

Mail & Guardian



Young South Africans
you have to take to lunch...

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Editor's Letter

The *Mail & Guardian* is well known for tough journalism and we can, at times, serve up a pretty depressing menu of bad people doing bad things.

It is not, however, gratuitous misery. Robust investigative and political writing aims to hold open space in our society for the building of a richer democracy, in all possible ways.

Our annual survey of Young South Africans is really the flipside of our investigative work. It's an effort to identify and recognize the emerging talents whose work thrills us with its potential. When we put them all together in one room for lunch, we get an extraordinary sense of a country being born around us.

And far from being just future stars, our 200 picks are making real impacts now within their own fields, but crucially beyond them too.

We have reduced numbers this year, not because there are fewer young stars in the country, but because we want to be rigorous in selection, and stricter about the 35-year cut-off. On the other hand, we have included a few brilliant non-native South Africans who have made South Africa their home and applied their enormous energies to our complicated, sometimes daunting, national project. We aren't opposed to xenophobia just because it involves abuses of human rights, but because we also know we are vastly better off when we are open to the world.

A smaller sample has also allowed us to pay more attention to each of the people we do profile, and I think that's evident in the

improved writing, photography and design that characterise this year's edition.

As ever, we pass over people who I think are some of the most promising young South Africans you are likely to meet anywhere — those journalists in our own newsroom, many of whom help to make this supplement happen including Lynley Donnelly, Lionel Faull, Lloyd Gedy, Yolandi Groenewald, Tarryn Harbour, Karabo Keepile, Matuma Letsoalo, Mmanaledi Mataboge, Duduzile Mathebula, Phathisani Moyo, Faranaaz Parker, Verashni Pillay, Mandy Rossouw, Lisa Steyn, Valencia Talane, Niren Tolsi, Vuvu Vena, Lisa van Wyk and Percy Zvomuya, and our photographers Paul Botes, Oupa Nkosi, Lisa Skinner, David Harrison and Delwyn Verasamy.

Tanya Pampalone has done an extraordinary job of wrangling them — even very good journalists are not easily organized — and editing the product that you have in your hands.

So, if you really want to engage with the potential this country holds, and borrow a bit of momentum from those who are really moving it forward, book a table and grab a plate of optimism.

Nic Dawes
Editor-in-Chief
Mail & Guardian



DAMON HYLAND



Foreword

The *Mail & Guardian* publishes this special edition on South Africa's youth leaders during a time in which the eyes of the world are focused on our land. The Fifa World Cup is going to be the most successful ever, and that is in large part due to the collective contribution of many South Africans, in different ways, but all significant. When it ends on July 11, the world will sit up and take notice of an African continent that is waking up from decades of struggle and under-achievement.

Of critical importance is that all South Africans takes the lead in keeping the momentum generated by this historic event so that our country can move forward, an endeavour in which young people from all walks of life have a central role to play. Their optimism, boundless energy and determination to make the country great cannot go to waste at a time when the

country, and its youth in particular, still face so many challenges.

This special edition attempts to recognise some of the most promising young people the country has produced. Please take note of them, work with and guide them to make them even better South Africans for the sake of our future. As an organisation, Xstrata has made a decision to seek and utilise all opportunities available to contribute to nation building and economic growth. It is everyone's responsibility.

Andile Sangqu
Executive Director
Xstrata South Africa



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Xstrata's businesses maintain a meaningful position in seven major international commodity markets: copper, coking coal, thermal coal, ferrochrome, nickel, vanadium and zinc, with a growing platinum group metals business. The Group's operations and projects span 19 countries.

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EDITOR: Tanya Pampalone **MANAGING EDITOR:** Edwina van der Burg **PHOTOGRAPHERS:** Paul Botes, David Harrison, Oupa Nkosi, Lisa Skinner, Delwyn Verasamy **WRITERS:** Lynley Donnelly, Lionel Faull, Lloyd Gedye, Yolandi Groenewald, Tarryn Harbour, Karabo Keepile, Matuma Letsoalo, Mmanaledi Mataboge, Duduzile Mathebula, Phathisani Moyo, Faranaaz Parker, Verashni Pillay, Cat Pritchard, Mandy Rossouw, Lisa Steyn, Valencia Talane, Niren Tolsi, Vuvu Vena, Lisa van Wyk and Percy Zvomuya **DESIGNER:** Marcelle de Villiers-Louw **SUBEDITOR:** Pat Tucker **PROOFREADER:** Maureen Brady



Committed to Tomorrow

Xstrata believes in South Africa's future. That is why in the last two years alone we have invested over R140 million in the development of communities. This includes over R40 million committed to education, R20 million for community health and more for job creation, arts and the environment.

Nina Milner
Model/Actress

It's not hard to see why Nina Milner was chosen to represent the quintessential Appletiser woman — strong, accomplished and independent.

At 22, this humble Capetonian has achieved more than most established international models. In 2008 she landed lead roles in the M-Net mini-series *Ella Blue* and *Innocent Times* and starred in the television series *Silent Witness*. A skilled ballet and modern dancer, Milner puts her heart into everything she does, which is why she is currently taking art and storytelling classes at the Esalen Institute in California.

And though she has posed for many top photographers and been the face of international brands, Milner remains resolutely grounded, choosing to reduce her carbon footprint and educate herself in permaculture rather than be part of the glamorous jet set. It's all part of her long-term goal — to help people think differently about the environment and how they can work together as a community. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** New York Bagels, Cape Town



Mokena Makeka
Architect

Mokena Makeka's vision is to establish a sound African aesthetic by creating places that restore human dignity and make people proud of the countries they live in. It's not a tall order for a man who has won the CIA Award of Merit twice and was nominated for the 2010 Johnnie Walker Celebrating Strides Awards in Design.

As the principal of Makeka Design Lab, a company he founded while he was a student at the University of Cape Town, 34-year-old Makeka loves creating spaces that inspire people. He may have chosen to study architecture over engineering but when you look at the form and function of his designs, it's clear that he fuses the two with ease.

Makeka sits on the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council for Design and was named by renowned Swiss architects Herzog & De Meuron as one of 100 up-and-coming architects from around the world. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** Alla Bosta
Italian Deli, Cape Town




GUY TILLIM

Mikhael Subotsky Photographer

Mikhael Subotsky is one of South Africa's most prominent young photographers, with a string of important international photographic awards to his name. His work is currently housed in collections including New York's Museum of Modern Art, the South African National Gallery in Cape Town, the Johannesburg Art Gallery and FotoMuseum Amsterdam.

His work focuses largely on derelict places and the apparently mundane details of daily life, infusing them with a personal take on the people and personalities who drift through these spaces. His most recent and highly acclaimed body of work, *Beaufort West*, has

been published in book form by Chris Boot Publishers and was the subject of his 2008 exhibition, *New Photography: Josephine Meckseper and Mikhael Subotzky* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. In 2005 and 2008 he set up and ran photographic workshops at Pollsmoor Prison, where, in Nelson Mandela's cell, he also exhibited his show *Die Vier Hoeke*. — **Lisa van Wyk**

 **Lunch spot:** Canteen, Arts on Main, Johannesburg

His work focuses largely on derelict places and the apparently mundane details of daily life



Chantel Dartnall

Head Chef, Restaurant Mosaic,
The Orient Boutique Hotel

An energetic free spirit with a strong bond with nature, Chantel Dartnall describes her cooking style as “botanical cuisine.”

Dartnall opened Restaurant Mosaic at the Orient Boutique Hotel in Pretoria in October 2006 and has been head chef ever since. She says “fun, innovation, passion, dedication and a good team to support you” are the elements that help make a good chef.

In 2008 her restaurant was named one of the top 10 in South Africa, and, in 2009 she was the youngest person to receive Prudential *Eat Out's* chef of the year award. Dartnall's favourite dish is her star anise-scented lobster bisque served with fresh scallops and baby langoustine tails. “It is such a rewarding dish to prepare as it doesn't take more than an hour but it tastes like heaven.”

She derives her inspiration from travelling abroad at least once a year. “I am very fortunate to be able to travel to explore and bring back new and exciting ingredients and ideas.”

— **Karabo Keepile**



Lunch spot: L'Arnsbourg, Baerenthal, France

Batya Bouzaglou Fashion Designer

Emerging fashion designer Batya Bouzaglou explains how her interest in fashion began: “As a kid, I loved dressing up my Barbie dolls, shredding and painting their clothes to suit me, and them, and I just never stopped. Only now the Barbies are just really, really tall.”

Bouzaglou went on to get her diploma in fashion design from the Spero Villioti Elite Design Academy and has earned her stripes working as apprentice to Villioti, who has, himself, been a mainstay of the South African fashion industry.

She showcased at Audi Jo'burg Fashion Week Autumn/Winter 2009, one of Johannesburg's premier fashion exhibitions. She won the Bridal Africa Young Designers Award 2009 and was a semi finalist in the Durban July Young Designers Competition and a semi finalist in the Miss Earth Young Designers Competition, both in 2006.

Currently she is living in London, working in the distribution department of fashion agency M&L Harris, which specialises in high-end clothing.

“My mentor once told me every designer needs to work in retail at some point to learn what people actually want to wear, what people actually buy. And what better place ... to experience fashion consumerism at its best, than in London” says Bouzaglou.

She intends to return home in September and aims to create a label that is “a little sinister or edgy”, incorporating “unconventional cuts and sharp colours”.

— **Lynley Donnelly**



Lunch spot: Espresso, Parkhurst, Johannesburg



Oliver Hermanus Director, DV8 Films

Two degrees, a few international scholarships, a fistful of awards and a personal invitation from top film director Roland Emmerich (*Independence Day*) to study for his MA at the London Film School. It's been a busy 26 years for Cape Town director Oliver Hermanus.

His graduation film, *Shirley Adams*, won the Best Film award at the Durban International Film Festival in 2009 before picking up the Grand Prix at the Amiens International Film Festival. But if his life reads like a typical Hollywood script, it's because his success is driven by a small degree of paranoia and great deal

of “good confident decision-making”. That, and a passion for an art form he believes can drive social change and entertain its audiences simultaneously. Now, if only he could just stop saying “I'm not comfortable with that decision”, he might finish his second feature, *The Struggle*, at the Cannes Film Festival's Cinefondation in Paris. — **Cat Pritchard**



Lunch spot: Lola's, Long Street, Cape Town



Daniel Buckland Actor


Daniel Buckland, son of the South African theatre legend Andrew Buckland, could have doomed himself to a life of comparison by choosing the same field as his father. But since graduating from Rhodes University with a first-class honours degree, he has shown that he has all the passion, talent and innovation to survive being measured against his famous parent.

After graduating he spent a year working for Ubom! Eastern Cape Drama Company, for whom he co-devised *Plunge* in 2003. In 2004 he performed in the Mouthpeace Theatre Company's *Fuse*, a show devised by his father, which toured extensively, played a season at the Edinburgh Festival and was nominated for the stage award for best ensemble; the play won a Naledi award for best cutting-edge production and Buckland was nominated for the best newcomer award. In 2005 he performed in the Fortune Cookie Theatre Company's *The Travellers*, directed by Sylvaine

Strike, which also won a Naledi Award for best cutting-edge production and played at the Adelaide Fringe in Australia.

His career has included a role in the 2008 South African film *Jerusalema* and, together with his father, he spent a year in Las Vegas, where he played the lead in *LOVE*, a production by the renowned Cirque Du Soleil, which he considers to be one of the highlights of his career so far.

He formed the Dark Laugh Theatre Company, for whom he produced and directed *The Butcher Brothers* this year and recently played Hally in Athol Fugard's *Master Harold ... and the Boys*. Wherever his career takes him, Buckland has proved that following in your father's footsteps does not have to mean living in his shadow. — **Lisa van Wyk**

 **Lunch spot:** Picobella, Melville, Johannesburg




Lira Musician

Lira is in demand. Pinning her down for an interview is almost impossible. Named as one of *Glamour* magazine's Women of 2009 and winner of the 15th annual MTN SA Music Awards best album category, she has not only arrived but is ahead of most in the game.

The MTN award was not her only one; she scooped up four of the six she had been nominated for. "Immediately afterwards it really had not sunk in," she says. "But on the plane to Cape Town the next day I had people congratulating me in a way that showed they felt like they had also triumphed that night."

This year Lira won again. She was named best female solo artist for her DVD *Live in Concert: A Celebration*. "If I look back on the past four years, the most amazing thing to me is the way that I have been able to break new ground in a country that was previously built on division." — **Karabo Keepile**


 **Lunch spot:** George's on Fifth, Parkhurst, Johannesburg

Lindi Matshikiza

Actress

She's young, talented and beautiful, so why isn't Lindi Matshikiza slapping someone on a soapie already? It's a question this award-winning actress and rightful heir to the Matshikiza theatre throne gets asked a lot. The truth is that, right now, she wants you to laugh at her solo stage antics in *Bafana Republic*, agonise over her conflicts in *Closer* and even question her co-direction of *The Unspeakable Story*.

It's this sheer commitment to developing her craft that ensures Matshikiza's name tops the most competitive of bills and that she gets nominated for Naledi's year after year. Right now, the world is her stage, which means tackling every challenging role, audience and director with the hunger of a young Rhodes drama graduate and the dedication of a passionate professional. But if Hollywood calls, don't be surprised if she answers it, even if the love of theatre runs deep in her veins. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** Kebab braai stand, Cyrildene, Johannesburg



If Hollywood calls, don't be surprised if she answers it, even if the love of theatre runs deep in her veins



JONX PERIMAN

Kesivan Naidoo Musician

From the age of 11 Kesivan Naidoo knew that he wanted to play drums. By the time he was 14 he had made his professional debut, playing at the 1993 Hogsback Arts Festival as part of the Webster Jazz Quartet, an international group featuring an Australian guitarist and an Israeli bassist.


No surprise, then, that in 2010 the Standard Bank Young Artist award recipient for jazz finds himself in the position of South Africa’s preeminent drummer — a title that possibly only the BLK JKS’s Tshepang Ramoba could push him for.

Whether it’s with his Indian jazz outfit, Babu, progressive electro-jazz project Closet Snare or his resident Cape Town jazz quintet, Restless Natives, Naidoo is always cooking in the proverbial kitchen. He is a fan of improvisation,

so any gig which features him on drums is sure to be a unique and livewire event.

Naidoo studied music at the University of Cape Town. While he was there he won the 1999 Samro Overseas Scholarship and studied under sitar guru Sanjoy Bandopadhyah, head professor at Rhabindra Bharati University in Kolkata, India. Since then Naidoo has performed in the US and Europe as well as in Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya and has played with everyone from Bheki Mseleku and Miriam Makeba to Hotep Galeta and Steve Newman.

— **Lloyd Gedye**

 **Lunch spot:** Lucky Bean, Melville, Johannesburg

Mpumelelo Paul Grootboom

Playwright

Mpumelelo Paul Grootboom tells stories, but never lies. His plays offer a slice of South African life, dragging sex and violence and race and AIDS kicking and screaming on to the South African stage.

His 2006 smash hit, *Relativity: Township Stories*, is still regarded as one of the most significant pieces of post-apartheid theatre, with a story so infused with passion and pain it moved audiences from Grahamstown to London and every fringe theatre in between.

A recipient of the National Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Theatre, Grootboom has written and directed as many plays as he has helped bring to the stage as development officer of the South African State Theatre. Today, the 35-year-old Grootboom continues to play the role of “Mr Fix It”, helping struggling community and independent playwrights find their inner voice, while making sure South African audiences struggle to fight for theirs.

— **Cat Pritchard**



 **Lunch spot:**
Any good steakhouse

Musa Nxumalo

Artist/Photographer


It’s hard to describe Musa Nxumalo in conventional terms. But he probably wouldn’t want you to anyway.

At 24, Nxumalo is one of those urban black youths who choose to identify with alternative culture, breaking with stereotypes and adopting symbols from other worlds. But instead of getting caught up in it, he documents it, using the cultural weapon of choice on the street — photography.

A graduate of the Market Photo Workshop, where he works as a full-time course assistant, Nxumalo was the recipient of the 2008 Edward Ruiz Mentorship and held his first solo exhibition, *Alternative Kids*, at the Michael Stevenson Gallery in Cape Town last year.

And yes, he stills lives with his aunt and uncle in Soweto. Nxumalo may be a rising star of the Liam Lynch school of style but he’s also partly the young boy who grew up making scrapbooks from alternative culture magazines while dreaming of becoming a policeman. — **Cat Pritchard**



 **Lunch spot:** The Bohemian, Richmond, Johannesburg



Nicholas Hlobo Artist

Not many people give as much thought to the Constitution as Nicholas Hlobo. In his work he pays homage to the freedoms the Constitution enshrines, using modern materials like rubber and soap to explore age-old traditions and taboos, from homosexuality and ethnicity to just about “anything that people find embarrassing in society”.

Although his canvases draw on the South African experience, his themes of language and communication, racism and gender resonate with audiences around the world.

In 2006 Hlobo won the prestigious Tollman Award for Visual

Art. Two years later he held a solo exhibition, *Uhambo*, at the Tate Modern in London and showed at Boston’s Institute of Contemporary Art as part of the *Momentum* series. Back home, this celebrated 2009 Standard Bank Young Artist continues to struggle with his belief that “ideas are important in making a well-resolved piece, rather than just making a piece with nothing behind it”. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** Lucky Bean, Melville, Johannesburg

It didn’t take long for the band to share their talent with the rest of the world

BLK JKS Musicians

Having released one of the most important South African albums of the past few decades, the BLK JKS are riding high in local and international music circles. Their debut album, *After Robots*, received rave reviews in South Africa and abroad, with former Nirvana drummer Dave Grohl declaring it his favourite album of 2009. With major tours in Europe and America behind them and a record deal with respected American independent label Secretly Canadian, the BLK JKS are on a roll.


The group was formed a few years ago by guitarists Linda Buthelezi and Mpumi Mcata from Spruitview and it wasn’t long before they had bassist Molefi Makananise and drummer Tshepang Ramoba from Soweto on board, to create the powerhouse four-piece.

Four years of cracking live gigs on the local scene and a chance meeting with DJ Diplo led

to them to American manager Knox Robinson. It didn’t take long for the band to share their talent with the rest of the world. Impressive performances at taste-making festivals such as South by South West in Texas and Transmusicales in France led to significant international acclaim.

Since December the BLK JKS have been back in South Africa, wowing local audiences and preparing for the release of their new EP in June. They were nominated for best album and best English alternative album at the 2010 South African Music Awards, taking home the latter.

— **Lloyd Gedy**

 **Lunch spot:** Akhalwaya’s, Mayfair, Johannesburg




Nontsikelelo Veleko Photographer

Nontsikelelo “Lola” Veleko likes to keep things real, which is probably why her lens focuses on urban environments and their unnatural offspring — graffiti, fashion and the identity crisis.

Veleko’s series of “street fashion” portraits, *Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder*, earned her a nomination for MTN New Contemporaries and a following that would see her take up residence in the United Kingdom and exhibit in galleries from Las Palmas and Paris to New York and Switzerland.

At 33, Veleko, a graduate of the Market Photo Workshop, is the second photographer to win the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Visual Art, which probably says more about the artistic value of her work than the rave reviews in *The New York Times* and *Village Voice* combined. But although her work cuts through geographic and ethnic lines to celebrate a universal urban culture in search of identity, her images remain distinctly and proudly South African. Just like Lola. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** Kaldi’s, Newtown, Johannesburg





Trevor Noah Comedian


Trevor Noah says he doesn't know what makes him so funny. But even if he doesn't, the rest of us do. In the past few of years, Noah's laugh-so-hard-you-cry lines have left South African audiences in tears. One of the country's top comedians, the very handsome and (pay attention ladies) now single Noah says he didn't decide to become a comedian, "it just happened organically". At only 26 Noah says he has been making jokes for longer than Jacob Zuma has been president of the country. Although his material has political content Noah denies being an active follower of the news, saying he just pays attention to what he bumps into. It seems Julius Malema was one of those people he kept bumping into, but Noah says he has since stopped commenting on him." Julius comments for himself. He does a great job." In addition to packing local theatres Noah has opened up the stage for international funny man

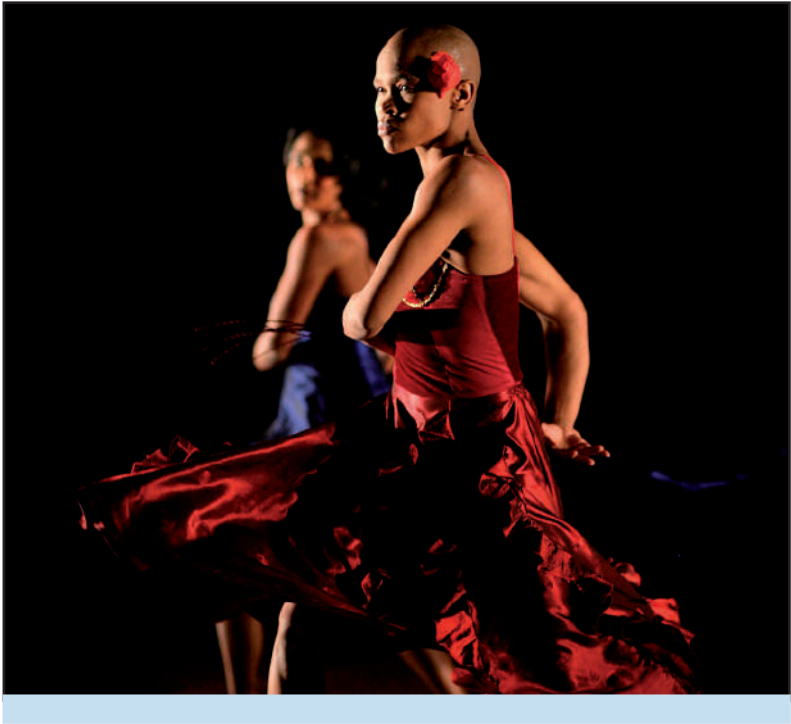
Russell Peters and was the only South African comedian to make the cut for the international audition of NBC's *Last Comic Standing*. But comedy is not the only thing he is good at. He has already had three television shows and right now he is working on the *Trevor Noah Show*, scheduled, he says, to appear after the 2010 World Cup. "I was going to do it during the World Cup but then Fifa said please don't do it at the same time because we want people to watch our thing as well. So then I was like, ok, I'll wait." Noah gives very little information about what we can expect from his show except "just picture me but then in a show". Which should be more than enough to keep the women smiling. — **Karabo Keepile**

 **Lunch spot:** Home, Johannesburg

Zukiswa Wanner Writer


The life and career of Zukiswa Wanner has the unmistakeable stamp of the African sub-continent's history in the 1970s: militancy, exile and the mongrel identities that resulted. Wanner, author of *The Madams* (2006), *Behind Every Successful Man* (2008) and the recently published *Men of the South*, was born in Lusaka to a Zimbabwean mother and South African father. Her father was a combatant in the Luthuli detachment, the famous unit that marked the ANC's decision to confront apartheid's military might in the martial language the government claimed to understand. Her *oeuvre* is expanding; now she is working in both the written word, her forte, and is striking up partnerships with photographers. One of her projects, with award-winning South African icon Alf Kumalo, is *A Prisoner's Home*, about Nelson Mandela's Soweto house. She will also work with French photographer Emile Debray on *The Spirit of Sport*, a football-themed book, alongside five South African and three French writers. Wanner has been listed by *Africa Report* as one of the people to watch this year. She is a founding member of the ReadSA initiative, a project meant to encourage the reading and purchase of South African literature. — **Percy Zvomuya**

 **Lunch spot:** Tsunami, Rosebank, Johannesburg



Dada Masilo Dancer

Dada Masilo is what you might call a "classic contemporary" — that rare breed of exceptional contemporary dancers who embrace the classics — from Shakespeare to Tchaikovsky, from ballet to flamenco. Even her name evokes a contemporary fusion of influences. It's this fearlessness on stage that won the 25-year-old a place at the prestigious Arts Research and Training Studios in Brussels and the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Dance in 2008. When she's not creating works such as *Romeo and Juliet* or *Carmen* or dancing to sold-out audiences at festivals, Masilo is an artist-in-residence at the Dance Factory and runs the Dance Factory Youth Training Programme, which offers free tuition to aspiring young dancers. Her passion is limitless, which is why, when this diminutive vegetarian with the self-confessed temper of a lion takes to the stage it's an experience even her beloved Shakespeare would struggle to describe. She's just that powerful. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** Sophia's, Rosebank, and The Service Station, Melville, Johannesburg

John Trengove Filmmaker

New York University-educated John Trengove is one of the most interesting young filmmakers around. His craft spans narrative film and television, documentary, commercials and experimental video.

Trengove, who graduated with an MA in drama and acting from the University of Cape Town, has merged his acting and filmmaking backgrounds to come up with edgy, gritty work that is gaining recognition abroad.

His acclaimed drama series, *Hopeville*, nominated for best international drama series at the Monte Carlo television awards in 2009, is set to be released as a feature film later this year. Trengove was also head writer and director of the television drama series, *The Lab*.

His film, *Say Hi to Bangkok*, shot in New York, is the story of a "pre-op transsexual looking for love in all the wrong places" and *Disco3000*,

which he directed and in which he acted, is the first of a planned series of video loops about consumption, sexuality and lifestyle.

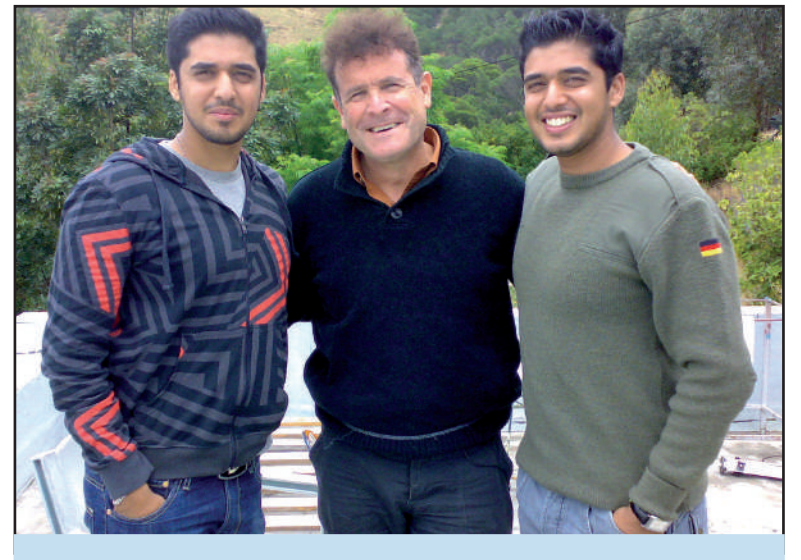
He was co-director of *A Country Imagined*, a documentary series about the art and landscape of South Africa, and he is working on *Acuity*, a reality show about a group of affluent youngsters from all over the world who are journeying "through Africa in search of themselves".

Trengove believes South Africans should exploit and export the qualities that distinguish the country from the rest of the world.

His reasoning is simple: "We can't out-Hollywood Hollywood". — **Percy Zvomuya**



Lunch spot: Salvation Cafe, Milpark, Johannesburg



Hasan and Husain Essop

Artists

Hasan and Husain Essop are young, brand-conscious, middle-class Muslims from the Cape Flats. It's in every concept they research and every pixel they manipulate.

Just four years out of Michaelis School of Fine Art at the University of Cape Town, the 25-year-old twin brothers have already won the Spier Contemporary 2010 and count Sir Elton John as a serious collector of their work.

From a pitbull fight to the brothers slaughtering a cow, their images reflect a very personal experience of Western popular culture and the distorting effect it has on existing cultures and religions.

In Cuba, the twins documented the challenges they faced as Islamic youths visiting a socialist country. The result is a series of images as different from postcard Cuba as their experience of this militant country. Whether you call them artists or photographers, there's no denying they are bringing a new voice to both artistic forms. — **Cat Pritchard**



Lunch spot: Kauai and Spur

DJ Euphonik

DJ

'DJ' is a very limited title for a man who runs a marketing events company, has taken up residence at Whoozoo, produced platinum-selling CDs, warmed the stage for the likes of Missy Elliot and Blu Cantrell and still finds time to bring down the house every Sunday night on 5FM.

Welcome to the turntable lifestyle of Themba Nkosi, the boy from Benoni with international star appeal and a dedicated month on the 2006 Cosmo "South Africa's Sexiest Man" calendar to prove it.

Luckily for us Euphonik, like his music, is loud and proud to be local. It's one reason why he put on a South African dance music showcase at the Winter Music Conference in Miami, along with friend and mentor, DJ Fresh. The other reason is probably that he just wanted to say: "How lekker is that?" If he wasn't voted "most likely to get a party started" in high school, who was? — **Cat Pritchard**



We can't out-Hollywood Hollywood



Lunch spot: Fifteen, Alexandra, Johannesburg



SUZY BERNSTEIN

Claire Angelique Film

Claire Angelique is not only one of South Africa's edgiest upcoming scriptwriters and filmmakers, but also an award-winning choreographer, dancer and video artist. In between juggling multiple creative careers, Angelique, 30, has managed bands and DJs, coordinated national community radio youth programmes, ventured into public relations, and writes for many contemporary South African arts, music and entertainment publications.

Her short films, documentaries, music videos and video art pieces have been screened at galleries and festivals across South Africa and abroad.

Her first feature film, *My Black Little Heart*, was a dark and deeply personal narrative exposing Durban's sinister side. It featured on the 2009 National Arts Festival's film programme in Grahamstown, after premiering at the Durban International Film Festival in 2008.

Angelique graduated with a degree in film and television from the Cape Town International Film School in 2004, after completing a BA majoring in drama and performance studies, English and internet science through the University of Natal. That year she was the first South African filmmaker to be selected, from 3 600 applicants, to attend the Berlin International Film Festival's Berlinale Talent Campus, and won a scholarship to New York University's Cannes Film intensive course.

In 2007, she won the *South African Scriptwriting Institute* award for the feature film *White Mountain*, and in the same year she bagged a Levis award for South Africa Music Video Directing, as well as a Mondi Shanduka Creative Journalism award. She is no stranger to the spotlight, having performed as a professional ballerina, diverging into contemporary African dance as one of the first non-black dancers with the Siwela Sonke Dance Theatre.

She will be focusing her creative efforts on two major projects next year, *White Mountain* and *Upper Cuts*, both full-length feature films.

Mlu Zondi Dance

Durban born and bred, Mlu Zondi (34), a dynamic, out-of-the-box performer, moves seamlessly between the stage, gallery and public spaces, and challenges the boundaries of the discipline with his cutting-edge performance art, video and multimedia installations.

He explains his work as confrontations with issues that haunt him: identity, relationships and childhood memoirs.

After completing a performance diploma at the Durban University of Technology and a residency with Boyzie Cekwana's Floating Outfit Projects in Durban, he was invited to do a residency in Switzerland in 2002, with an opportunity to perform at the Lausanne International Dance Festival. He won the MTN New Contemporaries Award for his work *Silhouette* in 2006 and was nominated for both the MEC Gauteng Best Original Choreography and the Durban Theatre Awards Best Choreographer awards as well.

In 2007 Zondi was dancing on the stages of South Korea in the Seoul Performing Arts Company's *Orpheus*. A year later he was in Spain with the Rodriguez-Amat Foundation

of Contemporary Arts and in Belgium with the KVS Theatre in Brussels, as well as with the Bains: Connective Art Laboratory, performing his new work, *Experimenta*, at the end of his residency.

His award-winning show *Silhouette* was performed at KVS, Brussels, as part of Faustin Linyekula, Carte Blanche, in April 2008, and was most recently seen in Cape Town at the Cape Africa Platform, with Thando Mama responsible for the live video images.

Zondi is currently working on a new series, *Cinema*, which utilises multi-screened performance art video installations. *Cinema* will premiere in 2010 in South Africa and tour internationally thereafter.



SUZY BERNSTEIN

Samson Diamond Music

The career of award-winning violinist Samson Diamond began in his teens, when he joined the internationally acclaimed Buskaid troupe; he led the Buskaid Soweto String Ensemble from its inception in 1997.

Diamond matriculated from the National School of Arts in Johannesburg four years later and went on to study in Manchester, obtaining a master's of music performance degree (with distinction) in 2007 from the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM), where he also obtained a BMus honours degree.

He has studied violin under renowned teachers such as Philippe Graffin, Pauline Nobes, Richard Ireland and Rosemary Nalden.

Apart from winning awards offered by the RNCM and others Diamond has also won sought-after scholarships including the Ernest Oppenheimer Memorial Trust and the RNCM's Canon Collins Trust.

He has performed in Berlin, Budapest and Vienna with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, and has also played with the BBC Philharmonic and Halle Orchestra, touring South America, Germany and Austria

Diamond has worked with the Haringey Young Musicians in London as violin coach and soloist, visiting schools in North London and introducing classical music to underprivileged communities. In July 2009 he extended his community-service reach to his home country, where he directed and appeared as soloist with the string ensemble from the South African National Youth Orchestra.

He says that he now wants to "pay it forward" to young people in South Africa by demonstrating how they can empower themselves through music to be ambassadors of excellence in whatever they strive for in life.



SUZY BERNSTEIN



Michael MacGarry Visual Art

Michael MacGarry, a 31-year-old Johannesburg-based visual artist, graphic designer and author, draws from various creative wells to unpack and critically analyse contemporary sociopolitical and economic narratives on the African continent.

Says artist Andrew Verster: "His genius is the particular way he transforms an object we know into something completely different, another reality that is still recognisable ... The new objects are so hypnotic, so plausible, so clever, so tantalising that we can never look at any of his sources in the same way again."

MacGarry, who holds an MA in fine art from the University of the Witwatersrand, began his

graphic design career in 2000 in Dublin before moving to London in 2002. In 2003 he returned to South Africa, and joined The Trinity Session as manager of The Premises Gallery and in 2006 he joined Fever Identity Design in Johannesburg as a graphic designer. He is a member of the visual art collective *Avant Car Guard*, who have shown at a national and international level for several years.

His work is housed in numerous private and corporate collections both locally and abroad, including the Seattle Art Museum and the Johannesburg Art Gallery. Brodie/Stevenson in Johannesburg represents his visual art career.

As a writer, MacGarry recently wrote, designed and illustrated a 180-page monograph and reference book on South African graphic design, titled *Skill Set One — A Primer in South African Graphic Design*, published by David Krut Publishing. He is also co-publisher, with Lloyd Gedy, of *The Pavement Special*, a tri-annual magazine dedicated to independent South African music.



SUZY BERNSTEIN

Janni Younge Theatre

Puppeteer Janni Younge's giant elephants have marched in the Bastille Day parade in Paris. Her puppets have staged street theatre in Jerusalem, appeared on stage in *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Tempest* in Cape Town and the United Kingdom. They have "acted" in shows in Switzerland and Greece.

Younge has been involved with puppet construction and manipulation for corporate and community theatre productions, as well as for television commercials and children's programmes. She has also directed, designed and constructed puppets for the Cape Town International Comedy Festival.

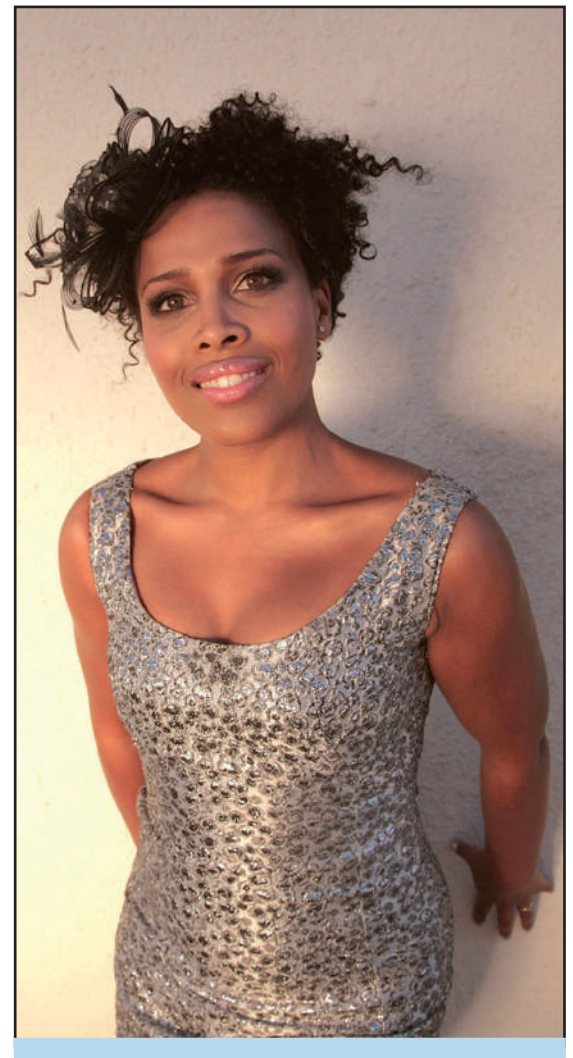
She has also co-ordinated youth development programmes, including the University of the Western Cape's Brown Paper Studio in District 6, and has worked with the British Council's environmental education programme. She was director, workshop facilitator, puppet designer and collaborative script writer for *Pulling Strings*, the *Africa Project*, a street puppetry performance devised by youth against corruption. She has also presented a shadow puppetry course taught over nine weeks at the Dominican School for the Deaf, and has been a drama tutor at the University of Cape town, where she earned a BA and an MA.

