



Mail & Guardian

200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS 2012

in association with



xstrata salutes



the Mail & Guardian's
Top 200 Young South
Africans. We look
forward to celebrating
many more of your
successes.



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Editor's Letter

Every year we get better at pulling the *Mail & Guardian's* 200 Young South Africans project together. We get better with our design, better with our photography, better with our online offering (check it out at ysa2012.mg.co.za), but most of all, we get better at identifying and telling the stories about the young South Africans under 35 doing extraordinary things.

It always amazes us when we discover what these future leaders are accomplishing at an age when many of us are still trying to figure out what to do with our lives; they are just doing it — and soaring. They make us proud and give us great hope for the future of this country, and we're sure they will do the same for you. Because, as we see it, this project is a gift to the nation. It stands as a reminder that the future, with these young people on our team, is looking exceptionally well. And the best thing is we know that next year we'll find 200 more young South Africans with the same sort of vision, passion, integrity, talent and determination that will continue to make this country an even better place.

I can't go without mentioning that many of our own young

reporters and photographers would have made this list if another media house had put this project together. But in the spirit of keeping nepotism to a minimum, we have left them off. As for those on the 200 Young South Africans masthead — from Cat Pritchard, the project's editor, and Zeenat Mahomed, who managed this huge undertaking with militaristic efficiency, through to designer Marcelle de Villiers-Louw and photo editor Lisa Skinner, as well as all our researchers, writers and photographers — all I can say is thanks, you too make me proud.

Tanya Pampalone
Executive Editor, 200 Young South Africans

 **Twitter:** @tanyapampalone

**This year's 200 Young South Africans
is dedicated to Sudley Adams, who
will always be forever young.**



Foreword

The selection of this year's 200 Young South Africans comes at a time when we have just finished taking a careful look at our company as a brand, and found a new expression we believe represents what we are and what we want to be. In many ways this is similar to what many South Africans are asking our country to do, and we agree with them.

Significant progress has been made since the advent of democracy in developing this country into one of the world's leading nations. Not only did we recently host the Fifa 2010 World Cup, we will also be the majority host of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), a critical installation for cutting-edge science. We fully support our government's efforts in this respect, as this will give scientific development and training a much-needed shot in the arm.

We must, however, look further and seek to do much

greater things that will command the admiration and respect of the world while developing our economy and our citizens. It is our belief that South Africa's young people have the potential to produce the kind of work required to achieve this goal. It is up to individuals and institutions like our own to encourage and create opportunities for them to do so. The greatest tragedy would be unfulfilled potential when we have so much of it.

On behalf of Xstrata, I wish to congratulate all those who have made this prestigious list and wish them well for the future.

Andile Sangqu,
Executive Director, Xstrata South Africa

 **Website:** xstrata.com

Princess Zinzi Mhlongo

Actress and theatre director

With a name like Princess and a title like “Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year for Theatre 2012”, it’s hard to believe that this 26-year-old director, actress and businesswoman started her career on the amateur stages of Witbank, where she grew up. Maybe Mhlongo didn’t go to one of those fancy schools that offer drama as a school subject, but she did have Ishmael Mohammed and the local Witbank Youth Theatre to encourage her to pursue drama at the Tshwane University of Technology.

Mhlongo’s big break came in 2008 when she got the opportunity, at the age of 22, to direct Zakes Mda’s *And the Girls in their Sunday Dresses* at the State Theatre in Pretoria. The show went on to receive rave reviews at the Grahamstown Festival and Market Theatre, and will be making its international debut at the Edinburgh Festival later this year.

But Mhlongo was determined to explore every avenue of her creativity. In between directing, she hosted events

under her company Tick Tock Productions and worked as an actress. In 2010, when South Africa was being hoisted on to the world stage with the World Cup, Mhlongo was enjoying her own hour in the international spotlight. She was invited to a festival in Germany where her talents were introduced to all the right people. She must have put on her best Sunday dress because, two years later, Mhlongo is preparing to present her writing debut, *Trapped*, as one of only four young international directors at the Salzburg Young Directors Project in Austria.

Where she still finds the time to get involved in community mentoring projects is best understood by the importance she places on sharing her skills and experiences with others. Perhaps coal isn’t Witbank’s best export anymore. — Cat Pritchard



Twitter: @princeszee



Shubnum Khan

Author

Shubnum Khan is not the sum of her achievements, even if they are impressive for a 26-year-old. She’s a full-time lecturer in media studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal with a master’s in English. Her debut novel, *Onion Tears*, was shortlisted for the 2009 Citizen Book Prize and the Penguin Prize for African Writing and has been translated into Italian.

You don’t have to read her tweets to know that Khan is a woman of her times. Feeling a deep responsibility to “use her voice so that others can be heard”, Khan writes for various women’s publications and the *Mail & Guardian*’s Thought Leader while working on her second novel and compiling her first book of poetry. And then there’s the political cartoons she pens for *Al Qalam*. For her, the message dictates the medium and allows her the freedom to explore different expressions and reach new audiences. Educator, author, poet, political satirist-in-the-making — Khan is using society’s platforms to her full potential.

— Cat Pritchard



Twitter: @shubnumkhan



David wa Maahlamela

Poet

David wa Maahlamela admits his first piece of writing was unoriginal and his second “the weakest rubbish ever”. But neither this nor the need to toil on the mines to make ends meet stopped him from becoming one of the country’s most celebrated poets. Wa Maahlamela’s unapologetically moving writings and performances have won him the 2005 Musina Mayoral Award, two seconds and a first in the Herifest Best Poet Awards, and a spot in last year’s finals of the Sanlam Prize for Youth Literature. The 28-year-old wordsmith from rural Limpopo does write in English, but loves to work in his

mother tongue. “Sepedi is more than a language,” he explains. “It is part of a cultural identity.” Performing as far afield as Washington, DC and funded by Columbia University, Wa Maahlamela regrets how little his work is appreciated in South Africa. Appearances at home later this year might change that. — Ian Macleod



Facebook: David wa Maahlamela



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The Brother Moves On

Art and music collective

The Brother Moves On (TBMO) doesn't like being put in a box — unless it's a big box with windows and a door they can walk out of. Musical shapeshifters, TBMO is a Jozi-based, site-specific art and music collective who call themselves "a time and space exercise". They bend the rules of performance art, fusing a fiercely eclectic mix of musical styles, influences and sounds with costumes and storytelling to create a distinctly South African act.

In creating "transitional music for a transitional generation", it's fitting that this "happening otherwise known as the band" is transient in itself. Inspired by a passing assassin, "The Brother", in an episode of *The Wire*, they decided to embrace the reality that bands break up and formed TBMO as an entity independent of who plays, stays or moves on.

TBMO's music/storytelling/art, performed in museums, churches and makeshift spaces, is experimental and expressive. With a sound that's at once post-folk rock, tribal, indie, hypnotic and melodic, it symbolically echoes the cultural complexity the collective, as individuals, grew up with. TBMO's music speaks about where the "born-free" generation finds themselves — as an unemployed generation that, without a sense of entitlement, has to fight for their dreams. In creating a new discourse, they want to create a new kind of music: "brown baby music". It's not black, it's not white and it doesn't play to racial stereotypes. Instead, it affirms the evolution and identity of a new generation of South Africans who are also global citizens.

Their debut EP, *The Golden Wake*, symbolises an awakening of potential and marks a new era for TBMO. With hopes for cross-border collaborations with other African artists and tours to mega-cities, it seems that, with such an authentic and symbolic South African sound, the only direction this genre-busting band is moving is up. — Lu Larché

 Website: thebrothermoveson.com



The Brother Moves On doesn't like being put in a box — unless it's a big box with windows and a door they can walk out of



Zen Marie Artist

Zen Marie is an artist with no work to sell. It's not because, as a lecturer at the Wits School of Arts, he favours theory over practice. He writes, takes photographs, makes video installations. Granted he has a master's from the Amsterdam School of Cultural Analysis but then he also majored in sculpture at Michaelis and spent two years at De Atelier, a space for emerging young artists to create work, not contemplate it. For his latest project, *Caught by Traffic*, Marie has been collaborating with taxi drivers in Durban, Dakar and Bangalore, finding the art in their pimped taxis, highlighting the fact that "the guys who modify taxis are interdisciplinary multimedia artists". It's indicative of the way he works — always around projects, never chasing an exhibition. He's not even represented by a gallery. For him, it's about mobilising different urban spaces and then stepping back to find the research value in the visual arts process.

— Cat Pritchard

 Website: zenmarie.com

Lindiwe Suttle

Singer-songwriter

Lindiwe Suttle's time has arrived. With the launch of her debut album, *Kamikaze Art*, which premiered at the Cape Town International Jazz Festival, Suttle's star is blinding. A songbird known as much for her electro-soul sounds as her fiercely iconic style, she's clinched the title 'celebrity' and a space in our music industry. Leaving a career in styling stars like Beyoncé behind to pursue her passion, Suttle's big break came in 2010 when she was spotted by German music legend Marius Mueller-Westernhagen. In connecting her with the right producer, she spent a year in Berlin writing and recording *Kamikaze Art*. By using fashion to punctuate her performances and her MBA to build her brand, Suttle is proving that, beyond having the X-factor, she's here to stay. Suttle's future plans include a fashion label and, following in mom Felicia Mabuza-Suttle's footsteps, a talk show. — Lu Larché



 Twitter: [@lindiwesuttle](https://twitter.com/lindiwesuttle)

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Ben Schoeman

Pianist

Ben Schoeman talks with a quiet civility. He is upright and meticulously presented — mechanical even. But behind a piano, on concert night, his musical voice fills even the most cavernous of halls with moving recitals of the great classical compositions that pull audiences up from their seats and into rapturous applause.

Born into a musical family, Schoeman began his love affair with the art very young. He was just four when his mother took him to his first violin lesson and by six he had discovered a consuming passion for the piano.

"I enjoyed sport and games," he recalls, "but I spent hours inside practising when my friends were playing outdoors."

