantile law and says "I feel very confident in that area of law when dispensing advice."



Tamara Klos

Klos has surprised herself by maintaining the academic side of things (on a small scale) which she does for pleasure and interest. "There is a family tradition of academics, however my study is for my own sake as it informs legal practice, and vice versa, in that legal practice informs academic pursuits."

On a work front she derives pleasure from clients who are appreciative of her efforts, whether or not the end result is successful, and who respect and trust her as their attorney. This in contrast to what she says has surprised and disappointed her in some clients who are not only disrespectful to their own attorney but also opponents' attorneys at times.

On a personal level, meeting her fiancé at the end of her LLB, whom she will be marrying at the end of the year, has given her greatest pleasure along with travelling to Europe several times and from where she returns refreshed and with renewed perspective.

Jana Milne graduated *cum laude*. She comments "The idea of justice always intrigued me" and as a District Court prosecutor she certainly sees whether that happens. Public Law and criminology fascinated her and she read an LLM in Public law. Milne's favourite topic at university was the Law of Evidence and she says "Now I find myself applying it every day, so it's very rewarding from that perspective and still provides me with pleasure. I am definitely where I imagined myself to be five years ago."



Jana Milne

However, Milne adds that this area of practice is not for everyone. "Criminal Litigation is very daunting at first... You are faced daily with numerous conflict situations; you should be able to stand your ground, which can be very draining. The workload as a prosecutor is very big, which means your whole day is subsumed in the court environment." The pace at which she had to learn to work came as a surprise and she is most disappointed in the fact there is a huge backlog in cases with numerous role players which means justice often does not occur swiftly. But "It is very satisfying to know that you helped the complainants in matters achieve a sense of justice. That is where your reward lies." And, on a personal level she says it has been interesting and satisfying to interact with people from all groups and walks of life.

But in five year's time Milne would like to be back in *academia*. She hopes to have completed her PhD and would like to lecture in Criminal Law or the Law of Evidence.

Hannelie Niemand (née Roelofse) graduated *cum laude*.

She commented that the question "Why study law?" was, in all honesty a bit difficult for her to answer. "I, in actual fact, had no specific reason/reasons why I wanted to study law. Perhaps it was because there was nothing else offered at university that interested me more than law!" Despite this, or maybe because of it, "I excelled and there is not one day that I can look back and be dissatisfied with my career path."

She is currently a professional assistant with Van Zyl's, focusing on corporate labour law and business law and is contemplating doing a Masters degree in labour law in the next three years.

On a personal note "I got married at the end of my final year LLB and today I am happily married and a very proud mother of a two-and-a-half year old boy."



Hannelie Niemand

University of Pretoria

Dawid de Villiers graduated *cum laude*. He joined Webber Wentzel as a candidate attorney and is now a senior associate in the firm's Financial and Regulatory Practice Group. His work covers all aspects of financial services law and regulation, including banking law, stock exchange and securities law, money laundering and anti-corruption law, among several others.

One of the elements of law he most enjoyed while at university, and continues to enjoy was the Law of Things and he observes "...surprisingly it continues to play an important role in my area of specialisation." He thoroughly enjoys being confronted with interesting and stimulating legal issues on a regular basis. Though he has not had the opportunity to undertake post-graduate studies but that remains on the list of things he would like to do at some stage.

He says "I did not have any particular ideas about which area of law I wanted to specialise in when I concluded my studies. I am, however, grateful for the way things worked out and very happy with the area in which I currently specialise." He has been surprised to discover that it is possible, if not always easy, to achieve a healthy balance between work and life. And on a personal front it is his relationship with "his lovely wife" that gives him greatest pleasure as well as their "very energetic dog."



Dawid de Villiers

Gerda Bouwer (née Greyling) graduated *cum laude*. She liked the fact that the knowledge and skills gained from studying law would provide versatile

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career options. "It equips you with the ability to think analytically, reason, solve problems, and communicate."

She completed an LLM in International Business Law at Stellenbosch University in 2007 and then completed articles with Adams & Adams where she now practises as a senior associate specialising in Trade Marks Prosecution. Bouwer says "I started articles in general law and although I gained valued experience in general litigation, my love for the law rested with the specialised field of Intellectual Property." While at university she thoroughly enjoyed all the commercial law subjects, especially Law of Contracts, IP Law and Corporate Law and I apply those on a daily basis."