Since 2006 she has been Chief executive

of the South African Association of Puppetry and Visual Performance, director of the Cape Town-based puppetry and visual performance festival and director, producer and co-founder of Sogo Visual Theatre. She has won countless scholarships and awards. Judges found her work symbolises "the very essence of the new imaging in theatre that Cape Town is producing".



TIMMY HENNY



TIMMY HENNY

Melanie Scholtz Jazz

Melanie Scholtz is a vocalist grounded in the down-to-earthiness of the blues, R&B and legendary jazz singers such as Dee Dee Bridgewater and Billie Holiday.

Her background is classical; she graduated cum laude from the University of Cape Town Opera School. But jazz was a permanent fixture in her vocabulary as a musician, perhaps because her father, a lover of jazz, had been an alto sax player, and her classical training gives her spectacular vocal technique.

She speaks of a "sense of freedom through expression and improvisation" in jazz. In 2002, Scholtz won Best Jazz Vocalist in the Old Mutual Jazz Encounters.

Invited to perform in Spain, Portugal, Holland, Morocco, Norway, Sweden and Austria, she collaborates with numerous artists both nationally and internationally and has performed with a who's who of the South African jazz scene.

Scholtz lectured in jazz vocal studies at the University of Cape Town from 2004 to 2005 and has been involved with Artscape's youth jazz development projects since 2006.

She recorded an album in February 2009 with Norwegian trumpeter and producer, Ole Jorn Myklebust. Apart from her own compositions and recordings — there have been two albums, plus a third recorded live with Inkala in Vadso at the Varanger Jazz Festival in Norway — she has collaborated and is featured on *Peaceful Moment* with guitarist Jimmy Dlodlu and on *Which Way to Go* with electronic DJs' Iridium Project. Both these singles went to number one on South African radio.



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Rasty Graffiti Artist

On Jan Smuts Avenue, Joe Slovo Drive, Bree Street and many other streets in Johannesburg, gargoyles, fiends and other creatures look out at the passing traffic. Many of these artworks have been done by Durban-born Rasty and his PCP collective, which includes his co-conspirators, Curio and Angel.

The collective does large-scale graffiti murals and commissions across South Africa for clients that include Nike, Sprite, Converse and Nokia.

Rasty, comfortable in a wide range of graffiti styles, including tattooing, is especially acclaimed for being a character, cartoon-type, and a photo realistic images

specialist. The PCP collective also own a graffiti store in central Johannesburg and is the South African distributor of Montana spray paint, a paint manufactured in Germany specifically for graffiti art.

“I am constantly trying to challenge myself and push the limits of my capabilities. This is what helps me keep my style fresh and evolving,” he says. — **Percy Zvomuya**

 **Lunch spot:** Lapa Fo, Greenside, Johannesburg


Nobunye Levin
Filmmaker

Boasting three film credits to her name, Nobunye Levin teaches at Wits University's School of the Arts. Levin, a graduate of Wits, directed *Thymesis* (2008) and *Stones and Dreads* (2008), about black hair and its attendant politics.

Her latest film, *I am Saartjie Baartman*, a humanised portrait of the legend, shed of much of her historical and political aura, was selected for the 56th International Short Film Festival in Oberhausen, Germany. *Thymesis*, which deals with rape and the pain of memory, will be showcased at the Next Reel International Film Festival at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

Levin approaches her work with a deeply academic gaze and is a big fan of avant-garde filmmaking practices. A vegetarian, she enjoys going out and appreciates the social value of sport (she was once selected for Gauteng's youth basketball team).

— **Percy Zvomuya**

 **Lunch spot:** Pure Earth, Emmarentia, Johannesburg



Kemang Wa Lehulere Painter

The Gugulethu is a troupe of visual artists whose spiritual base is in Kwa Mlamli in Gugulethu, Cape Town. From this shebeen, close to the mainstream narratives, they questioned and intervened, looking for the past in the present, with edgy work and acidic commentary.


The collective — now based at Dumalisile Arts Centre — was co-founded by Themba Tsotsi, Unathi Sigenu and Kemang Wa Lehulere, who were later joined by Khanyisile Mbongwa, Ziphokenkosi Dayile and Athi-Mongezelele Joja.

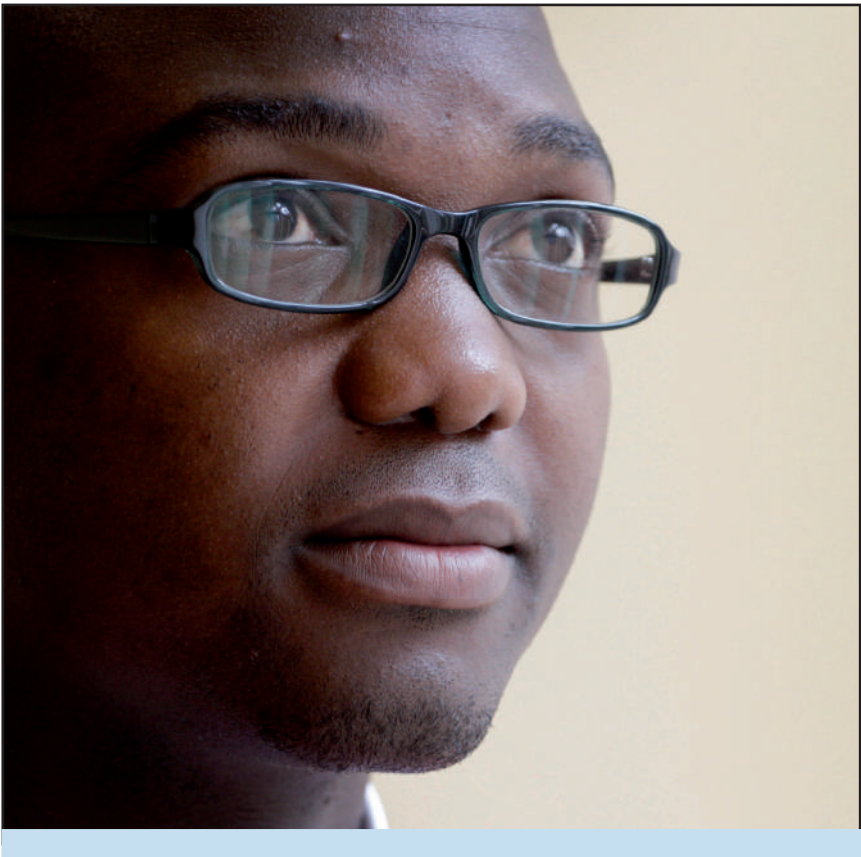
But Wa Lehulere, who works in multimedia drawings, painting and live performance art to interrogate identity, masculinity, and both written and oral histories, is now based in Johannesburg, where he is studying fine art at Wits University.

Though he is viewed by some as shy, Wa Lehulere has some gregarious tendencies and is a member of the Dead Revolutionaries Club, an artists' collective based in Johannesburg.

He has participated in a number of group exhibitions including *Amajita in Conversation* and *Scratching the Surface Volume 1*, in Cape Town, *A Legacy of Men* and *US*, in Johannesburg, and *Identity an Imagined State*, in Lagos, and has performed in South Africa and Germany.

His work has also been on exhibition at Today Art Museum in Beijing, the CAS Zuidas in Amsterdam and at the ARCO Madrid Art Fair. — **Percy Zvomuya**

 **Lunch spot:** Lola's, Long Street, Cape Town



Thando Mgqolozana Writer

When Thando Mgqolozana blew into the literary mainstream last year with his debut novel *A Man Who Is not a Man*, he was a gust of fresh air.

His book, about the perils for Xhosa youths of circumcision, brought fame and loads of notoriety, especially among conservatives who were naturally affronted by the uppity Eastern Cape-born young man, raised in the village of Engojini, who was challenging the age-old tradition of circumcision.

A graduate of the University of the Western Cape, Mgqolozana became a writer after a stint as politician. At university he was twice elected to the executive committee of the South African Students Congress and the Student Representative Council. But it was not all about politics; he also received awards, including the

Golden Key International Honour for academic achievement, and was selected as a Mandela Rhodes Scholar.

Mgqolozana has worked for the Human Sciences Research Council, where he co-wrote a research monograph on nursing and another on the South African brain drain.

When he is not on the literary circuit, he is based at the research office of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, working on his research interests, which include masculinities, literature, education and health. — **Percy Zvomuya**



Lunch spot: Moyo at Spier, Cape Town

Yo-landi Vi\$\$er Vocalist, Die Antwoord

A year ago the chances are you wouldn't have heard of Yo-landi Vi\$\$er — unless you were one of a small cabal of Cape Town scenesters. The foul-mouthed elfin character who burst into viral fame with Die Antwoord didn't exist before 2009.

But she does now, complete with a history so compelling that international audiences know all about how she grew up across the road from Ninja, aka Watkin Tudor Jones, as described in the music video that crashed websites even as it rocketed the band to instant fame. (Please ignore those rampant internet reports that say she was Jones's partner in previous musical projects featuring completely different personas, or his wife and mother of his child.)

This blonde-mulleted ski-pant-wearing Afrikaner from the wrong side of the Cape flats tells us straight up that it's not polite to ask a lady her age; which, in this instance is, technically, about 16 months. She was far more forthcoming about her likes (pet rats, loud rave music) and dislikes (gerkins, guys hitting her, that sort of thing).

Vi\$\$er's past may be part zef, part obscurity, but she's rocking her present in an unprecedented way for a

local artist. Die Antwoord is *de rigueur* listening for hipsters the globe over and her falsetto croonings have proven as popular as her quasi-schoolgirl tease look and Nineties gear.

"What a super fly bitch," said one fan admiringly.

The band has signed with Interscope Records, which represents artists like Eminem, as well as mega talent agency, WME Entertainment. The record deal is rumoured to be the biggest ever for a local, or even African, artist. They're also due to feature in a film with that other local success, *District 9* director Neil Blomkamp.

Flash in the zef pan or here to stay? We're betting on the latter. — **Verashni Pillay**



Lunch spot: Snoekies in Hout Bay — but only for the chips. "Yo-landi Vi\$\$er doesn't eat fish." Naturally. She's also a fan of "the Wimpy in the Golden Acre". And if you don't know where that is, you probably shouldn't be taking her out to lunch.



Tristan Holmes
Director, Star Productions

It's not every day that a former KTV presenter wins an Oscar for directing. But Tristan Holmes did when, in 2008, his student film, *Elalini*, took the award for Best Foreign Film at the Student Academy Awards — the only South African entry to claim this honour.

As one would imagine, the red carpet was quickly rolled out for this young Afda graduate, who has since been invited to three Cannes Film Festivals, sat on the jury at the Vienna International Student Film Festival and directed more commercials and music videos than his 27 years should allow. Even M-Net made sure he was calling the shots on its groundbreaking series, *Innocent Times*.

If the days of dining with the woman who once did the voice of Tweety Bird are over, it's only because he has more important things to do back home — such as directing the official World Cup UN music video and working on a feature film he wrote. It's tough being talented. — **Cat Pritchard**



Lunch spot: Nando's



Nandipha Mntshamo
Artist

It would be appropriate to call Nandipha Mntshamo a torero, or bullfighter. And not because the Swaziland-born conceptual artist and photographer reportedly upset arts and culture minister Lulu Xingwana, who, earlier this year walked out of an exhibition at which some of Mntshamo's works were on show on the grounds that they were pornographic.

The Spanish word is appropriate because this graduate of the Michaelis School of Fine Art at the University of Cape Town has an abiding interest in the bovine and 2004 was her breakthrough year, with a work, titled *Idle*, made from raw cowhide. It was a motif she returned to again and again, as she did in her video, *Ukungenisa*, in which she plays a matador in the disused Praça de Touros arena in Maputo.

In 2005 she received the Brett Kebble Art Awards Curatorial Fellowship and in 2006 she was one of five young artists selected for the MTN New Contemporaries exhibition curated by Khwezi Gule at the Johannesburg Art Gallery.

— Percy Zvomuya

 **Lunch spot:** Narina Trogon, Braamfontein, Johannesburg

Tsepo wa Mamatu Theatre Director

Among the most memorable scenes at President Jacob Zuma's meeting with artists late last year was theatre director Tsepo wa Mamatu standing up, grabbing the microphone, and telling the president that he shouldn't prescribe what artists should do.

This confrontation with power would have come as no surprise to those who have followed Wa Mamatu's work over the years — he is establishing himself as a political dramatist who doesn't back away from the most current and pressing political questions of the day.

There is something of Allan Bold's prescriptive view of the artist in his youthful energy and pugilistic demeanour.

"Our job is to try/To change things./After Hiroshima/You ask a poet to sing?" *100% Zulu Boy*, his 2006 drama about the intrigues of South African politics, was followed by *Stompie*, a drama based on the life of Winnie Madikizela Mandela, with echoes of the murdered Stompie Moeketsi. His play, *Mbeki*


and *Other Nitemares*, premiered at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown last year and played at the Wits Theatre.

Naturally Wa Mamatu is not without his critics, and some have dismissed the Mbeki work as a tearstained apologia from those who pine for Thabo Mbeki.

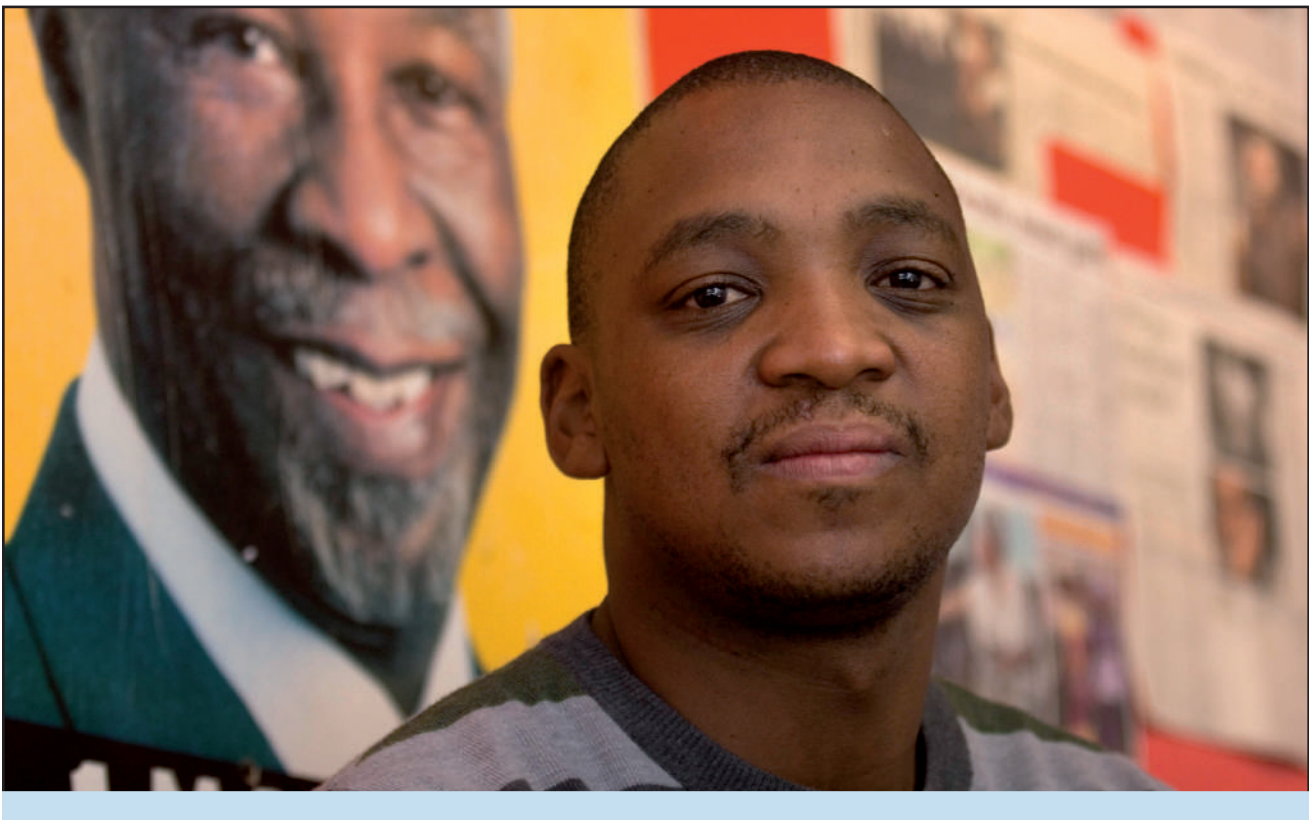
Mark Gevisser, Mbeki's biographer, described the play as "an unsettling mix of two genres: in part a biographical narrative of Thabo Mbeki's life, in part an acute satire of contemporary South African politics".

A book, *Laughing at Blackness: Leon Schuster and the Colonizing Laughter*, partly based on his master's thesis, was recently published by a German-based publisher.

— Percy Zvomuya

 **Lunch spot:** Narina Trogon, Braamfontein, Johannesburg

He is establishing himself as a political dramatist who doesn't back away from the most current and pressing political questions of the day




Warwick Allan Director, Mushroom Media

You may know him as that guy who made all those cool live-music videos, like the one for Harris Tweed that won him the Sama for best global chart live DVD, or *Lira's Live in Concert: A Celebration DVD*, the first full HD DVD to be recorded on the continent. But what you don't know is what this 27-year-old visual director/producer/creator has to go through to ensure an international standard on a local budget.

Just looking at his creative cutting on Zebra and Giraffe's *Pariah* video makes you grateful that his "no problem" attitude, marketing background and solid grounding in post-production ensure

that he delivers on the high standards he sets for himself.

Luckily for the music industry, Warwick didn't follow the construction path he considered during his misinformed youth and instead committed himself to constructing great visual feasts using creative lighting and editing techniques. — Cat Pritchard

 **Lunch spot:** Wolves, Illovo, Johannesburg

Advertorial

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Nazeer Suliman

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Nazeer Suliman (33) is head of Microsoft's consumer and online division for Africa. He joined Microsoft in June after three years as MD of Universal McCann (UM), a global American-owned media planning and buying agency.

The youngest and only black managing director of a foreign-owned media agency then, Suliman's accomplishments at UM include launching its digital division UM Connect in 2009, in recognition of the growing influence of digital media.


In 2008, Suliman became the only South African to be included in that year's "21 Agency Innovators" short list compiled by the British-based Internationalist catalogue. The list aimed to highlight how innovative thinking is not limited to age or geographical location.

He served on the board of the Fifth World Summit on Media for Children, a global movement aimed at improving the quality of media product for children and young people. At Microsoft, his tasks include establishing and growing the firm's consumer software, mobile, online services and advertising business in both South Africa and West, East and Central Africa).

Suliman started his career as a media strategist at advertising giant Ogilvy handling brands such as Audi, Unilever, Avis and Appletiser. He's also worked for the BBC's Innovation and Learning department in London and for media agencies Notabene and MindShare where he worked on brands such as Nike, Nestlé and First National Bank. In 2004, he was appointed head of media management at Cell C, South Africa's third cellular network provider.

Suliman has represented South Africa at a number of international conferences. These include the 2nd World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, Austria, in 1993 and the Organisation for African Unity's Conference on Assistance to African Children, in Dakar, Senegal, in 1992.



 **Lunch spot:** Pigalle, Sandton for a spoil and Doppio Zero, Rosebank, Johannesburg for a quickie



MERCURY

Delivering Audiences

Praise Ragimana

Business Unit Director, Mercury Media

Praise Ragimana was born on January 28 1982 in Venda, Limpopo. He matriculated at Corner Stone College in Pretoria. Ragimana then went on to further his studies at AAA School of Advertising and graduated as the top media student of his class in 2003.

Because of his passion for media and business Ragimana went on to complete a business management course at the Wits Business School in 2009. He holds a higher diploma in integrated marketing communications from the AAA School of Advertising, and was appointed at Mercury in 2005 in order to assist in the management of the government communication and information system (GCIS) account and parastatal clients.

His previous experience includes the positions of media planning and research at Optimedia, media consultant for YFM and media planner with Saatchi & Saatchi. In these capacities, and while at Saatchi and Saatchi, he has worked on a number of campaigns, including Nestlé, Uthingo, Osram, General Mills and at Mercury he worked on Telkom Business and, of course, a large number of successful GCIS campaigns that includes Arrive Alive and many others. Ragimana is currently responsible for the account management of Mercury's public sector client base, which includes GCIS.



Lunch spot: The Feed Room at Tintswalo, Waterfall, Kyalami



Michelle Le Roux Advocate

Michelle Le Roux is a member of both the New York and the Johannesburg Bars. Not bad for a woman who was not sure she was going to practise law in the first place.

During her university career (at the University of Cape Town) “I spent a lot of time doing NGO-related work, and any other distraction rather than studying,” she says.

Le Roux left South Africa to spend time as an intern in the United States. Then, using the contacts she had built up, she set up practice in Colorado, where she helped create a “multi-door court house”, which offered mediation services for employment and family law disputes.

In the summer of 1999 she moved to New York, where she took a job as an associate at a local law firm, working toward her master’s at the New York University School of Law. She went on to work at a number of other firms, successfully arguing cases in the US Circuit Court, the US District Court and the New York Supreme Court.

“I am especially proud of winning a multi million-dollar verdict against Wal-Mart for disability discrimination in

my first federal trial, as well as the work I did on gender discrimination in some of the largest Wall Street institutions,” she says.

It was the offer to co-write a book with Judge Dennis Davis that finally drew Le Roux back to South Africa. While researching the book, *Precedent & Possibility: the (ab)use of law in South Africa*, and interviewing the lawyers, judges and litigants involved in the cases she cited, she realised she would be able to make “a more meaningful contribution” in South Africa than she could by simply being another trial lawyer in New York.

Now Le Roux, who has been back in South Africa for more than three years, lectures at UCT and Wits and works on cases such as one in the Competition Appeal Court against excessive pricing by steel giant ArcelorMittal. — **Lynley Donnelly**

 **Lunch spot:** Koi, Sandton



Robby Coelho
Partner, Technology, Media and Telecommunications Practice Group, Webber Wentzel Attorneys

Fifteen years ago, there were few laws regulating the convergence of the multimedia, technology and telecommunications industries in South Africa. As a law student at Wits, and later as a candidate attorney with Webber Wentzel, Robby Coelho realised that information and communications technology (ICT) law was an undeveloped and dynamic area. He is now considered one of the few experts in the field in South Africa.

“It’s been satisfying to be involved in the field for many years, to be part of its evolution, and to apply the law to the ongoing changes,” he says. Coelho spent two years as legal manager for EDS (now Hewlett-Packard) in Africa and the Middle East, and was a member of the EDS negotiating team that sealed an international mega-deal.

He enjoys working with a team of young lawyers who are *au fait* with the latest technological trends: “There aren’t many grey-haired lawyers in this field, that’s for sure,” he says. — **Lionel Faull**

 **Lunch spot:** The Marshall Inn, Marshalltown, Johannesburg

Richard Mulholland
Founder and CEO, Missing Link and Co-founder of Thunk! Perspective Lab

His time as a waiter at Spur and as a roadie for bands such as Def Leppard and Iron Maiden, Richard Mulholland claims, are his best qualifications.

But he also happened to start a small presentations firm when he was 23. And now, 12 years later, Missing Link — a specialist conference and presentations strategy company — is the largest of its kind in the country.


Missing Link has been listed in *BEST Employers South Africa* for a fourth consecutive year and the atmosphere Mulholland has created undoubtedly plays a role in earning such accolades.

“I wanted people who thought like me to work for me ... so I created an environment that I would like to work in,” he says.

This vision is manifested in the dotcomesque Astroturf on the office floor, a fake cadaver in the entrance hall and a skate ramp in the middle of the work space, among many other quirks.

Mulholland pays for any staff tattoos and also offers employees who have entrepreneurial work to do one day off a week. He describes his company as a “finishing school” and a “great learning curve”.

He has recently co-founded a sister company, Thunk! Perspective Lab (they sell, um, perspective). — **Lisa Steyn**

 **Lunch spot:** Ghazal Indian Cuisine, Bryanston, Sandton





Adam Levy Property Entrepreneur

If looking out of Adam Levy's glass-walled apartment on Smit Street in Braamfontein doesn't leave you in love with Jozi, nothing will.

The light-filled, uncluttered space is pinned above the city skyline between the Nelson Mandela Bridge and the older Queen Elizabeth Bridge, with a prime view over Park Station, the railway lines and the looming towers of the CBD.

Levy trained as a lawyer, but, by his own admission, is a frustrated architect. And he loves the city — particularly Braamfontein. Reviving the district, which began with the purchase of the Smit Street building in 2003, has become an all-consuming passion for him. But he's loath to be referred to as a property developer.

"The word has been sullied by the way people have done it in this town," he says.

"This isn't about pillaging; it's about transformation, it's about effecting change."

He is the first to admit that his vision for rejuvenating Braamfontein is not necessarily shared with the City of Jo'burg and its administration. Levy is a vociferous critic of the city's management, which, he believes, has not delivered on its promises to redevelop the inner city properly, or, when strides have been

made, to maintain the improvements.

But he is determined to keep creating what he terms "spaces of aspiration" within Braamfontein. Levy refurbished the beautiful old building across the road from his apartment block; painted a merry, eye-catching green, it is home to the Café De La Vie.

In 2006, Levy began the redevelopment of the Alexander Theatre, which had been closed for a decade, but now operates as a live-music venue. And earlier this year he bought the Milner Park Hotel, with its century-old bar, Kitchener's Carvery, increasingly popular with Jozi's cultural and music underground. Behind his home at 70 on Juta, Levy is completing work on a redevelopment that will see the creation of 10 new retail spaces and five new creative office units.

"We've got to be hopeful, we've got to be positive. There are amazing people here, they need to be looked after," he says. "We need great, young, renewed leadership. We need people to stand up and say we want to do it differently." — **Lynley Donnelly**



Lunch spot: Turn 'n Tender, Parktown



BENEDICTE KURZEN



Catherine Lückhoff

CEO and Founder, Mango-OMC

Camera-shy Catherine Lückhoff may be reluctant to be in front of the lens but she's certainly comfortable at the forefront of the public relations pack. After her third year of studying public relations management Lückhoff did an internship, at the end of which she was handling several accounts, but decided to go back to study for an honours degree.

At this point Lückhoff acquired her first client — Woolworths Financial Services. Soon other accounts came in. "And before I knew it I had basically started Mango," she says, and had to balance her studies with managing her new business.

Just 28 years old, Lückhoff is particularly enthusiastic about having managed the communication portfolio for music festival Rocking the Daisies, which she has managed so successfully that its audience, which numbered 1 300 people in 2007 increased to 11 000 in 2009.

The company also boasts clients such as Red Bull and DSTV Online. Lückhoff, who is setting up a Johannesburg office, believes in focusing on "touch points that consumers engage with". Niching is not the way to go, she says, it's better to have "a full communications mix". — **Lisa Steyn**



Lunch spot: Moema's, Parktown North, Johannesburg



Barbara Mallinson

CEO and Founder, Obami.co.za

Always on the lookout for cyber bullies and sleeping little more than four hours each night, Barbara Mallinson runs her website, Obami, from her home in Knysna. Obami combines e-learning with e-life and acts as a safe platform where registered users — teachers, learners and parents — can communicate and interact online.

Registered schools receive unique authentication codes for members to use to log in — making for a safe and monitored outlet for information. "I have always wanted to work for myself, ever since I was little," says Mallinson, who completed her bachelor's degree in business science at the University of Cape Town and went on to work in London for a large corporation.

"I hated it," she says. So she developed Obami and pitched it to schools in the United Kingdom, but soon discovered that South Africa was a far better market. "I was also just homesick," she says. Mallinson will soon be setting up offices in Johannesburg. Her next step is to monetise the site. — **Lisa Steyn**



Lunch spot: The Bell, Knysna



Andy Higgins

CEO and Co-founder,
bidorbuy.co.za

While cleaning super-yachts in the Caribbean a few years back Andy Higgins couldn't have guessed he would next be working for a London online trading company — or starting his own local site. Bidorbuy.co.za was meant to be launched in 12 countries, "but after the dot.com crash in 2000 we had to pull out," says Higgins, who then directed his attention solely at the South African market.

"It was very tough," he says of the site's start up years. "But we now have R30-million in turnover per month. We stuck it out, and it has paid." The company has grown vertically and is now a shareholder of other sites, such as jump.co.za, jobs.co.za, theclassifieds.co.za site and private property.co.za.

"We have lots of competitors, but they are very small ... some are maybe 5% of our size," says Higgins, asserting that Bidorbuy is "absolutely" the biggest site of its kind in the country. The next step? "To launch in Kenya. — **Lisa Steyn**



Lunch spot: Primi Piatti, Rosebank, Johannesburg

Zibusiso Mkhwanazi Entrepreneur

Zibusiso Mkhwanazi says one of the biggest challenges of his life is trying to find a way to balance his spiritual life with his work. "If I had it my way," he says, "I'd be in church everyday."

Mkhwanazi started his first web business in his bedroom at the age of 17. Since then, this young entrepreneur has won several awards, including the BBQ Young Business Achiever, the African ICT Achievers and *Men's Health* Best Man.

This year Mkhwanazi, who has a national diploma in information technology and a post-graduate diploma in corporate law, launched the Mkhwanazi Academy for Christian Entrepreneurship. The NGO's mission is to support disadvantaged communities by "developing and supporting young entrepreneurs in a Christian-based business programme".

The rest of his energy is focused on his business, KrazyBoyz Digital, which boasts clients such as Deloitte, the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the City of

Johannesburg and Nelson Mandela Square. But despite his entrepreneurial success, he says one of the high points of his career has been the experience of being recognised, because "being young is always a challenge because of stereotypes. And when you deliver on goods you overcome those stereotypes."

KrazyBoyz Digital started out as a web development company and moved into digital, mobile, social media and online advertising. "Moving it into those realms has been a challenge, especially being the only black-owned digital agency in South Africa."

But he has found that the recipe for his success is to keep up with the trends. "Our business relies on being current and being able to advise clients on what would work on an individual basis." — **Vuvu Vena**



Lunch spot: Steers, Rosettenville, Johannesburg



Amelia Vukeya-Motsepe

Volunteer Attorney, Pro Bono.Org

Amelia Vukeya-Motsepe believes that law empowers those who don't have a voice.

Born and raised in Soweto, Vukeya-Motsepe, a senior associate at Bowman Gilfillan, also volunteers as an attorney at Pro Bono.Org, an HIV legal clinic, assisting those who cannot afford legal advice, and is a co-founder of 18twenty8, an organisation that supports young township women.

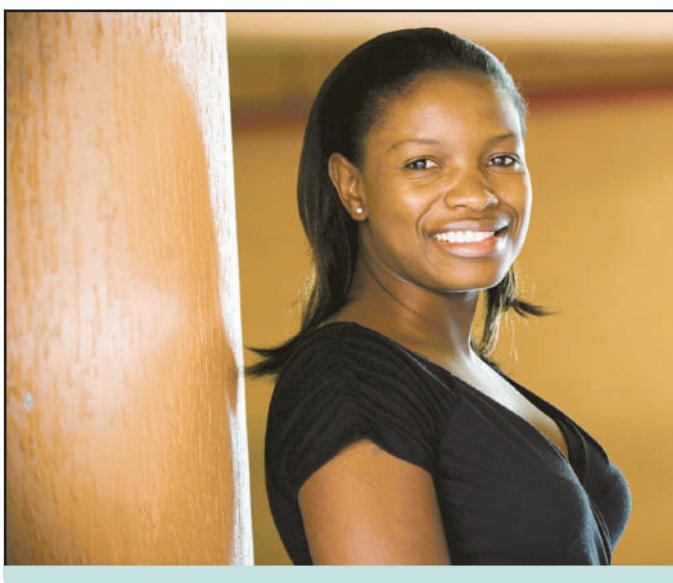
Vukeya-Motsepe interrupted her articles to work as a researcher for Justice Kate O'Regan at the Constitutional Court and subsequently worked with

the South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law.

She was awarded a scholarship to study law at the prestigious Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC, then moved on to an internship with the American Bar Association. She returned to South Africa in 2007 to a job as an attorney with the AIDS Law Project. — **Yolandi Groenewald**



Lunch spot: Wang Thai, Sandton





Anthony Prangley Manager, Gibbs Dialogue Circle

A founding member and now the manager of the Dialogue Circle at the Gordon Institute of Business Science, Anthony Prangley has turned optimism about South Africa into a profession.

When he graduated with a geography honours degree from Wits he was coaxed by a “crazy Columbian guy” to go to South America to study anthropology. Prangley says he soon became embarrassed by “how little I knew about South Africa ... I had been to London five or six times,” he says, “but never to Soweto.”

He returned home and worked in rural Swaziland, Mozambique and South Africa. He then started the Gumboots Foundation, which funds grassroots projects that do great

things in disadvantaged communities.

“It was at the time when the rand was plummeting and a lot of people were going overseas,” says Prangley, who elicited funding from South Africans living abroad who still wanted to contribute to the country. The urban gumboot-dancing group, Affirmative Action, is another initiative Prangley helped start, almost five years ago. He still does public performances with the group when he finds the time. — **Lisa Steyn**

 **Lunch spot:** Mom’s house



Abigail Keats Owner, House of Abigail Keats

It was difficult for Abigail Keats’s father to accept that she didn’t want to go to university. But dreaming big is what she does best.

So, after qualifying at the local London International School of Fashion Design, she went on to set up her own fashion company, the House of Abigail Keats. And having been given the opportunity to show some of her designs at the Audi Fashion week two years ago, Keats received immediate recognition: she was named “Designer of the Month” by *Elle* and “Designer to Watch” by *Cosmopolitan*.

Since then she has exhibited in each seasonal fashion week and has been invited to show her collections in New York, Miami and Dubai.

“The vision and long-term goal is to establish an internationally acclaimed label and successful business that is proudly South African,” says Keats.

And she is well on her way towards doing so. In May,

the House of Abigail Keats will launch a high-end fashion boutique in Sandton.

The “design philosophy will move with the times, but it is essentially based on an exclusive contemporary fashion label that caters to women who look to infuse style, glamour and sophistication into their wardrobes and lifestyle,” says Keats of her label. “It embodies bespoke fashion and draws inspiration from both the contemporary and the classical.”

An artist at heart, the 23-year-old, who is constantly encountering things “that are not in the textbook,” sees her biggest challenges as “bridging the gap between fashion design and the business world” and “learning through experience.” — **Lisa Steyn**

 **Lunch spot:** Tasha’s Café, Atholl Square, Sandton


Nick Ferreira

Research Clerk,
Constitutional Court

How do you reconcile a government’s obligation to uphold its citizens’ basic human rights with the limitations imposed by time, cost and capacity? It’s a question that has troubled Nick Ferreira and to which he has dedicated the better part of a decade, studying through the prism of philosophy at Oxford University.

But there’s absolutely no doubt in his mind: questions of feasibility are a simplistic way to undermine communities’ fights to access their basic rights. Now a clerk for Justice Edwin Cameron at the Constitutional Court, Ferreira is on the cusp of becoming an advocate at the Johannesburg Bar, where he plans to use the power of litigation in favour of greater equality and social rights.