Schoeman studied music at the University of Pretoria, receiving his master's cum laude before travelling to Europe to hone his craft in the historical centres of classical music: Rome, Paris and London.

For five years he studied in Italy, deepening his appreciation for what he calls the "beautiful colours" of Liszt and the "spiritual textures" of Bach. All the while he was growing in reputation, earning invitations to play hallowed venues from the Konzerthaus Berlin to Lisbon's Grande Auditório and, one of his favourites, Cape Town City Hall.

Now in "the fantastic cultural mecca" of London, Schoeman is in the closing stages of a PhD that betrays his cosmopolitan musical roots. Long a fan of revered South African composer Stefans Grové, Schoeman is studying his unique approach of fusing Western and African elements in classical music.

Among his awards is the gold medal and first prize in the 2009 Royal Over-Seas League Music Competition in London and, closer to home, last year's Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Music.

Schoeman's concert tour this year will mark the return to local shores of one of South Africa's most celebrated young artists.

— Ian Macleod

 Website: benschoeman.com

Bailey Snyman

Dancer / choreographer / lecturer

There are many career paths in dance — performance, teaching, choreography. Bailey Snyman excels in all three. Through the Matchbox Theatre Collective, which he co-founded in 2006, Snyman performs, teaches and creates contemporary choreographic techniques in between lecturing physical theatre at Wits University. As the 2012 Standard Bank Young Artist Award winner for Dance, Snyman has another title to add to his list. For 34-year-old Snyman, working with children, students and professionals gives him a better understanding of how different people engage

with dance. Snyman can relate. Having grown up in Kimberley, his first real experience of dance was at a National Arts Festival in 1993. That visit inspired him to study drama at Rhodes University, where he completed a master's in choreography and contemporary dance studies. Today Snyman is putting the final touches to his latest work — *Moffie* — which will premiere at his old stomping ground, Grahamstown, at the festival in July.

— Zeenat Mahomed

 Twitter: [@baileysnyman](https://twitter.com/baileysnyman)



Darryl Torr

Music producer

Two years ago, when he was one half of indie pop duo Dear Reader, Darryl Torr chose knob-twiddling over his bass guitar. "It was an extremely difficult decision," he says. "We were signed to City Slang, touring Europe and doing really well. But the label told me you can't live in South Africa and tour all the time." Dear Reader is now singer Cherilyn MacNeil's solo project, and the genial Torr is happily back in his flourishing studio, Open Room Productions, in Johannesburg. Right now he's polishing

albums by Zebra & Giraffe and Crash Car Burn. "My passion is producing bands. There's always something new and unique to be found." A case in point is the Grammy that graces his studio wall — bagged for production on a Soweto Gospel Choir album in 2007. "At first I hid it away in a box. But everyone else in the studio insisted we take it out." — Carlos Amato

 Website: openroom.co.za



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Anthony Smith and Bradley Abrahams

Co-founders: 2Bop

Anthony Smith and Bradley Abrahams are the creative and design masterminds behind local streetwear label, 2Bop. Paying homage to the corner-store video-game culture of the late 1980s and early 1990s while putting a fresh spin on retro cool, 2Bop represents South African originality at its juiciest. Exposing the underbelly of underground street culture, 2Bop is hip, classically Capetonian and a label that, bursting with local flavour and attitude, is fast becoming iconic.

2Bop began in 2004 as a way to put a passion for classic video games into something tangible. When Smith and Abrahams were growing up in Port Elizabeth and Cape Town during apartheid, for just "2Bop" (20 cents) a pop, bootleg arcade games at the corner shop provided them with a joyride through a fantasy world they were ordinarily locked out of. Along with the rivalries, crews, contenders and champions that dominated the corner-shop scene, Japanese and American video games were their peephole into cutting-edge international design, graphics and music.

With a passion for gameplay and an eye for style, the idea behind 2Bop was to produce clothes — "tees", "caps" and "sweats" — that they wished people wore on the street. They were inspired by games like Streetfighter II, hip-hop giants like Biggie Smalls and style icons like Karl Lagerfeld, and their range references their youth and passions with a proud shout-out to their culture.

The duo recently won a R150 000 grant with the Jupiter Drawing Room's Constructus Award. They are now focusing on international expansion through an online shop, distribution Down Under and a mushrooming list of stockists. 2Bop is proving it has huge international appeal. Their tagline says it all: "Raak wys!" — Lu Larché

 Website: twobop.co.za



Tau Tavengwa

Designer and co-editor: Cityscapes

Designer Tau Tavengwa has been burning to publish a magazine capturing Africa's sexiness, energy and intellect. This passion started when he designed and contributed to the "Pan African conversation" collector's edition of *Art South Africa*, where he worked as creative director. Joining the University of Cape Town's African Centre for Cities at the behest of Dr Edgar Pieterse, Tavengwa co-edited and designed a number of their publications and realised that "everything is city", thus finding a unique entry point to explore key issues in contemporary Africa. As founder/co-publisher and co-editor, along with Sean O'Toole, of *Cityscapes* — the new biannual magazine about urbanism in the Global South — Tavengwa has been receiving fan mail from the likes of the director of the Harvard Graduate School of Design. The magazine is a culmination of his predilection for content, thought, and process-driven design.

— Nadine Botha

 Twitter: [@tautavengwa](https://twitter.com/tautavengwa)



Donna Kukama Performance artist

When artist Donna Kukama applied to the then Pretoria Technikon in the late 1990s for an industrial design course, she was shunted into an engineering class. She lasted half a year, dropping out when classes focused on nuts and bolt's and instead moved into art. Upon completion of her degree she had a mostly unhappy stint at her alma mater teaching "drawing and photoshop" so she quit to study for a master's of art in the public sphere at the Ecole Cantonale d'Art du Valais in Sierre, Switzerland. She has been at Wits University since last year and her experience there is infinitely

more exciting. Together with curator Gabi Ngcobo, she is "inventing a course that doesn't exist"; the two co-teach curating and performance as a protest art. Meanwhile, with artist Kemangwa Lehulere, Kukama is working on what they call a "fictionary" of Johannesburg — a document concerned with the history and memory of the city.

— Percy Zvomuya

 Twitter: [@donnakukama](https://twitter.com/donnakukama)

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Tara Louise Notcutt Writer/director/producer

Tara Louise Notcutt has theatre in her blood. Born to artistic parents — her dad, a drama teacher and her mum, a dance teacher — Notcutt earned a BA in theatre and performance at the University of Cape Town and co-founded the company The Pink Couch in 2009, where she is currently the artistic director.

"It's more of a collective than a company and the most rewarding part of it is being able to tell the stories we want with support and help from everyone in the group," says the 25-year-old Notcutt, with the energy and enthusiasm you would expect from the winner of the Rosalie van der Gucht Prize for New Directors at the Fleur du Caps in 2010.

Notcutt was invited to perform *...miskien* at the Amsterdam Fringe 2011 and Fringe World in Perth 2012. In 2011, she was also part of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab in New York, where she worked with some of the world's leading young directors. "I have never felt as proudly South African as I did when I was there. We live in an amazing

country of incredible opportunity and I wouldn't want to work anywhere else in the world."

When she is not writing, directing and producing her own work, Notcutt works with other companies, including Maynardville Open Air Shakespeare. At this year's National Arts Festival Notcutt will be directing no fewer than six productions, including the popular *...miskien* and *Mafeking Road*, based on short stories by Herman Charles Bosman.

Notcutt feels theatre has a way of reaching people and telling stories in a way that television and movies can't. "You are right there sharing an experience with live people, watching a live and meaningful performance," she says. "No performance will ever be exactly the same so every night is really special." — Zeenat Mahomed



Twitter: @taranotcutt



MORNE VAN ZYL

Daniel Friedman

Comedian: Deep Fried Man

Initially a sad folk singer, Daniel Friedman's alter ego Deep Fried Man metamorphosed into a comedian after watching the New Zealand musical-comedy series *Flight of the Conchords*. From there the 31-year-old had a rapid rise on the local circuit, winning Best Newcomer at the Comics Choice Awards in 2011 and a Standard Bank Ovation Award for his debut one-man show, *Deeply Fried*. With a Woody Allenesque flair for self-doubt, the motor-mouth hipster, who considers his day job to be signing on to Twitter, is still questioning his success: he is definitely weird compared with the mainstream big-name comedians he gets booked alongside. For one thing, he doesn't like rugby and he doesn't do racial humour — unheard of in an industry built on historical stereotypes. "I think I appeal to the younger people in the audience who were brought up on South Park," he says. It is this audience who will grow up with him. — Nadine Botha



Twitter: @DeepFriedMan

Kieron Jina Performance artist

"Interdisciplinary experimentation using multiple artistic mediums" is one way of describing Kieron Jina's innovative performance art. "A South African stance on Japanese butoh" is another. Some of his pieces, like *Homodyer* and *Full Fat, Low Fat, Fat Free*, have been dubbed "the tour de force" of festivals like the Dance Umbrella. He calls it "grotesque horror reimaged". But however you try to define his original, forceful, multilayered works — on screen or on stage — one word sums it up: brilliant. Jina uses performance art to tell personal stories that, underpinned by activism, explore societal themes and challenge stereotypes in an effort to

captivate, activate and alter audiences' minds. And they do. With a master's in dramatic arts from Wits University, 25-year-old Jina is a performance artist, dancer, choreographer, teacher, facilitator, director, cinematographer and video editor. A member of the artistic collaborative, Stash the Suitcase Collective, he is an artist who is constantly seeking new inspiration, experiences and collaborations — both locally and abroad. — Lu Larché



Twitter: @KieronJina



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Riaad Moosa

Comedian/actor

Riaad Moosa remembers the final performance of his debut one-man show, *Strictly Halaal*, at the Nelson Mandela Theatre in Johannesburg in 2006. He was on top form that night, performing for an expressive crowd — the perfect setting for his first DVD recording. In that moment he remembers feeling as if he had achieved all he wanted to. And then it happened — with the timing and construction of a fatalistic farce, he found out that the film crew had messed up and there was no recording of his “waiting to exhale” moment. Luckily he had his sense of humour to fall back on.