Of what has provided the greatest pleasure on a work and personal front she says, "On a personal level, getting married in 2008" and from daily office life "Working with a dynamic set off colleagues with the majority of whom I share the same interest and passion of life as attorney." Because Bouwer deals with international clients and associates on a daily basis she was prompted to take French classes in her spare time to assist her in this regard.

She observes that her biggest surprise about work is, "A clean desk is a myth as there will always be more work to do. When the job is done, it has just begun!"



Gerda Bouwer

Philip Stoop graduated *cum laude*. He completed an LLM in Contract law at Pretoria University and is currently reading for an LLD and hopes soon to submit his doctoral thesis.

When he started studying he read a BCom Law but never intended studying pure law; he enjoyed it so much that he decided to continue and he says it still provides pleasure. He observes that some of the lecturers went out of their way to make areas enjoyable and interesting. He never anticipated he would be interested in consumer protection and credit and is glad he did an LLM in contract law since it forms a good basis.

He always wanted to become an academic and says that with the assistance of seniors he has followed that route and hopes to be a senior academic himself within 10 years of graduating. He currently works as a senior lecturer in mercantile law at UNISA's School of Law, specifically in the areas of commercial and banking law.

He thoroughly enjoys the research part of his work. "It gives me great pleasure to receive questions from people in practice and to incorporate my opinion into research. It also gives me pleasure to visit universities all over the world and to do comparative studies and work with other SA universities." On a personal front it is the ability to contribute to society that he enjoys.

He comments that he has been most surprised by "How fast things change. It is very difficult to keep up to date."



Philip Stoop

Gus Waschefort graduated *cum laude*.

He left school in 1997 at the end of grade 9 to start his career as a photographer/photojournalist. He comments "By 1998 I was covering street life in the wake of the fall from power of President Suharto in Indonesia. It was here I first concluded that in order to be effective in covering human rights situations, I had to gain a much better understanding of such situations. This view was constantly reinforced over the next few years working in areas such as Angola and the DRC. By the end of 2001 decided to finish high school and study in a field relevant to human rights and humanitarian situations to make me a better and better-informed journalist. This has paid off very well; I am now able to produce work that carries with it informed opinion."

After graduating, Waschefort was awarded the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar Scholarship for International Postgraduate Studies. He read a PhD at the University of London in September 2007, which he has completed. He is in negotiations with a leading publisher in the UK to publish his thesis "Child Soldiers and International Law: Progressing Towards 'an Era of Application'?" as a monograph.

While his interest has never really been in the law itself but rather in understanding human rights disasters and conflict situations where, he observes, "... the law is one of many disciplines that are relevant to these issues and I am very much in favour of multi-disciplinary approaches to the study and understanding of these issues."

He teaches Public International Law at the University of Pretoria and is working on an independent project: a continuation of his Ph.D thesis "Children and Armed Conflict: an Untold Story in Pictures." The aim is to produce a coffee table book in text and images that will inform the public of the plight of children during armed conflict. (www.guswaschefort.org).

Neither a Ph.D nor lecturing were on the cards but he says both have afforded him great benefits. In addition he met his girlfriend at a law conference at the end of 2010 and says without her emotional support and expert editorial assistance he would not have made it through the Ph.D.

He derives greatest pleasure working in the field. He has been most surprised by the response he gets from his approach to his work; while the cliché, a picture is worth a thousand words may hold true it is no substitute for words and the response he gets to his articles confirms this to be true.

He regrets not being able to spend more time in the field. His goal has always been to produce work on human rights/humanitarian situations for leading international publications. His disappointment is not having been published in National Geographic to which he adds the word "yet." He says this is at the apex of his goal but since "I have been frustrated by this since I was 12-year old; I guess patience is the order of the day. I hope to produce work for National Geographic within the next five years."



Gus Waschefort

Christine Walmsley-Scott (née Walmsley) graduated *cum laude*. She knew that Intellectual Property Law was what she wanted to be involved with when she completed a BSc Biochemistry, Pharmacology. Interestingly, when she studied law she comments "I found there were many subjects in other areas of law that I enjoyed far more than the academic subject of IP. However when it came to articles, I found

a position in patents at a boutique IP firm and I definitely don't regret it."