Ferreira, who realised relatively late in his career that he wanted to be a lawyer, studied simultaneously for his DPhil at Oxford and his LLB at Unisa to catch up — a superhuman feat by any standards. — **Lionel Faull**

 **Lunch spot:** Trieste Café, Greenside, Johannesburg






Kaajal Ramjathan-Keogh

Head, Refugee and Migrant Rights Programme, Lawyers for Human Rights

Kaajal Ramjathan-Keogh was seven months pregnant and pretty much immobile when hundreds of refugees and foreign nationals lost their livelihoods in the xenophobic violence of May 2008. Like a grand master at her chessboard Ramjathan-Keogh had to deploy her staff to different parts of the country. Their job was to monitor the attacks on immigrants, help them replace crucial asylum documents lost in the chaos, and assist them in laying criminal charges against the perpetrators. Ramjathan-Keogh joined Lawyers for Human Rights in 2002, having studied at Oxford University's Refugee Studies Centre. Her specific area of interest is providing legal assistance to children. She has worked towards ensuring that refugee and migrant children are enrolled and registered in schools, and can access health care and documentation. Her current challenge is to develop a process to assist children stranded here without papers or guardians; such children need to be reunited with their families, or helped to stay legally in South Africa. The Refugee and Migrant Rights Programme provides legal assistance to more than 15 000 refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers every year. On Ramjathan-Keogh's watch the programme has won a series of precedent-setting court challenges. These include a 2004 ruling that barred

the department of home affairs from detaining unaccompanied children at the Lindela Repatriation Centre near Krugersdorp, and a 2010 ruling that prevents home affairs from detaining asylum seekers for more than 120 days. Ramjathan-Keogh says: "I enjoy challenging unjust laws, especially where this makes significant and positive changes in people's lives." Lawyers for Human Rights has been nominated for the Nansen Refugee Award in 2010, awarded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in recognition of its outstanding service to refugees. — **Lionel Faull**

 **Lunch spot:** Trattoria Renato, Emmarentia, Johannesburg

I enjoy challenging unjust laws, especially where this makes significant and positive changes in people's lives

Tania Steenkamp Lawyer

Tania Steenkamp is a world leader in arbitration law and a member of the Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa, the Middle East and Turkey. Her work, she says, marries public international law with arbitration law. Steenkamp, who has a law degree from North West University, says her job has afforded her the opportunity to work abroad, where she has "gained experience in a field that not many people in South Africa have in-depth knowledge about." She never planned to go into arbitration law, her main interest was public international law. But when she was approached by



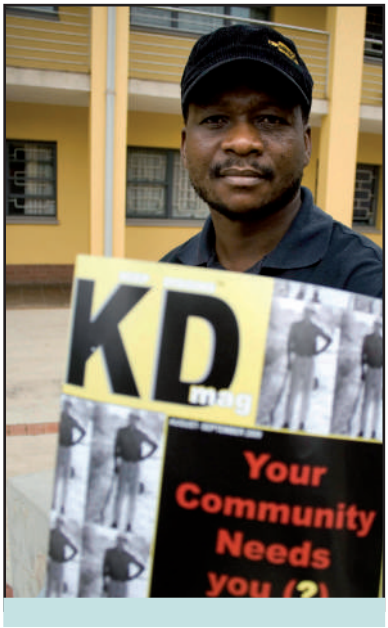
a firm that specialises in both, Steenkamp found her true love. She currently works for Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs and is the representative for Africa on the International Chamber of Commerce's Young Arbitrator's Forum. — **Vuvu Vena**


 **Lunch spot:** Wang Thai, Sandton, Johannesburg

Xolani Mtshizana

Entrepreneur

While many people are busy castigating Julius Malema, Xolani Mtshizana is thanking him. The anger and betrayal he felt at Malema's statements spurred him into action. He developed *Keep Digging*, a magazine that helps people to help themselves — and the community. Mtshizana based the content (which focuses on social entrepreneurship, innovation, creative thinking, ethical leadership and social enterprise) on his own experience. He grew up in Mdantsane in the Eastern Cape and, when he finished school, because tertiary education wasn't an option, he started his own company, laying tiles. From there he moved on to his own clothing label, Mara, which became a bottled water brand as well. He worked for a time at an advertising agency before leaving to start his magazine. *Keep Digging* is distributed in townships at R2 a copy, "so that people can get the content," says Mtshizana. Monash University saw a copy of the magazine and offered him the chance to do a degree in politics, international relations and economics — on a full scholarship. He and his wife continue to publish *Keep Digging*. — **Tarryn Harbour**



 **Lunch spot:** Mugg & Bean, anywhere



Pie-Pacifique Kabalira-Uwase

Business Systems and Data Analyst, Absa

Pie-Pacifique Kabalira-Uwase got where he is through a hole in the fence.

As a 21-year-old fleeing a lifetime of ethno-political persecution in Rwanda, he was hell-bent on getting to Madagascar. Then, sitting in an internet café in Maputo, Kabalira-Uwase met a Congolese former UN volunteer.

“Go to South Africa,” the volunteer told him. Kabalira-Uwase, who could not speak English, was reluctant. He wanted to go to a Francophone country, and had heard that foreigners were the target of xenophobic attacks over the border in KwaZulu-Natal. But the man was adamant. So, a boat trip, a bakkie ride and several bribes later, Kabalira-Uwase arrived in Durban where he was welcomed by the Rwandan community, who helped him apply for asylum.


By law, Kabalira-Uwase had the right to study. But the University of Natal refused to give him a study loan, arguing that he was a foreign student. He went from office to office, speaking with deans and directors, until the matter landed up in the university senate.

Meanwhile, he worked as a car guard on the Durban seafront. When he was finally given a

temporary student card, the study loan did not come through for months. He survived on macaroni and bread, bought with the copper coins he kept in a hessian rice bag.

“I suffered from depression and anxiety, knowing that without an education there was no future for me, and there was no back-up plan,” he says. Slowly, though, things fell into place. In 2006 Kabalira-Uwase was selected as a Mandela Rhodes Scholar and graduated with a BSc. Absa brought him on board in 2008.

“I’ve had first-hand experience of the conflicts in Africa, and I believe that our generation has inherited the onerous task of healing the continent. Experience in the business world is a necessary component of what I want to do, which is to help build a sustainable and inheritable Africa for future generations,” he says. — **Lionel Faull**

 **Lunch spot:** Tranquility Restaurant, Johannesburg Botanical Gardens, Emmarentia, Johannesburg

Pria Chetty

Founder, Chetty Law

Chetty Law is the only law firm of its kind in the country — it deals exclusively with technology and innovation law, and operates with a progressive outlook. Its founder, Pria Chetty, believes strongly in her firm’s slogan: being “legally relevant yet considerably innovative”.

With her law degree in hand, she went on to specialise in electronic and intellectual property law, and started her own firm because she saw a need for legal services in the information communications technology (ICT) industry.

She says she finds her job exciting and enjoyable; that because of the nature of the work, she gets to spend time legitimately on Facebook and Twitter; and that she and her colleagues often do “the *Boston Legal* thing” and have evening balcony chat sessions — although with hot chocolate instead of whiskey. — **Tarryn Harbour**

 **Lunch spot:** Primi Piatti, anywhere



Jodi-Ann Pearton

Founder, Food Design Agency and Cookie Design Emporium

Durban-born Jodi-Ann Pearton finished high school in Johannesburg and went on to do the first year of a BSc in veterinary science at the University of Pretoria. But, like many first years, Pearton had rushed into picking a course and soon found she wasn’t happy with her choice.


At the end of the year Pearton decided she needed to take time off from studying, and wanted to do something “fun”. Having achieved 95% in home economics in high school, she thought it would be cool to take a year off and “go cheffing”.

She went off to the Silwood Kitchen, a cookery school in Cape Town, for a year — and ended up completing a three-year culinary course.

“Afterwards I worked in and around Cape Town

learning from incredible chefs,” she says. Next Pearton took a job at Nando’s as an international development chef before opening her own company, The Food Design Agency, in 2008. The company, the most successful business of its kind in the country, offers food styling, product development and training.

Pearton, who, in 2005, was selected to join the South African Chefs Association’s culinary team, has won the Chef of the Year award three times in a row and the prestigious “By Invitation Only” competition in 2009, among numerous other accolades. — **Lisa Steyn**

 **Lunch spot:** Bread and Wine, Franschhoek, Western Cape



Claire Reid

CEO and Founder, Reel Gardening

Claire Reid sat in the bare soil where she was to plant her veggie patch, tape measure lying between her knees, and very frustrated. Her father had said if the 16-year-old grew her own vegetables he would happily purchase them from her rather than from the local supermarket. “I had to buy four kilograms of compost, five different kinds of fertiliser and a packet of 500 tomato seeds when I only needed three or four.”

At this point Reid thought there had to be a design solution to such a problem, “mainly to help myself”. And that is how Reel Gardening began. Reid invented biodegradable strips that encase seeds placed apart at the correct distance and with appropriate feed already inside. The glue used is water-soluble and all seeds and fertilisers are organic.


Reid intentionally designed the strip-producing machine to be manual in order to save energy. By enabling would-be gardeners to buy three or four metres of tomatoes Reid has made gardening cost-effective and simple for those who really need it.

Reel Gardening is often called on by non-profit organisations to set up food gardens in local communities and educate people in how to look after a garden.

Reid, who is completing her master’s degree in architecture at the University of Pretoria, sees the symmetry between architecture and gardening as obvious. Involved in a project for cost-effective housing that will build two-bedroom, one-bathroom houses with running water and solar power within weeks, Reid has also supplied the “garden in a box”, which can supply fresh produce to a family of six within 30 days.

Reel Gardening only opened its offices on February 12 this year but already employs eight working mothers.

“We aim to have 50 employees by the end of the year,” Reid says. She is also training employees to take on larger tasks such as acquiring administration and computer skills. “My employees who want responsibility can have as much as they want to take on, and I will help them do so,” she says. — **Lisa Steyn**

 **Lunch spot:** Mantra, Parkhurst, Johannesburg



David Bilchitz

Director, South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law

David Bilchitz grew up in a family that abhorred the social injustice of apartheid and its pass laws — and it was this consciousness that drove him into the work he does.

An attorney, professor and director of the South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law (SAIFAC), Bilchitz matriculated the year South Africa became a democracy.


“As a white South African, I benefited from apartheid — though I never actively played a part in perpetuating it — and so feel a moral responsibility to make a contribution to undoing its legacy,” he says.

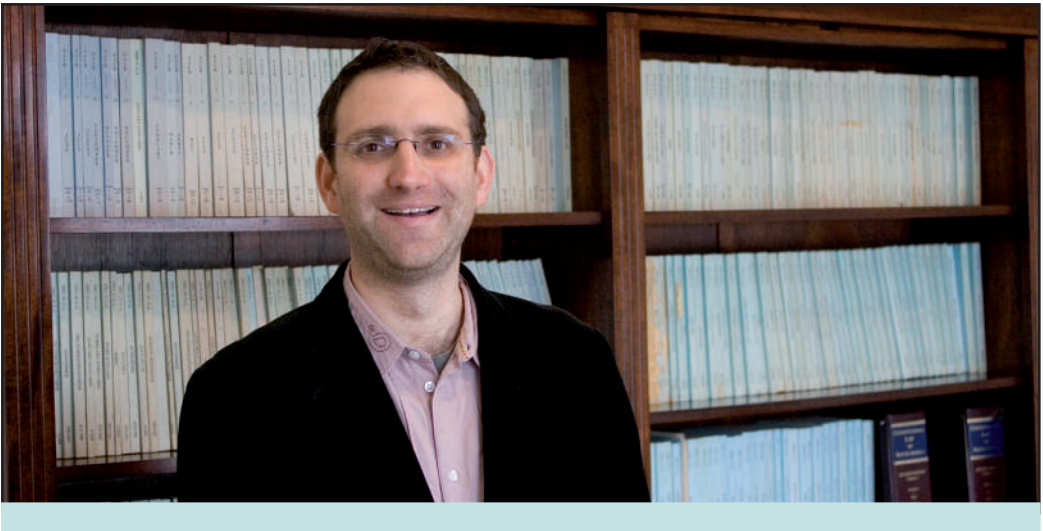
It was during his studies that Bilchitz became passionate about using the law to transform South African society. After studying law at Wits he won a scholarship to do his PhD at Cambridge University, later clerking for former Constitutional Court Chief Justice Pius Langa.

An associate professor at the University of Johannesburg, Bilchitz has published numerous papers and journal articles and spent time as a visiting senior research fellow at Wits. But his work is not simply academic. Engaging with the realities of many South Africans is key to what he does. And as a gay Jewish man, Bilchitz has had to confront his fair share of prejudice and bigotry.

“The spaces I inhabit do not allow me to insulate myself from the daily realities and hardship of life faced by so many and inspire me to do work that is both relevant and engaged with the society around me,” he says.

He has been a vociferous campaigner for the rights of gay and lesbian people, working as a legal advisor to key gay community organisations in their bid to win marriage rights for same-sex couples. Bilchitz is also a lay preacher to the small, close-knit Jewish community in Hillbrow, a gifted pianist, a vegetarian and an avid animal rights activist. — **Lynley Donnelly**

 **Lunch spot:** Ninos, Braamfontein, Johannesburg



Rob Burrell Managing Director, Mukuru.com


Rob Burrell is a serial entrepreneur of the Richard Branson kind. At 31 he has already tried, unsuccessfully, to shoot an independent film and launch an international calling card to get around restrictions in Zimbabwe, his homeland.

A diehard innovator with a desire to help his fellow Africans rise above their restrictive environments, Burrell set up Mukuru.com, an online platform that enables Zimbabweans, and other dispersed nationals, to transfer money back home.

In six months Mukuru.com grew its customer base from 300 to 10 000 and later picked up a swanky innovation award. The idea may have started in London, where he spent six years building a following for his band, Mann Friday, but its heart is firmly rooted in Africa.

So what’s next? MukuruMusic — a socially conscious platform that will enable grassroots musicians to sell their music and collect royalties online. — **Cat Pritchard**



 **Lunch spot:** Bombay Bicycle Club, Cape Town



200 Young South Africans | Business & Law

Mandla Sibeko

Chairman, Netflorist SA

Thriving entrepreneur Mandla Sibeko believes his impeccable business sense comes from living with his grandmother in rural Mpumalanga. He would help her make soup and sell it to factories in the area. "Watching her try to make a living through that taught me a lot about good business," he says.

Sibeko knew when he was in high school that he wanted to be a businessman and said so publicly when he appeared as a member of a youth panel on the Felicia Mabuza-Suttle show.

Fresh out of university with a BA law under his belt Sibeko landed up working for Love-Life — "by default", he says. Several years later, he started his first company — Born Free Media — with two partners. "When I started, I was receiving no salary," says Sibeko, who contributed R10 000 to the initial R30 000 capital of the company.

Born Free Media went on to make award-winning shows, some of which Sibeko is proud to have produced and created.

Now the entrepreneur, who was named a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader in 2010, seems to have a proverbial finger in every pie. He is one of three directors of Icon South Africa, chairman of Netflorist SA, a director and shareholder of Identity Signs and co-owner of the Pick n Pay in Kiptown, Soweto.

Sibeko's business interests have varied from media to retail and he says that "the one thing that has driven me is that ... I have always invested in my passions". In his case, that is clearly a recipe for success. — **Lisa Steyn**



Lunch spot: Tortellino D'Oro, Oaklands, Johannesburg



Steven Budlender

Advocate, Johannesburg Bar

For Steven Budlender the best part of a court appearance is standing up to present an oral argument.

"It's both nerve-racking and utterly exhilarating," he says. Budlender has appeared in numerous cases before the Constitutional Court and has won two landmark victories — one for children's rights in the Centre for Child Law case, and a socio economic rights victory in the Joseph case. He has also appeared regularly in the Supreme Court of Appeal and in high courts throughout South Africa, on constitutional and non-constitutional matters.

According to one of his colleagues, "he's in a field where experience is king. It shouldn't be possible to have the kind of practice he has until one is at least 45 or so. He's 31."

For now, Steven is looking forward to more of the same: "If I can spend another 10 years doing what I have for the past five, then bring it on." — **Lionel Faull**



Lunch spot: Scusi, Parkview, Johannesburg



Jonathan and Sarah Robinson Founders, Bean There Fair Trade Coffee Co

The warm, sweet smell of delicious African coffee at Bean There, at 44 on Stanley, is intensely inviting. Finding out that brother and sister team Jonathan and Sarah Robinson have founded the first and only fair trade roastery in the country makes the brew even more delectable.

During a stay in Canada Jonathan met a man who deals in fair trade coffee and soon brought the idea back home to Jo'burg. Sarah, studying political science in Canada at the time, worked as a barista at Starbucks before returning to South Africa to join her brother in his venture.

Of fair trade, Jonathan says: "The word itself is the best way to describe it: it is trading fairly and paying the producers a fair price for their coffee." With the coffee market fluctuations, the "price they get is sometimes less than the actual cost of production".

The Robinsons have travelled Africa in search of high-quality coffee and offer the farmers an appropriate price. The six different beans on offer are sourced from communities in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania.

"We don't buy coffee from places where we don't have

relationships," says Jonathan. "We aim to support a community for several years — we are committed to change."

But it is not simply fair trade that makes Bean There coffee the bean of choice for high-end clients around the country, from &Beyond (formerly CC Africa) to Le Quartier Français, it's quality. "We never want to guilt people into buying our coffee," say the siblings.

"So much of our business is about education," says Sarah. "The number of people involved in the whole process and the time and effort it takes. We educate people on things from the origins [of the coffee] to how to make good coffee at home."

The coffee shop, they say, is "a cool place to work from and a way to showcase the product".

And the future? "Given enough coffee, we can rule the world," says Jonathan. — **Lisa Steyn**



Lunch spot: Salvation Café, 44 Stanley, Milpark, Johannesburg



Sven Laurencik

Director, Eversheds Attorneys

It took Sven Laurencik three years to progress from being a junior associate to a director at Eversheds. Most corporate lawyers would take twice the time.

But Laurencik says it was a sort of domino effect that landed him where he is.

As a newly admitted junior associate in 2007, he was seconded to represent Tyco, a \$50-billion multinational company. Then, on the back of the Tyco deal, Routledge Modise Attorneys, as Eversheds was then known, was approached by Eversheds International to merge into the company's global network, which transformed Eversheds into the largest law firm in South Africa. Now Laurencik heads the team that handles outsourced legal work from the United Kingdom.

He's also spearheading a third department, which is carving out a different function for law firms in South Africa by providing business solutions, in addition to legal ones. — **Lionel Faull**



Lunch spot: Tasha's Café, Morningside Shopping Centre, Sandton

Lise Butler and Amanda Haupt

Co-founders, The Design Team

Lise Butler and Amanda Haupt first met as students while studying for their BTech degrees in textile design and technology. At the completion of the four-year course they decided to open The Design Team, a textile design and print company.

The two friends lectured at Pretoria Technikon (now the Tshwane University of Technology) for two years and used the facilities while concurrently running their business.

"We never really had capital," says Butler. "One job basically paid for the next."

The pair did, however, ask their department at the Technikon to fund a stand at the Decorex expo and it was there that Loads of Living placed "a substantial order" with The Design Team and,

10 years later, they are still clients.

The Design Team has grown exponentially since then, doubling its turnover every year for the past three years and now looking to expand. "We add to our staff almost on a monthly basis," says Butler.

The work force now numbers 26, all with little or no prior experience in the textile industry. The business operates seven days a week and Butler and Haupt are considering introducing night shifts to keep up with the demand.

What makes this dynamic duo remarkable is that they do all their design and printing in-house. "It is a collaborative process," says Butler. "We develop stuff together – we produce and print everything from scratch."

But, she says, "it's not just about design, but about creating a sustainable business." — **Lisa Steyn**

It's not just about design, but about creating a sustainable business



Lunch spot: Tasha's Café, Atholl Square, Sandton



Tembeka Ngcukaitobi

Director, Constitutional Litigation Unit, Legal Resources Centre

Tembeka Ngcukaitobi was the most junior member of the Legal Resources Centre (LRC) in Grahamstown when the groundbreaking social grants class action suit, *Ngxuzo v MEC for Welfare*, went all the way to the Supreme Court of Appeal, and the LRC won.

As the only isiXhosa-speaking lawyer in the office Ngcukaitobi criss-crossed the former Transkei, taking statements and explaining the case's implications to the people involved. Now he directs the LRC's constitutional litigation efforts from Johannesburg, having spent a year as clerk to former Chief Justice Arthur Chaskalson and seven years in interest litigation with Bowman Gilfillan.

Ngcukaitobi also serves on the South African Law Reform Commission, which advises Parliament and the executive on the constitutionality of laws from both the pre- and post-apartheid eras.

"I am dedicating the skills at my disposal to resolving the structural inequalities in our society, be it as a lawyer, an SC [senior counsel], a policy-maker, or a judge," he says. — **Lionel Faull**



Lunch spot: Mastrantonio, Illovo, Johannesburg



Yusuf Randera-Rees CEO, Awethu Project

Yusuf Randera-Rees believes in this country. He is convinced that there is a wealth of hidden, untapped potential in its people and that the high rates of unemployment are the result of lack of opportunity, not lack of talent.

Randera-Rees was born to a Muslim South African father and a Welsh mother. His parents were not allowed to marry under apartheid law but despite this — or maybe because of it — he is determined to do his part in making the country work.

He grew up in Johannesburg and was elected junior mayor of the city while he was at Crawford College. After high school he went to Harvard University in the United States on a full scholarship to study economics, graduating with honours in 2005; then he spent a year working in investments at Credit Suisse in Switzerland before becoming a South Africa-at-Large Rhodes Scholar and furthering his studies at Oxford University.

There he completed his MSc in economics and African studies — a combination he feels gave him a deeper understanding of business on the continent.

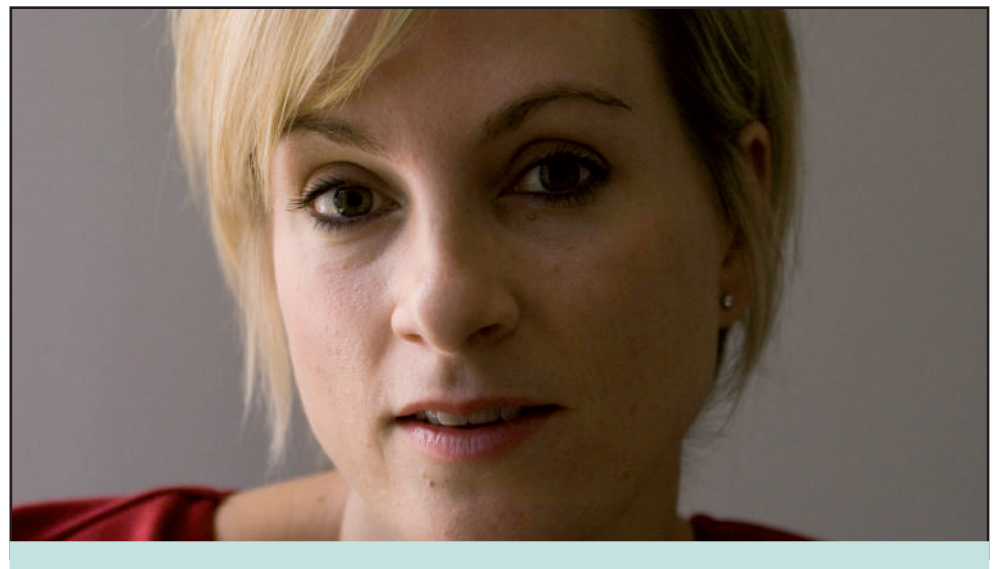
It was while he was studying at two of the world's most prestigious universities that Randera-Rees realised that the future world leaders he met there were not supermen (or women); they were simply talented people who had had resources invested in them. Working from this premise, when he returned to South Africa he set up the Awethu Project — a sort of academy for entrepreneurs — with Ryan Pakter, his classmate from both Crawford and Harvard.

What Awethu does is identify talented individuals — through wide-scale recruitment drives and a series of tests — and then pour resources into them for two and a half years. Those chosen will essentially be made CEOs of their own companies as well as receive focused attention from young lawyers, consultants, auditors and fellows from Harvard who will come over for six months at a time. The project is currently in the final stages of candidate selection, and will hopefully be under way by July — and on its way to really changing how South Africa works.

— **Tarryn Harbour**



Lunch spot: Canteen, Arts on Main, Johannesburg



Nicole Fritz Director, Southern African Litigation Centre

Nicole Fritz was never very sure she wanted to be a lawyer. Even though she was politically active at university and admired lawyers who had worked on behalf of detainees under apartheid, a brief stint shadowing a conveyancing partner at a Johannesburg law firm convinced her she might “die very early of boredom.” Fritz intended to be a journalist.

As an undergraduate in Pietermaritzburg, she worked on the student newspaper, winning a competition to intern at the *Mail & Guardian*. But after six weeks in the newsroom, covering sports, and time spent in London that ground down her hopes of joining the English media establishment, she returned to Wits to complete an LLB.

It was there she discovered that law, “although at times deeply dreary, could also be hugely stimulating and exciting — particularly public and constitutional law.”

Fritz distinguished herself early on. She worked at the Constitutional Court as clerk to Judge Richard Goldstone at a time when the

court, as she puts it, was “in its beginning years, when it was issuing judgments that have laid the foundations for our democracy”.

As a Hauser Global Scholar she earned an LLM in international legal studies from New York University and has taught at Wits School of Law as well as New York's Fordham School of Law.

She is currently the director of the Southern African Litigation Centre, which supports human rights and the rule of law in the region. She has also worked with the National League for Democracy in Burma and, last year, addressed a conference of Iraqi and Kurdish parliamentarians on reconciliation.

“Legal systems,” she says, “are the frameworks within which we structure, order and plan our lives. At their most evolved, legal systems help us flourish, not just guaranteeing the most basic rights.” — **Lynley Donnelly**



Lunch spot: The Patisserie, Illovo, Johannesburg

Silas Howarth

Director, Sexpo and Extreme Fighting Championship

Director of Fine Point Productions and Expo Works, Silas Howarth maintains that just because he started Sexpo does not mean he is a dirty bastard.

“We decided if we were going to do an expo we would make it different and fun,” he says. “To be perfectly honest, I can't stand normal expos.”

Howarth is now co-director with his two younger brothers, Cairo and Calvin, and they believe they have found a niche that no one else was willing to explore.

“Everyone was talking about it, but no one was doing it from an entertainment perspective,” he says of the immediate success of Sexpo.

Expo Works has also begun hosting the Extreme Fighting Championship (EFC), a mixed martial arts event that is growing increasingly popular, and the Howarths are already enjoying



immense success with this venture.

“I think what enabled us to make EFC and Sexpo so successful so quickly is our marketing background, which enabled us to understand the market,” he says. — **Lisa Steyn**



Lunch spot: La Campagnola, Bryanston, Sandton

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Eusebius McKaiser

Political and Social Analyst

Eusebius McKaiser could variously be described as a public intellectual, an analyst, a commentator or a moral philosopher. But labels don't concern him. "What matters to me is getting to grips with the social and political topics that matter, in ways that make people sit up and take notice," he says.

McKaiser writes a Friday column for *Business Day*, and presents a weekly late-night politics and morality show on Talk Radio 702. He's also working on his first book, "an autobiographical account of what it was like for a black kid to belong to the first generation of coconuts to attend a former Model C school". In the future, he plans to present a hard-hitting TV interview programme, modelled on the BBC's *HARDtalk*, and then to enter party politics.

"Far too few academics — and especially philosophers — do enough to make themselves relevant." We're betting that's one thing McKaiser won't ever be accused of. — **Lionel Faull**

 **Lunch spot:** Wang Thai, Sandton



Castro Ngobese

Spokesperson, National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa

Soon after he joined the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa) as its national spokesperson in June last year, Castro Ngobese sparked controversy with a statement calling for the nationalisation of the wealth of South Africa's richest man, Patrice Motsepe, and ANC struggle hero Tokyo Sexwale.

The statement was issued after the *Sunday Times* published South Africa's rich list, revealing that Motsepe's assets total a whopping R14.2-billion.


Brought up in the dusty township of Chesterville in KwaZulu-Natal, Ngobese, one of those who played a role in bringing Jacob Zuma to power in the ANC and as the country's president, served as national

spokesperson for the Young Communist League for four years before joining Numsa last year.

He says his involvement in politics is not motivated by money.

"I don't see myself as working. For me, it's a community service. People now join our movement for material rewards. Some leaders are obsessed in making headlines. That's the danger facing our country today."

— **Matuma Letsoalo**

 **Lunch spot:** Bree Street Taxi Rank, Johannesburg

Francois Viljoen

Operations Manager, Open Africa

Africa's story is not really being told to the world. It's our role to go out to tell it," says Francois Viljoen, operations manager for Open Africa, a 15-year-old NGO that develops self-help travellers' routes throughout Southern Africa using small and emerging entrepreneurs from local communities.

Open Africa now has 56 routes that run through six countries, involve more than 2 000 small businesses and projects, and jointly employ more than 28 000 people. Their aim is to span the entire continent, from Cape Town to Cairo.


Viljoen, who has been involved in the organisation for five years now, says he has always had a passion for Africa. A short stint abroad made him realise how much he missed Africa and its people, and that his future lay in helping to develop the continent and bring its richness to the attention of the world.

He has travelled extensively in the southern part

of the continent — "More than most people who live there" — and says the opportunity to travel is one of the perks of his job.

He left his hometown, Johannesburg, to study geography and environmental studies at Stellenbosch University, and has been in the Cape ever since. This year he is studying for an MBA, to improve his management skills in order to benefit Open Africa.

He is adamant that we need to change the perception of Africa as the dark continent. "There are fantastic stories out there, stories that aren't being told in the mainstream media. Africa has incredibly rich cultures and magnificent natural resources. It's the birthplace of humanity." — **Tarryn Harbour**

 **Lunch spot:** The Brass Bell, Kalk Bay, Cape Town





Simangele Mabena

Education Coordinator, From the Hip: Khulumakahle

Simangele Mabena finds she often gets lost in translation. As education coordinator for From the Hip: Khulumakahle (FTH:K) — a theatre company that integrates hearing and deaf performers — it’s to be expected.

It’s not that she can’t speak South African sign language, which she can, or that she doesn’t understand the theatre space intimately, which she definitely does. It’s just that this kind of “miscommunication” happens organically when you bring sign, body and theatre language together in one experimental room. And that’s what makes integrated theatre so exciting to create, intensely interesting to perform and ultimately riveting to watch.

Mabena may have fallen into this particular position on her way to an MA in dramatic arts, but she’s always believed in drama as an effective educational tool.

It all started in 2006, with her work as a special-needs youth worker in Canada, and continued back home in Soweto, where she began volunteering to work with deaf youth, using drama processes to help them understand English literature better.

As education coordinator Mobena oversees FTH:K’s Tell-Tale Signs programme, designed to lead deaf learners through a three-tier programme that will prepare them for the challenging world of the performing arts. For Mobena, this means conducting weekly classes at deaf schools and institutions, providing additional after-school training for promising learners and eventually integrating successful graduates into the company. She also helps to develop and plan the curriculum for each level.

It’s not an easy job for a 26-year-old, but it’s one that this 2008 Mandela Rhodes scholar is more than capable of juggling, even while she plans a deaf performance and educational tour through four provinces this year.

And after that? Well, she would like to get sign language passed as South Africa’s official 12th language. Here’s betting she will. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** Knead, Muizenberg

Ishtar Lakhani

National Coordinator, One in Nine Campaign


The One in Nine Campaign is an unapologetically feminist collective of organisations and individuals working for social justice for women.

Ishtar Lakhani, the group’s national co ordinator, is responsible for mobilising direct action around particular cases of sexual violence, as well as organising programmes that serve to engage women activists in getting their word out in the media. She has ensured that important cases such as the Buyisiwe gang-rape case were well supported and reported, both outside the court and in the media.

Her upbringing makes her ideally suited to coordinate the innovative visual public campaigns that have become the trademark of the One in Nine Campaign.

Lakhani was weaned on activism and the arts. Her mother is a gender activist with a fine arts degree, her father ran the Communikon Theatre, which showcased protest theatre.

“I am a part of a collective struggle against patriarchy and fighting for a world where women have autonomy because I feel it is morally right,” she says. — **Lionel Faull**

 **Lunch spot:** Jasmyn’s, Richmond, Johannesburg



Natalie Jaynes

Western Cape Regional Director and Acting National Representative, Gun Free South Africa

Natalie Jaynes regularly receives abusive emails and late-night phone calls. It’s part of a low-level campaign by pro-gun ownership groups to silence her organisation.

“We are not just an anti-gun group,” Jaynes says. “We have a radical vision that one day there will be no more guns in this country.” There are approximately four million guns in circulation in South Africa, Jaynes says, and the country is a significant arms exporter.

“We also have one of the highest rates of gun violence in the world, and the highest rate of gun-related femicide.”

Gun Free South Africa lobbies government to align the

Firearms Control Act and the Criminal Procedure Act more closely with the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

Aproximately 32 000 guns were handed in to the authorities during the most recent amnesty window. A drop in the ocean, perhaps, but Jaynes says: “Even one gun taken out of circulation is a victory for society.” — **Lionel Faull**

 **Lunch spot:** La Vie, Beach Road, Sea Point, Cape Town



Gina Snyman

Head of the Detention Monitoring Unit, Lawyers for Human Rights

Gina Snyman’s work is unique on the African continent. An attorney, Snyman heads the detention monitoring unit of Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR).

“[The unit] is the only one of its kind, in that it offers assistance to people in immigration detention, not people who are awaiting trial or sentencing,” she says. “Immigration detention is very specific because these people are detained just because they are foreign. This shouldn’t be a punishment, as the issue is purely administrative.”

Snyman, who joined LHR in 2008, says there is a great deal of abuse in South Africa of migrant workers and asylum seekers, despite the protection afforded them by the law.

On behalf of LHR Snyman has brought to court many precedent-setting matters, obtaining judgments restricting detention without a warrant and detention for more than 120 days.