The Comics Choice award-winner in 2011, 34-year-old Moosa is affectionately known as the “comedy doctor”. Moosa is a qualified medical doctor but admittedly dispenses more laughter than medicine, saying that the only medical advice he can offer nowadays is: “Go see a doctor.”

As a Muslim comedian, Moosa often touches on post-9/11 Islamophobia and chooses not to use profanity and explicit vocabulary, making his shows accessible to the whole family. He is proud husband and hands-on father, and some of his comic material is inspired by his family.

Of late, Moosa’s career has shifted towards acting. His movie *Material* took seven years to conceptualise and complete and will forever be known as the movie that made critic Barry Ronge cry. In the movie Moosa plays Cassim, a young man who wants to be a comedian but his father disapproves. This is one instance where Moosa didn’t relate to his character, as his family have always been supportive of his career choices. Continuing in this more serious vein, Moosa recently accepted the role of Ahmed Kathrada, a former South African politician and political prisoner, in the movie adaptation of Nelson Mandela’s book *Long Walk to Freedom*.

— Zeenat Mahomed

 **Twitter:** @RiaadMoosa

Wynand van Rooyen

Sous-chef: Mount Nelson Hotel

Wynand van Rooyen doesn’t care much for reality cooking shows. “Cooking is a fine art,” he says. “It takes years of dedication to become the best. A master chef is not born in three months.”

Graduating from the Prue Leith Chefs Academy in 2007 as best practical student, he progressed rapidly to his current position of sous-chef at Cape Town’s celebrated Mount Nelson Hotel.

Last year Van Rooyen shot to fame, winning national honours in the Jeunes Chefs Rôtisseur competition and earning himself the right to represent South Africa at the international finals in Turkey. The following month, at 25, he became the youngest-ever *Sunday Times* Chef of the Year.

Van Rooyen plans to travel next year, honing particular skills like curing meat and baking bread, and would ultimately love to host his own cooking show, where he’ll share his passion for new dishes and sourcing local, seasonal ingredients. — Ian Macleod

 **YouTube:** Wynand van Rooyen



Renée Rossouw

Designer and architect

Collaborating with Spanish designer Jaime Hayón on your debut product range, then getting it produced by leading European ceramics studio Bosa and launched at the Salone del Mobile during the Milan Design Week is a big deal. Especially when you are just 26. The collection is the result of Rossouw’s experiments with how 2D patterns can merge with and influence 3D products, done while completing a master’s in product design at the European Design Labs in Madrid in 2010. Disappointed to find on her return to South Africa that the local product design industry is not self-sustaining, she went back to her first love, architecture, in which she holds a master’s from the University of Cape Town. Now working at the acclaimed Stefan Antoni Olmesdahl Truen Architects, Rossouw continues to explore surface and product design in her free time while conspiring to develop a design course that can bring her European learnings to South African students. — Nadine Botha

 **Twitter:** @cDesignandArch
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Matthew Wild

Dramaturge and staff director:
Cape Town Opera

There is a perception that opera is “an ivory-tower indulgence for the rich”. Matthew Wild, dramaturge and staff director at the Cape Town Opera, disagrees. “With the largely untapped ‘natural resource’ of outstanding voices in this country, opera has the potential to create jobs and inspire communities, he says.” Wild launched his directing career with *More* — an award-winning “rave generation epic” that he wrote, directed and produced in his final year at the University of Cape Town. In 2009 Wild made his official operatic directing debut with Philippe Boesman’s *Julie* in Sweden, following it up with Rossini’s *Il Viaggio a Reims* for his Cape Town debut in 2010. Today the 33-year-old works 75% in opera and 25% in spoken theatre. When not dividing his time between opera houses in Europe and Australia, Wild works in Cape Town, where he leads a new generation of “behind-the-scenes South African opera professionals” who are building the industry, one soprano at a time. — Cat Pritchard

 **Twitter:** @matthewtwild

Kelebogile Boikanyo

Soprano: Opera Africa

It’s no coincidence that Kelebogile Boikanyo is also known as Pearl. Often used as a metaphor for something rare, admired and precious, “Pearl” is befitting of a sensational opera singer who, at 24, is a cultural gem. Setting local and international stages ablaze with her radiant performances and humble poise, Boikanyo is a soprano supernova who is on the threshold of a stellar career.

Pretoria-born Boikanyo never thought opera would be her destiny. Although she loved singing, if it hadn’t been for her high school principal recruiting extra voices for the school choir, her formidable talent would still be confined to the shower. Starting in 2006, Boikanyo won the national soloist competition at the Tirisano Schools Choral Eisteddfod for three consecutive years and was later awarded a scholarship to study for a BA in performing arts at Tshwane University of Technology.

While studying, she made her professional debut alongside tenor Johan Botha in *Opera Extravaganza* in 2007 and,

since then, her rise has been meteoric. She dazzled as the High Priestess in *Aïda*, excelled as Echo in *Ariadne auf Naxos* in Belgium, and shone in Opera Africa’s *La Bohème* and *Carmen*, to name notable performances. Among many highlights, her international debut as Queen Silomo in the Zulu opera *Princess Magogo* stands out as an experience that ripped Boikanyo out of her comfort zone and reminded her to be African and always to be herself.

It is through opera that Boikanyo has found herself and, in so doing, the whole world has opened up to her. A firm believer in educating one’s talent, she feels that only through hard work, more hard work and humility will she achieve everything she is striving and singing for: to live, breathe and seize her dreams through her remarkable operatic talent. — Lu Larché

 **YouTube:** Kelebogile Boikanyo



DEBORAH ROUSSOUW

Guy Buttery

Guitarist

“Becoming a guitarist was completely involuntary,” says virtuoso guitarist Guy Buttery. “I first picked up a guitar at 10, started performing at 16, and I’ve pretty much been touring ever since.” Genially serene, he resembles a San Francisco drifter circa 1971 — but his music is utterly contemporary and South African. Buttery grew up on Durban’s North Coast, where he imbibed a spicy sonic soup of maskanda, Indian classical music and his brother’s Led Zeppelin records, later absorbing the finger-picking brilliance of Steve Newman, Tony Cox, Madala Kunene and Nibs van der Spuy. Nowadays Buttery is threatening to outshine all of those masters. His compelling interpretation of Joanna Newsom’s *The Book of Right On* was the best thing on the compilation *Versions of Joanna*, and his global audience is growing fast. In February next year he releases a collaborative album with Nibs van der Spuy, but local fans jonesing for more of his magic can grab a live hit at this year’s Grahamstown Arts Festival. — Carlos Amato

 **Website:** guybuttery.co.za

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Pauline Gutter Artist

Artist Pauline Gutter grew up on the farm Nuwe Orde in the Free State, which has ensured her deeply rooted understanding of the landscape, cattle and farmers. Her work highlights the "removal" of the farming community from their land. A review of a recent exhibition described her themes: "A struggle for survival prevails in the dangerous world that is projected to us in the paintings ... The viewer observes the land, the people and animals in the extreme, depicted as soft targets and voiceless victims." She sees her artwork as a way to bring communities together:

"Art is an instrument of diversity that heals people." Gutter's work is widely recognised and included in private and corporate collections both locally and abroad, but she remains committed to her home country. She is this year's recipient of the Helgaard Steyn prize and has been a finalist in many other distinguished art competitions, including Sasol New Signatures and the Absa L'Atelier Awards.

— Lisa van Wyk

 **Twitter:** @PaulineGutter

Vaughn Sadie Conceptual artist

When William Kentridge had his much celebrated collaboration with Dada Masilo, some in the arts community were suitably enthralled by the historic collective effort. One voice demurred, that of Vaughn Sadie, who said such collaborations are commonplace. He should know — he is what you would call a serial collaborator. "I can work across five disciplines," he says. In the past year alone, he has worked on various productions with choreographers Jay Pather and Sello Pesa and director and writer Neil Coppen.

Sadie, with a master's in fine arts from the Durban University of Technology, is fascinated by artificial light, how it "can be both an object and a medium". He discusses "the social and political ramifications of light", how in areas with RDP houses, for instance, public lighting is "brutal" and "functional" and not of the aesthetised variety we see in the city.

Sadie moved to Johannesburg last year after teaching at the Vega The Brand Communications School in Durban for six years. "I do miss teaching,"

he says. Now doing freelance work, he is "literally going from project to project", working for different organisations and with different choreographers.

Sadie's first professional partnership was in 2003 when Pather invited him to give lighting workshops to his dance troupe. He is routinely described as a lighting artist but Sadie thinks of himself as a conceptual artist, as seen in his partnerships with Pesa, collaborations in which he doesn't just tend to the production's lighting needs but is also a "co-creator".

This year he is working on a project dubbed "Streetlights", exploring the city of Johannesburg through its lighting strategies, examining "the role artificial light plays in shaping and defining the way people either move through or occupy these public spaces". — Percy Zvomuya

 **Website:** vaughnsadie.net

Riyadh Roberts
Hip-hop artist

South African hip-hop royalty Tumi Molekane recently tweeted: "Follow the next biggest artist to come from this continent @YoungstaCpt". He had just been blown away by the emotional lyrics and surging rap of 20-year-old Riyadh Roberts, aka "Youngsta".

Capetonian Roberts shot to fame outside his hometown late in 2011, when he took the nationwide King of Street Rap title in Jo'burg and, just weeks later, opened for US act Lil Wayne at the Bellville Velodrome.

Roberts also cut his first album, *GuyFox*, last year, and launched his own line of hoodies and caps that match what he calls his "wild and funny style".

Despite the sudden arrival of fame, his work keeps him close to his roots. "The best thing to rap about is your own life," explains Roberts. "I sing about the hardship of growing up in South Africa." Or, like his lyrics say, "I rap with an accent but my life is localised". — Ian Macleod

 **Twitter:** @YoungstaCpt



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Sifiso Mzobe Writer

Sifiso Mzobe was South Africa's literary sensation for the year 2011. His novel, *Young Blood*, is a gritty, hard-boiled coming-of-age story narrated by a 17-year-old youth called Sipho, a denizen of the Durban township of Umlazi, who "gave up on high school" to become a car thief.