She certainly did not think she would end up in continental Europe with her husband which is where she now works. "I work for Marks & Clerk, an international Intellectual Property firm in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, which is nestled between France, Germany and Belgium."

Walmsley-Scott observes that "Working for an international firm allows me to deal with a variety of people, all with complementary skills and experience in many jurisdictions. It is an exceptional learning experience." What has most surprised her about her work is that the simplest instruction can often turn out to be the most complex. And her biggest disappointment, "Working late nights, early mornings and weekends is NOT glamorous!"

Learning new languages, travelling and being exposed to new cultures have all been enriching she says, "... although South Africa really beats anywhere in terms of variety of cultures."

She no longer has a definite idea as to where she will be in her career in 10 years after graduating, "Life has shown me that change can happen very quickly. I now have a fixed two year plan and dream about my yacht in the Mediterranean."



Christine Walmsley-Scott

Rhodes University

Christy Budler graduated with Honours. She was articled to Webber Wentzel where she is now a senior associate in the Corporate and Commercial department. Her mergers and acquisitions team her emphasis is on private equity in Africa.

She comments that practising law is "certainly more than I ever imagined it could be when studying the various law subjects at university and it has granted me the opportunity to grow as a person in many different ways." She says "I have been privileged to be exposed to wonderfully interesting work conducted on behalf of dynamic clients as well as working alongside amazing legal minds who have graciously mentored me along the way." And she observes that she thoroughly enjoys her work environment, which is aimed at ensuring all colleagues can learn from each other's work experiences and that training on new aspects of the law is available and encouraged.

She took a business course at Wits Business School which she found helpful in understanding some of the commercial aspects of the transactions they undertake in the M&A and private equity arena. Studying law has given her the ability to think analytically and to apply skills she finds very useful. Budler enjoys doing work that is constantly challenging and interesting with plenty of room for growth. And she comments "My interactions with dynamic and interesting clients as well as my interactions with my colleagues



Christy Budler

who exhibit brilliant work ethic and good legal minds has been an immense pleasure to me."

It continues to surprise her just how much more there always is to learn and understand in her field. She says there is no doubt that the old adage "what you sow you will reap" is certainly true in relation to the effort you put into your work and the consequent satisfaction you get from doing good work."

Karen Clarence graduated with distinction. She elected to study law on the basis that it would open a lot of doors. This she found to be true; on completing her LLB she spent three years in London and says her law degree enabled her to get a job in a top international law firm.

She returned to South Africa to do articles at Austen Smith in Pietermaritzburg and now works as a Foreclosures Consultant in the Litigation department of SA Homeloans. She comments that her career path has certainly taken her in very interesting directions; her one year stay abroad extended to three which enabled her to travel extensively and completing articles has enabled her to work in a finance institution. She observes that she "... really

enjoyed the scenic route I took to get there!" Having found it very challenging returning to complete articles after a break it was particularly rewarding to be admitted as an attorney.

Clarence embarked on a Round the World trip in 2009 "... just me, a backpack and a great desire to broaden my horizons... it was an incredible, life-changing experience!"

The diverse nature of the roles she has had and the companies for which she has worked has surprised her.

"Life, post studies, has been a great adventure and I could not have predicted five years ago that this is what I would be doing." Consequently her 10-year plan is no longer set in concrete "My plans have changed so much in the last five years so I am not sure what the next five will bring. I am enjoying not planning too far ahead and just going where life takes me."

Rieka Gewalt graduated with Honours. She went on to complete an LLM thesis on Psychotherapeutic Privilege at Rhodes University. She comments that she never expected to enjoy practice and thought she would be an academic.

However, she is now an associate in the IT, Electronic Business, Media and

Telecommunications Practice of Webber Wentzel. She says of this that she did not even know of the route about which she is now passionate when she completed her LLB, "The areas of Law that I have chosen to specialise in, namely IT, Media, Telecommunications and Consumer Protection Law, were either not taught at Rhodes University or did not 'exist' in South Africa." She particularly enjoys the research in areas of law that are not set in stone and are subject to development.

Gewald has most enjoyed the



Karen Clarence



Rieka Gewalt

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opportunity to learn continuously and to develop and improve her professional skills and, from a personal perspective, meeting and getting to know a diverse group of inspiring people. She observes too that it comes as a surprise that "every single matter has a unique twist to it."