She has an LLB from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and an LLM in human rights and democratisation in Africa from the University of Pretoria and has worked with the Legal Aid Board and Civicus World Alliance for Citizen Participation. — **Vuvu Vena**

 **Lunch spot:** Ant Café, Melville, Johannesburg



Rebecca Pursell

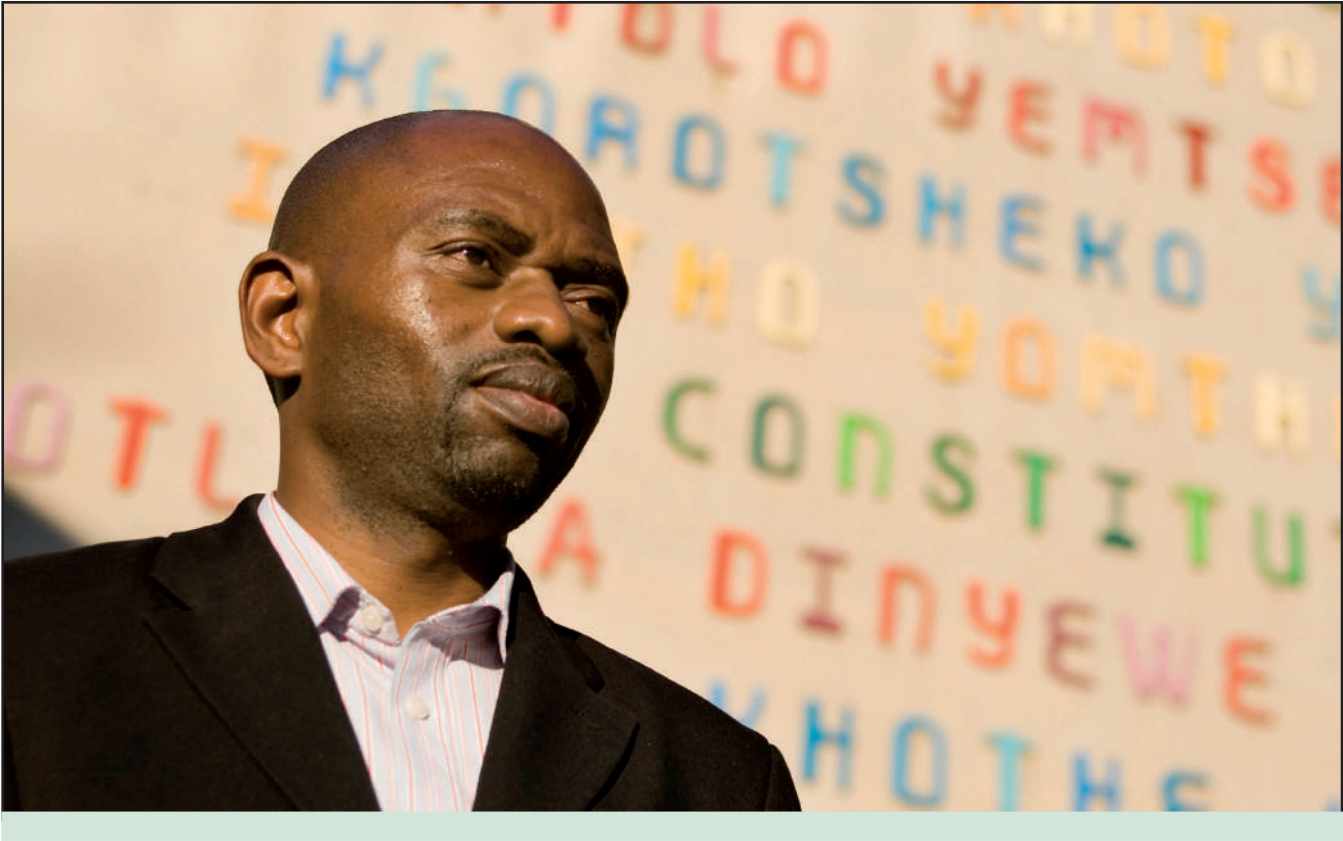
Human and Social Development Specialist

Rebecca Pursell is a social crusader who fights for the support of orphans and unprotected children. Sadly, the children are many and the resources few, but this doesn’t stop Pursell from ensuring that our most vulnerable citizens get the services they need and so rightly deserve.

Armed with an honours degree in social work and two masters degrees, one in forced migration, the other in public health, Pursell is not about to let ignorance get in the way of effective implementation.

When she’s not working on the Reducing Exploitive Child Labour in Southern Africa project or coordinating projects that strengthen services for children who may be used in trafficking, she’s making sure that her extensive research and reports lead to tangible changes on the ground. At 31, it’s not an easy job to take home, but it’s one that has the potential to grow a nation of well-adjusted citizens. And that’s worth the fight. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** Service Station, Melville, Johannesburg



Sbu Zikode President, Abahlali baseMjondolo

Sbu Zikode says he learnt about “leadership, manhood and patriotism after joining the Boy Scouts in grade three” while growing up in the northern KwaZulu-Natal town of Estcourt. Today, as a family man and activist heading one of the largest social movements to emerge after apartheid (the shack dwellers movement Abahlali baseMjondolo has about 20 000 members), he remains very much a boy scout — clean-cut, soft-spoken and trying to use meagre resources innovatively to ensure survival.

Ensuring survival, for the communities ABM represents, means challenging government in the fight for the housing rights of the most marginalised.

Zikode, 35, dropped out of his first year of law studies at the then University of Durban Westville because of a shortage of funds and worked in odd jobs — as a clothing salesman and petrol pump attendant.

Initially an ANC branch executive member of Ward 25 at the Kennedy Road settlement where he lived, Zikode became disillusioned with party politics.

ABM, born out of a spontaneous blockade of the Kennedy

Road settlement by angry residents, bases its philosophy on “living politics” — that is, the everyday politics of poverty and squalor pervasive in shack settlements around the country.

Under his stewardship, ABM has made steady gains for housing rights, including last year’s Constitutional Court victory striking down the KwaZulu-Natal Elimination and Prevention of the Re-emergence of Slums Act.

Since then, an ethno-political attack on ABM at Kennedy Road in September last year has seen Zikode living in a safe house and the movement teetering.

Despite the heavy toll, Zikode remains philosophical. “ABM was born out of people’s suffering and struggle,” he says. “The attacks were too, and have allowed us to look at ourselves again as a movement — to remain responsive and dynamic.”

— **Niren Tolsi**

 **Lunch spot:** Centre Court, Durban



Reverend Natalie Simons-Arendse

Chaplain, St Cyprian’s Grammar School for Girls

Every year the World Economic Forum selects 200 to 300 extraordinary individuals to form an international community that will have an impact on the global future. In 2007, the Reverend Natalie Simons-Arendse, a girl from the Cape Flats with a dream of changing the world, was one of 30 South Africans honoured in this way.

As one of the youngest priests in the Anglican Church in Southern Africa, and one of very few women, the 33-year-old reverend is proud to serve, whether as an intern for the former Archbishop of Cape Town, Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane, or as chaplain at St Cyprian’s Grammar School for Girls — her old alma mater.

Driven by her passion for youth development, Simons-Arendse continues to facilitate Face to Face/Faith to Faith — an international multi-faith youth leadership programme that brings teenagers from different countries and backgrounds together to discuss issues of peace, violence and social responsibility. Hers is a world vision in which xenophobia doesn’t exist and tolerance is a way of life. — Cat Pritchard



 **Lunch spot:**
Chai Yo,
Mowbray, Cape Town

Bronwyn Lace Educational Officer, The Bag Factory

In her own artwork Bronwyn Lace is interested in space so the installation and performance artist, who runs an arts education programme at Newtown’s Bag Factory, is in the perfect place to explore some of her ideas.

One of the most cherished spaces in the local art world, the Bag Factory has hosted local and international artists since its inception in 1991 as an artists’ studio.

“Johannesburg provides an unbelievable canvas for an artist — it’s something that you can constantly respond to,” says Lace. “The things you do here do show and make a difference, even if it’s for a moment.”

Currently Lace is also working on a community-building project in Sutherland, a small town in the middle of the Karoo, where SALT (Southern African Large Telescope), the second-largest telescope in the southern hemisphere, is based. For Lace it’s important to grow communities around instruments of such global interest. She runs the project in collaboration with SALT and the Southern African Astronomical Organisation.

“We have been trying over the past two years to build a relationship between the Earth, that is, the people on the ground, and the stars, via the astronomers and the telescope.”

To do that Lace works with the community to make and fly kites, at kite-flying festivals and a “land art” festival.

“Our project is trying to find both the physical and metaphorical space between the somewhat isolated and poor community of people in the town of Sutherland and the international observatory and telescope just outside of Sutherland,” she says. “We play with elements like the wind, sun and light. Using these we create beautiful performance moments with the children and some of the community.” — Vuvu Vena

 **Lunch spot:** The Fat Olive, Muldersdrift, Gauteng

Johannesburg provides an unbelievable canvas for an artist – it’s something that you can constantly respond to

Toufeeq Thomas


Programme Manager, Centre for Early Childhood Development

It’s strange how destiny works. Growing up on the Cape Flats, experiencing the impact of gangsterism and drugs, Toufeeq Thomas planned “to stop complaining and do something about it” by becoming a lawyer. But as fate would have it Thomas ended up in a programme that would form part of a nationwide audit of early childhood development (ECD) centres.

At 25, Thomas has initiated and coordinated the first ECD projects in South Africa and coordinated two national ECD programmes that impact more than 30 000 children in underprivileged communities.

Having worked in the field as well as in academic institutions, Thomas strongly supports the view that 80% of early child development starts at home. Now, if only he can create a sustainable model that focuses on education and skills development, he will be halfway to realising his dream of ensuring quality care and education for the country’s most vulnerable citizens. — Cat Pritchard



 **Lunch spot:** Any Halaal restaurant in South Africa



Pippa Jarvis

Programme Director, Children's Affairs, The Love of Christ (TLC) Ministries

Pippa Jarvis was 16 when her mother, Thea, adopted two babies abandoned at Baragwanath Hospital in 1993, in addition to her five biological children. Seventeen years later, and the number of people on the Jarvis farmstead in Bronkhorstfontein, south of Johannesburg, has ballooned to 90, including Pippa's six adoptees and three foster children, 40 babies, six staff and 28 volunteers.

The Jarvis farmstead turns out 100 meals three times a day, excluding baby food, guzzles R25 000-worth of petrol and costs R250 000 a month to run. Jarvis oversees the household, orders and monitors consumables, and interfaces with local and international donors.

The Jarvises have rescued, fostered, adopted or found homes for 720 babies since the early 1990s, when Thea was once spat at and punched by a neighbour who accused her of bringing property prices down by rescuing black children.

Sitting at a worn kitchen table, the smell of coffee and fresh-baked apple-cinnamon pie flooding the air, Jarvis is the picture

of serenity. "Loving and caring for babies and young children is an imperative. If they don't feel they belong somewhere, or to someone, then they grow up with no sense of responsibility towards society," she says.

Some of the babies brought to TLC are at death's door, often owing to complications arising from being HIV positive. "If you love and care for a child, it has a reason to fight to stay alive, and most babies do."

TLC finds adoptive parents for most of the children, but some are so mentally and physically scarred that the Jarvises have no option but to adopt them themselves. Pippa's fifth child, Jerome, is both deaf and HIV positive. She spent two years learning sign language so she could communicate with him.

Her 20-year vision for TLC is to turn it into a completely self-sufficient, ecologically sustainable children's home. — **Lionel Faull**



Lunch spot: Mugg & Bean

Yuri Ramkissoo

Deputy Director, Human Rights Commission

As senior researcher for environment and deputy director of the Human Rights Commission, Yuri Ramkissoo is the youngest deputy director in her department. "I've built this portfolio from scratch," she says. "It didn't exist before I joined the commission." What she does is monitor access to environmental rights, as well as to general socioeconomic rights.

Ramkissoo, who majored in environmental science and did both her honors and master's in the field, says people have only recently begun to see the effects of the environment on human rights. Although not many people see the need for conservation and environmental preservation, she says environmental change and destruction affect the poorest of the poor. For that reason, in 2009 she gave a presentation to Parliament on the link between climate change and human rights.

"My challenge has been to make people see that link." And she's well on her way to doing just that. — **Vuvu Vena**



Lunch spot: Wang Thai, Sandton



Cherith Sanger

Attorney, Women's Legal Centre

For Cherith Sanger, who grew up in a politically aware household, the natural career path seemed to be human rights law. After completing her law degree she worked for Deneys Reitz, an experience she describes as "invaluable"; then joined the Women's Legal Centre, an independently-funded non-profit law firm that offers women access to legal services.

Sanger focuses on gender-based and labour law and is passionate about expanding access to justice for the women who need it most. "This is what I want to do. I get to be creative around human rights, and work in campaigns. It's the perfect space for me." The WLC, she explains, is about long-term work, not overnight successes, so she plans to continue her work in the gender sector for a very long time to come. — **Tarryn Harbour**



Lunch spot: Fat Cactus, Little Mowbray, Cape Town



Eldine Joorst

Social Worker, Cape Flats Development Association

Overworked, under-resourced, sometimes dangerously exposed, Eldine Joorst is responsible for rescuing and removing neglected or abused children to places of safety in Grassy Park on the Cape Flats.

Sometimes parents or caregivers are so zonked out on drugs that they can't care for their child. Sometimes they're just too poor, and the child isn't going to school or receiving medical attention.

An assessment worker will have visited the family, conducted investigations and monitored the child's welfare; removing the child is always a last resort. More often than not, parents don't want their children taken away, and it's Joorst who has to do it.

"When I go to a household I'll explain why the case has been referred to me, why there was a need for us to investigate, and where the child is being removed

to. But in some cases, when people are high or angry, there's no time to explain. I just have to take the child and go."

Joorst handles an average of 12 new cases a month. She has worked at the Cape Flats Development Association for three years, during which she has learned most of what she knows through experience. Her formal training, at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), was nursing.

Living in Stellenbosch, she faces a daily 120 km commute. But she's not complaining: "I enjoy being able to go home every day knowing I've made a difference in one child's life." — **Lionel Faull**



Lunch spot: Spur, Stellenbosch

Carina du Toit

Attorney, Centre for Child Law,
University of Pretoria

Since 2005 Carina du Toit's work at the Centre for Child Law, based at the University of Pretoria, has revolved around fighting for children's rights.

Her main focus is on the management of public interest litigation, but she is also involved in advocacy and law reform. Du Toit has extensive legal expertise in the area of parental abduction and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction; she also provides separate legal representation for children in high-conflict family law matters.

Last year she was the attorney in one of the centre's most prominent cases to date — seeking to have sections of the Criminal Law (Sentencing) Amendment Act of 2007, which stipulates minimum sentences for children, including life imprisonment for teenagers, declared unconstitutional. — **Yolandi Groenewald**



Lunch spot: Tribeca, Brooklyn Design Square, Pretoria



Daniel Radebe

Social Worker, Teddy Bear Clinic,
Soweto Branch

Daniel Radebe stands out among his colleagues. As one of few male social workers he serves as a positive role model for the thousands of abused boys and girls who come to the Teddy Bear Clinic for protection and support.

It's not an easy task for a 31-year-old, nor one that his degree in social work fully prepared him for, but it's what he actively chooses to do every time he brings a teddy bear and smile to a child in need.

One of the hardest parts of his job is preparing the young victims for court. If they are too young or too scared, he will testify on their behalf. And then there are the families he educates and supports, knowing full well that abuse affects entire communities, not just their children. Luckily for them, Radebe is quite willing to stand and be counted among the women. — **Cat Pritchard**



Lunch spot: Woolworths Cafés





Maria Botha and Liani Broodryk

Environmental Activists, Ripples for Good

Lifelong friends Maria Botha and Liani Broodryk see water as a “magical medium” to unite people. The livewire ladies, together with their pooches, Dante and Katrin, have cycled, walked, hiked, kayaked and motorbiked 20 000 kilometres since 2004, raising awareness in communities about water quality.

“The state of our waterways in this country is atrocious, and yet everyone needs water to survive,” Broodryk says. “We like to blame government for our water problems, but people need to realise they can take responsibility for themselves and their immediate environment,” says Botha.

Travelling alone and unaided, Botha and Broodryk have been astonished by the warmth and generosity of the people of Southern Africa. Their worst experience was Broodryk’s motorbike crash in Mozambique last year, which left her in intensive care for three weeks.

Now that she has recovered the two intend to complete their Southern Africa trip, create a reality TV show, and then travel through the Americas.

— **Lionel Faull**



Lunch spot: Kitchen Bar, Design Quarter, Fourways, Sandton

We like to blame government for our water problems, but people need to realise they can take responsibility for themselves and their immediate environment

Jen Thorpe

Feminist Writer and Researcher

“I’m a grassroots kinda girl,” Jen Thorpe will tell you, reflecting on her proudest achievement — a collaborative women’s writing project called “My First Time”, which went digital in February this year.

“I was thinking how the significant moments in a woman’s life are experienced as some sort of crisis. But there was very little space anywhere for women to talk about these. So every two weeks I invite submissions on a particular theme and the stories go up on the blog [www.1sttime2010.wordpress.com].

“The stories I receive are powerful. Once the blog

picks up, I plan to take writing workshops to places like Khayelitsha and rural areas in the Cape, where women’s voices are almost never heard in the mainstream.”

Thorpe also works as a researcher and database administrator for Rape Crisis Cape Town, an NGO that offers counselling and court support to rape survivors in the Mother City. — **Lionel Faull**



Lunch spot: Caveau at The Mill, Newlands, Cape Town



Noluthando Ntlokwana

Human Rights Activist

Noluthando Ntlokwana is where she is because of a feeling that there were way too many human rights violations, even after the Constitution was introduced. And as assistant director of the Centre for Constitutional Rights (CFCR) South Africa, she’s able to do something about it.

Her work at the CFRC involves promoting the Constitution, interacting with government and Parliament on constitutional issues, monitoring developments that might affect the Constitution and informing South Africans of their constitutional rights, as well as helping them to claim them.

Ntlokwana, who studied law at the University of the Western Cape, was admitted as an attorney in 2006, the same year she started working at the Women’s Legal Centre (WLC) in Cape Town as a legal advisor and later as an attorney.

“I’ve been working for NGOs that do not charge for legal representation,” says Ntlokwana. “That’s why I chose to be a

human rights activist; I wanted to assist the poor.”

She may have started off as a feminist fighting for women’s rights but her interests have grown. Her master’s thesis focuses on the intersection between customary law and human rights, how some aspects of customary law violate human rights and the way a balance can be achieved between the two.

“It’s important because in South Africa a lot of communities still practise customary law and believe in it,” she says. “Now we have a Constitution and we need to find a balance that accommodates both. The approach is that we should try to develop customary law to bring it in line with the current Constitution.” — **Vuvu Vena**



Lunch spot: Marcos, Cape Town



Wendy Pekeur
General Secretary, Sikhula Sonke

Wendy Pekeur, the youngest female general secretary of a trade union in South Africa's history, believes she is who she is today because of her grandparents.

"I am a symbol of their courage," she says simply. Pekeur lived with them on Elsenburg state farm in the Western Cape for the first few years of her life as her own parents were not able to take care of her.

At the age of seven, though, her parents took her to live with them in Kraaifontein, an area she describes as a violent, crime-ridden disadvantaged community, but the young Pekeur escaped to her grandparents on the farm as often as she could. "Their home was a safe place for many," she says. "They did so much for the community — what I'm doing is following in their footsteps."


After matriculating in 1996 Pekeur went to work on Timberlea fruit farm in Stellenbosch, where she found that, because she was a seasonal worker, she could not join the workers' union. So, in 2002, she joined Sikhula Sonke ("We grow together") — then a women-only organisation that educated women and farm workers about their rights and that later became a trade union with a broad coverage of civil rights.

Pekeur believes passionately in the power of young people and to this end she and the organisation have been involved in closing shebeens on farms, encouraging young people to get an education and creating awareness around issues of HIV/Aids and foetal alcohol syndrome.

Now she has applied for a fellowship from an organisation in Johannesburg and plans to study law at Stellenbosch University so that she can do much more to help the organisation and its members.

In addition to her trade union work she writes poetry and music, and has written songs for Sikhula Sonke's farm workers' choir, which has recently released a CD, and has another in the works. Pekeur is planning her own CD as a tribute to her grandmother, who died last year, and she is also writing a book about her grandparents, called *In Their Footprints*. She still lives on the state farm.

— Tarryn Harbour

 **Lunch spot:** Cubaña, Green Point, Cape Town



Max Pichulik
Social Venture Capitalist, Heart

"We are delusional to think government and non-profits alone are going to solve our social and environmental fractures in South Africa," says Max Pichulik, with trademark candour.

Having spent five years in asset management in some of London's top financial houses, Pichulik returned to South Africa in 2006 and joined Heart — a unique business model that seeks to invest in and enable start-up social enterprises.

"The idea of social entrepreneurship is to use sustainable business models to change the planet," he says.

Whereas Heart Social Investments provides the capital by investing in individuals with financially sustainable ideas that can change the planet, Heart is a non-profit organisation that nurtures these social entrepreneurs for three years.

The group was influential in persuading Western Cape Premier Helen Zille to introduce social entrepreneurship as the fifth key pillar in the province's economic strategy — and it intends to replicate its funds, social innovation hubs and incubator throughout Africa. — Lionel Faull

 **Lunch spot:** Sidewalk Café, Vredehoek, Cape Town

Zak Mbhele
Programme Officer,
Multi-Agency Grants
Initiative

Zak Mbhele oversees the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues at the Multi-Agency Grants Initiative (Magi).

A Dutch international development donor organisation, Magi — which, locally, is a collaborative venture between the Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries, Atlantic Philanthropies, Uthando and the Ford Foundation — deals mainly with grassroots and community development.

As Mbhele says, he looks forward every morning to "the feeling of satisfaction in knowing that the work I am doing in some small way contributes to development efforts in communities."

"It's all usually rights-based community work, gender rights, gay and lesbian rights, farm worker rights," he says, and he's involved in it all, but takes the lead in LGBT issues.

But there is a lot of work to be done, which is evident in the number of hate crimes in townships. — "That's always a cause to pause and say there's still a long way to go if people are still prone to these kinds of attacks." — Vuvu Vena



 **Lunch spot:** Primi Piatti, Rosebank, Johannesburg



Ross McCreath Founder, Tiger Titans

From Bathurst to Buckingham Palace. That’s the trajectory 16-year-old Ross McCreath has been on since 2007, when he decided to share his cricket kit and coaching know-how with bored kids in Bathurst’s Nolutkhanyo township during school holidays.

“I thought: ‘It’s not like I’ve got anything better to do,’” McCreath says, “so I took my cricket stuff down to the commonage and tried to show the kids how to play.”

McCreath, who is in Grade 11 at St Andrew’s College, Grahamstown, created the Tiger Titans, a squad of 30 boys who now play against private schools in nearby Grahamstown and Port Alfred.

He has played against the Titans on three occasions, and has been bowled out for a duck twice. “For what few resources these kids have got, they are so good. If they had access to facilities like St Andrew’s, they’d be Eastern Province players in no time,” he says.

The Titans have a full-time coach, Duzi Mkalipi, but still play on the bumpy, cow-pat-encrusted

commonage. “What we need is support — real support, not a couple of pairs of gloves — from Cricket South Africa and from corporates,” McCreath says.

His work with the Titans has contributed to his participation in the President’s Award (known internationally as the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award) and has made him something of a celebrity. He was seated four places away from the Duke, Prince Philip, at a gala dinner at Lord’s Cricket Ground in March this year, and was invited to Buckingham Palace the following day for tea, his visit coinciding with that of President Zuma.

McCreath wants to go into politics and help the department of sports and recreation to uplift impoverished areas through sports development. “I like seeing things change”. — **Lionel Faull**

 **Lunch spot:** The Pig & Whistle, Bathurst, Eastern Cape

Thokozile Budaza Gender Activist

Thokozile Budaza uses her courage as a rape survivor to empower women and children in need. But she doesn’t describe herself as a victim or a survivor.

The 25-year-old youth, gender and HIV/Aids activist calls herself a victor. Budaza has dedicated her life to changing and improving the lives of women and children in South Africa.

During her studies she signed up as a HIV/Aids peer educator and a member of the Men as Partners Network. She became involved in actively battling gender-based violence and HIV/Aids in 2003 while studying towards her BSc degree at the University of the Western Cape.

Currently, Budaza works for the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, serves on the board of Sonke Gender Justice and is a consultant to EngenderHealth on the implementation of the Men as Partners Network. She also works with groups such as the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, Civicus and Action Aid.

Her courage and dedication to the cause have not gone unnoticed: Budaza received a White Ribbon Award from the Women Demand Dignity lobbying group in Cape Town.

— **Yolandi Groenewald**



 **Lunch spot:** Ocean Basket, Vincent, East London

Yoliswa Dwane Co-founder and Head of Policy, Communications and Research, Equal Education

One in 12 students from Yoliswa Dwane’s class at the Richard Vara High School in King William’s Town passed matric.


For a time, when she was in grade 8, learners had to squat in a neighbouring primary school, two or three classes crammed into one room. When a new school was built, the library contained no books and the laboratory no equipment. And when she was in grade 11, striking students broke all the windows.

Ten years on, in 2008, Dwane graduated with a law degree from the University of Cape Town and co-founded Equal Education (EE), an activist grassroots movement working for quality and equality in South African education through a combination of research and activism.

Earlier this year EE mobilised 10 000 learners to march on Parliament demanding functional libraries in all schools.

“What’s happening in our schools is an extreme violation of human dignity. The struggle for equality in schools will take a lifetime,” says Dwane. — **Lionel Faull**



 **Lunch spot:** Empire Café, Muizenberg, Cape Town



Nadia Sanger

Chief Researcher, Human Sciences Research Council

Nadia Sanger, chief researcher at the Human Sciences Research Council in Cape Town, will be off to the University of Maryland in September on a Fulbright scholarship. Her post-doctoral studies will focus on black women filmmakers and what their films say about identities in South Africa. She sees this opportunity as a chance for transnational feminist collaboration.

Sanger holds an honours degree in psychology and a master's and a doctorate in women and gender studies from the University of the Western Cape. Her research mainly concerns gender and sexuality.

As a vegetarian she is also interested in "the relationship between humans and other animals". I'm particularly interested in the instrumental use of other animals for human interests — how we use animals for food, for medical experimentation and for clothing, like leather and fur."

Another concern is the way gender and sexuality issues are represented in the media and other institutions, as this has an impact on the kind of choices people make.

And as a feminist in South Africa, Sanger would "like to see feminism become a discourse that's more mainstreamed in government, in the media and in other major institutions that people interact with on a daily basis". — **Vuvu Vena**



Marlise Richter

Visiting Researcher, Forced Migration Studies Programme, Wits University

Marlise Richter's research interests raise eyebrows among some of her friends: her PhD focuses on migrancy and sex worker access to healthcare in Hillbrow. She has written more than 40 articles for local and international publications on gender, HIV/Aids, healthcare and human rights.

Richter, who also sits on the board of the Sex Worker Education and Advocacy Taskforce (Sweat), says sex workers' rights are back on the agenda ahead of the Fifa World Cup, with sex work advocates seeking a moratorium on sex work-related arrests during the month-long fiesta.

"Sex workers fear that they will be rounded up and detained for the duration of the event," Richter says.

Despite lobbying government extensively, pro-decriminalisation groups have made little headway. "I wish I could say we have had some success, but we haven't," she says. "The law reform process has taken 10 years, and there's no end in sight." — **Lionel Faull**



Lunch spot: Maharajah Vegetarian Restaurant, Rondebosch, Cape Town



Lunch spot: Baps Shayona, Mayfair, Johannesburg



Dorah Tlhoele and Matshidiso Mokwape

Co-founders, Tsogang Bosele

Dorah Tlhoele (27) and Matshidiso Mokwape (30) are the youngest members of a group of five in Soweto's Diepkloof community who are using education about good nutrition to help heal the ill.

The Tsogang Bosele food gardening project, founded by Nomode Modise, who has worked for most of her life towards bettering the community, works largely with the sick and the elderly. It was registered as a cooperative in December 2009 and, since its start-up in January this year, has already taught 18 people who are chronically ill how to grow organic food. It has also set up two food gardens that act as models to help inspire the surrounding community.

Tlhoele and Mokwape have been involved in the project from its inception and work daily in their garden at the Diepkloof Quaker Community Centre, planting seedlings and watering the produce. On Thursdays workshops are held to teach anyone who is interested how to make a success of a simple veggie patch. — **Lisa Steyn**



Lunch spot: Quaker Community Centre organic food garden, Soweto, Johannesburg



Claire Janisch Biomimicry Specialist

Nature has had 3.8-billion years of research and development, and we’ve only had 1 200,” says Claire Janisch, one of only a handful of biomimicry specialists in the world. Her job may seem obscure, but it’s all about turning science fiction into science fact.


Scientists in this field believe humans can learn to live sustainably by emulating strategies used in nature. Architects design more resilient buildings by investigating termite mounds, computer scientists use the human brain as a template for building super computers, and material engineers study abalone shells to create lightweight materials that are stronger than anything we have today.

Janisch began her career as a chemical engineer, a field she says focuses on “making oil and petrol and toxic plastics, things that cause environmental disasters.” So for her first master’s degree she specialised in environmental process engineering and studied cleaner production techniques. She went further with her second master’s, studying biomimicry to learn how to design sustainable systems from start to finish.

“You have to think in systems. If you don’t, you’ll always end up with little bits that you have to fix,” she says. And that’s not how nature works. In the past few years she’s been to the Amazon, Costa Rica and the United States to study how different ecosystems have adapted to suit their environment.

In South Africa, Janisch teaches students, educators and corporates about biomimicry and has worked with organisations as diverse as the Johannesburg Zoo, the CSIR and the Ford Motor Company to help improve their efficiency and sustainability.

Outside of biomimicry, Janisch focuses her efforts on cultivating genius. She helped found the Genius Lab, an organisation that works with children and adults to inspire creative thinking. “If the world was in a lot of trouble, we’d need genius and new ideas, not repeating the mistakes of the past,” she says. — **Faranaaz Parker**

 **Lunch spot:** Tumble Downs Café and Restaurant, Midlands, KwaZulu-Natal



You have to think in systems. If you don’t, you’ll always end up with little bits that you have to fix



Duncan MacFadyen
Research and Conservation Manager,
E Oppenheimer & Son

Dedicated conservationist Duncan MacFayden believes that human beings can learn a lot from bugs. “We can live and work together in harmony,” he says.

MacFayden caught the love of all things nature related from his father; now he is passionate about passing the bug to the younger generation.

His kids’ book, *Tuggy’s Busy Day*, has a dung beetle for a hero, and he is working on *Betty and Ken’s New Home* (about butterflies) and *Manny and Lindiwe Make a Move*, featuring a praying mantis and a dragon fly.

For grownups there’s *A Landscape of Insects and other Invertebrates*, which celebrates the diversity of insect life.

MacFadyen has a master’s degree in nature conservation, an Msc in entomology and zoology, and is busy finishing a PhD on mammals in the Bankenveld. He is also the manager of research and conservation for E Oppenheimer & Son and sits on the De Beers biodiversity and environmental peer group committees. — **Duduzile Mathebula**

 **Lunch spot:** Cool Runnings, Hatfield, Pretoria

Jane Reddick
Co-founder, Aurora Power Solutions

In 2008 a 25-year-old Jane Reddick started a renewable energy initiative, Aurora Power Solutions, with three other partners. The company’s aim is to be one of the first independent power producers in South Africa to develop large-scale solar power projects — and it’s well on its way to success: the group has already secured some investment cash from a multinational private equity firm.

Reddick holds a first-class honours in chemical engineering from the University of Cape Town and was awarded the Sasol “in recognition of excellence” award in 2004. She went on to complete her master’s degree, focusing on pollution reduction in the coal-mining industry. She was also awarded the Magdalene Mandela Scholarship to do a second master’s in engineering for sustainable Development at Cambridge University, before bringing her expertise back to South Africa.

“Government is going to pay developers a premium to develop solar energy,” Reddick says. “But the bid for funding is yet to be opened up.” When it is, it will mean great things for Aurora’s work, and for the future of sustainable energy in South Africa. — **Lisa Steyn**



 **Lunch spot:** Newport Deli, Green Point, Cape Town



Given Nkuna Managing Director, Le2 Designs

Le2 Designs is a passion its managing director, Given Nkuna, has been working at for more than six years. He specialises in designing and making products such as scarves and handbags from felt — compressed from all-natural woollen fibres, which, he says, are “good for the environment”.

In 2009 Nkuna was honoured as the British Council's Young Entrepreneur of the Year. Nkuna is the only young man in the local industry to make felt products by hand. “People buy it because it is unique and different... and because it is proudly South African and local.”

He always knew he wanted to be self-employed and, while working for a spray-coating company, made crafts on the side. In 2004 he completed a NQF 4 in micro craft

enterprise leadership and went on to take part in numerous exhibitions and shows. He is also project manager of a recycling project called the Green Footprint Education Intervention Project.

The project holds workshops in different communities, showing how recyclables can, through the use of craft, be turned into products.

Le2 Designs also offer services such as skills development and team-building. — **Lisa Steyn**



Lunch spot: Any Indian restaurant, Fordsburg, Johannesburg

Ramolefi started his business out of concern for the environment, then formed the community-based company when he saw the demand for renewable energy



Tumelo Ramolefi

Founder, Leqheker

Tumelo Ramolefi, known as Tumi to his employees, has been involved in community-based projects ever since he left high school. But now he teeters on the line between smart environmentalism and smart business.

“I sell renewable energy,” says Ramolefi, who started his business out of concern for the environment, but formed the community-based company, Leqheker, when he saw the demand for renewable energy. Ramolefi sells and personally installs solar water geysers and solar panels and also supplies gel fuel — an environmentally friendly alternative to paraffin.

Among the installations for which his company has been responsible are a demonstration solar water geyser and panels in Pietermaritzburg and a solar geyser and a water pump that generates power for lighting and office equipment on a farm near Sebokeng. — **Lisa Steyn**



Lunch spot: Organic lunch at Leqheker offices, Germiston



Joanne Rolt

Programme Manager, EduPlant and Trees for Homes, Food and Trees for Africa

Joanne Rolt never had a particular interest in environmental issues. “I studied photography at Pretoria Tech,” she says. But after finishing the course Rolt went on to specialise in documentary photography. “I decided to follow the organisation [Food & Trees for Africa (FTFA)] around for a year and document their work.”

Once she was familiar with the organisation Rolt was asked to help out with administration for a month. “It has been a very long month,” says Rolt, who joined FTFA in August 2004.

Now she manages two separate programmes for FTFA — EduPlant and Trees for Homes. EduPlant is a nationwide initiative to teach community educators “how to create and maintain food gardens and how to make a success of it,” says Rolt.

Between January and March of this year EduPlant held 72 workshops across the country, reaching more than 8 000 educators. The next phase, a programme supported by Absa, Engen and Woolworths Trust, will have schools across the country entering a competition to showcase their food gardens.

“It’s really about changing mindsets,” says Rolt, whose aim is to “teach communities about climate change, sustainable natural resource use and management, food production and how to be resourceful.”

Trees for Homes identifies a group of volunteers from

each community who are given a crash course in how to educate their neighbours about planting and looking after trees, to address climate change and improve the environment. To date, Trees for Homes (together with its sponsors and the help of provincial governments) has planted more than 600 000 trees in disadvantaged communities.

Although Rolt deals with a great deal of paperwork, she has retained her passion for photography and is always keen to “try to get out there to take pics”.

“Some of my best shots are from being in the communities, planting trees. These pictures help to educate and raise awareness within the communities as well as more broadly through corporate reporting and FTFA website and newsletters.”

Rolt was a finalist in this year’s Johnny Walker Strides green award and is the first person to have won a bursary from Intec to study carbon footprint analysis.

“I am so glad I stumbled upon this,” says Rolt. “I really feel I am making a difference in some way.”

— Lisa Steyn

Lunch spot: Rocket Restaurant and Cocktail Bar, Rivonia, Johannesburg

Tribute Mboweni

Field Ranger, Dassen Island

Tribute Mboweni’s entry into conservation started with tears. She had to cry to convince administrators at the Tshwane University of Technology to register her for an ecotourism management course.

But the passionate environmentalist, who is now stationed on Dassen Island as a field ranger, does not regret her outburst in the least and proved herself during her undergraduate studies, winning the prize for best wildlife guide.

Her workplace on Dassen Island is not open to the public, primarily to protect the seabird and shorebird species that breed and roost there. She handles everything from biodiversity monitoring, to supervising visitors and ensuring environmental law compliance.

Mboweni participated in the making of an 8-mm film documentary, *Working with Nature*, on South Africa’s biodiversity and the people who care for it and is chairperson and one of the two founder members of Projekt 23 — The Green Movement, which uplifts poor communities by greening their neighbourhoods. The project caught the eye of pharmaceutical giant Bayer, which chose Mboweni to represent South Africa at the 2009 Bayer Young Environmental Envoys field trip in Germany at the end of last year.

In February this year, she was selected to represent South Africa as minister of environment at the G8/ G20 Youth Summit in Vancouver, Canada.

— Yolandi Groenewald

Lunch spot: Homemade sandwiches, overlooking the lighthouse, Dassen Island





Shahil Juggernath C & I Engineer, Eskom

Shahil Juggernath’s philosophy is “it’s not about talking green; it’s about doing green.” He graduated from the University of KwaZulu-Natal less than three years ago, with a BSc in electronic engineering, and is now taking a part-time engineering course at the University of Pretoria.

Concurrently working for Eskom, Juggernath, 25, is the youngest lead engineer on an Eskom wind farm project and is also involved in several other exciting projects.

“I basically threw myself into the project,” he says, excited by the challenge of making a success of the wind farm and the opportunity to explore renewable energy sources. His hope is that one day the project will feed 100MW of wind energy into the grid.

When thinking logistically about the wind farm, Juggernath says, uniquely South African aspects must be taken into consideration. For instance, when it comes to

the question of whether to place the transformers (which contain copper) at the bottom or the top of the wind turbine, Juggernath believed it would be best “to not put them at the bottom” — as theft of copper is one of those uniquely South African issues.