The novel won the Herman Charles Bosman Prize and the *Sunday Times* fiction award, racing past *Double Negative*, a collaboration between two of the country's artistic icons, both internationally renowned: author Ivan Vladislavic and photographer David Goldblatt. Although some demurred on the choice, insisting that Vladislavic's was the more accomplished novel, there was an admission that Mzobe's voice was fresh, his characters bristled with life, and he was a novelist with the more vivid and arresting (pun intended) story. And in a country plagued by crime, the crime novel — as literary scholar Sarah Nuttall put it in magazine *Words etc* — depicts "the South African real".

The novel is as complete a cartography of crime in South Africa as you will find anywhere else, showing the township that incubates the aimless youth and the pitfalls littering their paths that make crime not just an incidental pastime but a real career option. The landscape Mzobe conjures in *Young Blood* is raw and lifelike, complete with girls, speedy cars, bling and a street argot to go with it all.

Until last year, the 34-year-old was a reporter for a community newspaper in Durban and occasionally had to go to the courts to cover cases of crime. He wrote the novel over two years, stealing time at night to scribble, to fine-tune its plot and make it the literary sensation has it become. — Percy Zvomuya

 **Twitter:** @sifiso__mzobe



Andile Ndlovu Dancer

Dubbed South Africa's "Billy Elliot", 24-year-old ballet sensation Andile Ndlovu exquisitely defies racial, gender and cultural stereotypes by proving that black men can — and should — do ballet. Currently in his third season at the Washington Ballet, one of the US's most prestigious dance companies, Ndlovu is setting international stages alight with his virtuosity, vibrancy and distinctly African approach to dance. Ndlovu started ballet at 15, despite relentless teasing by his friends in Soweto. He was soon spotted by choreographer Martin Schöenberg and received a scholarship to study at Ballet Theatre Afrikan. In 2008, after dancing leading roles with the South African Ballet Theatre and winning the South African International Ballet Competition, Ndlovu was offered a place at the Washington Ballet. In addition to being a role model for young, especially black, men to pursue ballet, he is determined to dance to the tune of his ultimate dream: as the world's best ballerino.

— Lu Larché

 **Website:** washingtonballet.org

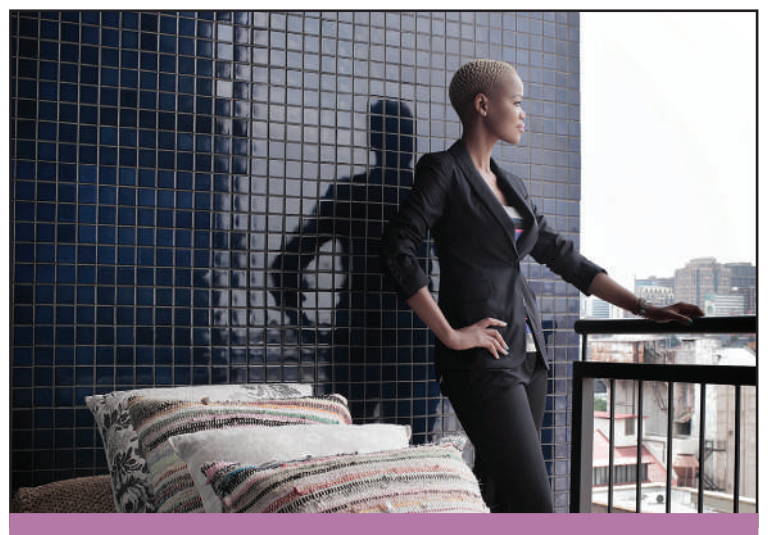
Thandi Sibisi Marketer, gallery owner

People call Thandi Sibisi and say: "I hear everything you touch turns to gold. I want you to do that for me." Bored with small-town KwaZulu-Natal life, Sibisi left Estcourt at 17 to find her fortune in Jo'burg. At 19 she started an experiential marketing consultancy, Invogue, and was soon putting on major events, including campaigns around the Fifa 2010 World Cup for the department of arts and culture. Later that year, struggling for inspiration locally, Sibisi headed to Europe to feed her new creative appetite. "I just walked and walked, visiting all the art galleries

I could," she explains. She returned artistically revived, and in early 2012 opened the edgy Afro-chic Sibisi gallery at Melrose Arch, featuring high-end works from the very best local talent.

With the South African arts community abuzz at her new creation, the young alchemist has her sights on Sibisi branches in New York and London. — Ian Macleod

 **Website:** sibisi-gallery.com



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Zahira Asmal

Director: Designing__SouthAfrica



Zahira Asmal has not used a CV in five years. Not since she landed a job working with London architect David Adjaye on his *African Metropolitan Architecture* book and Urban Africa exhibition. It was through engaging with cities in this framework that she was inspired to found Designing_SouthAfrica in 2009.

Asmal envisioned Designing_SouthAfrica as a manifestation of what she realised while at the University of Cape Town as a business science student with a major in macroeconomic development. "Design is a way for countries and economies to change — from basic infrastructure to healthcare systems and governmental systems," she says.

Set up and funded as an archive of the urban and design impact of the Fifa 2010 World Cup, Designing_SouthAfrica has evolved into an international media campaign and exhibitions, as well as a multimedia online report. Three years on, the project is growing beyond the World Cup to consider the overall design-led development of the country: "I want South Africans to understand the country better and see the opportunities for entrepreneurial development; for designers to stop saying where's the brief, but to take the briefs to government."

Her recently launched book, *Reflections and Opportunities*, is not only a milestone of Asmal's work, but also announces her next milestone. Published in English and Portuguese, the book initiates the Designing_Brazil venture, which will similarly archive the design impacts of the country's upcoming World Cup and Olympics.

It is also the beginning of a network based on creating synergies and knowledge-sharing opportunities between countries with similar socioeconomic conditions. Over the next few years Asmal envisions a string of these capsule organisations across the world, ultimately linking nations of the Global South.

One of the illustrious Asmal clan, niece of Kader Asmal, it is clearly in the 34-year-old globetrotter's blood to push beyond the status quo. — Nadine Botha


 **Twitter:** @designing__za



PIETER VOÏTDOO

Suzaan Heyns Fashion designer

Suzaan Heyns once appeared as a backup dancer and lip-sync singer in a Tamara Dey music-video and it's easy to see why. The savvy red-lipped blonde radiates style and is one of South Africa's most talented young designers. Known for her avant-garde designs, 30-year-old Heyns is not afraid to take risks and showcased garments sculpted in cement at a recent SA Fashion Week. Heyns won an *Elle* bursary to study at the Lisof fashion design school and, while a student, started doing freelance fashion illustration, show production and styling to help her to build a label and self-fund her own company, which now boasts a flagship store in Melville and retail outlets throughout the country. In 2012, her fish-scale dress was nominated at the Design Indaba as one of 10 "most beautiful objects in South Africa". It's easy to see why *Glamour* magazine awarded this proudly South African Style Star Woman of the Year 2011. — Zeenat Mahomed

 **Twitter:** @suzaanheyns

Lulu Mlangeni

Dancer

When Lulu Mlangeni was growing up in Meadowlands watching *Shell Road to Fame* — a show that fuelled her fascination with dance and inspired her to take it up "for fun" — she had no idea that, at 23, she would achieve fame and acclaim on screen. In 2010, Mlangeni was crowned winner of the second season of the local dance competition *So You Think You Can Dance*. She won R250 000 and a ticket to her dancing destiny. Since then, she's toured with her mentor Gregory Maqoma's dance company Vuyani Dance Theatre (of which she was the first black female dancer and is currently a senior company member), performed in the ANC's centenary celebrations and has travelled worldwide, including facilitating workshops and performing in the USA. She also participates in Vuyani Dance Theatre's outreach programmes and her ultimate ambition is to share her passion for dance with children — inspiring them in the way she was inspired as a child, captivated by dancing talent on TV. — Lu Larché



 **Facebook:** Mlangeni.lulu



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Andile Khumalo

Chief investment officer: MSG Afrika

"Everything was a deal for me," recalls Andile Khumalo of his high-school days in Umlazi, south of Durban. From bets on sports matches to Tupperware sales, the enterprising trader was always a leader on his playing field. Now 34, Khumalo plays the same game in the boardrooms of Africa's economic heart.

Seeing the number of CEOs who were chartered accountants, Khumalo set about studying for a BCom and honours before completing his articles with Deloitte in Durban. He moved to Investec in 2003 where he soon found himself discussing billion-rand deals.

After stints as a financial consultant and chief financial officer, Khumalo joined investment company MSG Afrika in 2007. With a stable of businesses ranging from advertising supremos to a printing company, Khumalo spends his days buying new businesses, raising funds or "helping grow one of our businesses". His acumen has seen him appointed to the statutory Takeover Regulations Panel and, in 2011, named 11th president of the Association for the Advancement of Black Accountants of Southern Africa. — *Ian Macleod*



Twitter: @Andile_Khumalo

Ntsoaki Phali

Managing member: Beyond Ability Talent Solutions

In 2009 Ntsoaki Phali decided to become the change she wanted to see — and so began Beyond Ability Talent Solutions, a self-sustaining recruitment agency for the physically disabled.

As a former human resources co-ordinator, Phali struggled to meet her employment equity target when recruiting employees with disabilities. She knew it wasn't for want of qualified candidates but rather because of a lack of platforms. Today, the business has 1 800 people on its books and has won numerous awards. It also transports persons with disabilities to client sites and job interviews.

"Employment equity is here to stay, but the biggest challenge is to make sure people with disabilities have the skills they need to secure permanent positions," says Phali, whose medium-term goal is to establish a skills empowerment centre. Although it's challenging, she describes the business as a labour of love. "Every day I get closer to understanding why I'm here on Earth." — *Lisa Steyn*



Website: beyond-ability.com

Tshepo Phakathi

CEO: Phakathi Holdings

Gurus call entrepreneurship the extreme sport of the business world. Tshepo Phakathi, a serial entrepreneur who has done everything from skydiving to abseiling down Table Mountain and diving with sharks, is living proof of the comparison.