Given the professionalism of those with whom she works she is disappointed by the often negative, derogatory comments about the legal profession and lawyers made by the public.

She says of where she sees herself 10 years after graduating, "I am cautious of such questions today; I am of the firm belief that 10 year plans fail to take into account the challenges and changes people encounter."

Stellenbosch University

Karin Müller graduated *cum laude*. She was articled to Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr (or as it was then known, Cliffe Dekker) where she was appointed an associate in the Trusts and Estate department. She was promoted to senior associate in January 2011.

While serving articles she completed the notaries and conveyancing exams for which she was awarded the Cape Law Society's prize for the highest marks. Müller is currently enrolled for a Masters degree in Law with Specialisation in Tax at her *alma mater*. She comments that "I enjoy studying and find it both stimulating and personally satisfying."

She anticipated specialising in fields related to subjects that had been her forte in final year, "I now, however, specialise in the field of trusts and estate administration which, as it involves a variety of disciplines, gives exposure to the subjects at which I excelled – contract and commercial law, labour law and tax law but, in-depth, has caused me to revert to my earlier enjoyment of the law of succession, family and property law while tax law still plays a central role."

Her undergraduate BComm has enabled her to apply the accounting and business skills she learnt. In addition, Müller enjoyed the constitutional aspects of law at university "and I am now able to experience firsthand how the laws relevant to my practice area impact on persons and society and is therefore in a constant state of flux as the morals of society it affects develops and changes over time." And, although on the surface her type of work appears to be administrative and regulated, each new matter "brings its own complexities and is always challenging and creatively stimulating."

Her intention to return to academia after a few years has been postponed... "I realise that I have so much more still to learn and so many more opportunities for growth and development." And she adds, "My grandmother worked for Hofmeyr, one of the legacy firms to CDH, for over 22 years, so it is quite a record to beat!"

Johannes Smit graduated *cum laude*. He served articles with Webber Wentzel and has remained with the firm in its mergers and acquisitions department where he does quite a lot of commercial work other than M&A.

He comments cryptically that the reasons he had to study law have definitely proved valid, "However I am not saying it had anything to do with law itself!"

He is considering further studies but admits that he has been relieved to have a break from them over the past five years. And his anticipated specialisation of Labour Law: he has never done any labour law related work but thoroughly enjoys practising as a corporate and commercial attorney which involves, on a daily basis, Contract Law and Company Law both of which he most enjoyed at university.

Smit enjoys immensely working with professionals who are experts in their field and continuously learning from them. He has been most surprised by how quickly it is possible to adapt to new situations and learn new things, acquiring the necessary skills to do what is necessary to get a job done. He quips that he has found being an attorney is not quite as portrayed in Hollywood films...

On a personal level he says that getting married and sharing life with his beautiful wife has been a source of great pleasure.

Lisa Niemand (née Stone) graduated *cum laude*. She was attracted to law "out of a romantic sense of justice" and adds "which I pray I never lose."

However, in reality, she comments "Time has taught me that justice is more an ideal that the whole of society should strive to attain and that one cannot rely on the law alone." In addition she wanted a course of study that would present an intellectual pursuit. "Lawyers remain students for the rest of life; I read case law with much more enthusiasm in practice than at university, especially when my client's case depends on it!"

She enrolled for a Masters which she did not complete as she realised that working on matters with real people was, for her, much more satisfying than research alone. She adds that she respects academics for their tenacity in sticking to one subject or field.

She always imagined herself practising at the Bar as a litigation advocate. She says though she did practise in litigation she really had no idea in what area she wanted to specialise and, as it turns out, this was not to be her final destination. Niemand is now in the financial services industry where she works for asset manager Allan Gray.

She is responsible for contractual support to the retail business and works on projects such as the approval of foreign collective investment schemes in South Africa by the Financial Services Board. She is part of the compliance team which oversees compliance of the retail business with all the applicable financial regulatory legislation.

She says "I found out about the position at Allan Gray quite fortuitously and I certainly did not imagine myself as in-house counsel let alone in the financial services industry. But five years from now I see myself in a similar position and, if not in the financial services industry, definitely in-house."



Johannes Smit



Karin Müller



Lisa Niemand

She says "I have found the combination of reality and responsibility of being someone's legal representative, the fact that they rely on you, the most surprising sensation. No ethics course can prepare you for that."