Another challenge Juggernath faces is the cost cutting in most industries: “We need to find the best solution at the cheapest price.”

Having grown up in a fiercely politically active family, Juggernath believes that although part of the revolution is over doesn’t mean we must stop caring about bettering people’s lives. He believes we all need to use our skills to “help the world”. — **Lisa Steyn**

 **Lunch spot:** Fratelli, Greenside, Johannesburg



Tshediso Phalane

Founder, Indali Food Project and Youth in Agriculture

Tshediso Phalane’s interest in the environment started in grade 11 when he took on landscaping jobs in order to earn money for transport to school and back. While finishing matric, Phalane began the Indali project, teaching people of all ages how to grow organic food. He now works with 80 young people (80% of whom are female) at the Indali farm near the Vaal River and focuses on youth development and the environment.

Indali has an outreach programme that goes to schools to teach the youth how to grow their own produce. Phalane says the message he is trying to spread is simple: “You have to work for yourself in order to eat”.

Every Friday Phalane and his team visit a government school and cook a lunch, using their organically grown produce. In 2004, he spent two months on a Clinton fellowship in the United States (where he spent time with the former US president) and in both 2005 and 2006 he won the Jet community award in recognition of his outstanding work. — **Lisa Steyn**

 **Lunch spot:** Chief Bambatha Primary School, Everton West, Vaal




Lebo Dithako

Founder, Oxywaste Management

Lebo Dithako has been making crafts from recycled material since he was in school — only it was a hobby back then. But when Dithako, a former construction worker, found himself in urgent need of employment, his craft soon became an innovative environmental project.

Oxywaste Management has been running for almost five years and now employs three people from the community of Moletsane in Soweto. He generates income by cleaning bins for more than 300 households and is also beginning to educate the community about source separation. Dithako recycles cans and Tetra Paks found in the bins and transforms them into products such as wallets and caps.

“I sell my stuff to tourists ... and people who love art,” he says. He has also started teaching others how to make crafts, “but I don’t have a workshop or anything like that”. Oxywaste Management has initiated several cleaning campaigns and Dithako is also working with his local councillor on a project that aims to develop a park from a dump site. — **Lisa Steyn**

 **Lunch spot:** Thokoza Park, Rockville, Soweto






Dr Charles Benjamin Gaunt Chief Medical Officer, Zithulele Hospital
Dr Taryn Gaunt Principal Medical Officer, Zithulele Hospital

Their story reads like an extract from the *Poisonwood Bible* — a young mission-driven family moves to rural Africa and faces issues of life, death, poverty and disease. The difference is that 34-year-old Charles and Taryn Gaunt not only chose to move to the isolated Eastern Cape to change the face of rural healthcare but are also deeply committed to seeing their vision become a reality. It takes a special kind of couple with an enormous amount of faith to take on Zithulele Hospital — a 147-bed hospital providing primary health care to 130 000 people. But take it on they did. After five years under their care, along with their colleague, Dr Karl le Roux, they have succeeded in halving perinatal mortalities and deliveries are up 62%. More than 1 500 patients are now on ARVs, thanks to the treatment programme they launched. The paediatric ward boasts eight times as many admissions as it did, a sign that the community trusts them with the care of their children. Starting with a team of three doctors, now increased to nine, these two UCT graduates have helped Zithulele


Hospital become a source of pride in the Oliver Tambo district, where more than 70% are unemployed and HIV/Aids is rampant. But this is only the start of their vision, which extends beyond the hospital to include “a multidisciplinary set-up with emphasis on education for locals”. Leading this vision is the Jabulani Rural Health Foundation they co-founded — a non-profit organisation that supports the hospital and surrounding community through various community-based health, education and agricultural programmes. It’s hard to believe that with all this on their plate Taryn still manages to home-school two of their three children, and Ben received a distinction for his MSc in primary healthcare from the University of London. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** Lavender Blue, East London, or a picnic on the beach at Lubanzi, Eastern Cape



Dr Rebecca Hodes
Deputy Director Aids and Society Research Unit, University of Cape Town

At 28, Dr Rebecca Hodes’s list of academic achievements is longer than the waiting list at Chris Hani-Baragwanath. The founder of the students HIV/Aids Resistance Campaign at Rhodes — the most active student group of its kind in the country — Hodes won a scholarship to undertake her graduate studies at Oxford, where she wrote her doctoral thesis on HIV and South African television. But instead of adding to South Africa’s growing “brain drain”, she brought her knowledge to the Treatment Action Campaign, whose policy, communication and research department she managed before joining UCT’s Aids and Society Research Unit. A passionate writer, who admires the style of Ariel Levy, Hodes takes her activism to heart and paper, communicating issues around sexuality and racy activist strategies to theatrical politicians and the patients they refuse to acknowledge. And though she believes that the era of state-sponsored Aids denialism has past, she isn’t about to let an era of “theoretical” advancements begin. Not on her watch. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** Liquorice and Lime, Kloof Street, Cape Town

Dr Karl le Roux Chairperson, Rural Doctors Association

Dr Karl le Roux has one professional wish: that poor rural communities receive the same quality of healthcare as affluent urban ones. For that he is prepared to travel the arduous Coffee Bay Road to Zithulele Hospital, where he works, to ensure more drugs, doctors and support for rural health care in South Africa. At 35, Le Roux’s commitment to rural medicine, whether advising community service doctors, training nurses or making a plan when the oxygen and drugs run out, goes well beyond his duty as a doctor and chairperson of the

Rural Doctors Association. He may have his doctorate, four years of rural service and a master’s in international public health, but he believes that it’s only a small start. With so few resources and so much need, Le Roux is grateful for the knowledge that every day brings more opportunities to make a real difference and the smiles and gratitude of his patients. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** Caprice, Camps Bay





Vuyiseka Dubula General Secretary, Treatment Action Campaign

Before joining the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) in June 2001 Vuyiseka Dubula was a student at Tygerberg College and working part time at a McDonald's. But something was missing.

"I needed a political home where I could learn about HIV, health and politics," Dubula says.

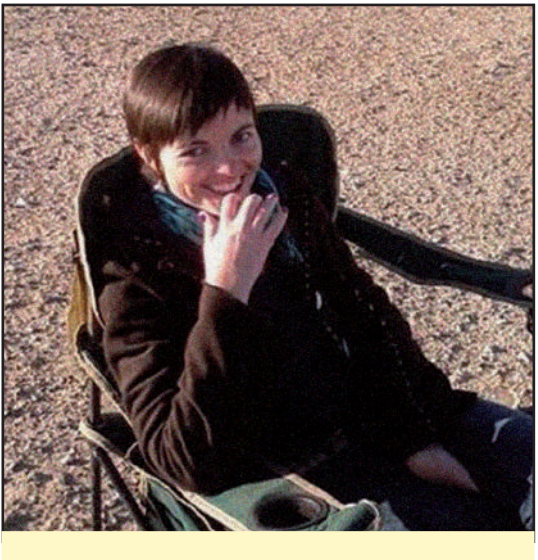
She found out about the TAC from the clinic where she went for an HIV test and tested positive. Dubula started out as the organisation's literacy coordinator but now, as the group's general secretary, she is the voice of the TAC.

Founded in December 1998 in Cape Town by internationally known activist Zackie Achmat, the TAC has been the ongoing voice of advocacy — and sanity in the age of Aids denialism under President Thabo Mbeki

— for increased access by people living with HIV/Aids to treatment, care and support services.

"By virtue of my condition, living with HIV, I have created an environment where young women can see themselves beyond their conditions and realise that we too can lead and head organisations," Dubula says. "If I had given up, there would be a different story to tell about me. I give people the opportunity to claim back their identity that has been taken by HIV." — **Vuvu Vena**

 **Lunch spot:** Obs Café, Observatory, Cape Town



Lesley Odendal
Advocacy Manager, Médecins sans Frontières


Lesley Odendal remembers switching on the television and watching with growing admiration as hundreds of Treatment Action Campaign activists marched to demand access to drugs that would prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

"I just thought, Wow! Here is an example of an organisation that empowers people with HIV to fight for change."

Now, fighting for change in the public health sector has become her life's work. Odendal describes her current role with Médecins sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders) as "keeping [her] finger on the pulse" of the organisation's four projects in Southern Africa, which focus on helping governments to improve HIV/Aids and TB policies, streamlining public health systems and facilitating migrants' access to health care.

"The people we work with on the ground are so busy taking care of the sick and the marginalised that expecting them to fight for the bigger public health policy issues is too much," she says.

— **Lionel Faull**

 **Lunch spot:** Portobello Café, Long Street, Cape Town



I just thought,
Wow! Here is an example
of an organisation that
empowers people with
HIV to fight for change



Nicky Greenwall

Producer and Host, The Showbiz Report, e.tv

Nicky Greenwall is almost unaware of her own precociousness. “It took me a long time to figure out what I really wanted,” she says of her career. “When I was about 21 I decided that I wasn’t really living up to my full potential.” Ten years later, she has her own production company and is one of South Africa’s top entertainment journalists.

Greenwall started her career in advertising after studying art direction at the Red and Yellow School of Advertising. And though she’d worked for some of the country’s top agencies, including TBWA Hunt Lascaris and Jupiter Drawing Room, she soon realised advertising wasn’t for her. “I wasn’t very good at advertising. I knew that and it scared me,” she says. “I’d got the job I wanted but I still wasn’t fulfilled. It took me about two years to get myself out of my creative rut so I could start making changes to my attitude.”


At 23 she approached e.tv with an idea about how to improve their entertainment coverage. “My pitch was focused on how I could help them get more viewers,” says Greenwall.

It’s this self-belief that got her where she is today. The TV network hired her as the arts anchor for *eNews Live*. A few months later she began hosting the late-night entertainment show, *Nightlife*.

Ever the self-starter, it wasn’t long before she began working on a proposal for an entertainment news programme. *The Showbiz Report*, which she writes, produces and hosts, has now been running for five years and attracts more than 1.5-million viewers each week.

Over the years she’s covered both the Academy Awards and the Cannes Film Festival and has interviewed stars as diverse as Anthony Hopkins and Steven Seagal.

Last year she launched her own production company, Greenwall Productions, which is currently producing *The Showbiz Report*, *The Tech Report* and *The Style Report* for the eNews channel. — **Faranaaz Parker**

 **Lunch spot:** Vida e Caffé, Gardens, Cape Town




Mandy Weiner

Reporter, Primedia

If Mandy Weiner is observing history from a front-row seat it’s because she’s worked hard to get there. From humble beginnings as a traffic widge, when traffic lights were her main source of inspiration, she has progressed to reporting on everything from the tragic death of toddlers Khensani Mitileni and Makgabo Matlala to the rise of President Jacob Zuma and the downfall of Jackie Selebi. And when US President Barack Obama delivered his moving acceptance speech, Weiner was there.

She’s on call 24/7 and never misses an opportunity to break a story, because that’s what it takes to be named 2007 CNN African Journalist of the Year for radio. But it also takes pride in your job and country, both of which drive Weiner to hold lawmakers and leaders accountable for their actions. There’s little doubt that this girl from Polokwane has earned her title, “Mandy Weiner, *Eyewitness News*”. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** Nonna Mia’s, Senderwood, Johannesburg



Dylan Culhane and Ace Swart

Editor and Publisher, Vice Magazine

It all started a few years ago over a few beers. Dylan Culhane was just getting out of the magazine business and Ace Swart was really getting into it. A few comments were probably thrown out about the state of youth culture in South Africa and the magazines that don’t support it. Perhaps a “pinkie swear” was thrown in for good measure. Either way, these two crazy creatives conspired to bring *VICE* magazine — a free global indie magazine known for its controversial content and sardonic take on sex, drugs and violence — to staid South Africa. It was a ballsy move in the middle of a recession and with no funding to speak of, but, three years later, the many contributing voices of *VICE SA* can be read in 22 countries in one million copies and online, where it has 12-million users. Isn’t that what democracy is all about?

— **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** Superette, Woodstock, Cape Town





Nadine Hutton Photojournalist

Nadine Hutton has been a photojournalist for 13 years. Now her work has expanded to include film, fine art and performance. She rejects a cold, objective approach to images.

"As a photojournalist my interest is directed towards in-depth documentation of stories that may not necessarily seem newsworthy," she says. "I tell stories, narratives that are a neglected part of the process of the past decade and which have important implications for the understanding of South Africa." Much of her work is concerned with social issues, which include the rights of women and the dispossessed and "those whose voices are rarely heard above the furore".

This personal approach was apparent in 2006 when

she documented her own mother's story as a survivor of gender violence and won a Ruth First scholarship.

Since then, she has been a finalist at Spier Contemporary, and has been selected to be artist-in-residence at The Bag Factory. Recent projects include work relating to the World Summit on Arts and Culture and facilitating a video art workshop aimed at artists who have little experience of digital media.

— **Lisa van Wyk**



Lunch spot: Sophiatown, Newtown, Johannesburg

A few "creative" lies later and he was in, studying art direction by day, waiting tables by night and juggling financial difficulties and homelessness in between

Khaya Dlanga Columnist

Khaya Dlanga is a gifted communicator with a short attention span.

When he's not pitching solution-driven strategies for Metropolitan Republic, this 32-year-old creative is blogging opinions on *Thought Leader*, crafting a column for News24 or tweeting over 35 thoughts a day. Give or take.

It wasn't long ago that he was catching a taxi from his hometown outside East London to Cape Town to attend the AAA advertising college, although he hadn't actually registered for the course. A few "creative" lies later and he was in, studying art direction by day, waiting tables

by night and juggling financial difficulties and homelessness in between.

It must have been good material for his stand-up comedy and perhaps even fuelled the video blogs that gained him an international following on YouTube.

Today Dlanga is the one laughing, with a Gold Cannes, a Black Eagle and a few other precious metals to his name and a cult following across the social media space. Tweet that. — **Cat Pritchard**



Lunch spot: Tasha's Cafe, Atholl Square, Sandton



Azad Essa Blogger

Blogger Azad Essa has changed his mind. Having declared in 2009 in the *Mail & Guardian's Young South Africans* supplement that he "didn't like blogging", Essa now says that's so last year. Mostly because his blog started taking off right after that.

The *Thought Leader* blogger says he has begun to respect blogging for the exposure it has given to his writing. But he's quick to clarify that it's not his destiny.

When he isn't blogging, Essa teaches in the industrial sociology department of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He's also a freelance journalist and a columnist for a variety of local and international publications.

But it's his blogging that keeps his readers in constant touch with what's happening in the world — and the politics around it all. That's where Essa takes on issues around such politicians as ANC Youth League president Julius Malema, who, he says, is the representation of the young black generation searching for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Or where he pontificates on his expectations of the World Cup, lashing out at Zakumi as well as at the injustices meted out to traders, street children and prostitutes (he personally cannot wait for the World Cup to come and "fuck us over").

And that's why his readers love him — and what keeps him ranked as one of the top bloggers in the country. — **Valencia Talane**



Lunch spot: Pizza and coffee anywhere but Caminetto's, Durban (Note: Last year his choice was Caminetto's, but he says their standards have dropped to such levels that he feels he must denounce them in the interests of the public good)





Phillip de Wet Deputy Editor, The Daily Maverick

If you don't get Phillip de Wet's *First Thing*, you might as well just get your news by post. De Wet, deputy editor of *The Daily Maverick*, South Africa's revolutionary news website, sends out his newsletter by 6:30 am — which means he's up way before the rest of his readers. Who, by the way, include the country's top journalists and decision-makers.

In a few hundred of the best-crafted news words you'll read each day, De Wet will brief you on everything from which minister will be speaking on what and where to Microsoft's overnight earning results and must-know info like AC/DC's win at the Grammy awards.

Launched by editor Branko Brkic and De Wet (who were the brains behind the now-defunct *Maverick* and *Empire* magazines) *The Daily Maverick* is what we've all been waiting for — a news site that grasps fully the brave new world of social media.

De Wet, who writes his newsletter while it is still very dark, heads out in daylight to scour the country, bringing readers the latest controversy, such as second-by-second coverage of the most contentious Julius conferences or solidarity braais, with regular news reports and live tweeting.

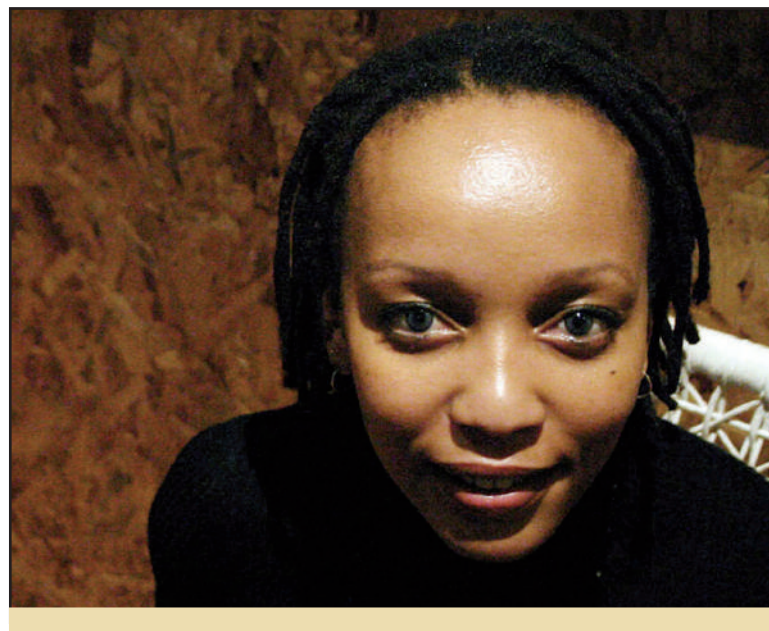
De Wet studied journalism at the then Technikon Pretoria while working part-time in the Pretoria office of *Die Beeld*. His only formal qualification is a national diploma (a three-year course) in journalism; several attempts at completing a bachelor's degree were interrupted by new projects and launches. Eventually he gave up and started doing what he was meant to do. And didn't stop.

He's worked for community newspapers, covering under-8 rugby matches and crime, been a news editor for ITWeb and has freelanced, writing on everything from property development to politics. In addition to *Maverick* and *Empire* he was also on the launch team of the ill-fated *ThisDay* and ITWeb's *Brainstorm* magazine.

But it's at *The Daily Maverick* that he's found his groove. "I just love the rush," he says. "It's the immediate reaction and interaction with the readers. Nothing beats this. I'll never go back." We hope not. — **Lloyd Gedy**



Lunch spot: A sit-down chain like Spur, which has an electrical outlet I can use. Or Seattle



Karabo Kgoleng Radio Personality, SAfm

Karabo Kgoleng gets paid to learn. It's a strange concept for a 29-year-old who dropped out of her science degree at Wits because she couldn't afford to study. But the absence of that little piece of paper didn't stop her; it just made her more determined.

After six years in community radio, Kgoleng is living out her broadcast dream, interviewing literary giants such as Salman Rushdie, Ben Okri and Mandla Langa on her Sunday SAfm literature programme, along with her weekday show, *Afternoon Talk*.

A single mother, classical pianist and self-confessed bookworm, this sought-after speaker is always expanding her knowledge and helping to entrench a culture of reading in South Africa. It's her life's work. Because, although she can philosophise with the best of them, she is pragmatic about one thing — a literate society is a tolerant society and one we should all be working towards. — **Cat Pritchard**



Lunch spot: Salvation Café, 44 Stanley, Milpark, Johannesburg

Gavin Prins Entertainment Writer, Rapport

It's tough being an entertainment journalist. Gavin Prins should know. He's had to have "quick lunches" with Celine Dion and Charlize Theron before rushing off to attend yet another star-studded event.

When he's not presenting the celebrity show, *Tongelos*, he's chatting his way through the best VIP functions to get the gossip for *Rapport*. And, puffy-eyed or not, he still manages to stay ahead of the game — he was the first to write about the Joost van der Westhuisen sex-tape scandal and he broke the story on the Oprah Winfrey school.

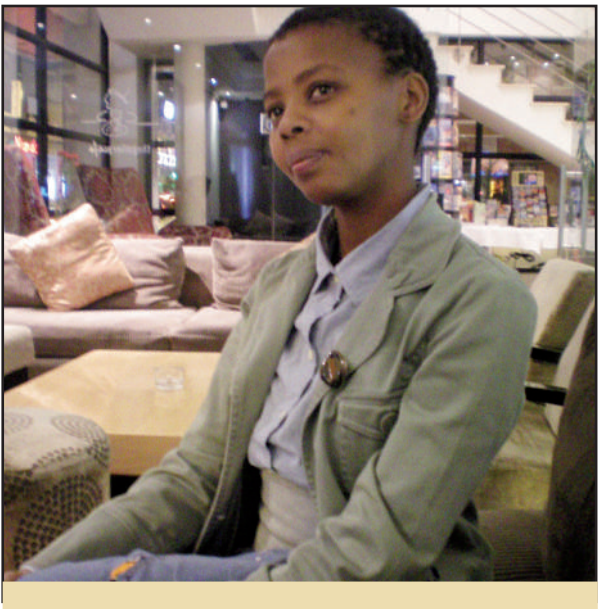
Luckily he is ethical, still believing in such a thing as "off the record", which is probably why Oprah invited him to dinner, even after the story broke. At 33, Prins might not have become the actor he dreamed of becoming as a young boy, but he certainly knows how to walk the red carpet with the best of them.

— **Cat Pritchard**



Lunch spot: Europa, Melrose Arch, Johannesburg





Liepollo Rantekoa Head of Marketing, *Chimurenga*

Chimurenga, established in 2002, is one of South Africa’s most important cultural creations of the past decade. It is a locus of enquiry, a pan-African pamphlet in communion with its kindred spirits in the Third World, a journal that integrates South Africa into the rest of Africa. *Chimurenga* (Zimbabwean, as opposed to Shona, for struggle) was founded by Cameroonian-born writer Ntone Edjabe. But it is Liepollo Rantekoa who is a constant presence at *Chimurenga* events. This University of Cape Town social science graduate, who studied politics and sociology, worked as a writer and researcher for UCT’s Rare Books and Special Collections,


Jewish Studies Library and for the Centre for the Book before joining *Chimurenga* as an intern, working as a researcher and proof-reader and, later, as head of the magazine’s marketing, promotions and distribution operations. [Note: At the time of going to press, Rantekoa was heading to the United States for a study visit at the Institute for World Politics. But this die-hard *Chimurenga* chick will soon be right back where she belongs.] — **Percy Zvumoya**

 **Lunch spot:** Addis in Cape, Cape Town

Duncan Mcleod Founder, Tech Central

Ask anyone who’s ruling South Africa’s tech journalism world and chances are the name you’ll hear is Duncan Mcleod. As an award-winning technology journalist, Mcleod established a respected reputation at the *Financial Mail*, rising to the rank of associate editor. But last year he decided he was ready for a new challenge and resigned from the *FM* to launch Tech Central, his own technology news website. “I had been getting itchy feet for quite a while,” says Mcleod. “I kept wondering ‘what am I going to do next?’ I saw that some US tech journalists were going it on their own and, with the launch of the Seacom cable, I thought this was the right time to go out there and build a business.” As he says, it was all about getting in early.

So, whether it’s the cellphone giants’ ongoing battles with the regulator, Icasa, you are interested in, or Microsoft’s proposed BEE deal, Tech Central offers it all — and frequently offers it first. Regular comment pieces from industry professionals and the ZA Tech Show Podcasts are available, too. Mcleod started his journalism career at *Computer Week* magazine before he moved to the *FM*. While at the *FM* he received the Telkom ICT Journalist of the Year award and was also national runner-up in the Siemen’s Nature, Science and Technology awards. — **Lloyd Gedye**

 **Lunch spot:** Col’Cacchio, Bryanston, Johannesburg




I had been getting itchy feet for quite a while



Andy Fenner Food Blogger “Jamie Who?”

Jamie Who? It’s a question that usually ends in a full stomach or at least a restaurant reservation. Yes, Jamie Who? is a food blog and a tongue-in-cheek reference to Jamie Oliver, but it’s also an ode to good food and Andy Fenner’s love affair with it. Fenner, aged 28, is not a trained chef, nor is he an esteemed food critic like his idol, AA Gill. He’s just a guy who really really loves food and wants to share this experience with his audience. And audiences love him for it. After a year in cyberspace, Jamie Who? has gained a sizeable cult following, been featured in *Food & Home* magazine, has a sponsorship from Yuppie Chef and plans to bring the blog’s quirky style to print and TV. Not bad going for a guy with postgraduate degrees in advertising and commercial property. Perhaps Fenner should take us to lunch. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** Overture, Stellenbosch, Western Cape



Redi Direko Talk Show Host, Talk Radio 702 / 567 Cape

South Africa’s undisputed queen of talk, Redi Direko rules the airways with her warm but no-nonsense demeanor. On her eponymous weekday show she’s just as authentic giggling with her callers as she is grilling politicians.

Never one to shy away from a “feisty exchange” with a public figure, Direko admits there are times when her temperature rises. “But I always remember that if I lose it then I’m helping the newsmaker get away without answering questions,” she says. “It’s not their attitude that matters but what they have to say.”

Soweto-born Direko studied journalism and communications at the former Rand Afrikaans University. She has an honours degree in social science and recently completed a master’s in literature, just for the love of it.

In a decade of journalism, she’s wavered from radio to television and back again. She started out as a reporter with Network Radio News, then hosted the afternoon drive show on Kaya FM before moving to the SABC to work as a producer and current affairs anchor. While there she presented a variety of shows, including

News Hour and *Interface*, and interviewed international figures such as Nelson Mandela, Tony Blair and Colin Powell.

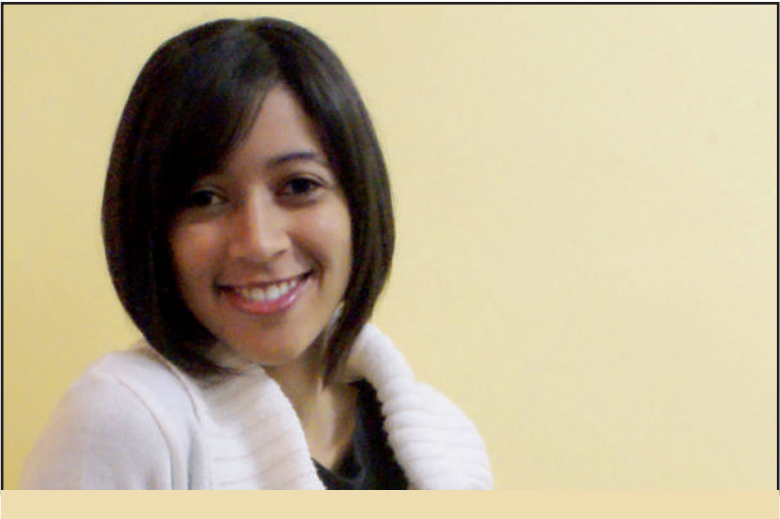
She also produced a controversial documentary on former president Thabo Mbeki, hosted a reality TV show and a legal rights show, and has been a columnist for *Fairlady* and the *Sowetan*. For a year, she juggled radio and TV, hosting the Redi Direko Show on radio and serving as a senior news anchor on the eNews channel.

But she always comes back to radio. “Radio is awesome — unrehearsed, immediate and so real. I love the interaction that it offers; it feels more like a dinner table conversation than a programme,” she says.

But that doesn’t mean she’s closed the chapter on TV. “Watch this space,” she says.

— **Faranaaz Parker**

 **Lunch spot:** Wang Thai, Sandton



Megan Kakora
Online Editor, Cosmopolitan Online

As online editor of South Africa’s biggest women’s glossy, Megan Kakora manages, oversees and liaises on all marketing and management issues and assumes final responsibility for all design and content. So there’s really very little downtime.

Luckily Kakora is very hands-on, which is why she studied journalism at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and is constantly looking for new ways to sharpen her media skills.

She may have grown up in Kuils River, dreaming of becoming a magazine editor, but it was the online space that stole her heart, giving her every opportunity to help educate and entertain young South African women through a strong online community. And it doesn’t hurt that she gets to interview stars such as John Legend. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** Royale Eatery, Long Street, Cape Town

Moshoeshoe Monare
Group Political Editor, Independent Newspapers

Moshoeshoe Monare leads a team of political reporters for 16 newspaper titles in the Independent Newspapers group. For the 34-year-old group political editor what that boils down to is editing up to 20 stories a day.

Monare, born in Mokopane, Limpopo, holds a journalism diploma from Technikon Northern Gauteng — now Tshwane University of Technology — as well as a BA honours degree and a post-graduate diploma in media studies from the University of the Witwatersrand.

He started his career at the *Pretoria News* as a student freelancer in 1996, becoming its education reporter after completing his internship. Monare also worked for *The Star*, the SABC and the *Sunday Times*, where he was senior education correspondent. He is frequently called upon to provide insight into political stories for television and radio news.

Monare rejoined Independent Newspapers in 2004, moving up the ranks until, in 2008, he was appointed group political editor. So the next time you read a political story in *The Star*, *The Mercury*, the *Sunday Tribune*, the *Cape Argus* or other Independent titles, think Moshoeshoe Monare.

— **Mmanaledi Mataboge**

 **Lunch spot:** Sophiatown, Newtown, Johannesburg





Sbu Mpungose Editor, Bona Magazine

At 28 Sbu Mpungose is younger than most South African editors but she has already edited two magazines — *Move!* and *Bona*, the only publication that's available in three South African languages besides English.

She's about to add a third to her resumé: starting in July, Mpungose will be the editor of *True Love*.

"Journalism proposed to and married me," she says, as we sit chatting in a Hyde Park coffee shop.

Mpungose, who grew up in Eshowe, KwaZulu-Natal, and studied at Tshwane University of Technology, didn't plan to become a magazine journalist but says it was a natural second choice because of her fascination with the industry.

Being trained as a subeditor by the Independent Group in 2005, she says, "changed her life". In 2006, in her first year as editor of *Move!* and just 24 years old, Mpungose received the Editor of the Year Award.

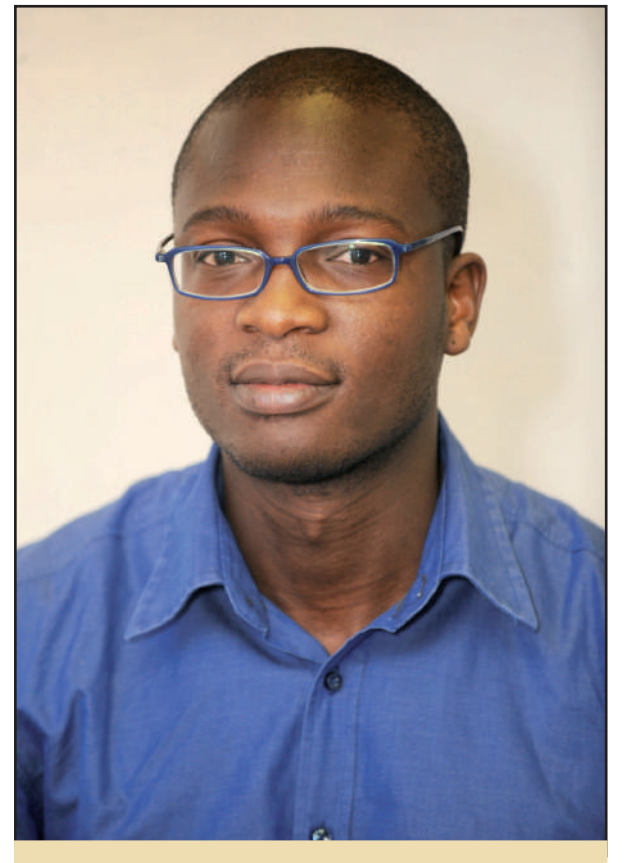
In 2009, after her appointment as editor of *Bona*, she received the Vodacom Rising Star Award, which applauds the efforts of a woman under the age of 30 who is already making an impact on the media industry.

— **Karabo Keepile**



Lunch spot: Nambitha, Soweto, Johannesburg

Journalism proposed to and married me



Mpumelelo Mkhabela

Deputy Editor, Sunday Independent

Mpumelelo Mkhabela has a defined "political agenda". He is a member of the new generation of journalists who believe that a thriving democracy needs strong newspapers and a very strong reading culture across the population, even in this digital age.

It is unsurprising to find that this bibliophile started out as a university library assistant before cutting his teeth as a serious journalist with *City Press*. As senior political writer for the *Sunday Times*, Mkhabela focused on his first love — political analysis.

The subject takes up most of his time as he works to complete his MA in international politics while helping to steer the content and direction of the *Sunday Independent*.

This 32-year-old from Komatipoort relishes the challenges of his job as he seeks to fulfil his quest to diversify the South African media space, particularly the crucial Sunday market. — **Cat Pritchard**



Lunch spot: Sophia's, Rosebank, Johannesburg



Nikiwe Bikitsha Senior News Anchor, e.tv

Nikiwe Bikitsha has never worked a normal day. From her years as a junior reporter at Cape Talk 567, where she worked "all hours" to impress, to her early mornings at SAfm, where she co-anchored *AM Live*, a 9-5 day has been as foreign to Bikitsha as some of the stories she reports on as senior news anchor for *Newsnight*.

At 32, Bikitsha is one of those rare individuals who has the voice for radio, the face for TV and the nose for print, and has pursued all three with the professionalism and poise you would expect from the journalist who "got the exclusive" with

Winnie Madikizela Mandela back in 2003.

It's not surprising to find that she put herself through Rhodes University or that she now has her own fortnightly column, "High Heels", in the *Mail & Guardian*. But what many don't know is that her velvety voice could have hit Broadway instead of our airways. Lucky us.

— **Cat Pritchard**



Lunch spot: Allora, Sandton





Zamani Xolo Co-founder, *Words Etc*

Perhaps it's safe to state that local literary journal *Words Etc*, now in its seventh edition, is here to stay. All over the world, literary magazines founded by idealistic literati sprout by day and by the late afternoon hang limp, drained by the merciless sun of the real world. Founded by Phakama Mbonambi and Zamani Xolo in Cape Town in 2007, the glossy magazine has won itself a following among South Africa's book-loving public for its coverage of local literature.

The man behind its aesthetics is Durban-born graphic designer Xolo, who is increasingly pursuing his other love, music.

"I hate genres," he says, but if he was to pigeonhole his sound, he would dub it "New Age Kwaito", which is essentially a sampling of the conglomeration of sounds he grew up with, but with a local reference peg. If he had a choice, Xolo would go into music full-time or live in Durban. But given the scope of his ambitions: "I need to be here," he says of Johannesburg.

— **Percy Zvomuya**

 **Lunch spot:** Yossi's, Durban



PAUL SHIAKALLIS

Literary magazines founded by idealistic literati sprout by day and, in the late afternoon, hang limp, drained by the merciless sun of the real world



Piet Rampedi Journalist

We all know by now that ANC Youth League president Julius Malema is not fond of journalists. But he really dislikes Piet Rampedi.

This became abundantly evident at a press conference Malema called at Luthuli House in Johannesburg in February following an exposé by Rampedi and *City Press* colleague Dumisane Lubisi of the youth league president's wealth, accumulated from his involvement in tender projects in Limpopo.

"He is only a small boy who cannot unseat me," Malema raged, much to the entertainment of the crowd, who were also told that Rampedi is a "poor, stupid reporter who accepts brown envelopes".

Rampedi remained calm despite being labelled a "naturally negative reporter whose mission is to destroy ANC comrades, particularly in Limpopo", which, incidentally, is Rampedi's home province.

But the damage had been done. Rampedi and Lubisi had managed to discredit the notion that the youth leader was a "man of the people" and, in the weeks that followed, the issue was the source of debate among South Africans around the world.

Rampedi cut his teeth in broadcast journalism at both e.tv and the SABC before moving to *City Press* in 2008. His love for the profession goes back a long way, he says, to his youth in the Limpopo village of Ga-Mokgwathi.

His passion for history and debating in high school prompted his English teacher to suggest a career in journalism, but it was a school trip to the SABC studios in Johannesburg in 1997 that sealed the deal.