Phakathi grew up in Emdeni, Soweto, and had started his first little business, a recycling operation, at age six. By 16 he was studying banking at what is now the University of Johannesburg and later completed his BCom in economics through Unisa.

While studying, the business-minded teenager founded Phakathi Capital Empowerment, a corporate finance advisory company. Struggling through the initial years with no financing, Phakathi says his only regret is not seeking out the right mentor to guide him through the tough times.

But making his own enterprise succeed prepared Phakathi well for the challenge he took on in 2006. Bringing a number of his family's interests together, a new parent company, Phakathi Holdings, was established as an incubator for various smaller businesses.

As CEO of the family conglomerate, Phakathi has overseen the impressive expansion of their portfolio, now with a presence in industries ranging from transport to education, finance and IT.

The Phakathi empire's boldest move to date was the 2008 deal that added removals giant Elliott to the stable. This major player with some 700 employees sits in the Phakathi showroom alongside smaller investments including black economic empowerment verification firm Empoweryst and ICT outsourcing experts Uber Digital.

Phakathi has also become a business columnist, writing for *City Press* and *Financial Mail*. He even wrote his own book ahead of the Fifa 2010 World Cup, advising South Africans on how to benefit from the revenue windfall the football extravaganza was expected to draw.

Now in a position to give back, Phakathi has set up Kaello, a business mentorship hub offering advice and mentorship in everything from writing business plans to tendering for government business. — *Ian Macleod*



Website: phakathiholdings.co.za





Bradley Williams

Director of musicology: Matchboxology

Bradley Williams spent his early teens becoming the hottest DJ on Jo'burg's underground scene. At 14 he would spend hours every day practising mixes in his makeshift bedroom studio, and then unleash his tunes on the decks at his legendary Saturday matinées.


Later, "DJ Bionic", as he was known, opened the city's first hip-hop venue, Le Club, on Market Street. Williams' ever-growing reputation drew the best acts in town, and Le Club soon grew into a breeding ground for new talent. Artists like Skwatta Kamp, Tumi and Waddy Jones (now of Die Antwoord) cut their teeth at his downtown joint.

Frustrated by the lack of opportunities, Williams found himself evolving from musician to producer, manager and even lobbyist for the urban music industry. He started his own record label and began promoting local artists. And when the "burnt-out cynics" fought him, he turned to guerrilla tactics, even sneaking songs on to the airwaves.

Eventually corporate marketers saw the value of this burgeoning subculture and Williams' unique understanding of it. "I became sort of an oracle of the emerging music scene to top brands," he says. He began advising major corporations such as Vodacom, Heineken and Sprite on how to connect with this hip-hop-savvy generation.

Williams has since developed strategies for MTN on their emerging artists platform, MTN Xploaded; advised Levi's on its Original Music campaign; and worked with the British Council of Southern Africa to put on South Africa's first hip-hop dance theatre festival — never relenting on his "rebellious anti-textbook nature".

Currently applying his strategic thinking for the innovative Matchboxology Creative Incubator, where does the sonic sage predict local music will be in five years? "I have a vision," says Williams, "that, five years from now, 80% of music we hear on the radio will be made in South Africa." — Ian Macleod

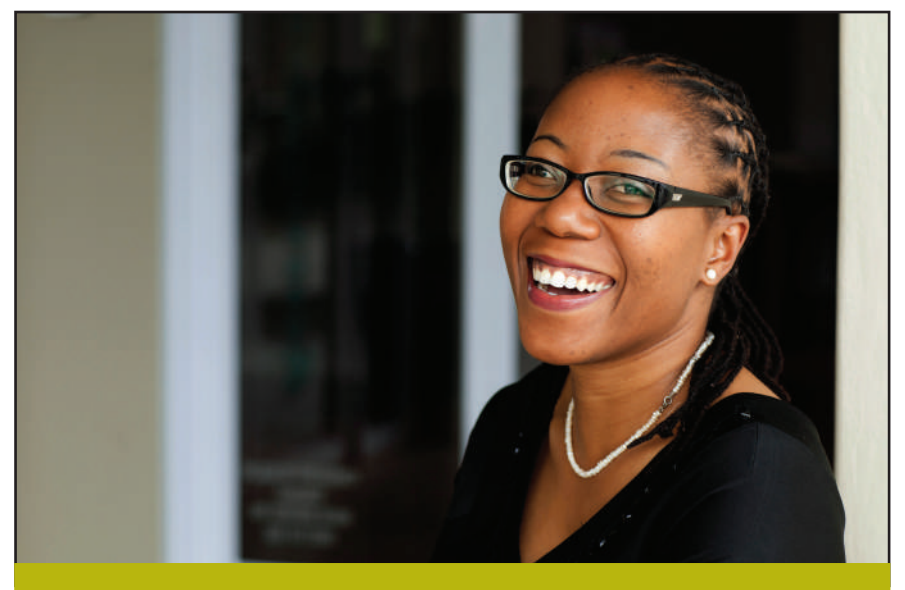
 **Twitter:** @bionicjozi. **Blog:** motifrecords.co.za
Website: matchboxology.com

Bridgette Gasa

Founder: The Elilox Group

The daughter of two prominent KwaZulu-Natal educators, Bridgette Gasa grew up visiting the province's most impoverished schools. The neediness she saw left a desire to build South Africa's educational infrastructure. Literally. Just 16 when she started her building arts studies at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), Gasa recently returned to academia for her PhD in construction management, graduating in early 2012. In the interim, she built a small empire. She founded The Elilox Group in 2008, steadily turning it into a respected building consultancy and construction firm. So impressive was her leadership that in 2011 Gasa served on the National Planning Commission, where she chaired the nation-building working group. This success has enabled her to satisfy the obligation she feels towards education. As a start, she has established full scholarships for girls to study for built environment degrees at NMMU and plans to build five libraries for rural schools by the end of the year. — Ian Macleod

 **Website:** theelilox.com



JANDYCOFFEY

Andrew Smith

MD and co-founder: Yuppiechef

For a high-school dux and computer science dropout, popular culture leaves just one option: start a tech business in your lounge. Many flop, but the ones who make it, like Yuppiechef.co.za, make it big. Andrew Smith hit on his winning idea in 2006,

when he and business partner Shane Dryden founded Yuppiechef.co.za. The plan was to ride the wave surrounding celebrity chefs with a website selling top-end kitchen tools. The kicker was uncompromising service. From free delivery right up to handwritten notes on each parcel, Yuppiechef made customers feel special. "We want everyone to know there's a real person on the other side of the internet." Yuppiechef won the South African E-Commerce Awards two years running, and is now a case study at Unisa and the London School of Business. Smith was recently invited by the University of Cape Town — where he dropped out of a BSc — to guest lecture at its Graduate School of Business. — Ian Macleod



 **Twitter:** @sqroot



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Jaco Rademeyer

Founder: Jaco Rademeyer Estates

The sight of the young property fanatic arriving at show houses on his bicycle will have amused many a Port Elizabeth estate agent. At 10 years old, Jaco Rademeyer was already fascinated by the aesthetics of buildings. Rademeyer studied law at Stellenbosch University but ventured into the property game after selling all 40 units of his father's development in one day in 2005. "I had a logo made and started working out of my car," he recalls — and Jaco Rademeyer Estates was born. Rademeyer soon grabbed the National Institute of Estate Agents Award for Rookie of the Year, and was the first agent to immediately follow that with Agent of the Year. He has since expanded across the Windy City, opened the JRE property academy, and was named SA Property Professional of the Year in 2010. He plans to move into other cities soon — and his competitors won't be laughing this time round. — *Ian Macleod*



Twitter: @jacorademeyer



Julian Jonker

PhD candidate

Julian Jonker is a modern-day Renaissance thinker. From law and philosophy to Afrobeat music, his quest for knowledge is boundless. His goal, he says, "is to understand a particular facet of human life — the public sphere — rather than a particular academic field." Jonker studied law at the University of Cape Town before completing his MPhil on the slave burial grounds unearthed at Prestwich Place. Later, as part of an effort to understand his background as a Capetonian, he joined the District Six Museum as a researcher. In 2007 Jonker turned his energies to the UCT law school where he established a programme to bolster the academic skills of talented students from sub-standard schools. Now at the University of California, Berkeley, Jonker is completing a PhD that hopes to answer the question: "What do we value in a democracy?" He'll return to Cape Town to continue refining his speciality: "Reading, writing about, and thinking about ideas". — *Ian Macleod*



Website: philosophy.berkeley.edu

Heather Wilmot

Director: Norton Rose South Africa

"Don't focus on the destination, enjoy the journey." It's a fitting motto for a woman who works as an aviation lawyer on a continent known to experience its fair share of turbulence across the industry. The list of challenges is endless and ranges from geopolitical issues and a partial open-skies arrangement to ageing equipment and a lack of competition.

Luckily, 29-year-old Heather Wilmot has never expected an easy ride. When she first fell in love with aviation law, with its international character and conventions, she was determined to spread her wings and learn everything about this cutting-edge industry. "When it comes to aviation you can't only do a tiny bit, you have to understand the industry as a whole."

But with no specialist courses to speak of in Africa, Wilmot applied herself, learning from her mentor at Norton Rose, Pierre Naude, while putting the right questions to airlines about their commercial needs. With trademark passion, Wilmot helped to expand her department from one that dealt mainly in dispute resolutions to one that has a full-service offering, which includes commercial interests.

Already a natural leader in her firm and field, Wilmot was made a director at Norton Rose South Africa in 2010. With a personal vision to enable a network that will unite the aviation industry in Africa, Wilmot jumped at the chance to become a founding member of the global Aerial Network, even producing a document outlining the South African aviation industry to secure this honour.