From a work perspective, being admitted as an attorney gave her the greatest pleasure. "Getting up in court ... it felt like the culmination of all the hard work and commitment of university and articles combined and I got to share the day with family, friends and colleagues."

From a personal point of view her greatest pleasure has come from her marriage in 2009. She comments, "during our married life we have both obtained our professional qualifications – my husband is a clinical psychologist and he has set up a successful private practice."

What, if anything, has been disappointing? "That you do not get to start every day with a coffee latte like Ally McBeal ... oh no, wait, I do that. I have found the slow pace of litigation due to the lack of resources at some courts very frustrating. It really is a shame that we live in a world of iPads and BlackBerrys and yet sometimes need to take your own sheets of paper to court to have something printed or copied."

Wits University

Claire Franklyn graduated *cum laude*. She served articles with Bowman Gilfillan where she is still working part-time as a consultant for the Public Law Department while studying towards an LLM. She was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship to study at the London School of Economics and Political Science and is due to complete the LLM in August.

Her interests at university "... lay in the intricacies and complexities of the law and I was also passionate about learning how the law could be used to help more vulnerable members of our society. These areas continue to interest me."

Franklyn never imagined she would be studying for an LLM in London and says she does not have a specific ten-year plan after graduation. "What I can say is that I would not have changed any work experience I have had over the past five years and am grateful to be where I am today. I look forward to many more exciting opportunities in the next five years!"

She is most surprised by how much she enjoys what she does, she considers this to be mainly due to the privilege she has had working with some truly inspirational people and "I have found myself constantly learning and growing as a lawyer."

On a personal front the things that have provided most pleasure are being awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship and, importantly, getting married last year.

Amy Gluckman (Née Lob) graduated *cum laude*. She wanted to be a lawyer believing that she would find legal practice intellectually stimulating, creative and fun. She observes, "In the five years I have been practising law, I have been intellectually stimulated on a daily basis; I have been challenged creatively; I have interacted with a diverse range of interesting people; and I have had loads of fun!" She adds that she has been very lucky to be part of a wonderful team. And while she has not studied further she definitely enjoys working as a lawyer more than she enjoyed studying the law.



Amy Gluckman

She served articles, and is now practising as a senior associate, with Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs. She says she always imagined she would land up as a family lawyer or conveyancer but got involved in banking and finance law and now cannot see herself practising in any other area. She is currently specialising in asset and acquisition finance.

Gluckman enjoyed the analytical, problem-solving aspect of law while at university and still does. She comments that it has surprised her that "work can be balanced, fun and creative." She

enjoys taking responsibility for transactions and has had pleasure in learning to work in a team environment and improving her skills.

In her personal life she has most enjoyed getting married, securing friendships and overcoming adversity.

Her only disappointment is not having the three-month holidays to which she became accustomed at University.

Ona Oshen (née Nwanna) graduated *cum laude*. While growing up her father emphasised, "at every opportunity," the prestige of law among the professions. He maintained law could be a stepping stone and said that lawyers are often picked to head organisational groups of people and, perhaps, entities. Oshen comments, "I am still on the path to discovering that destiny but I have no doubts on its attainability."

She studied an LLM at Wits and went on to pursue an MPhil in Management at Cambridge University.

She observes "Though I excelled in those studies I think, with hindsight, I could possibly have derived even more had I gone to the workplace first. I think my appreciation of those academic programmes would have been enhanced by the ability to tie academic issues to everyday issues – something only possible with practical experience."

While she is in the sector of law she thought she would specialise, Corporate Law, her focus is Environmental Law – an interest she discovered after working for some months. Despite practising an area she never studied, she says the skills gained while studying: the tools of analysis, remain all important. She is with the Environmental Practice Group of Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York.

After completing her LLB she did see herself as an associate at a law firm five years down the line but not necessarily in New York, "...the reality has exceeded my expectations of that time." She has found work totally fulfilling. "Being on deal teams that conduct multi-million dollar transactions has been a phenomenal learning experience and privilege." She adds that the extent to which it is possible to grow in this environment is underestimated. "The sky, really, is the limit."

Her greatest personal satisfaction has come from her marriage and more recently the birth of her baby – now five months old. ♦



Claire Franklyn



Ona Oshen