The 29-year-old is driven by a wish to make a difference to the lives of ordinary people who would be voiceless if it was not for his probing of the political powers-that-be — which is exactly what has put him at odds with some of the country's top politicians. — **Valencia Talane**

 **Lunch spot:** Lesenkeng, Polokwane, Limpopo



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Buti Kgwaridi Manamela

National Secretary, Young Communist League of South Africa

Buti Manamela has become the face of the Young Communist League of South Africa by virtue of being its national secretary since its re-establishment in 2003.

Manamela has, in recent months, become a match for controversial ANC Youth League (ANCYL) president, Julius Malema; there is widespread belief that he should be re-elected to his position because he is the only person brave enough to take on the ANCYL leader.

The young communist is a member of the ANC's strategy committee in Parliament, that does the overall planning of the ruling party's work in the National Assembly. He chairs the special projects committee which oversaw the 91st birthday celebrations of former president Nelson Mandela and organised the South African Chapter of "67 minutes of volunteering".

Although Manamela was caught on camera sleeping during an early sitting of Parliament, he has turned into one of the most active young MPs. He has been vocal on the issue of labour-brokering, calling the employment practice a new form of slavery.

Those who had hoped that this young firebrand would tone down his radicalism and mature into a diplomat are probably jubilant. The young Red oozes growth and his future in politics looks bright, even if it means that he will be spending years on a crusade to sell communism and socialism to South Africans. — **Mmanaledi Mataboge**



Lunch spot: Marco's African Place, Cape Town

Lebogang Maile

Member, Gauteng Provincial Legislature

Lebogang Maile's political career was dealt a major blow in 2008 when he lost the contest for the position of deputy president of the ANC Youth League. But it's too early to write the 31-year-old off. He could still become one of the major players in South African politics in the near future.

Maile is planning a comeback as chairman of the ANC Youth League in Gauteng, where he previously served as provincial secretary.

A close ally of former Gauteng premier and deputy minister of arts and culture Paul Mashatile, he rose to prominence in 1995 when he was elected president of the Congress of South African Students. In 2006 he was appointed chairman of the Gauteng Youth Commission, where he served until 2009. Maile also served as a board member of the Gauteng Enterprise Propeller between 2007 and 2009. — **Matuma Letsoalo**



Lunch spot: Pigalle, Melrose Arch, Johannesburg

Aalia Ismail

Assistant Director, Ministry for National Planning in the Presidency

Aalia Ismail is a member of the secretariat of the National Planning Commission, the newly created division in the Presidency.

At only 24, she will contribute, through research and analysis, to drafting a national plan for South Africa, a role that requires an excellent understanding of the country's political, socio-economic and socio-historical background and issues of social justice.

Ismail worked with the team that produced the Green Paper for National Strategic Planning as well as the medium-term strategic framework for the Presidency.

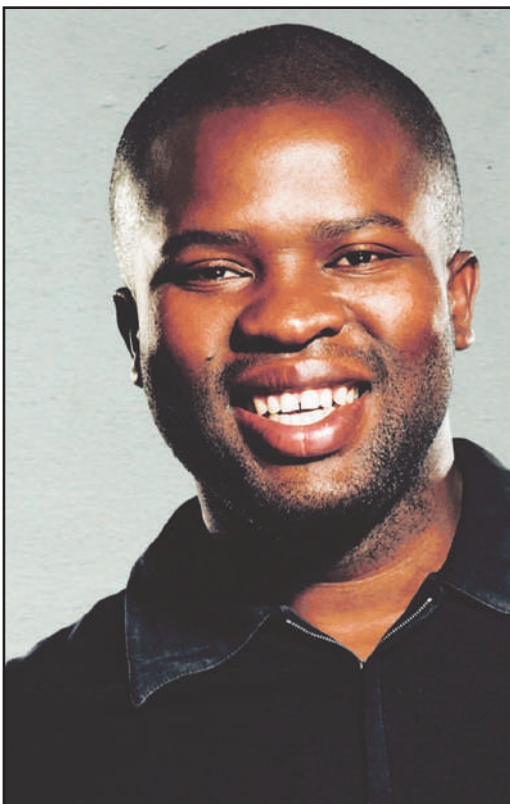
She's also involved in the Presidency's National Spatial Development Perspective, a key instrument in government's drive to ensure greater economic growth, buoyant and sustained job creation and the eradication of poverty.

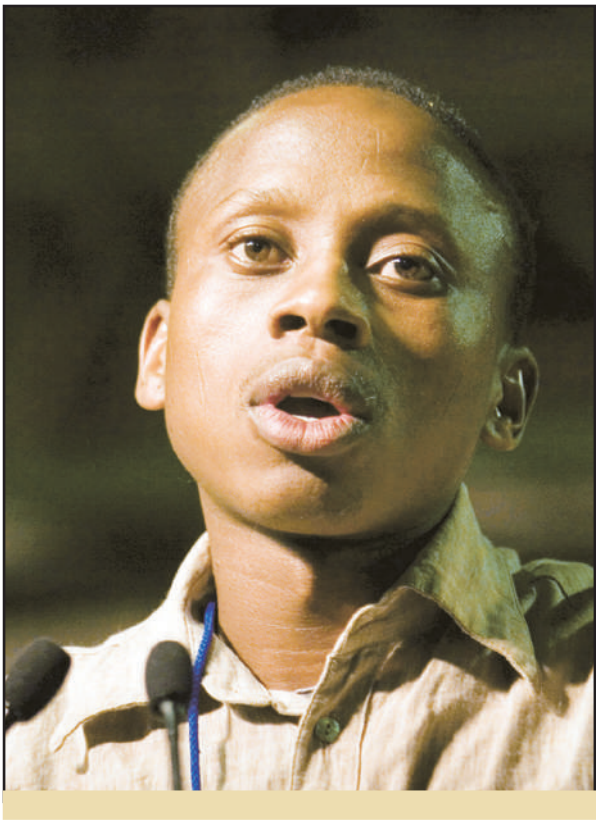
Gauteng's Mandela Rhodes Scholar representative-elect and a member of the Golden Key International Honours Society, Ismail was the 2003 winner of the Arthur Blaxall speech contest and was selected by the Mandela Rhodes Foundation to be interviewed on television programme *Carte Blanche* for its commemoration of the 20th anniversary of former president Nelson Mandela's release from prison. She is also a former lecturer in political science at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Pietermaritzburg-born Ismail is currently in her second year of study for a PhD in political science and holds a master's degree in political science and an honours degree in public policy as well as a cum laude undergraduate degree in history and political science. — **Mmanaledi Mataboge**



Lunch spot: Indigo Blue Moon, Brooklyn, Pretoria





Andile Lungisa Deputy President, ANC Youth League

Since he was elected deputy president of the ANC Youth League in 2008, Andile Lungisa’s political career appears to have taken a positive turn. His name is often whispered in the corridors of power as a potential replacement for ANCYL president Julius Malema — though it is unlikely that this will happen in the near future.


An articulate but reserved politician, the 31-year-old Lungisa is passionate about confronting the challenges facing young people today, among them HIV/Aids, unemployment and poverty. And he intends to use his position as chairman of the National Youth Development Agency as a way to address these challenges.

Born and bred in Tsomo in the Eastern Cape, Lungisa became active in politics at the age of 14 through the Congress of South African Students. After being recruited by the South African Students Congress in the early 1990s he was elected chairman of the region, which includes Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown.

In 1998 he started an ANCYL branch in the western suburbs of Port Elizabeth, called City Central, and became a branch executive. In 2001 Lungisa was elected deputy chairperson of the league’s Nelson Mandela region and became ANCYL deputy president in 2008.

Lungisa, who is also a playwright and a poet, has worked extensively in the creative sector in the Eastern Cape. In 2005 he was rewarded with *The Herald* Citizen of the Year award in the arts and culture category.

He serves on the Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment Council chaired by President Jacob Zuma, which was established in December 2009, and is vice-president of the Pan-African Youth Union, a structure of the African Union. — **Matuma Letsoalo**

 **Lunch spot:** Moyo, Melrose Arch, Johannesburg

Nkhumeni “Khume” Ramulifho National Leader, Democratic Alliance Youth

Khume Ramulifho doesn’t make the news with controversial statements. The Democratic Alliance Youth’s national leader leaves that to ANC Youth League leader Julius Malema. Instead, Ramulifho’s public statements are informed by party policy, and he responds to his opponent’s rebukes with restraint.

This calm leader of the official opposition turned a spotlight on Malema’s ability to engage in intelligent discussion when he challenged the populist to a public debate; Malema turned him down. But Ramulifho continues to keep Malema in check and often takes him on, particularly where the ANCYL leader’s conduct is questionable.


The 31-year-old believes the militancy that has, for years, characterised youth political leadership in the country is irrelevant and that clear policy articulation is the way to go.

A member of the Gauteng provincial legislature, he serves on three committees: the education, gender, youth and people with disabilities committee, the portfolio committee on safety and the roads and transport committee.

In addition to his position in the DA Youth, Ramulifho serves on the federal council, the party’s supreme policy-making body, the federal executive and the Gauteng provincial executive committee.

He articulates DA policy with the confidence he has gained from his active involvement in party structures since he joined, when he was only 20 years old. Ramulifho believes the DA provides him with the platform to address youth issues because its vision of an open-opportunity society is inclusive, making it easy to engage.

As part of his contribution to community development Ramulifho is involved in a mentorship programme for Shondoni Secondary School in Limpopo. He holds a national diploma in human resources management and a certificate in municipal governance. — **Mmanaledi Mataboge**

 **Lunch spot:** Spur, Braamfontein, Johannesburg



David Maimela Deputy Director, Policy and Governance, Office of the Premier, Gauteng

David Maimela is a man of policy and principal, and he’s not afraid to voice either. Whether debating educational policy in his previous capacity as South African Students Congress president or weaving democratic ideals and Bertrand Russell into a blog entry about soccer, Maimela is a man of measured words.

But he’s also a public servant who loves to help create policies, which is why, at 28, Maimela works in the office of the premier in Gauteng in the policy and governance branch, where he helps process policy documents and manages the office of the deputy director general.

It’s a fast-paced environment with tight deadlines, but Maimela doesn’t mind. If he wasn’t formulating ideas to constitute a working policy framework, this Mandela Rhodes Scholar would be lecturing or undertaking intensive policy research and analysis. At least, this way, he gets to part of the political nerve-centre of Gauteng and aid the direction of Africa’s economic hub. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** MeatCo Restaurants



Mduduzi Manana

MP, African National Congress

Mduduzi Manana is one of the young MPs who have brought about a new era of youth participation in holding the executive to account. The 26-year-old, the youngest MP in Parliament, serves on two portfolio committees: public works and international relations and cooperation. As a further indication of confidence in him, Parliament also designated Manana as a commissioner of the magistrates' commission.

This member of the ANC Youth League's national executive committee had no idea how powerful Parliament was until his party sent him to the National Assembly last year. He is now one of more than 300 MPs who draft laws and interact with the parliaments of other countries and he has dedicated himself to reading and knowing how government departments work so he is able to hold them to account.

Manana believes that the laws of the country can only favour the youth if young MPs increase their participation in lawmaking and policy formulation.

One of the many debates he participated in was during the tabling of the budget vote on public works when he urged the department to ensure that young people benefit from the expanded public works programme. He has also taken up the issue of economic development targeting rural women.

Unlike those of other youth league leaders, Manana's business interests have never put him in the spotlight or raised uncomfortable questions. Manana, who holds a BA degree in political science and sociology from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, believes in transparency and detests leaders who use their political weight to secure business, calling that a travesty of justice.

He draws much of his political wisdom from his mother, Sibongile Manana, MEC for safety, security and liaison in Mpumalanga, but quickly dispels any notion that he might be an extension of his mother's political activism. However, he does admit to going to his mother for advice whenever he finds himself in a political dilemma. — **Mmanaledi Mataboge**



Lunch spot: Cubana, Green Point, Cape Town



Manana believes in transparency and detests leaders who use their political weight to secure business



Pule Mabe

Treasurer, ANC Youth League

A politician-cum-businessman, Pule Mabe is determined to change the lives of many South Africans. Despite his busy schedule as ANC Youth League treasurer, Mabe has successfully managed to build a business empire in the media industry.

At 29, he owns a publishing company called KG media, which publishes *Kwela Express*, a monthly transport newspaper. Through *Kwela Express* Mabe has managed to create both a print and an electronic platform for the transport industry. He recently started a show on SABC 2, focusing on transportation issues throughout the country.

Last year Mabe, a former *Mail & Guardian* trainee journalist, established the Kedibone Mabe Trust to fund deserving students from his home town, Phalaborwa, to study journalism,

marketing and transport engineering.

He is currently in the process of establishing the Kwela Media Institute in Johannesburg, aimed at training young people in journalism, design, media and sales.

Mabe's previous leadership roles included serving as deputy president of the Student Representative Council at Technikon Northern Gauteng, now called the Tshwane University of Technology, between 1998 and 1999. He also served as Gauteng Youth Commissioner between 2003 and 2009. — **Matuma Letsoalo**



Lunch spot: Macnose Café, Soshanguve, Pretoria

Gugu Ndima

Spokesperson, Young Communist League

Gugu Ndima took many of her colleagues at Discovery Health by surprise when she courageously challenged the company's CEO, Adrian Gore, last year on the company's ill-treatment of black workers and its failure to transform.

The 26-year-old's hard-hitting letter, which she wrote to Gore after she was fired for failing to come to work on election day, sparked a political storm, prompting Cosatu's health union, Nehawu, the ANC and the communist party to intervene and question the company's commitment to transformation.

Formerly deputy president of the South African Student Congress, Ndima joined the Young Communist League [YCL] as national spokesperson in August last year. Apart from her full-time job as spin doctor for the YCL, Ndima, who studied financial accounting and credit management, is a freelance writer for several publications, including *Afropolitan* magazine and the *Black Business Quarterly*. She says she sees her involvement in politics as a calling rather than a career. — **Matuma Letsoalo**



Lunch spot: The Hurricane, Katlehong, Johannesburg



Rulleska Singh Media Spokesperson, Mayor of Cape Town

There are not many 21-year-olds who could take up a job as the media spokesperson for the mayor of Cape Town, with a brief stint at *Top Billing* as her only work experience. But then Rulleska Singh is not your average Rhodes University journalism graduate.

A self-confessed “A Type” personality with a passion for the public sector, Singh is used to swimming in the deep end. It doesn’t bother her that she’s contractually bound to keep her cellphone on or that she fields calls from 5:30am to 11pm every day.

Luckily, she’s just as comfortable handling queries from

the Vietnamese consul as she is preparing for the mayor’s address to the World Economic Forum. It’s this variety of challenges and people that inspires her to aspire to becoming a strong, capable leader who affects real change. Because that’s what the public sector means to her — an opportunity to serve her country. — **Cat Pritchard**



Lunch spot: Chai Yo, Cape Town

Ross van der Linde Chief Operations Officer, Democratic Alliance

‘Powerful policies will solve South Africa’s problems, not powerful personalities.’

Is this an official statement from Ross van der Linde, former media director of the Democratic Alliance, or a personal manifesto from a liberal democrat who wants to get people debating about real issues not personal agendas?

Either way, it’s a politically informed opinion from a 24-year-old who, according to generational profiling, should probably be doing some menial job that doesn’t require too much effort or responsibility. Instead, Van der Linde gets to work (read: Parliament) before 8am and spends his day engaging with the press, reviewing draft documents and statements and meeting with MPs.

In his current position Van der Linde doesn’t have to choose between his two loves — media and politics — which he did when he started out in politics, working in the DA’s parliamentary research department. It didn’t take long before he was appointed press officer, just ahead of the 2009 elections, and then head of the party’s media department.

As the newly appointed Chief Operating Officer, Van der

Linde oversees and manages parliamentary operations and focuses on political communications, which means getting the DA’s message across and keeping tabs on the political stories being reported in the press.

It’s a perfect fusion for a man who graduated top of his politics class at Rhodes University and obtained an honours degree in philosophy, politics and economics from the University of Cape Town, while dabbling in a bit of journalism on the side, including a brief stint as a sports reporter for e.tv.

But politics is definitely this Jo’burg boy’s true calling. It’s the reason he’s committed to building a competitive political system and why he’s so proud to have had a hand in modernising the DA’s parliamentary operation. Because effective systems help to promote more proactive policies — policies he hopes will solve South Africa’s problems.

— **Cat Pritchard**



Lunch spot: Eastern Food Bazaar, Cape Town



Pat Lebenya-Ntanz

Acting National Chairperson, IFP Youth Brigade and IFP MP

Pat Lebenya-Ntanz was involved in the entire process that led to the formation of the National Youth Development Agency last year — from discussions about the legislation that paved the way for the formation of the agency to its signing into law.

Though she always dreamt of making a difference in people’s lives she did not know how she was going to achieve that. Now Lebenya-Ntanz contributes directly to legislation processes in Parliament. This 33-year-old Inkatha Freedom Party MP serves on Parliament’s portfolio committee on trade and industry as well as the portfolio committee on women, children and people with disabilities — a portfolio she is passionate about.

Lebenya-Ntanz continues to be vocal during youth debates in the National Assembly and her greatest push this year will be to see through the implementation of the resolutions of the annual youth parliament. Her weekends are dedicated to the IFP’s constituency work, while she divides the parliamentary recess period between party and youth development work. — **Mmanaledi Mataboge**



Lunch spot: Daruma, Durban





Tim Harris DA Spokesperson, Member of the NCOP

Tim Harris has a five-year plan — it involves making sure his term in Parliament (five years) brings opportunities to all South Africans.

At 30, Harris has three elections under his belt, one of which resulted in the Democratic Alliance winning the Western Cape, and is a member of Parliament’s National Council of Provinces, where he sits on the select committee on finance.

When he’s not applying his masters in economics to the issues at hand or saying “Mr Chairperson, I rise on a point of order,” as the DA’s Whip, Harris is representing the interests

of his constituents and liaising with other liberal democratic parties around the world.

If Harris wasn’t building democracy at home he would be exploring the continent — an adventure he undertook with two friends when he travelled through 22 countries in Central and West Africa. If democracy is about choice, we think he made the right one by pursuing politics instead of merchant banking. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** & Union, Cape Town

Adrian Lackay
Spokesperson, Sars

Working for the taxman was never part of the plan for South African Revenue Service (Sars) spokesperson Adrian Lackay. Growing up in the sleepy town of Pniel in the Western Cape, Lackay was more interested in understanding the world from a social and political perspective.

So he studied journalism at the Peninsula University of Technology in Cape Town and landed his first job as a junior reporter on *Beeld*.

The quiet young man, who started at the paper as a crime reporter, soon blossomed into a confident journalist who went on to cover Parliament and return to his first love, politics.

Lackay took the leap into government communications, becoming a crucial part of the new taxpayer-friendly image of Sars, joining Pravin Gordhan’s team, first as a researcher and later as spokesperson.

His popularity among journalists, which earned him the Best Communicator award for 2010 from the National Press Club, is the result of cultivating relationships that started years before, when he was still a colleague on the other side of the divide. And his ability to break down complicated macroeconomics into simple sound bites makes him a favourite on radio talk shows. — **Mandy Rossouw**



SIONA O’CONNELL

 **Lunch spot:** Kream, Brooklyn, Pretoria



Gareth Morgan
Shadow Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs

Gareth Morgan asks a lot of tough questions. It’s his job. In fact, in 2009, Morgan asked ministers more parliamentary questions than any other MP. But if those questions mean that important laws are amended and his Durban West constituents get the justice they deserve, he will probably ask many more this year.

The one thing this Durbanite has never questioned is getting into politics, which he did at 18, when he served as a student activist for the Democratic Alliance (DA). Four years later, he was elected the DA’s media officer in KwaZulu-Natal and, by 27, he had proven himself sufficiently to be elected to Parliament.

It goes without saying that Morgan is a busy man. When he’s not speaking to community organisations, visiting public institutions and dealing with the queries of constituents he’s attending a sitting of the National Assembly or looking after issues in the portfolio committee of water and environmental affairs.

But if Morgan has moved up the party ladder because of sheer drive and hard work, it’s his belief in constantly educating himself about the issues at hand that sees him lead from the front. It is also the reason why, when awarded a prestigious Rhodes scholarship, he read for a politics, philosophy and economics degree and an MSc in environmental change and management at Oxford. It’s also the reason he is a member of Globe International’s G8+5 Climate Dialogue and regularly donates indigenous trees to local schools, using the opportunity to educate learners about climate change.

With so much energy and focus, it’s not surprising that Morgan has completed eight ultra marathons and 10 standard marathons and has run up and down the highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales in under 24 hours. Just imagine what he will accomplish in the next 33 years.

— **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** The Arts Café, KZNSA Gallery, Glenwood, Durban



Julius Malema President, ANC Youth League

Whether you need help getting a tender, qualifying for a job or securing votes for a political position — Julius Malema is your man.

The ANC Youth League president managed to move from being a young leader with a penchant for the politically incorrect to becoming a wealthy powerbroker in the ruling party. And he had an exceptional presidential term. Until recently.

At the end of 2009 Malema looked indestructible, with President Jacob Zuma calling him a future ANC president.

With Johnnie Walker Blue Label in one hand and the keys to a million-rand Range Rover in the other, he convinced influential business people such as Patrice Motsepe that nationalisation of the mines — a Malema-esque interpretation of the Freedom Charter — is the only way to lift the underclass out of poverty. Although the idea was met with great skepticism, even by communists, Malema soldiered on, convinced that his might in the party would allow him to prevail.

Then 2010 arrived.

He woke up one Sunday to damaging newspaper reports that exposed his involvement in government tenders worth hundreds of millions of rands. His response: wax lyrically at press conferences about journalists’ sexual behaviour and bribery allegations.

Then in March Malema outdid even himself. He

went to Zimbabwe to express support for Robert Mugabe, kicked a BBC journalist out of a press conference, calling him a “bloody agent”, sang “Kill the Boer” at the top of his lungs after being told not to and then said former president Thabo Mbeki was more youth league-friendly than President Jacob Zuma.

Two months later, he was in front of the ANC disciplinary committee forced formally apologise to Zuma and pay a R10 000 fine. The worst punishment of all? Attending anger management classes.

But disciplinary hearing did more than embarrass him. It gave Malema’s detractors exactly what they needed to prove that he is not fit to be a leader. Now some of his most trusted comrades are whispering that he should be challenged at the 2011 Youth League conference.

The story of Malema shows the ANC at its worst — greedy, intolerant and power-crazy. And it also shows how an illustrious liberation movement can be held ransom by a 29-year old Gucci-wearing politician. All of which makes Malema the most influential youngster in the country. — *Mandy Rossouw*

 **Lunch spot:** At home, Sandton



The ANC Youth League president managed to move from being a young leader with a penchant for the politically incorrect to becoming a wealthy powerbroker in the ruling party



Zingaphi Jakuja Spokesperson, Presidency

When Zingaphi Jakuja (formerly Matanzima) became a teenage mother at 17, those around her put her down as a statistic — another youngster with a future ruined by an unplanned pregnancy.

But the opposite happened. Falling pregnant spurred Jakuja’s determination to prove the odds wrong. And today, at 30, she is the mouthpiece for the highest office of the land.

As spokesperson for the Presidency Jakuja deals with both local and foreign journalists, invoking her own training at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth to help her understand the pressures under which reporters work.

After she completed her university studies in 2002 she joined *The Herald* newspaper in Port Elizabeth and later the SABC, but soon realised the seaside town in the Eastern Cape was too small for her. Jakuja left for Pretoria, where she joined the government communications and information systems in 2005 as a policy guru.

She moved swiftly through the ranks, working as a media liaison officer for Zola Skweyiya in the department of social development and later for the ministry of minerals and energy.

Jakuja joined the Presidency shortly after the inauguration of President Jacob Zuma, becoming the youngest member of his powerful communications team. At home in Pretoria she is now mother to three children and wife to Mthunzi, a technical engineer at the Ford Motor Company. — *Mandy Rossouw*

 **Lunch spot:** Smoke, Groenkloof, Pretoria



Lindiwe Mazibuko
Spokesperson and MP, Democratic Alliance

Lindiwe Mazibuko is not your typical Democratic Alliance (DA) parliamentarian. She sings, for example, in choirs and in the shower (Kurt Darren’s *Kaptein span die seile* is a favourite). Then there’s the part about her degree in Moroccan rhetoric. She also claims to be a hopeless romantic. And she doesn’t mind posting photographs of herself in hair curlers on the internet, entitled “Vanity, thy name is woman”.

At the same time, Mazibuko talks like a Google executive about communication technology in Parliament; she is the go-to girl who speaks on behalf of the DA and she takes on President Jacob Zuma about morality.

Outside the halls of power Mazibuko, who turns 30 this year, just cannot wait for the Woolworths quality sale. Her Twitter account is abuzz with comments about the fashion sense of her fellow MPs, with deputy transport minister Jeremy Cronin once lauded for the way he was “working” a skinny tie on a bland day in the national legislature.

Mazibuko was born in Manzini, Swaziland, but did most of her growing up in Durban, where she is now MP for Durban North. She studied music at the University

of KwaZulu-Natal and political communication at the University of Cape Town.

She joined the DA as a researcher in 2008 and caught the eye of DA leader Helen Zille, who quickly appointed her national media liaison officer before she became an MP in 2009. After the 2009 elections, Mazibuko was also anointed as the shadow minister of communications — speaking four languages including French helps — in addition to her role as national spokesperson.

And, just two years into her political career, PrincessShorty, as she is known on Twitter, is already touted by her colleagues as a possible successor to Zille.

Mazibuko is one of the group of hot and highly ambitious MPs the DA has brought to Parliament to change its image from a whites-only outfit to a party that can attract the best and brightest, regardless of race.

— Mandy Rossouw

Lunch spot: Societi, Cape Town

Ndivhuwo Mabaya
Head of Media Services, Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans

Ndivhuwo Mabaya has been speaking for Cabinet ministers since he was 22, when he landed an internship with the transport ministry under the late Dullah Omar. The 31-year-old spindoctor moved from transport to housing and is now with defence and military veterans.

And he’s not shy about what he needs to say. Not long after Mabaya moved to the defence ministry with Minister Lindiwe Sisulu last year the soldiers’ march on the Union Buildings exploded on to the streets. Mabaya faced the military unions head-on, with daily condemnation of the march that turned violent.

But his primary responsibility is to develop and implement the ministry’s media strategy and to manage communications channels. A journalism graduate of Tshwane University of Technology, Mabaya sees his job as that of a communication “advisor” rather than simply a spokesperson.

He was the brains behind the television series *Breaking New Ground*, which communicated to viewers across the country progress made on government’s promise to build houses for the poor. — Mmanaledi Mataboge

Lunch spot: Café 41, Brooklyn, Pretoria



Malusi Booi General Secretary, Cope Youth Movement

His job as general secretary makes Malusi Booi the engine of the Congress of the People Youth Movement.

The 32-year-old was national coordinator for youth when Cope was founded in 2008 and was later appointed in a full-time capacity to the party’s head office to build the structures of the youth wing.

Under his stewardship the Cope youth movement has challenged political leadership styles, including those within its own party. It successfully pushed Cope to hold an early elective conference in an effort to halt the leadership squabbles that threatened to cripple the party.

The youth wing also started a campaign called Thuma mina (send me), which allows young members of Cope to assist poor learners with reading material and school uniforms and also help to renovate schools.

In addition to doing Cope work, Booi, who is a project manager in the construction industry, is on the boards of three companies, including his own Johannesburg-based Cyoyo Logistics.

Booi studied towards a national diploma in quantity surveying at the Durban University of Technology, a degree in project management through Unisa and is currently studying business management at Wits University.

— Mmanaledi Mataboge

Lunch spot: Ten Bompas, Dunkeld West, Johannesburg



Adrian Tiplady Physicist

Adrian Tiplady is the self-professed black sheep of his family. “No one in my family plays any instruments or has anything to do with science,” he says. So where Tiplady got his talent for jazz and physics is anyone’s guess.


An avid saxophonist, he’s played jazz and classical music at international festivals and is one of the project leaders in South Africa’s bid to host the largest radio telescope in the world, the Square Kilometre Array (SKA). He advises the science minister and represents the country on international astronomy and telecoms boards.

When Tiplady was at university he aspired to become a conductor. “It was never my plan to be a practising scientist,” he says. But fate had other plans. Having selected music and computer studies and looking for a third major subject, Tiplady closed his eyes, flipped through the student manual and landed on philosophy.” But it clashed with one of my other subjects. So I did it again and landed on physics,” he says. Seven years later, he completed a PhD in his accidental subject, specialising in radio astronomy and digital instrumentation.

Once he had his PhD he had his heart set on going to Paris to be a jazz musician. But an invitation to become involved in the SKA changed that, fulfilling his ambition to become involved in high-impact events. Five years later, he’s one of the point men in South Africa’s SKA bid.

Tiplady believes the SKA provides the perfect opportunity for African scientists to invest in the knowledge economy, build technical expertise and collaborate with the world’s leading science institutions. “We’ve already [become] a leading light in the astronomical community in terms of design and engineering,” he says.

The accidental scientist still holds on to the dream that maybe in five years he’ll be playing jazz in a Paris café. Then again, he admits, “maybe I’ll be involved in a scientific project” — **Faranaaz Parker**


 **Lunch spot:** Cranks, Rosebank, Johannesburg

Jason van Niekerk
Lecturer, Wits University

Jason van Niekerk looks at life from a unique perspective — one that wouldn’t cross most people’s minds. He feels that the depth and complexity of human relationships are under-appreciated, particularly in Western thought, so he turned to the African theory of *ubuntu* to explore these issues further — and this has formed the basis of his doctoral research at Wits.

Born and raised in Johannesburg, Van Niekerk relocated to Grahamstown to do his BA and master’s in ethics and philosophy. Having been very ill during his high school years he only became part of a community when he went to university. It is this, he says, that gave him a particular appreciation for human relationships, which most people take for granted.

Van Niekerk moved back to Jo’burg in 2007 to do his PhD at Wits, and is currently in his final year. In addition to lecturing at the university he is involved with the fledgling Wits Centre for Ethics, which aims to bring issues of ethics and philosophy into public life. — **Tarryn Harbour**

 **Lunch spot:** FOOOD, Cresta Shopping Centre, Johannesburg




Thabo Msibi
Lecturer, University of KwaZulu-Natal

Thabo Msibi is passionate about education. It began when, as a child, he would gather all the village children to play school and it continued when he went to university and received his master’s degree in education — cum laude. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and went to Columbia University to complete his master’s. Now he’s doing a PhD in the United Kingdom, thanks to the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, which he received last year.

Msibi founded the Community Development Association, a student-driven community outreach programme. A DVD on the experiences of gay and lesbian youth aimed at tackling these issues in the classroom is planned for release in June or July.

In addition, Msibi is the youngest executive member of the Southern African Comparative and History of Education Society, and is occasionally called on as an educational analyst for SABC radio. — **Tarryn Harbour**

 **Lunch spot:** Anywhere that’s sunny, outdoors



Athambile Masola

Community Engagement
Councillor, Student Representative
Council, Rhodes University

Rhodes University master’s student Athambile Masola was eager, in her first year, to work with a student volunteer programme that was really only intended for more advanced students.

“We would go out into the surrounding community and help where we could ... we would try to meet any needs that they had,” she says. Masola became involved with a small reading club three years ago and has since become a volunteer for the Love Reading Programme at Lebone House.

She was appointed as community engagement councillor of the Student Representative Council and now coordinates training for the representative council of learners in Grahamstown schools.


“I suppose because Rhodes is such a small campus in the middle of the community, you can’t help but notice the issues around you,” says Masola, who was recently selected as a Mandela Rhodes scholar.

With a foundation in compassion and first-hand experience Masola is focusing her thesis on foundation-phase literacy in a mother-tongue Xhosa school. “I am looking into the practice of teaching; what informs what is taught, and how it is executed,” she says.

And through the Mandela Rhodes scholarship Masola has forged a relationship with Oxford University Press, because, she says, there are no resources for teaching reading and writing in mother-tongue African languages



and she is considering developing such resources.
“If kids don’t have a solid foundation in an African language, how are they ever going to switch over to a complex language like English?” — **Lisa Steyn**

 **Lunch spot:** Red Café, High Street, Grahamstown



Ethel Phiri

Researcher, Stellenbosch University

Even though Ethel Phiri spends her days looking at plants and insects she’s all about the bigger picture. Currently doing her PhD at Stellenbosch University, she hopes that one day, when she’s tired of research, she’ll be in government, making key decisions. “But that’s only in 20 years’ time!”

After completing a BSc and honours in biochemistry at Rand Afrikaans University, Phiri spent a year working at Sci-Bona science centre in Newtown, Johannesburg. She then applied for a job as a field assistant on a Marion Island expedition but went as a researcher instead after the university phoned to ask if she was interested in doing her masters.

Phiri spent 13 months on the island, and says she quickly got used to the isolation and the absence of modern conveniences. “It was quite a culture shock when I got back!”
Her MSc thesis won the Stellenbosch University S2A3 (Southern African Association for the Advancement of Science) medal for the best original scientific research last year. — **Tarryn Harbour**

 **Lunch spot:** Primi Piatti, Somerset Mall, Somerset West


Fulufhelo Nelwamondo

Senior Research Scientist, CSIR

Fulufhelo Nelwamondo, who grew up in the rural heart of Venda, says he learnt courage from his mother, a teacher, on their long daily walk to school and back. In high school he entered science expos from grade 8 and, despite his father’s wish for him to become a doctor, found his true passion in science. He now has a BSc and a PhD in electrical engineering from Wits.

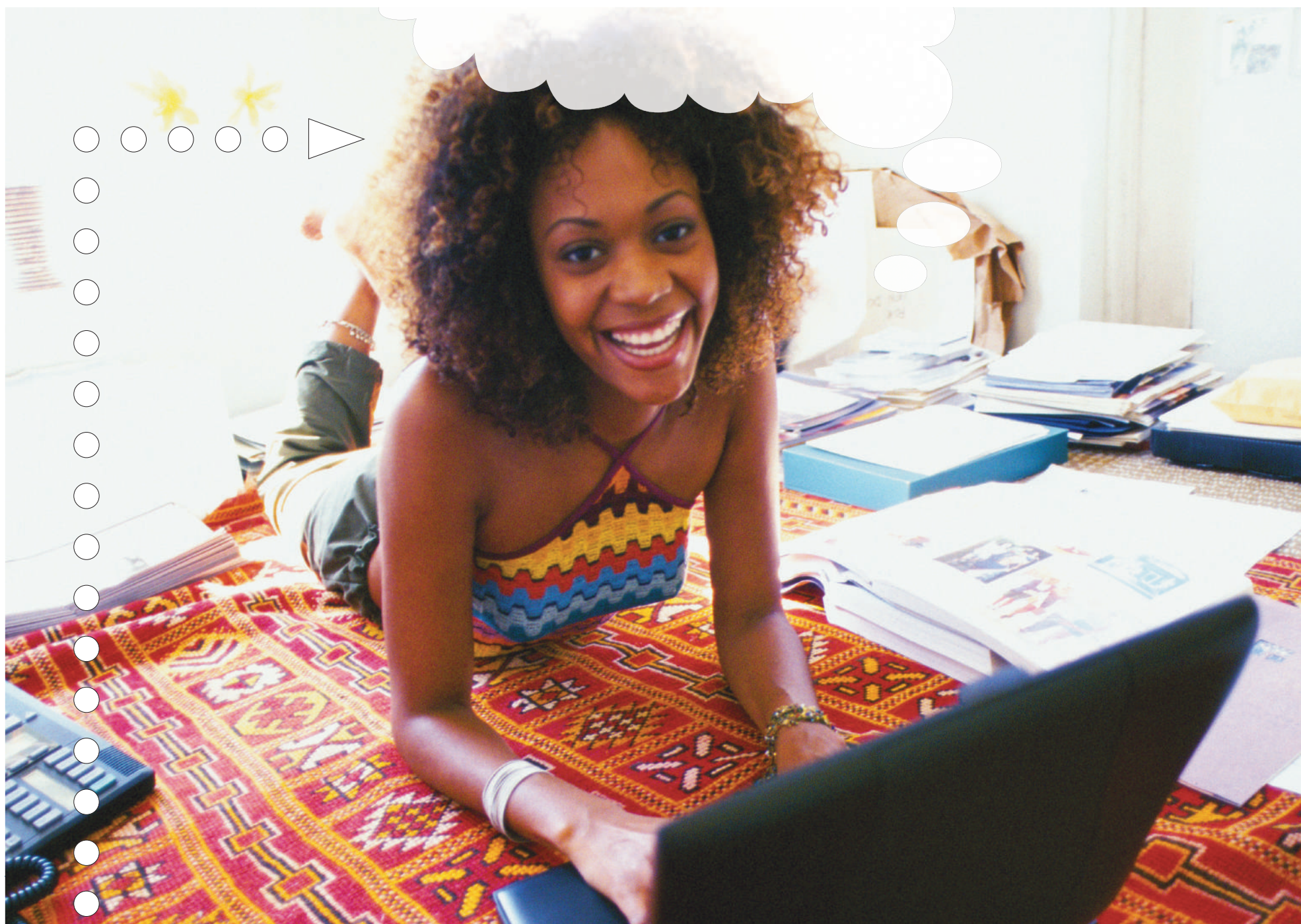
Nelwamondo was a post-doctoral fellow in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University and the youngest South African recipient of the Harvard-South Africa fellowship. Believing in giving back to the community he is a member of a group that goes to Soweto on Saturday mornings to teach maths and give career advice to learners. He also sponsors financial awards to learners in his village who excel in maths and science.