In March 2012 Wilmot was instrumental in putting together the first "African Aviation School" — a two-day conference hosting 100 African delegates from all fields in the aviation industry. She may be a high flyer, but Wilmot is constantly grounded by the enormous challenges facing her industry on the continent. But for her it's all part of the journey. — *Cat Pritchard*



Website: nortonrose.com/za



When it comes to aviation
you can't only do a tiny
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Charles Douglas

Director: Bowman Gilfillan

At 35, Charles Douglas, partner and director at renowned law firm Bowman Gilfillan, is relatively young for his title but says it's of little importance: "You just have to lead by example and demonstrate that you can do it yourself."

And that he certainly can. Douglas, who was also admitted as a lawyer of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in Australia, is making his mark in many areas of law, including exciting growth areas such as the energy sector and broad-based black economic empowerment. One transaction, a R7.3-billion empowerment initiative for SABMiller, received the 2009 DealMakers Deal of the Year award. The pioneering transaction addressed an industry concern — that 80% of liquor retailers aren't licenced — by allowing only licenced vendors to take part in the share scheme. Douglas originally started a fine arts degree, which he never completed, but still pursues this passion and is currently working towards a solo exhibition.

— Lisa Steyn

 Website: bowman.co.za

Umunyana Rugege Human rights attorney: Section27

Almost everything Umunyana Rugege does puts a new spin on the caricature of a lawyer. Born in Roma, Lesotho, 34-year-old Rugege grew up wanting to be a "tree-hugger" but later refined this passion with a degree in environmental studies from the State University of New York, Buffalo. In 2002 she completed a master's in environmental management at Cornell University before studying law at the University of Cape Town. But while many of her classmates were waiting tables on the weekends, elegant Rugege was gracing the catwalks in the fashion capitals of the world.

Following articles with Webber Wentzel, she qualified as an attorney in 2008. Rugege's first "real" job was with a public interest organisation in New York. Her focus was on environmental issues, educating younger people and lobbying for new laws and policies. In 2008 Rugege served as a research clerk for the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Where she worked on the joint case of two individuals accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

She not only conducted research, but also took part in deliberations in the pretrial chamber.

Deciding she could best make a difference "working with a small but dynamic group of people, all dedicated to the same vision", Rugege joined the Johannesburg law centre Section27 in 2010. Now she battles for the rights of the organisation's eponymous section in the Constitution, specifically those relating to health care, by submitting legislative amendments to Parliament, giving legal advice and litigating where necessary. Working with legendary human rights lawyer George Bizos on a recent Constitutional Court case has been the highlight of her career.

Passionate about reading, Rugege has also founded a non-profit organisation, the Children's Book Club, which collects and distributes books to disadvantaged and vulnerable children.

— Ian Macleod

 Website: section27.org.za


Craig Wing Product marketing manager: Google

Ever since he turned his chest of drawers into a makeshift cascade at a young age, Craig Wing seemed destined to be an engineer. After finishing his engineering degree at Wits University in 2002 he got involved with the Wits innovation and entrepreneurship office, helping students to understand the basics of entrepreneurship while looking for commercial opportunities for the resulting projects. This experience was translated into Wing's first company, which sought to commercialise the software he developed for partially sighted students. After a stint overseas to

do his MBA, he returned to South Africa and is now the driving force behind Google's Woza Online project — a service that provides free websites to small businesses, with the aim of getting all South African businesses online. And with more than 15000 businesses already using the service after only three months, Wing seems to be cementing his role as champion of the fledgling entrepreneur.

— Ben Kelly

 Twitter: [@wingnuts123](https://twitter.com/wingnuts123)

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Kate Moodley

Franchise director: Discovery

Tradition says deputy head prefects work long and hard without getting any applause at final assembly. Kate Moodley will know this well, having once been second in command at St Conrad's in Klerksdorp. But her dedication has seen no shortage of recognition in recent years.

Moodley's academic career earned her a BA, an LLB and a master of laws in income tax and international tax, all at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She has since earned various professional qualifications, including a certified financial planning diploma.

Moodley qualified as an attorney in 2003. She then worked as a corporate legal adviser before taking on a management role at Momentum in 2006. In 2010, aged 32, she made the white-knuckle decision to go it alone, and started a franchise under the Discovery umbrella.

While building a sound model for linking clients to the right Discovery product, Moodley has the ideal foundation to pursue several of her passions.

She is an energetic campaigner for women's empowerment. Through an initiative of Discovery and Chabad House, she offers her skills as a mentor to young women entering business, and closer to home she provides a range of study bursaries to her female admin team.

A keen writer, she has also published her features and columns in publications ranging from *CEO Magazine* to *Personal Finance*.

Some of the accolades for Moodley's business acumen and leadership include appointment to the Momentum junior board in 2007, inclusion in *Cosmo's* "Women on the Move" that same year, and the Top Woman Executive prize at last year's Top Women Awards.

Earlier this year Moodley published her first book, *I Inc. Be the CEO of your Brand*, in which she draws on her experience at the pinnacle of business to advise on the precarious art of building a personal image in the concrete jungle. — Ian Macleod

 **Twitter:** @moodleykk



Ludwick Marishane

Founder: Headboy Industries

According to the Entrepreneurs' Organization, an elite band of business hotshots with a combined annual revenue of over \$130-billion, Ludwick Marishane is the best student entrepreneur in the world. But don't take their word for it. Marishane began starting businesses as a teenager in Limpopo. Many failed, like his own brand of biodiesel, healthy cigarettes and a security magazine. Others, like DryBath, hit the mark. He is currently negotiating the sale of this bath-substitution technology with several interested multinationals. Now in his final year of business science at the University of Cape Town, Marishane has already done an internship with Goldman Sachs, operates as campus ambassador for Google, and in 2010 became the first African to reach the finals of the Singapore University Global Business Plan competition. After graduation, this 22-year-old plans to establish a Cape Town headquarters for his company, Headboy Industries, and take it global in the next two years. — Ian Macleod

 **Twitter:** @TheHeadboy

Terri Brown

Founder: Actuate

Terri Brown is like kryptonite to old-school corporate communication. Her mere presence can vaporise training files and melt slideshows. With a bit of talent and plenty of ideas, Brown established Actuate internal marketing agency in 2000. It took years to convince big corporates of this new multidimensional approach to interacting with employees, but eventually her "conversation cafés" began replacing the one-sided directives of old. Just consider Actuate's role in the re-branding of Cell C. Brown brought in the then little-known comic Trevor Noah to star in a series of edgy and engaging videos. She combined this with electronic tutorials and other online tools to bring staff on board with the new corporate culture as no traditional tool ever could. Brown's creativity has also won multiple nods from the Loerie Awards, including gold for an MTN campaign — even though she can't promise that no training booklet or flow chart was harmed in the process. — Ian Macleod



 **Website:** actuate.co.za

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Alan Knott-Craig Jr

Entrepreneur

Alan Knott-Craig Jr says he's living the dream. Wearing his preferred attire of slip-slops and T-shirt, engrossed in the running of his new e-business, and revelling in the lifestyle in his new hometown of Stellenbosch, it's easy to believe him.

For a man who reckons he hardly made a decision for himself until he was 25, he made an awfully big one in late 2011. Surprised by the vastness of the struggling mobile communications company MXit, he put together funding in excess of R500-million and bought the business from Herman Heunis and Naspers.

He admits being one of the many who thought the platform was dead just months before, but there were fundamentals about MXit that sparked the chartered accountant's interest. "We offer users anonymity and quality content," he says, "while Google needs all kinds of personal information and relies on advertising revenue". With a reported 10-million active users alone in South Africa and the capacity to run the system on almost any cellphone, MXit proved an attractive offer.

Knott-Craig Jr's ideas for the business extend way beyond its current focus of mobile chat. Using the idyllic hub of Stellenbosch as an incubator, MXit is experimenting with applications ranging from mobile payments on cellphones to games and music downloads.

But what gives the 35-year-old the grit to play in this high-risk arena, and enjoy it to boot? He reckons dealing with allegations that he wrongly benefited from deals with Vodacom several years ago, while his father was CEO, was one of the best things that ever happened to him. "It hurt at the time," he says, "but once you've gone through it, it gives you armour-plating." Currently writing a book on MXit's history, *Mobinomics*, where does Knott-Craig Jr see the business going in the next few years? "Years?" he responds, quizzically. — Ian Macleod

Twitter: @alanknottcraig

Lynette Ntuli

Director: Innate Investment Solutions

It sounds clichéd to say it about a property professional, but 28-year-old Lynette Ntuli is passionate about development. It's the reason she is making it her life's work to build people, businesses, ideas and South Africa through hard work and innovative thinking. At 24, this articulate young Durbanite was appointed general manager of the Pavillion Shopping Centre in Westville — the first black female to head a "super-regional" shopping centre. By 27 she had opened Innate Investment Solutions and been headhunted to lead Durban Invest — a business development initiative created to unleash the city's economic potential. As a member of the national executive of the Women's Property Network, Young Leaders Connect and Businesswomen's Association, Ntuli uses these platforms to empower women, the youth and social entrepreneurs — work she continues through her social media platform, Ignitesa.com. Smart, astute and an international speaker to boot, she's changing the face of the local property industry, one development at a time. — Cat Pritchard

Twitter: @MsNtuli



Nothando Migogo

Managing director: Dalro

Nothando Migogo is a change-maker. Guided by her motto, "I'll learn from you but I'll do it like me", Migogo is using lateral thinking and her master's in law to lead Dalro (Dramatic, Artistic and Literary Rights Organisation) into the digital

age, in which the rules of copyright management and engagement have changed. With content now just a click away, she faces a dual task: to use the internet as a tool to help business and content grow, while entrenching the organisation's relevance to rights holders and users. Migogo, the strategic mastermind behind new practices, is changing gears and direction by introducing a media organisation monitoring licence, a one-stop online shop for academic e-books and a distinctively South African image bank to encourage the use of visual art. By benefitting both the public and the artists she represents, Migogo is changing perceptions and proving that copyright isn't prohibitive: it's positive — and fundamentally part of the future too. — Lu Larché



Twitter: @NdoxMigogo



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Mandla Msimang

Founder and managing
director: Pygma
Consulting

Mandla Msimang has a passion for “finding ways in which ICT can be used for development, from both a policy and implementation perspective”. As the founder of Pygma Consulting, an advisory firm dealing with policy, regulation, strategy and training, particularly in information and communication technology, Msimang creates spaces for the ICT ecosystem to thrive and ultimately be used for socioeconomic development. Her work is as diverse as the needs of the sector itself, ranging from developing cyber-security awareness frameworks in South Africa to rolling out a broadband network in Tanzania. A firm believer in keeping up with the latest developments, Msimang left her position as head of policy and development at the Independent Communications Authority in 2003 to pursue an MSc in regulation at the London School of Economics, where she focused on utility regulation. Now that Pygma Consulting has an office in the USA, Msimang no longer has to worry about “competing with multinationals”. She is one. — Cat Pritchard

 **Website:** pygmaconsulting.com



Yolande van Wyk

CEO: eWallet solutions at First National Bank

Yolande van Wyk is a self-confessed technophile and geek — excellent credentials for heading up First National Bank's eWallet solutions.