“I don’t believe in living for myself. I believe in living life to make sure I contribute to making someone else’s life better,” he says. — **Tarryn Harbour**

 **Lunch spot:** Barrington’s, Killarney, Johannesburg



**I believe in living life to make
sure I contribute to making
someone else’s life better**



... If you can **dream** of ways to
change our world ... then
you can **make it happen** ...

Let science, engineering, technology
and innovation take you there



SAASTA

South African Agency for Science
and Technology Advancement

*Building our future through science education,
communication and engagement*





Mafihlwase Mangwegape

Principal, Tikwana Comprehensive School

The oldest of five children, Mafihlwase Mangwegape always knew she wanted to be a teacher. As a teenager growing up in the Eastern Free State she taught at Sunday school, was a member of the youth choir, and started a dance club, with which she was involved until she started teaching full-time.

Mangwegape spent four years as a head of department at a primary school, where she says she learnt how to lead people and help them develop as educators. She has been principal of Tikwana Comprehensive School for the past three years — a move that she says was challenging because she had to adjust from a primary to a high school. As a comprehensive, the school covers a wide range of very different subjects; Mangwegape herself teaches maths to two grade 9 classes. She believes it is important for principals to teach, even if only one or two classes, so they stay in touch with what's happening in the classroom.

During the school day, when she's not teaching, she visits the other classrooms to make sure everything is going well, and saves the administration work for after school.

She organises regular teacher-training workshops to bring teachers up to date with the latest developments in the department of education.

Mafihlwase, who won the 2009 excellence in secondary school leadership award at the national teaching awards, hopes one day to be in a position to share her skills and expertise with other principals. She says the best part of her job is making a difference, even if it's just one person — because that person may go out and have a positive impact on many others.

— **Tarryn Harbour**



Lunch spot: Spur, Welkom



Janice Limson

Head of Biotechnology, Rhodes University

In 2009 Janice Limson was promoted to associate professor, a move that, she says, means both a lot more work and a lot more responsibility. On the plus side, she was granted a six-month sabbatical in January this year, which has given her a lot more time to focus on her research.

In addition to her academic role Limson is editor-in-chief of *Science in Africa*, the continent's first online science magazine, which she started nine years ago, and winner of the Highway Africa New Media in Journalism and a National Science and Technology Forum award.

Limson's research team of 12 master's and PhD students is working on cancer diagnostics and drug delivery, with the ultimate aim of developing marketable tools for cancer diagnostics. "We're all about turning research into reality," she says. — **Tarryn Harbour**



Lunch spot: Yellow House, Grahamstown

Rangan Gupta

Associate Professor, University of Pretoria

Rangan Gupta was born in India and has travelled extensively. He completed his PhD at the University of Connecticut in the United States before settling in South Africa.

In August 2005 Gupta joined the University of Pretoria where he lectures in monetary policy and theory. He says he is inspired by the fact that he can transfer his knowledge to students every day.

Gupta has been published in some of the world's leading journals and has won the Exceptional Young Researchers award. He is a member of the Economic Association of South Africa, the African Econometric Society and the African Institute for Economic Modelling and Economic Research Southern Africa.

In the past year he has been ranked among the top 100 young economists in the world — and the only one from Africa.

— **Tarryn Harbour**



Lunch spot: Anywhere, as long as he is with his wife and daughter



Moses Masitha SRC President, University of the Free State

Being the first black president of the Student Representative Council at a traditionally whites-only, Afrikaans-dominated university can't be easy, but Moses Masitha appears to be taking it in his stride.

A resident of Bloemfontein since he started high school, Masitha began his law studies at the University of the Free State in 2005. He later switched to philosophy — “a very gung-ho decision” — and is currently doing his honours, although he confesses that since his election as president his academic work has slid somewhat.


Masitha, who was vice-president of the SRC in 2007, says he was elected president as a result of two years of hard work in student activism and a desire to help unite a very divided campus.

The months since the election have been both “really great” and “very bad”, as Masitha has tried to bridge the enormous racial gulf between students. But there have been some successes: recently the SRC held a “Clean Slate UFS Kovsies Students End Discrimination” march on campus.

Masitha sees the SRC as a peacemaker; an agent for uniting the students. He attributes his passion to become an agent of positive social change to his church, the Christian Revival Church in Bloemfontein, which has a racially diverse congregation and a spirit of genuine colour-blindness. One day Masitha hopes to establish an education and training non-governmental organisation, as he feels strongly that Africa needs to develop good moral leadership.

He is proud to come from Bloemfontein.

“It’s an incredible place,” he says. “People often say, ‘Can anything good come out of Bloemfontein?’ And then they’re surprised when it does. We’re kind of the underdog; I like that.” — **Tarryn Harbour**

 **Lunch spot:** Euro Cafe, Mimosa Mall, Bloemfontein

We’re kind of the underdog; I like that

Tumi Semete

Researcher, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Ever since she learned about the human body in high school biology class Tumi Semete has been fascinated by it. She considered studying medicine, but when she heard about the BSc degree in human genetics, she knew it was for her.

Semete left her Soweto home for the lecture halls of the University of Pretoria, where she spent close to a decade in academic pursuits, completing a master’s and a doctorate in biochemistry. She came to her current employment through a workshop hosted by her church.

Her work at the CSIR is in nanotechnology — the science of small things — and how it can be used in the field of medical research. — **Tarryn Harbour**

 **Lunch spot:** Kream, Brooklyn, Pretoria



Uthra Rajamani Researcher, Stellenbosch University

Uthra Rajamani believes that if something is worth doing, it’s worth doing well.

And this 27-year-old has certainly done well in completing both her master’s and PhD in the three years she’s spent at Stellenbosch University since coming over from India in 2007. Well there’s that and her prestigious second prize in the category of basic sciences at the 10th AstraZeneca Health Sciences Research Day.

Rajamani, who grew up in Chennai, India, became interested in diabetes because the disease is widespread in both South Africa and her home country. She and her husband moved to

Cape Town, and he to do his PhD in genetics at the University of Cape Town she to further her studies in the physiological sciences department at Stellenbosch.

Rajamani has won numerous awards for her work in the past two years and is currently a post-doctoral researcher in Professor Faaidel Essop’s Cardiometabolic Research group. “Anything I do, I do it to my full capacity,” she says. — **Tarryn Harbour**

 **Lunch spot:** Gino’s, Stellenbosch



Preven Chetty

Facilitator, Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa

In a family of engineers Preven Chetty sticks out like a sore thumb. He spent his childhood hiking along the banks of rivers, investigating them and cleaning them up — and this has been his passion ever since.

Born and bred in KwaZulu-Natal, he sees rivers as the current running through life; everything is connected and what happens upstream affects what happens downstream.

After high school Chetty went to Chennai, India, where he studied classical music, becoming proficient on the veenai, a 5 000-year-old Indian stringed instrument. He returned to South Africa in 2002 and studied environmental science at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, later becoming a geography teacher.

Four years ago Chetty joined the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa, where he runs a course in environmental education. His use of a documentary using cellphones and social networking sites to inspire and motivate communities living on the banks of the Umgeni River to take better care of the water system earned him a place as a finalist in the inaugural Rolex Awards for Enterprise: Young Laureates

Programme. Although he did not win, Chetty still plans to run the project: he's sourcing funding and hopes to get it off the ground by July.

He is currently studying for his master's degree in environmental education at Rhodes University, looking at the use of social networking sites to create environmental activism.

As a representative of the Howick unit of the United Nations Regional Centre for Expertise, a network of educational institutions focusing on the delivery of education for sustainable development, he was, at the time of writing, planning a trip to Brazil.

Chetty, who lives in a cottage on a farm in Howick, where he keeps a rooster and some chickens for eggs, and gets his milk from the farm, is the lead singer of a band called the Tantric Monks, which plays environmentally-conscious rock songs.

— **Tarryn Harbour**



Lunch spot: Picnic at Karkloof Falls, Howick



Zulaigha Ismail

Head of Biotechnology, Rhodes University

Who do you think you are, a rocket scientist? Well, the answer to that question, for Zulaigha Ismail, is, quite simply, yes.

But she says the best part of her job is that she gets to work in the aviation industry. Ever since she was 12 years old, Ismail has wanted to work for Nasa, the American National Aeronautical and Space Administration.

A Capetonian through and through, Ismail studied for a BSc in electro-mechanical engineering at the University of Cape Town, where she was a class medallist and made it on to the dean's merit list. In her third year she attended astronomy summer school at the South African Astronomical Observatory.

After graduating Ismail worked for Eskom at the Koeberg nuclear power station and, during a sabbatical year, attended an international development course in France. At the beginning of 2008 she made the great trek up to Gauteng to join Denel Aviation, working on the Rooivalk attack helicopter; later that same year she was awarded an Australian Development Scholarship from AusAID to do her master's degree in aerospace engineering at the University of Sydney — which she achieved with honours.

But Ismail is still gazing at the stars — hoping to work for Nasa someday. — **Tarryn Harbour**



Lunch spot: Any halaal Spur

Enrico Olivier

Astronomer, South African Astronomical Observatory

In his new position, dealing with the public and the media, Enrico Olivier is asked some weird questions, usually to do with UFOs and other strange objects people have seen in the sky.

But he also deals with more standard enquiries about phases of the moon and the times of sunrise and sunset. Olivier's interest in science was sparked at a young age by his parents, who encouraged him to make use of the local library. Born and bred in the Western Cape, he spent four years in Australia studying for his PhD in astronomy and astrophysics before returning to the Cape and joining the South

African Astronomical Observatory.

Olivier, who stepped into the media liaison post last year, says he only really started settling into his job at the beginning of 2010. Besides handling calls from the public, he gives talks at schools and interviews on television and radio. This year he plans to spend more time on his research into the structure and evolution of stars. — **Tarryn Harbour**



Lunch spot: Any Asian restaurant





Like fine wine, Mulaudzi seems to be getting better with the years

Mbulaeni Mulaudzi Athlete

Mbulaeni Mulaudzi has been burning up the track since he abandoned football to take up athletics 10 years ago, but his staunchest supporters may not know this: the middle-distance runner is the first black South African athlete to be crowned number one in the world. Athletics South Africa presented him with a R50 000 cheque for his achievement in 2006.

Like fine wine, Mulaudzi seems to be getting better with the years. He stunned a classy field of the world's finest 800m runners to take the gold medal at the World Championships in Germany last year. It was a great meeting on the track for South Africa with Caster Semenya and Khotso Mokoena also winning medals. This was, of course, before the Semenya debacle kicked in to overshadow the reigning 800m champion's celebrations as the best middle-distance runner.

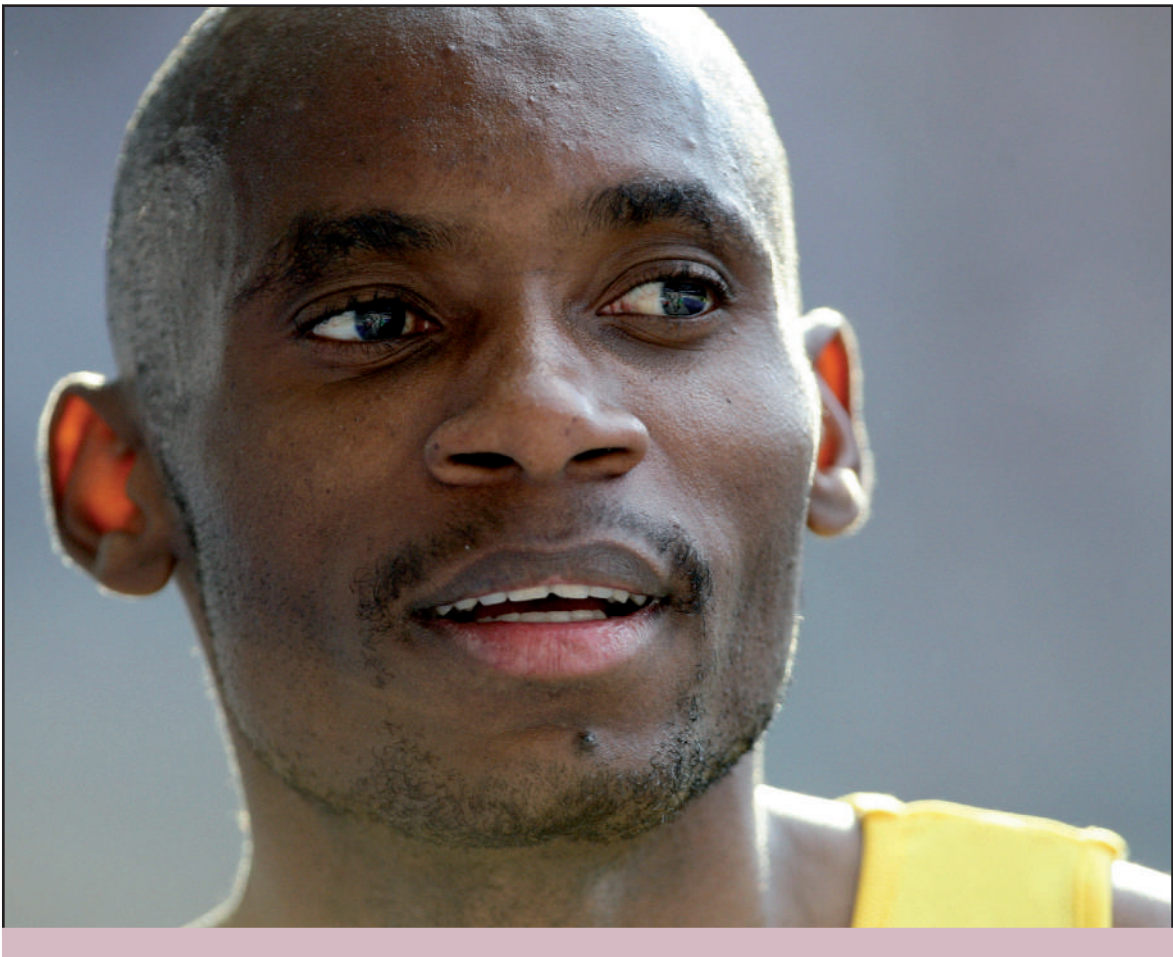
His consistency in the distance has ensured a steady flow of invitations to the most prestigious races in

the world. It doesn't hurt much that they also pay handsomely and he is able to live well on his athletics earnings.

The 30-year-old from Limpopo had made the final at four consecutive 800m World Championships before he stormed to victory in Berlin. During his best season, 2004, he carried his country's flag at the Olympics in Greece and won the World Indoor Championships in Budapest and an Olympic silver medal.

In 2006, Mulaudzi took silver in the World Indoor Championships in Moscow. He returned from an injury this year to win the two-lap race at the sixth Yellow Pages meeting held in Germiston in April. And that race proved that he is still the best middle-distance athlete in the country, if that was ever in doubt. — **Phathisani Moyo**

 **Lunch spot:** Mugg and Bean



Teko Modise Footballer

Few will argue that Bafana Bafana's talented midfield maestro should be playing in the top leagues of the world. That Teko Modise, affectionately known as the General, or simply Ace, is still at Orlando Pirates is a bonus for the South African Premier Soccer League.

His form, which he seems to have rediscovered, will strongly influence how far the country progresses in the coming World Cup — Modise has been rewarded with the armband in the absence of Aaron Mokoena. He is also the favoured brand among the corporates and fast-food chain McDonald's has cashed in on his popularity, appointing him its 2010 Fifa World Cup ambassador.


The 27-year-old, who grew up in Soweto supporting Kaizer Chiefs but now plays for their bitter rivals, was the inaugural winner of the PSL Player of the year award in 2008. He won it again the following year, as his stock has continued to rise. — **Phathisani Moyo**

 **Lunch spot:** McDonald's

Rene Kalmer Runner

When she was in grade one, middle-distance athlete Rene Kalmer desperately wanted to run but was put off the idea by a friend who convinced her that it would be an unpleasant experience. A few years later she was persuaded to try out for athletics at school and the rest, as they say, is history. She first started running cross-country but has found a niche in middle-distance running. Her ultimate goal is to get that elusive Olympic gold medal. To realise this dream

Kalmer recently committed to being a full-time athlete, training in Johannesburg most days. And if she's not training, you'll find her relaxing with a good book — or dreaming of shopping and lazy days on a cool beach. — **Ryan Hoffmann**

 **Lunch spot:** Primi Piatti





Graeme Smith Cricketer

Graeme Smith has had an unlucky season. First the Proteas captain needed surgery on a troublesome elbow, then he broke his finger twice on the cricket field.


It was the nasty delivery from Australia speed merchant Mitchell Johnson that first did him in, then the same finger suffered further damage during the lucrative Indian Premier League when his campaign was cut short after the finger snapped while he was attempting to take a catch. But South Africa's Captain Courageous is known to overcome such setbacks with relative ease. He once batted with a broken hand in Australia as he tried to save his side from defeat.

The tall left-handed batsman is one of the most prolific run-getters in the history of South African cricket. He scored consecutive double centuries during South Africa's tour of England in 2003 — first getting 277 at Edgbaston, then a magnificent 259 at the home of cricket, Lord's. The 277 is the highest individual score ever made for South Africa, whereas the 259 is the

best innings played at Lord's by a foreign player.

Smith is one half of South Africa's best opening team and has been involved in each of the four innings in which the Proteas have exceeded 300 runs. His Cobras teammate, Herschelle Gibbs, partnered him in three of those stands, and he batted with Neil Mackenzie in his world-record 415 partnership against Bangladesh in 2008.

Early this year Smith released his biography, *A Captain's Diary*. All this, and he's just 29. But then his achievements are hardly surprising given that Cricket South Africa trusted him to lead the Proteas when he was only 22, making him the youngest South African captain ever. Those who criticised the decision at the time have been forced to sit back and marvel at this prolific batsman and leader. — **Phathisani Moyo**

 **Lunch spot:** Caveau Wine Bar and Deli, Newlands, Cape Town



Adrian Zaugg
Racing Driver

Despite the fact that he spent most of his youth in Switzerland, racing driver Adrian Zaugg's roots are proudly South African.

Like many drivers, Zaugg started off on the carting circuit and quickly rose through the ranks to represent South Africa in the short-lived A1 Grand Prix Series, with his performances during the series ensuring that he became a household name.

Zaugg, who is currently testing for a place in Renault's GP2 team, spends the time between seasons in South Africa, a place he describes as a second home. The world of professional racing is stressful and when he is not pushing the limits on the track, Zaugg likes to unwind by mountain biking "up in the hills". — **Ryan Hoffmann**



 **Lunch spot:** Spur

Aaron Mokoena
Bafana Bafana Captain

Aaron Mokoena is used to pressure. At 17, he became the youngest player to wear the Bafana Bafana jersey, eventually taking over the captaincy from Lucas Radebe.

So, when Portsmouth took on Coventry City in the FA Cup this year, it wasn't surprising that Mokoena scored the winning goal in the final minute of extra time.

At 29, Mokoena is at the top of his game, having played for Bayer Leverkusen, Ajax Amsterdam and Genk before moving to the English Premier League. On the field he may be known as the tough tackling "Mbazo" but to the youth he inspires through his foundation he is the hero who brings football, along with messages of self-esteem, health and education, into their communities.

No doubt when he sings the national anthem during the opening game of the Fifa 2010 World Cup, Mokoena will be thinking of the four-year-old boy who kick-started his career on the dusty pitches of Boipatong. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** The Meat Company, Melrose Arch, Johannesburg



To the youth he inspires, he is the hero who brings football, along with messages of self-esteem, health, and education



Anna Noko Matlou

Footballer

Anna Noko Matlou is probably the least celebrated sportsperson in South Africa despite achievements that have catapulted the country into international recognition.

The 20-year-old Limpopo-born Banyana Banyana star scooped the title of Woman Player of the Year at the Confederation of African Football (CAF) awards held in Nigeria last year. She is the first South African, man or woman, to win this award. Players such as Benni McCarthy and Lucas Radebe have been nominated but haven't come close to equalling the prolific Banyana striker's achievement in a sport that has traditionally been the preserve of men.

The award to Matlou was a recognition by CAF of her consistent goal-scoring record for South Africa's Senior Women's National team in both official and international friendly matches — she scored 23 goals in 20 games. She was crowned on the same night as Manchester City striker Emmanuel Adebayor, who was named Player of the Year in the men's category.

It was largely owing to her industry on the field that Banyana Banyana won their first women's championship last year. In that tournament alone, Matlou scored six goals, including a hat trick in the semifinal and a goal in the final, to share the Golden Boot award with Genevova Anonma of Equatorial Guinea.

At the awards ceremony former South African Football Association president Molefi Oliphant, who also chairs CAF's women football subcommittee, was probably more elated than all the football bigwigs in Lagos for the event. He said Matlou's achievements would inspire many women back home to take the sport seriously.

Sadly, though, women's football in South Africa continues to be very low-key. The incentives for the girl child to pursue the sport as an alternative career option are limited. Banyana Banyana have an African star in Matlou and are a powerhouse on the continent, yet sponsorship for women's football comes only in dribs and drabs. — **Phathisani Moyo**

 **Lunch spot:** McDonald's



Dale Steyn

Cricketer

South Africa has produced many great fast bowlers, guys such as Fanie de Villiers, Peter Pollock, Neil Adcock, Allan Donald and Makhaya Ntini. Dale Steyn is right up there with them — if not even better.

One report describes him as having been wary of his pace in his early career, as through he was worried that his extreme speed would injure the batsman. These days Steyn couldn't care less, as was evident during the India Premier League, when, in his own words, he was bowling faster than he ever had in his career and knocking batsman right off their blocks.

The Phalaborwa-born express bowler is capable of generating speeds in excess of 150km/h. He is currently the number one ranked Test bowler in the world and holds the South African record for reaching 100 wickets in the quickest time. Steyn was named World Cricketer of the Year for the 2008 season in recognition of his immense talent.

— **Phathisani Moyo**

 **Lunch spot:** Allora, Sandton

Bryan Gary Habana

Rugby Player

Although named after Manchester football legends Bryan Robson and Gary Bailey, the Springbok winger opted for a rugby career. Developed by the Golden Lions, Habana made his Springbok debut at just 21 against England at Twickenham in 2004, when he came on as substitute to score a try in the 32-16 loss. It was to be the start of an exceptionally successful rugby career.

Habana was one of the stars of the victorious Springbok team that lifted the 2007 World Cup. He scored eight tries at that World Cup to equal the 1999 record set by All Blacks' big winger Jonah Lomu. Habana was subsequently named the 2007 Player of the Year. He is still an integral member of the Springbok team and arguably the best finisher in the game. But the 26-year-old Bok player has left the Bulls franchise in a lucrative million-rand deal to join the Stormers in Cape Town. — **Phathisani Moyo**

 **Lunch spot:** Pachas, Hazelwood, Pretoria





Cyril Mqadi Surfer

Cyril Mqadi learned to surf before he learnt to swim. But it is not something he is currently recommending to the 50-odd street children he coaches in Durban.

“It’s dangerous; I don’t believe anyone should do that,” he says, laughing. Mqadi was one of a bunch of kids who’d spend their post-school afternoons hanging around the beach in Mzumbe on KwaZulu-Natal’s south coast when an offer of a loaned surfboard changed his life.

“There were always surfers coming down to Mzumbe and my friends and I would be watching them and we got to know them. I must have been 12 or 13 years old, and one day Peter Maish [a surfboard maker] offered us a board and we picked it up from there,” he says.

The 32-year-old went on to compete as a junior surfer in local events between 1994 and 1999 and took up judging in 2000, becoming the country’s first internationally recognised black surfing judge. He has officiated at both local and International Surfing Association events, including the Mr Price Pro and last year’s World Surfing Games in Costa Rica.


In between, he has translated the surfing judges’ rulebook into isiZulu and was the focus — together with his twin brother Meshack — of the 2008 documentary film, *Zulu Wave Riders*. The same year he won an award

from the Association of Surfing Professionals (Africa) for his work on the transformation of surfing in South Africa.

He believes there is still much transformation work to be done.

“Black surfers get initial support, but there is no buy-in from government. We’re not getting any funding to send black surfers to compete overseas, and the government people just don’t care about developing the sport. I’d like the fatties from Parliament, including the sports minister, Makhenkesi Stofile, to come down here and see how hard surfing is.”

Mqadi believes his current job, coaching street kids full-time, “helps keeps them human and gives them pride and focus. Once they’re on the water, these kids change completely,” he says. “We’re teaching them to swim, surf and also about ecological issues around the ocean. But it’s not just about surfing. These kids will hopefully realise that they can change their lives by maybe opening surf shops, or becoming lifeguards or divers,” he says. — **Niren Tolsi**


 **Lunch spot:** Centre Court or the Ship Wreck, uShaka Marine World, Durban

Oscar Pistorius Athlete

Nicknamed the Blade Runner, Oscar Pistorius is the world’s fastest man with no legs. He is the double-amputee world-record holder in the 100m, 200m and 400m, running with the aid of artificial carbon-fibre limbs.

A fierce competitor who knows no bounds, Pistorius even races against able-bodied athletes — and wins. But the South African has had a rough time in his efforts to compete. In 2007 he took the International Association of Athletics Federations to court after they banned him from running, claiming that his prostheses gave him an unfair advantage over able-bodied athletes. He won the widely publicised legal battle and was able to compete for a place in the South African team for the Beijing Olympics.

Although he didn’t make the team, his victory was significant in that he had shown the world that disability does not mean inability. He took part in the 2008 Paralympic Games and scooped gold medals in the 100m, 200m and 400m. — **Phathisani Moyo**

 **Lunch spot:** Anywhere that serves good lasagne



Ithumeleng Khune Footballer

Tall, athletic and, to top it all off, very good-looking. It would be safe to say that the number one Bafana Bafana and Kaizer Chiefs goalkeeper has it all. Itu, as he is known to those close to him, is the first choice in the goalkeeping department. By the time he turns 23 on 20 June he will probably have added another cap to his already glowing CV, fulfilling every footballer’s lifelong ambition — to play in the World Cup.

Khune was the preferred pair of safe hands for Bafana Bafana during the highly successful Confederations Cup last year and is on track to be between the posts during the World Cup.

This brilliant goalkeeper has won many accolades — he was

the PSL Players Player of the Season and Goalkeeper of the Season and Kaizer Chiefs Player of the Season, in the 2007/08 season. He scooped the SA Sports Awards Newcomer of the Year in 2008 and was named Rookie of the Season in the same year. That Amakhosi have managed to hold on to him for this long is just plain luck. But, it remains to be seen whether the club can ward off interest in this great talent after the World Cup. — **Phathisani Moyo**

 **Lunch spot:** Any Spur



Chris Bertish Big Wave Surfer

Heard of a little somebody called Charlize Theron? Yes? Well then, pay attention because that means you should have heard of Chris Bertish. Because the surfing contest he recently aced is the Oscars of the sport.

Mavericks, in Northern California, is the stuff of legend. Pro surfers have died in its massive waves, which routinely top out at over 15m. Bertish won the invitation-only contest this year, earning himself the biggest prize in the history of surfing. He's not the first South African to win it, but he did it in the biggest waves ever recorded in a big-wave paddle event.

Bertish is one of an elite group of death-defying surfers who tackle Big Waves. The phrase is capitalised for a reason. Think minimum of 6m walls of violent force that can slam you several metres underwater and you get the picture.


"I was born into a family of three brothers and a father that got me involved in every water sport known to man from a very early age," says Bertish. Starting at age 10 meant that by 17 "surfing bigger waves became like an addiction, an obsession".

Winning Mavericks was a lifelong goal for him, which, he says, has exacted huge personal sacrifice and financial drain over the past 10 years.

Indeed, Bertish's CV reads like the diary of a man willing to do whatever it takes for the cause (read: surfing) with very little support. He studied marketing and desktop publishing and worked in branding for a number of surfer labels — the most recent being O'Neill.

"Unless you are a rugby, cricket or soccer player in this country it's so difficult to get the necessary backing and support to go and compete around the world and represent your country," says Bertish. "Which is such a waste, as there's so much wasted talent in this country which never gets a chance to shine."

But perhaps the biggest waste of all is not acknowledging a South African who has worked damned hard and gotten immensely far at such a young age. Bertish, from the M&G, thanks for doing us proud. — **Verashni Pillay**

 **Lunch spot:** Codfather, Camps Bay, and Jamaican Me Crazy, Kenilworth, Cape Town



Bertish, from the M&G,
thanks for doing us proud



Gavin 'Moses' Adams Pro Skater

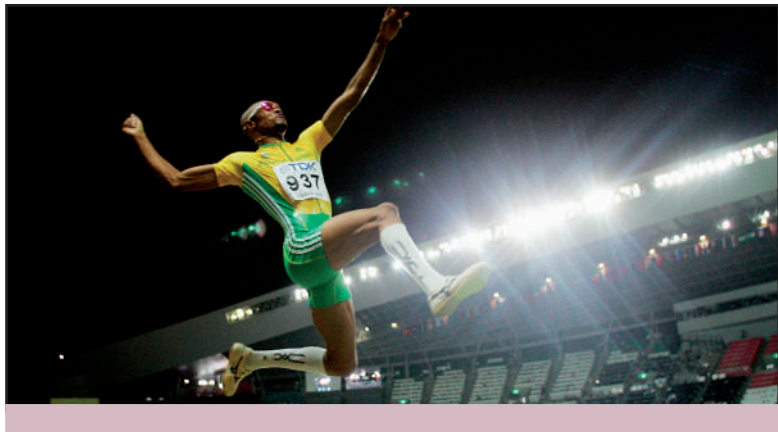
From Jo'burg to Cape Town, Gavin "Moses" Adams is hailed by street skaters as the hardest-working and best in the country — and is known to leave spectators in awe.

At the age of nine Adams watched his brother and his friends skateboarding and decided to try it for himself. Ten years later Adams can't remember the last day he didn't skate — and it is that kind of passion and persistence that has brought him accolades from all in South Africa who know about street skating.

Adams's sponsors include top skating gear companies such as KFD, DC and Volcom, as well as Skull Candy Headphones. At 15 he was selected to tour and compete in London with Volcom and has gone on to compete in countless local tours.

Adams has his own signature board with KFD skateboards and was the first South African to be in the International Circa Footwear team. — **Lisa Steyn**

 **Lunch spot:** Guzzlers, Milnerton, Cape Town



Khotso Mokoena Athlete


Khotso Mokoena has every reason to feel somewhat short-changed by his country after being relegated to the periphery by the Caster Semenya hullabaloo.

The silver medallist long jump and South Africa champion sat ignored alongside 800m world champion Mbulaeni Mulaudzi as politicians centered on the achievements of young Semenya when the national team returned from Germany last year.

Even the media weren't too concerned with the athlete, who had saved the country blushes when he captured the only medal won by a member of the bloated South African team that competed in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Still, the athlete remains one of the flag bearers of South African sport. He set a new African record in the long jump with a leap of 8.50m, which is also a national record.

Mokoena's consistency in the long jump over the past 10 years has been remarkable. He came second at the World Indoor Championships held in Qatar this year and is one of the best bets to capture another medal at the Commonwealth Games, scheduled for India in October. — **Phathisani Moyo**


 **Lunch spot:** Anywhere that serves great chicken



Wayne Parnell Cricketer

The Proteas’ left arm fast bowler may be just 20 years old but he should have no problem taking anyone to lunch. The Indian Premier League Dehli Daredevils franchise splashed out a whopping US\$610 000 to entice the young bowler on to their books early this year, making him an instant millionaire in rand terms.

Only last year Parnell became the youngest player to be awarded a Cricket South Africa contract. The potential of the young bowler has never been in doubt. He captained the South African U19 team to the final of the International Cricket Council and retained figures of 4-25 in his one-day international debut for the Proteas — a remarkable feat given that it was against the mighty Aussies. He is also a handy batsman down the lower order. Given that the previous U19 skipper, Graeme Smith, went on to captain the national team, this young all-rounder appears destined for even bigger things. — **Phathisani Moyo**

 **Lunch spot:** Casa Bianca, Kings Beach, Port Elizabeth



Natalie du Toit Swimmer

In March, Natalie du Toit was honoured at the Laureus World Sports Awards during a colourful ceremony in Abu Dhabi — quite a feat considering that she was crowned alongside the Brawn GP formula team who are the reigning motor racing championships.

Also nominated for this prestigious award were the current rugby world champions, the Springboks, who, unlike the versatile swimmer, did not win. The Laureus awards are bestowed on the greatest sportsmen and women in the world, and the event is broadcast live to more than 100 countries after a vigorous selection process that involves 46 judges.

The 25-year-old swimmer received the prize in recognition of the barriers she has broken between the able-bodied and the disabled, because she often races in both categories.


But Du Toit is most famous for her achievements at the Beijing Olympics, where she not only won gold medals in all five races in which she took part but was also the country’s flag bearer at the games. The

swimming sensation entered the 100m butterfly, 200m individual medley, 50m freestyle, 100 freestyle and 400m freestyle. Not surprisingly, she won the Whang Youn Dai Achievement award at the conclusion of the games.

She has continued to swim in 5km and 10km marathons, overcoming obstacles not encountered by her able-bodied rivals. Du Toit, who is an accomplished and inspirational spokeswoman, has changed the lives of many aspiring individuals who aren’t necessarily even swimmers.

In 2002, awarding her the Western Cape Golden Cross, then-Western Cape Premier Marthinus van Schalkwyk summed up her achievements, saying she had gone “beyond gold and swam her way into the hearts of not only South Africans but the whole world”.

— **Phathisani Moyo**

 **Lunch spot:** Fournos, Woodmead, Johannesburg

Bongani Khumalo Footballer

Bongani Khumalo’s story is a case of another country’s loss being South Africa’s gain. The 23-year-old moved from Swaziland at the age of two with his parents and has decided to play for the country that honed his football career.

The well-spoken Bafana Bafana defender, captain of Supersport, the club that has won the Premier Soccer League for the past three years, plies his football skills in the heart of central defence, where he has played alongside national team skipper Aaron Mokoena.

Khumalo was a member of the team that represented the country with distinction in the 2009 Confederations Cup and

is almost a certainty for the World Cup squad. Considering that, in 2007, the solid defender was playing lower-division football for Pretoria University, his rise to the top can only be described as meteoric. Like many other gifted footballers expected to make Carlos Parreira’s team, this central defender is not far from landing a high-paying deal abroad.

— **Phathisani Moyo**

 **Lunch spot:** Kream, Brooklyn, Pretoria





Daryl Impey Cyclist

This year South Africa hosted one of the world's best — if not the greatest-ever — cyclists when seven-times winner of the Tour de France Lance Armstrong graced the *Cape Argus* race.

And while most South African cycling enthusiasts caught a glimpse of the great cyclist for the first time, Johannesburg-born rider Daryl Impey belongs, for the 2010 season, to team RadioShack — a team co-owned and led by Armstrong.

The 25-year-old South African joined this elite group of cyclists late last year, having been on the circuit for just three years, after a series of impressive performances on the gruelling European circuit. Impey's greatest achievement on the road has been his outstanding performance in the 2009 Tour of Turkey.