“I’m always coming up with new stuff,” says Van Wyk, who is at the forefront of innovative mobile solutions. “I look at things and think: there has to be a better way.”

She joined FNB's original cellphone banking team in 2004, helping the product to become the first to go mainstream in South Africa.

In 2008 Van Wyk took over eWallet solutions and set about getting non-banked customers to use the service. She succeeded. The service requires no registration and users don't even need to hold a bank account to use it. To date, over one million people have received money on their cellphones with transactions worth R1.7-billion.

Van Wyk remains astounded by the rapid pace the world is changing but says it only takes a simple device, like a cellphone, to stay plugged in.

— Lisa Steyn



 **Twitter:** [@yvanwyk](https://twitter.com/yvanwyk)



Octavia Matloa

CEO: Mukundi Mining Resources

Attending school in Mamelodi, just east of Pretoria, Octavia Matloa thought the life of a bank teller would be rather posh. But once a family friend had enlightened her about the earning potential and flexibility she could have as a chartered accountant, all she could dream of was seeing CA (SA) behind her name.

Remotivated, Matloa earned a bursary to study towards a BCom in accounting and economics at the University of Cape Town. She finished her accounting specialisation at the University of Pretoria.

In 2000 Matloa signed articles with PriceWaterhouseCoopers and gained experience auditing everything from big insurance firms to the Reserve Bank. Finally, one day in 2003 she could sit down and proudly sign off as “Octavia Matloa CA (SA)”.

Matloa's first job was with the Gauteng department of public transport, roads and works, where inside of a year she was promoted to a chief director position — the youngest in the organisation's history. That same year she also founded her own accounting firm, Matloa and Associates.

Her career was taking off, just like her mother's friend had promised. Over the next three years Matloa was awarded directorships with Nissy Holdings, Bokkies Transport, Mukundi Mining Resources, and others. And in 2009 she was appointed by the High Court of South Africa as the insurance industry's first female curator.

Last year Matloa was made a nonexecutive director of Great Basin Gold, and is now CEO of both Mukundi and accounting firm Tsidkenu Chartered Accountants.

Matloa's peers have recognised her achievements with a staggering list of awards of late. She won the *Black Business Quarterly's* Woman of the Year for 2010 and their New Entrepreneur Award for 2011, and was a finalist in the MTN Boss of the Year Awards last year. Sounds like the stuff even CAs dream of. — Ian Macleod

 **Website:** mukundi.co.za



Kasturi Moodaliyar

Senior lecturer: competition law, Wits Law School

Spirited, astute and raising the bar in competition law, Kasturi Moodaliyar is making it her business to ensure justice exists in our economy — for all. After completing her master's at Cambridge as a Mandela Magdalene scholar, Moodaliyar returned to South Africa to discover a little blue book that resonated deeply with her own sense of justice. The Competitions Act offered her the opportunity to use law as a platform for progressive change. As senior lecturer of competition law at Wits University, Moodaliyar helps to develop expertise in a field that, essentially, serves to protect and benefit the

public interest. She consults on cases such as the Wal-Mart/Massmart merger and sits on both the appeal tribunal of the Film and Publication Board and the complaints and compliance committee of the Independent Communications Authority. For her PhD, Moodaliyar is researching how victims of corporate cartels can claim damages for losses and, in so doing, access what she believes everyone should: justice. — *Lu Larché*

 **Twitter:** @complawza

Achumile Majija

Risk management: Prudential

Achumile Majija advises stepping out of one's comfort zone. That's how he got from Umtata to Port Elizabeth for his BCom, to Cape Town for his honours, and then on to Leeds, where he completed his MBA in 2009. His next venture landed him a job with finance house Prudential Plc in London. Thrust into their fast-track programme for future leaders, Majija is now part of the team adapting the firm to the European Union's latest post-recession insurance regulations. This places him at the cutting edge of Europe's economic recovery from the lingering credit crunch. All the while 27-year-old Majija has kept his links to South Africa, remaining chairman of the Black Management Forum's Young Professionals in the Western Cape. And in 2011 he was named the South African Business Club rising star of the year. True to his own advice, Majija plans to be home within five years for his next battle with the unknown. — *Ian Macleod*

 **LinkedIn:** Achumile Majija



Musa Kalenga

Head of digital marketing: Nedbank

When Nedbank invited Musa Kalenga to head up their digital marketing programme, he felt obliged to offer one caveat: "I'm a bit of a maverick." But such was his reputation as a marketing and communications guru they were willing to take the risk.

Born in Zambia, he spent time living in Scotland, Botswana and South Africa. "This taught me how to get into an environment, understand it, adapt and make things happen," he says.

After school he tried his hand at actuarial science, but failed everything during his "orientation year". He returned to Wits University to do something he enjoyed, marketing, and soon knew he was on to something.

After his BCom, Kalenga became the youngest chartered marketer in Africa and founded his own youth marketing agency, Monatefellaz.

At 25 he was still fresh enough to be in touch with young consumers and savvy enough to employ innovative tactics to understand this dynamic group from a marketing perspective. Preferring tangible

research to rows of numbers, he recruited youngsters to interact with their peers and report back on spending habits, fashion trends and the like.

Kalenga has since gained experience in a wide spectrum of marketing niches, from the restyling of Nik Naks packages to the rebranding of Transnet. He was even part of the team that advised the National Democratic Party on their branding and strategy for the election campaign that saw John Atta Mills become president of Ghana in 2009. He has made his way on to television, offering his insights on *Maggs on Media* and presenting his own programmes, *The Kalenga Touch* and *One Day Entrepreneur*.

Add to this a deft fist in the boxing ring, a brief stint as a modern freestyle dancer and a growing portfolio of published opinion pieces, and suddenly his website header makes sense — Kalenga is a "new African legend". — *Ian Macleod*

 **Twitter:** @musakalenga



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Justin Rhodes and Cameron Munro

Founders: Neighbourgoods Market

Every neighbourhood should have a Justin Rhodes and Cameron Munro looking after its best interests. They are the American-South African duo behind the ubertrendy Neighbourgoods Market — a Saturday gathering of over 100 speciality traders in the Old Biscuit Mill in Cape Town and, recently, Jura Street in Johannesburg.

Back in 2006, when they first started handpicking 45 local traders, the idea was hardly trendy, let alone popular. Nostalgic for the artisan markets they'd left behind in New York, where they met, the duo had the vision to see Woodstock for the thriving Williamsburg-type borough it could become. In its own, African way, that is. The area had all the makings of a cultural food hub — an established food culture, local agricultural producers just mountains away and good weather (relatively) all year round. All it needed was two people with the right intentions (to grow and promote, not exploit) and principles (attention to detail and quality) to curate the old Victorian warehouse into a worldclass market experience.

It worked. The market has tripled in size, as has the traffic to Woodstock on a Saturday morning. Their self-funded project soon extended to a local restaurant called Superette, which offers "seasonal fare from farm to plate", using many of the same traders. But it's less about food and more about creating a platform for local talent.

Rhodes and Munro also run the Whatiftheworld Gallery and Design Studio, respectfully showcasing a collection of local emerging artists and designers. In 2007, *Contemporary* magazine in London listed the newly opened gallery in the "Top 50 Emerging Galleries from Around the World".

Having recently bought and converted the old synagogue off Albert Road into a gallery and creative space, it seems that Rhodes-Munro have become the unofficial poster boys for all things creative in Woodstock. Not a bad location for a cultural revolution. — Cat Pritchard



Website: neighbourgoodsmarket.co.za

Khethi Nkosi

Executive chairman:
Xuma Infrastructure Group



Khethi Nkosi is a man who believes in the value of hard work. Born into a family of entrepreneurs, he started working in the family businesses at nine and by 24 had founded the Xuma Infrastructure Group, which has grown from its origins in laying fibreoptic cables into a broader construction company. Nkosi followed his studies in computer programming by working in the sales side of the IT industry with jobs at IBM, Business Connexion and Attachmate. Not a fan of the traditional BEE approach, he believes in building from the ground up. When he started Xuma in 2004 he had four employees. Today he employs over 3000 people and has a JSE listing on the horizon. Although he has stepped aside as CEO in favour of an executive chairman role, Nkosi is still intimately involved in the company, and has more time to spend with his family and in the fields, growing his role as a part-time farmer.

— Ben Kelly



Website: xiq.co.za



Spencer Shaw

CEO: SG Shaw Foods

Spencer Shaw has heard all the jokes. It comes with the territory. As CEO of SG Shaw Foods, he was the sole South African franchisee of a restaurant chain synonymous with big-chested waitresses — Hooters. But no one was laughing when he won the Restaurant Association of South Africa's Service Excellence award in his first year of

opening or when he opened his third branch in Cape Town at the end of 2011. And you can bet his critics went silent when he sold the popular local chain to publicly listed company in the USA, late last year. An entrepreneur since 19, Shaw has built as many skills in the food and beverages industry as he has enterprises, which include Shaw Quality Commodities and Shaw Specialised Brand Distribution. The charismatic Durbanite is also a silent shareholder in J&S Merchandising, Shaw Events and Richie Shaw Construction.