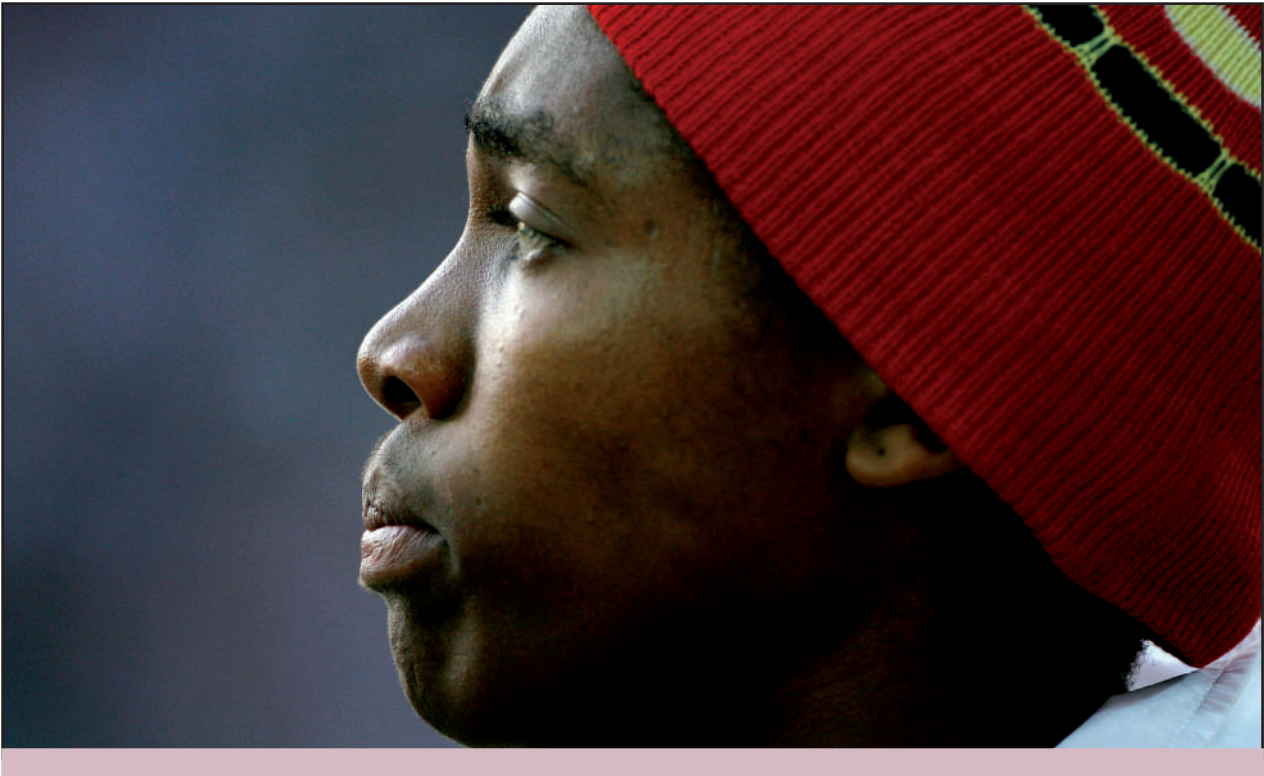
Despite being pushed to the barriers by Dutch cyclist Theo Bos, the South African went on to win the race, though he broke two vertebrae in the crash. It was a victory that enhanced his growing status

as one of the best road riders in the world. As an illustration of the quality field that played second fiddle to Impey, the 27-year-old Bos is an Olympic silver medallist and five-times world champion on the track.

Armstrong's RadioShack swooped on Impey after his former team, Barloworld of Italy, lost its sponsor. At RadioShack Impey also works with team manager Johan Bruyneel, a Belgian who guided Armstrong and Spain's Alberto Contador to their Tour de France wins.

Although he did not make the short list of the riders who will race in the Tour de France for RadioShack this year, Impey will have another shot, as he has a two-year contract with the team. So, if you ever wondered what other motivations Armstrong might have had in coming to South Africa ... now you know. — **Phathisani Moyo**

 **Lunch spot:** Butcher Shop and Grill, Sandton



Caster Semenya Athlete

It is safe to declare that no South African track athlete has ever generated as much interest as Caster Mokgadi Semenya. The 19-year-old Limpopo-born middle-distance runner showed the world's best a clean pair of heels when she broke the world 800m record at the World Championships in Germany last year.

The victory immediately placed her under the international spotlight, albeit for all the wrong reasons. Questions about her gender were raised, and the outcome of the humiliating tests conducted by the International Associations of Athletics Federations (IAAF) are still not verified.

The IAAF says it had to conduct the tests after she improved her times by 25 seconds in the 1500m and eight seconds in the 800m in less than seven months.

"These are the sort of dramatic breakthroughs that usually arouse suspicion of drug use," said the IAAF in a statement.

What is sad about this young athlete's traumatic experience is that 12 months down the line the test results have still not been released and she remains banned from competing. Although the IAAF was well within its rights to conduct tests if deemed necessary, leaked information

to the international media about these suspicions has brought Semenya untold humiliation and the issue of her gender was turned into a political spectacle as politicians sought to raise their profiles at her expense.

Sadly, inquisitions about her gender have been part and parcel of Caster Semenya's life. More often than not, she would be taken to the toilet during school races and asked by teachers to strip. But, despite the fact that her privacy and human rights have been seriously violated, Semenya remains optimistic about running in the future and has hired a legal team to fight her case against the IAAF suspension.

In an interview with *YOU* magazine, Semenya, who has been called a hermaphrodite, declared that "God made me the way I am and I accept myself." Perhaps everyone else should too and just let the young girl run her race.

— **Phathisani Moyo**


 **Lunch spot:** Cappellos, Hatfield, Pretoria

Malesela Molepo Swimmer

After his impressive showing at the Cana Zone 3 and 4 Aquatics Championships in Nairobi, Kenya, early this year, Malesela Molepo could well become the first black South African swimmer at the Olympics.

The 18-year-old, who hails from Polokwane, bagged six gold, four silver and four bronze medals in the championships.

He perfected his swimming in the backyard pool at home when he took an interest in the white-dominated sport back in 1994. Molepo, who is determined to be a world champion, also met his first obstacle at home. His parents didn't want him to take up swimming seriously, but he followed his heart. He took swimming lessons at school and was spotted by an instructor at a gala in 2006. Today the young swimmer is the proud holder of 13 medals among a host of other notable achievements and on track to make the 2012 Olympics team. — **Phathisani Moyo**

 **Lunch spot:** The Deck, Polokwane





Sifiso 'Skizo' Nhlapo BMX Rider

Sifiso Nhlapo, the top South African BMXer, is the rider who was injured during the Olympic Games BMX final in 2009. But he has not lost hope.

Born in Soweto, Nhlapo became a pro BMX racer at the age of 16 and since then he has been South African Champion three times, Gauteng Champion and the 2006 African Champion.

In April Nhlapo was training in Norway, getting back in shape after spending months away from the sport. Now he's preparing for the BMX World Championships in

Pietermaritzburg at the end of July. His ultimate goal is to be an Olympic medalist in 2012.

This 23-year-old does not only do it for the love of the game but also "to motivate the youth never to give up on their dreams, and to work hard to achieve what they want to achieve". — **Vuvu Vena**



Lunch spot: Mom's food, home



Steven Pienaar Footballer, Everton

Midfielder Steven Pienaar's career high was winning the Dutch league title in 2002 and 2004. Pienaar, nicknamed "Schilo", after the Italian footballer Salvatore Schillaci, the Golden Boot winner at the 1990 World Cup, was signed up by Everton on a three-year deal in 2008.

His career began with Ajax Cape Town, after which he moved to Holland with Ajax in 2001, then joined Dortmund in 2006 before moving to Everton.

He has played an instrumental role in the sport in South Africa, playing for Bafana Bafana in the 2008 African Nations Cup and the 2009 Confederations Cup as well as being part of the national squad in the 2002 World Cup.

Teammates from Everton have called him brilliant. "Every time we give him the ball it looks like something magical will happen," said Tim Howard last year.

It has been said that Pienaar's strength lies in the fact that he is an accurate passer and crosser who possesses a vicious right-foot shot. — **Vuvu Vena**



Lunch spot: Mom's house

Siyanda Xulu Footballer

Kaizer Chiefs were livid when Mamelodi Sundowns lured defender Siyanda Xulu to Chloorkop last season. Amakhosi's anger is understandable, given the great potential of the young man who is arguably the brightest prospect in South African football at present.

Though only 18 years old, Xulu has already been called up to Bafana Bafana and is in contention for a place in the final 23-man squad that will represent the country at the World Cup. He joined the national team in the camp held in Brazil. Xulu was again called up to be part of the squad that spent three weeks in Germany.

If World Cup-winning coach Carlos Parreira thinks the boy is that good then the sky can only be the limit for the KwaMashu-born defender.

Parreira is not the only expert to have been impressed, Xulu is the subject of keen interest from some big overseas clubs. Arsenal are reported to be leading the race to take the teenage sensation to the Emirates Stadium. *Kick Off* recently carried a story that suggested the English giants wanted him as a replacement for Kolo Toure, who now captains Manchester City. But, faced with the prospect of losing their prized possession, Sundowns were swift in dismissing the story. Arsenal may be overtaken by Barcelona for his signature.

The central defender, who partners the ever-popular Matthew Booth in the heart of the Sundowns defence, made an impressive 25 appearances for the club. To top it off, he scored two goals. The club has rewarded the youngster with jersey number 25, the number made famous by one of the greatest captains to lead the club, Michael Manzini, who won five league titles with Sundowns.

Xulu was dubbed Young Player of the Season at the Premier Soccer League awards take place later in May. — **Phathisani Moyo**



Lunch spot: At home





Neil Jankelowitz

Joint Managing Director and Founder, MSCSPORTS

MSCSPORTS (or PJ Products, as it was formerly known) was founded almost by accident on the back of selling a single Springbok rugby jersey at an auction one evening in 1999.


Since then the company has expanded to represent three core competencies — sports events, sports marketing and sports memorabilia — with clients including Toyota, OUTsurance, RAM, Samsung, Bidvest Bank, Hyundai and the Eastern Cape Provincial Government.

Thirty-four-year-old Jankelowitz has cultivated a unique working environment within the company through his hands-on approach and places a major emphasis on client and stakeholder relationships.

By building rapport with his clients he has managed to entrench companies such as RAM and OUTsurance within the local sports market. His company has also placed more than R30-million worth of broadcast sponsorship on SuperSport through the sale of these rights to clients.

But it is not all business. Through the sale of memorabilia MSCSPORTS has been able to benefit many in need. The company has exclusive rights to market and distribute all official memorabilia for the Springboks, the Proteas and Bafana Bafana and it does so largely through fundraising auctions. To date MSCSPORTS has raised more than R25-million for charities across the country.

Bidvest bought 50% of MSCSPORTS in 2008 to form BIDSport — and Jankelowitz is chairman of the new entity. — **Phathisani Moyo**

 **Lunch spot:** Assaggi, Illovo, Johannesburg



Jacky Kwan Tai Ho Free Runner/Parkour

Named after Jackie Chan, professional free runner and talent agency owner Jacky Kwan Tai Ho first saw what was to be his future on a plane to Hong Kong in November 2003.

That's when he watched a documentary called *Jump London*, which showed traceurs (practitioners of Parkour) moving acrobatically through famous locations in London using the discipline of the fast-growing urban sport. Though the World Freerunning and Parkour Federation site describes the sport merely as "the act of moving from point 'A' to point 'B' using the obstacles in your path to increase your efficiency", what it actually looks like is an elegant display of jumping, running, flipping and flying over streets and buildings and steps and benches and anything else that gets in their way.


In 2004 Kwan Tai Ho joined other traceurs in South Africa and, in 2009, started PkJOZI, made up of a group of friends who practise movement for the love of it and in their own way, with personal flare and style.

"I personally do not believe in the word Parkour or free running," he says. "What I do is move. Moving for me is about being able to look at the world differently, about

being able to look through a pair of eyes that portrays our landscapes full of obstacles, and the ability to surpass those obstacles. Most importantly, though, true moving is about being able to express my movement under, over or through any landscape as fluidly, beautifully and as controlled as possible."

And that's exactly what he does. Kwan Tai Ho has appeared in local and international television adverts for products from Coke Zero to Levi's. He's also been featured in the music videos of stars such as TKZee, Skwatta Camp, Zulu Boy, Loyiso Bala and Jamelia as well as in South African productions such as *My World?*, *Footskating 101*, and an upcoming local movie about vampires.

Kwan Tai Ho it isn't about the show. He takes his art seriously. Movement, he says, is about mastering his environment and seeing the world as his canvas. "My freedom of expression mirrors the brush strokes to an art which is perfect in my heart." — **Vuvu Vena**

 **Lunch spot:** The Westcliff Hotel, Johannesburg

Stephen Mokoka

Athlete

He has been labelled a cocky athlete in some European quarters for his penchant to play to the gallery in full view of television cameras. But what you cannot take away from the 25-year-old runner is his long-distance talent. He produced a breathtaking finish at the *Yellow Pages* South Africa Athletics championship in March this year and won the 10 000m well within 90 minutes. He also out-sprinted pre-race favourite Juan van Deventer to win the metric mile in 3.38.55. Only last year Mokoka improved his personal best when he clocked 28 minutes 21 seconds to win the 10km race in Stellenbosch. The national half-marathon champion is one of the major medal hopefuls for the 2012 Olympics set to take place in London. — **Phathisani Moyo**

 **Lunch spot:** Ocean Basket, Hatfield, Pretoria





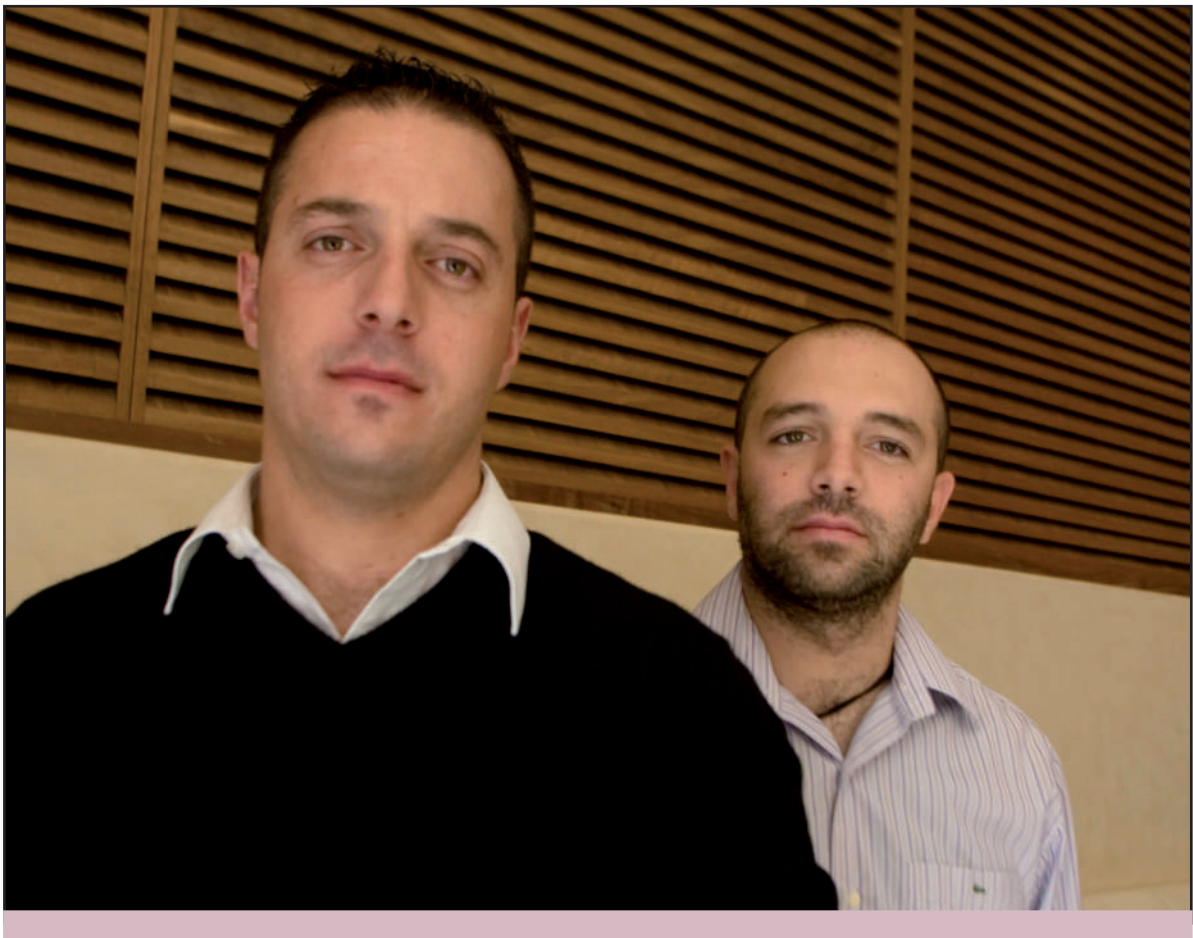
Michael Hughes

General Manager, Stellar Africa

Stellar Africa, whose shareholders include Bidvest and the Stellar Group, was formed in 2002 and Michael Hughes joined the company a year later, his primary role being to sign young and upcoming football and cricket talent. The company's first cricket client was Protea spinner Paul Harris, and its first football client was Kaizer Chiefs defender Jeffrey Ntuka, who, at the time, was signed to Chelsea FC. Both players gave the company credibility and the opportunity to attract other professional sportsmen. The company's current local stable includes Jacques Rudolph, Rilee Rossouw, Peter Grant, Reneilwe Letsholonyane and Katlego Mphela; overseas clientele include the likes of Phil Vickery, Ashley Cole and Kolo Toure.

— Phathisani Moyo

 **Lunch spot:** Parreirinha, Rosettenville, Johannesburg



Mario and George Morfu Football Club Owners

Football runs in the veins of these two young entrepreneurs. The brothers, who were born and bred in Witbank, are the proud owners of Premier Soccer League Mpumalanga Black Aces. They bought the team in 2004 when it was languishing in the lower rungs of the leagues and guided it into the top flight league in 2008. The promotion came against the backdrop of the acquisition of the franchise of then-Division One team City Pillars. The elder of the Morfu brothers, Mario (34), was a gifted player in his younger days, playing professionally for AEK in Cyprus in 1996 before returning home to don the Witbank Black Aces strip between 1997 and 1999. He was also picked for the national Under-17 team. But, his career was cut short by multiple injuries, including five knee surgeries. His younger brother, George (31), played for Newtons in the Cape in 2001 while studying at Stellenbosch

University. He was player/manager of the Stellenbosch University Football club, known as Libertas, which conquered all tertiary institutions in the country, thumping Wits, Tuks, the University of Cape Town, Rhodes and African champions the University of the Western Cape. The brothers take pride in being partners in all their businesses and the fact that they “work as a team in all we do”. They come from a close-knit family and their father, Laki, is life president of the club. Having just survived relegation, the brothers are determined to bolster their team for the coming season — Mpumalanga Black Aces, known among their followers as Amazayoni, have cast their net abroad.

— Phathisani Moyo

 **Lunch spot:** Any à la carte food from Sandton

Zodwa Maphanga Table-tennis Player

A team from the United Kingdom-based television programme *Transworld Sport* was recently in South Africa with a Pretoria-based table-tennis player as their target. They spent close to week profiling the life of rising star Zodwa Maphanga in a sport dominated by players from Asia. The 19-year-old is relatively unknown back home and it has taken the efforts of an outside broadcaster to showcase her to the world. Maphanga is a member of an elite group of athletes dotted around the world who fall under the guidance of Ethiopian runner Haile Gebrselassie, probably the finest Olympian to emerge from Africa. His G4S4teen programme mentors young athletes and helps them fulfil their dreams to compete in the Olympics. Maphanga, the Africa under-21 doubles silver medallist, took the bronze medal in the Commonwealth Youth Games and the ninth All Africa Games. In her spare time, the talented ping-pong player hosts training sessions for orphaned children from SOS Children's Village in Mamelodi.

— Phathisani Moyo

 **Lunch spot:** Capello, Hatfield, Pretoria





200 Young South Africans | Technology

Marlon Parker Social Entrepreneur

Awareness of the number of people in his community — Silvertown on the Cape Flats — in need of social upliftment motivated Marlon Parker to become a social entrepreneur.

Parker, who has a master’s degree in information technology (cum laude) and is now working on his PhD at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology where he lectures in information technology, uses technology to strengthen the community.

About three years ago, in partnership with a community organisation, Impact Direct, he started up an organisation called Reconstructed Living Labs (Rlabs) in order to “reconstruct communities through innovation”.

Rlabs uses social media to help community members affected by substance abuse and gang violence to tell their stories, and use those stories to “share hope with other people out there”.

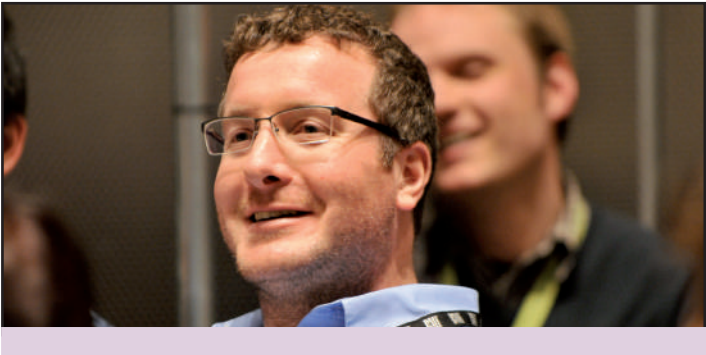
Parker has been encouraged by the way Rlabs has been driven by the community itself.

“It started off as a project, but it is now a movement” driven by its members — former drug addicts and gang members, he says. “The highlight is how they are growing and how they are keen on changing other people’s lives.”

The movement has started

creating tools for its own needs, devising ways in which it can offer “mobile counselling” using technology like Mxit. Rlabs hopes to launch the movement in the Eastern Cape, Asia, India and the United Kingdom. — **Vuvu Vena**

Lunch spot: Primi Piatti, Waterfront, Cape Town



Gareth Knight Technology Entrepreneur

In 2005 Gareth Knight started a software company called Technovated, with a clientele based mainly in London. And in 2007 Technovated developed a family social network arm called Kindo. Then the two merged and, well, then things got really interesting.

“We grew to 17 languages and users in 220 countries in six months,” says Knight. But not long after that, Kindo was bought by My Heritage, a global genealogy software company based in Tel Aviv.

Late last year Knight decided to pick up Technovated again: “We are pretty much software people but we know how to build things for the consumer web,” he says.

At the moment Technovated is building a dating site that’s mobile and computer-based; it’s rooted nationally but branches out globally as well.

Knight says his zoology studies at the University of the Witwatersrand helped him to think differently about technology.

“I think in a lot of ways. I do not come from a traditional IT background, so I approach things from a different point of view,” he says. “It’s also given me a sensibility for people and some of the problems that people have. I think about things in a different way and that reflects in the way I work.”

Knight said Technovated aims at building global products from South Africa, “because we have really smart people in this country, very talented, and the rest of the world sometimes does not give us that credit”. — **Vuvu Vena**

Lunch spot: Tasha’s Café, Rivonia, Johannesburg

Sheraan Amod Technology Entrepreneur

Sheraan Amod started his first company at the age of 18. Trafik Student Networks was a small marketing agency that he began working on in his dorm room at the University of Cape Town.

But that business closed down two years later, when Amod’s co-founder left the city, forcing him to make a decision: either continue with the business or finish his undergraduate degree in electrical and computer engineering.

He decided to finish the degree, but not long after that he started his second company, Personera, a “Facebook-based personalised publishing service for businesses and consumers”, dropping out of his master’s in engineering management to do it.

“I’ve always been a born marketer. That’s just what I take to,” says Amod. “From high school I became a very eager reader of blogs written by entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley and that really inspired me to pursue this path,” he says.

Personera’s unique platform enables the automatic integration of a person’s Facebook content into a variety of different print products that can be ordered for personal use from personera.com, or applied to corporate direct mail marketing campaigns.

Amod soon realised that building a business

is not about winning competitions — and he has won quite a few, including the Enablers Cape Town Entrepreneur Competition and the Top Technology 100 — but about creating massive value for your customers. — **Vuvu Vena**

Lunch spot: Caveau at the Mill, Newlands, Cape Town

Tyler Reed Chief Executive, Aduity

While attempting a BCom in economics through Unisa, Tyler Reed soon decided that university was not for him.

“I wanted to go into the stock-brokering world,” he says. “But I decided that entrepreneurship was more exciting and that’s where I feel most comfortable.”

His first business, Younique, was a socialmedia consultancy that dealt with custom development work; it didn’t survive. But the 22-year-old bounced back, starting his second company, Aduity, an advertising platform for mobile technology.

“We help publishers and advertisers to make sure that they are reaching the right audience,” says Reed. “It’s a global business, a technology platform that can be used anywhere in the world.”

— **Vuvu Vena**

Lunch spot: Koi Restaurant and Sushi Bar, Sandton



Heather Ford Founder, Creative Commons South Africa

Heather Ford downplays the story about the day Al Gore offered her a job. "He wrote it on a napkin. It said something like, if you ever need a job or a mission, call me. I don't know if he was serious," she muses, "but I still have the napkin."

She moves in impressive circles. Ford has worked with Lawrence Lessig and Jimmy Wales, the founders of Creative Commons and Wikipedia, been invited to parties by the founders of Google, whom she refers to as "Larry and Sergei", and rubbed shoulders with the chief executives of companies such as LinkedIn.

So how did a girl from Pietermaritzburg who didn't even use the internet until her third year of university end up in Silicon Valley? She volunteered.

After landing a scholarship from Benetech to attend Stanford University, she became heavily involved in Creative Commons, a non-profit organisation dedicated to increasing "the body of work that is available to the public for free and legal sharing".


She later launched Creative Commons in South Africa, then became executive director of iCommons, a British charity that supports the ideals of open education and free software. In this role, she oversaw a \$1-million

annual budget, ran summits around the world and organised scores of volunteers. Ford also served on the Wikimedia Foundation's advisory board. Last year she initiated GeekRetreat, an annual event that brings leaders in the South African IT community together to improve the internet.

Today, Ford has started to lose faith in the possibilities for both Creative Commons and Wikipedia, which she believes are not inclusive enough of the developing world. And she hopes to find better ways to improve access to information in Africa, particularly for educational use.

But for the time being, she's just another information master's student at the University of California, Berkeley, albeit one with a summer fellowship from Google.

— **Faranaaz Parker**

 **Lunch spot:** Next to Mike's Kitchen in Parktown there is a little grassy verge with plastic tables and a caravan that serves the best pap, chakalaka and chicken curry known to man or woman

Andrew MacPherson

IT Developer

Born in London, Andrew MacPherson travelled the world with his mother at a very young age after his parents' divorce; it was then that she introduced him to computers. "And I've been punching keyboards ever since," he says.

When MacPherson was five he and his mother moved to Pretoria. Now, as an IT developer at Paterva, he says he deals with pretty much everything. "We do information mapping, we link info together on the internet," he says. "I also make tea, and, when it gets cold, I help out with the fire."


But MacPherson, who has a bachelor of information science degree from the University of Pretoria, also happens to be one of two people who have developed Maltego, an innovative open-source intelligence and forensics application that enables people to find relationships between different pieces of information.

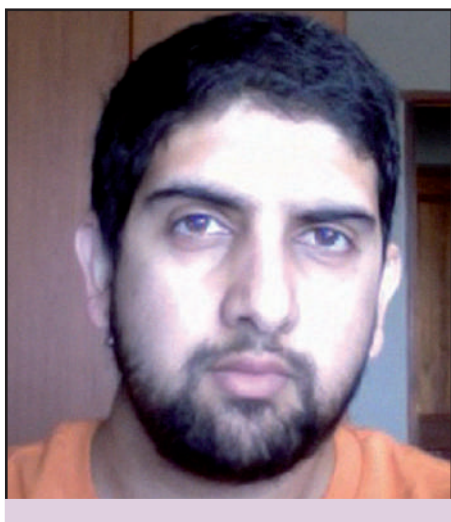
"For example, if you have databases of subscribers and one database just has someone's name and email address and another has an email address and a telephone number, if you use Maltego you can find what other names the telephone number relates to ... and if it's a company number, then you can conclude that all these people work at the same place. It finds relationships between data you can't find without an application like this."

MacPherson's non-techie description is much simpler: "it's a good-looking receptionist. She makes all the good work look nice. And the stuff that we do goes into this application."

MacPherson says the application is used mostly by those in the intelligence, business and government sectors and by people interested in computer assessment, adding that it works better on structured data such as mail servers and IT domains, as opposed to gathering information about individuals, as that may change.

But his biggest challenge doesn't have much to do with computer development — it's actually his Mohawk. "People don't seem to take you very seriously when you have ridiculous hair." — **Vuvu Vena**

 **Lunch spot:** Barn 52, South Downs, Centurion



Haroon Meer Founder, Thinkst

Haroon Meer, armed with a BCom degree in information systems from the University of Natal and an honours in computer science from Unisa, is currently busy with his master's in computer science at Rhodes University.

But don't think of Meer as some sort of serial student — he's busy working in one of the globe's most skilled IT fields: the niche world of internet security.

Meer left Durban in 2001 to join "five guys in Pretoria" with an internet security company (SensePost) that "started off in a bedroom". There, his main focus was on research and development. But he got out quite a bit.

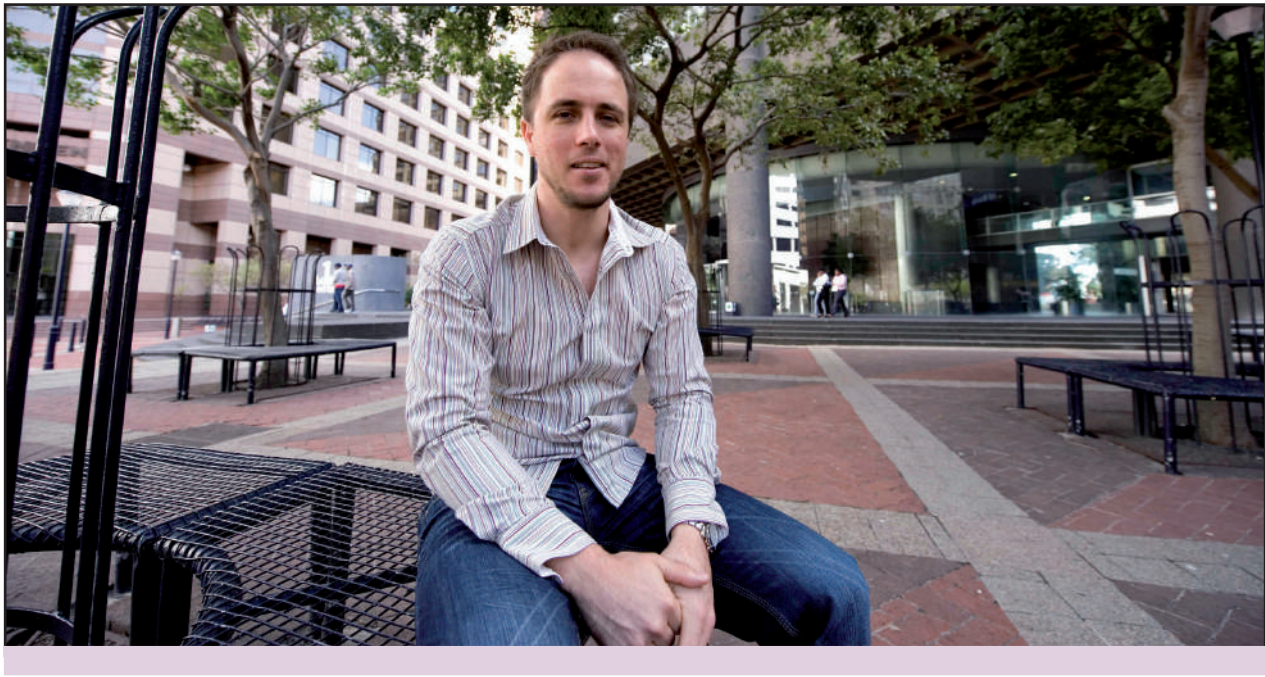
"I got to speak at Oxford University and at lots of conferences, in the United States, Austria and Malaysia," he says. "We also gave training in places like Australia and in US government departments."

But this year Meer broke out on his own. With Thinkst, his aim is to have "people who have tough problems give them to people who like to solve them by using applied research" and to "take some of academia's research tools and solutions and come up with real world solutions". — **Vuvu Vena**

 **Lunch spot:** Spur, Rosebank, Johannesburg



200 Young South Africans | Technology



Alistair Fairweather

Social Media and Online Strategist, Media24 Magazines

Alistair Fairweather is paid to be on Twitter and Facebook every day. It's part of his job. A small part, as Fairweather also helps the digital teams at Media24 Magazines to maximise the benefits of and reduce the effort involved in their social media channels. And then there are the editorial strategies and measurements he has to put together because, let's face it, online audiences don't grow themselves.

More often than not he spends his time convincing business people that social media technology is not a fad just because their kids spend much of their time on Facebook. But if business is reluctant to move into the social media age, it simply can't ignore the fact that Fairweather knows how to grow a fan base — he grew *Huisgenoot's* from 4 000 to 15 000 on Facebook in a matter of weeks.

Not bad going for a 31-year-old who studied journalism at Rhodes University and started his career as a web designer. Somehow Fairweather, who discovered the internet when South Africa was first discovering democracy, found his way

to MWeb where he learnt some hard lessons about web editorial and online product management. It's also where he launched his first-ever web application — MWeb's photo — album system.

By 2007 Fairweather was a product management specialist, with the good fortune to have strong teams capable of launching new products such as Laaik.it, Play24 and Answerit as part of 24.com's social networking and media division.

Part consultant, part evangelist, Fairweather believes social media technology has the potential to become the most powerful mass action medium ever, citing the Obama campaign as a good example of this. All it needs is strong leadership to take the like-minded into battle. That, and accessible broadband, of course. Here's one man who can't wait to see cheaper broadband arrive here. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** The Roundhouse, The Glen, Camps Bay




Guy Taylor

Social Technologist and Organisational Designer

Guy Taylor is addicted to change — changing systems, behaviours, frameworks; anything that helps business move into a more human space.

As a behavioural theorist, analyst and change agent, Taylor works with social tools that will create freedom of thought, interaction and community and provides the technology to make it happen. Why? Because he believes that business is done in a way that doesn't make sense to people. It's a useful skill to have in a world dominated by systems and people when the two don't often understand each other.

Luckily, Taylor loves both. Having started out as a support techie, he has worked through enough systems to help organisations change theirs. As chair of the Johannesburg Drupal Users Group, Taylor offers free introductory courses in technology and makes sure he regularly gives back to communities. Now, if he could only change the education system in South Africa, Taylor would be a changed man. — **Cat Pritchard**

 **Lunch spot:** So Yum, Hyde Park, Johannesburg

Shana Kay


Managing Director and Co-founder, Info Integ

Shana Kay calls herself a geek chick. "I love technology because it enables us to run our businesses from anywhere in the world, and to connect with people all over the world," she says.

The former chief executive of software development company MAXXOR Solutions recently started her own business, Info Integ, an online verification provider. Which, to translate for the not-so-geeky, means, "when you have an online business or website and if you'd like to be seen as credible in the industry we'll give you a stamp of approval".

And it has not been slow going. Info Integ has already won two awards so far: the SAB Kickstart Award in the start-up development category and second place in the ICT sector of the Cape Town Entrepreneurship Competition.

But Kay, who holds a BCom information systems degree from the University of Cape Town, isn't stopping there. She aims to create businesses within the ICT space exploring a variety of avenues. "One of my passions is information sharing as well," she says. "I love that technology allows you to do this." — **Vuvu Vena**

 **Lunch spot:** Wakame, Mouille Point, Cape Town



I love technology because it enables us to run our businesses from anywhere in the world, and to connect with people all over the world



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