— Cat Pritchard



Facebook:

Spencer Gordon Shaw



CLARE LOUISE THOMAS

Rob Gilmour

Managing director: RSAWeb

After four years at Stellenbosch University Stellenbosch University, Rob Gilmour decided to follow in the family tradition, starting his own business rather than looking for a job in the formal sector. Eleven years later that decision has paid off handsomely for him, with RSAWeb employing 70 people in Cape Town and Johannesburg. He may have started out building computers for fellow students, but once he graduated this evolved into an internet service provider with hosting services and, more recently, cloud-computing services added to the mix. He says he enjoys starting things, be it other companies that he owns a stake in, such as voice over internet protocol distributor EvenFlow and web application development consultancy White Wall Web, or new projects inside RSAWeb, where new project teams run like independent startups. An avid cyclist, Gilmour has completed two Cape Epics and almost every other race one can think of. The company also sponsors a road-cycling team as well as mountain biking and xterra racers. — Ben Kelly

 **Twitter:** @robqilmour

Gugu Duda

Chief financial officer: SABC

It takes a certain kind of person to step into a troubled state-owned enterprise and set out to turn it around. Gugu Duda is such a person. She's the new CFO of the SABC.

A chartered accountant by training, Duda worked as the CFO of internet and telephone banking at FNB before becoming the executive investment manager at Wipcapital and vice-president of strategy and risk integration for continental Africa for AngloGold Ashanti. The opportunity to serve in the public sector was a dream come true. Working for the state, she understands the weight of responsibility and that it's not all about revenue, but what's best for all South Africans.

She's also aware of what she needs to do to turn the SABC and its financial situation around.

She's starting by putting in a sound system of internal controls "that can stand the test of time" to get to best practice. She's also

drawing on the strength of and improving the financial management so that they understand it's not simply about reporting and figures but also about being key financial advisers to the business. And when it comes to the overall strategy of the SABC, she knows it's beyond a number-crunching game. Softer issues, such as the reputation of management to attract funding and compelling content to attract audiences and advertisers, are key to achieving the growth Duda's gunning for.

Beyond her business savvy, strategic mind and knack for numbers, Duda is a brilliant communicator. It's how and why she emcees at events, and achieves everything she sets out to do — such as turning trouble into turnover.

— Lu Larché

 **Website:** sabc.co.za



Peter and Beryn Daniel

Founders: Soaring Free Superfood

The term "super-couple" aptly describes Peter and Beryn Daniel. Beyond health and happiness, they're chefs, owners of a thriving business, authors of a revolutionary cookbook and the powerfully positive pioneers of the raw food movement in South Africa. When friends wanted to learn more about eating raw, the Daniels started hosting workshops. When superfoods weren't locally available, they started importing them, and eventually distributing them nationally through their company of 17 people, Soaring Free Superfoods. To prove how deliciously inventive raw food can be, they created Rawlicious,

an "uncook book" with recipes ranging from raw pizza to chocolate mousse made from avocado, and followed that up with the *Rawlicious*, *Elements for Radiant Health* DVD series. With 10000 cookbooks sold locally and 5000 within its first month in the USA, the Daniels are living, breathing, radiant examples of how you're not just what you eat but also how you eat it. — Lu Larché

 **Website:** rawlicious.co.za

National Planning Commission

TODAYS YOUTH MUST TAKE THE BATON FROM THE GENERATION OF 1976



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NATIONAL DIALOGUE
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National Planning Commission

NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION CALLS ON SOUTH AFRICA'S YOUTH TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

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Karissa Samuel

Founder: The Ntshulisa Foundation

Leaving her law career behind was the best thing 28-year-old Karissa Samuel ever did for herself and the 16 orphanages and countless children she assists through her non-governmental organisation, The Ntshulisa Foundation (TNF). A social activist, Samuel started volunteering at orphanages in Hillbrow at 17, held her first annual Christmas party for orphans at 18 and, at 23, instead of writing her board exam, wrote the business model for TNF. Since 2007, TNF has assisted orphanages to run their organisations better, while helping to support orphans through programmes ranging from healthcare to girl empowerment. Samuel also directs SCSR Consulting, a for-profit corporate social investment consultancy, and is chairperson of the Group House, a shelter for abused, abandoned and orphaned girls in Hillbrow. Last year, she was invited to tea with the Russian president through the InterSeliger Youth Forum, an international project uniting future leaders, and was listed in *Destiny Magazine's* "Power 40 Under 40". — Lu Larché

 Twitter: @ksamsays

Shaka Sisulu Founder: Cheesekids for Humanity

Shaka Sisulu is the perfect example of how much good you can do when you use your privilege for the benefit of society. In continuing the legacy of the great Sisulu family, 32-year-old Sisulu is an Archbishop Tutu Leadership Fellow, sits on the advisory council of the Public Sector Excellence Awards and the boards of both LoveLife and the Foundation for a Safer South Africa. Plus, he's "The Big Cheese" — the incredible guy behind Cheesekids for Humanity.

In 2007, after building houses through Habitat for Humanity, Sisulu and his friends found themselves wanting to do more. In formalising their growing volunteer "movement", Sisulu created Cheesekids as a fun, accessible political platform for youth to give back. With the tagline "Love, peace and mo' cheese", Cheesekids enables like-minded, privileged youth (those who have "cheese") to pay it forward to those less fortunate through a range of programmes, from painting classrooms, building houses and cleaning gardens to spending time with children who "need love". And Sisulu's approach —

making community service "cool" — is working: of Cheesekids' 8500 member volunteers, half come back to help. And they bring friends.

Putting his postgraduate diplomas in management and business administration from the Gordon Institute of Business Science and his experience as a business incubator to good use, Sisulu is making even "mo' cheese". By providing a platform for corporate social responsibility programmes, he's turning Cheesekids into a sustainable model and an incubator for projects members wish to activate.

Sisulu also hosts regular late-night talk shows on 702, writes columns for *Destiny Man* and has just published his first book, *Becoming*. In it, he suggests what he would like to see happen in South Africa and how we can achieve the great things it is known for; the things his family fought for. — Lu Larché

 Website: cheesekids.org.za


Kayden Kleinhans Founder: Global Wheeling initiative

"Stand upwind when urinating outdoors." That's good advice coming from a solo adventurer, environmental activist and founder of a non-governmental organisation that converts the carbon-free kilometres accumulated on his global bicycle expeditions into trees that get planted in disadvantaged communities. Easier said than done. On his latest expedition, 28-year-old Kayden Kleinhans cycled across 20 countries in Europe and Africa, accumulating 15000km to help to offset "the colossal carbon footprint... left in the wake of the Fifa 2010 World Cup". Besides the normal physical and logistical demands, he had to cross the Sahara Desert

and negotiate his way through war-torn Côte d'Ivoire. It's safe to say that finding food, water and shelter has become standard practice. Kleinhans uses his pedal-powered expeditions to highlight society's over-reliance on fossil fuels and the power of the bicycle to alleviate congestion and minimise carbon emissions. It's a serious mission for a man who describes himself as a "diehard Manchester United fan". — Cat Pritchard

 Website: globalwheeling.org

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Katleho Madikeng

Chairperson: Sisonke Entertainment

At only 15 years old, Katleho Madikeng is already a community leader. Tired of seeing his fellow school mates turn to substance abuse and crime instead of sports, Madikeng started Sisonke Entertainment, a programme that engages young people (aged nine to 15) in free extra lessons and community activities like board games and soccer. The weekend project, sponsored by Investec Junior Achievement South Africa, brings around 40 young people together every Saturday at Katleho's school in Qwaqwa. Being a neutral space, the club has slowly become a forum for young people to discuss their problems and in these instances they are referred to Beacon of Hope for counselling. Madikeng believes that young people have the power to change their communities and should take responsibility for their education and learning, and that being given the opportunity to take on leadership roles will encourage people to explore creative options and find solutions.

— Lisa van Wyk

 **Facebook:** Katleho Mr-banks

Murray Hunter

National co-ordinator: Right2Know

Murray Hunter was cagey about being profiled. It wasn't because he was being difficult but because he's not interested in personal glory. Emblematic of a new-age consciousness, he's an intellectual seeking fulfillment rather than fortune, the victory of what he's fighting for more than fame. As national co-ordinator of the Right2Know (R2K) campaign, the most vociferous opponent of the "Secrecy Bill", Hunter is standing up and holding the government accountable for what is constitutionally already ours: the right to know.

When the Protection of State Information Bill was mooted in 2010, Hunter, with a background and degree in media and a master's in anthropology, perceived it as an opportunity for civil society to react in new ways. Launched as a broad-based response to the draconian clauses of the Secrecy Bill, one that weighs "national security" against transparency and freedom of expression, R2K is a coalition of 400 civil organisations and 16 000-plus supporters demanding the democratisation of information.

In a country previously scarred by securocrat rule, R2K is fighting not only for the amendment or abolition of a regressive Bill, but also using the campaign as an opportunity to access a new level of democracy: one not shrouded in secrets.

As the face of the campaign, the one who ensures the right people are around the table, Hunter feels R2K won "from the minute 'secrecy' became a dirty word". He believes R2K's key success has been in uniting organisations and fostering different ideas about citizenship and fighting for our rights. Although he admits there's much more to be done, in characteristic tongue-in-cheek Hunter style, the person he'd most like to thank is Minister of State Security Siyabonga Cwele — for the gift of a terrible Bill that creates a terrific opportunity to turn the status quo upside down. — Lu Larché

 **Twitter:** @muzhunter



Bontle Khalo

Media and communications officer: Ekurhuleni Pride Organising Committee

Loud and proud, Bontle Khalo is saying "No". No to discrimination. No to intolerance. No to hate. The 27-year-old activist lives in KwaThema — a township once known as a haven for gays and lesbians but today notorious for hate crimes against them, including "corrective rape" and murder. Fearlessly vocal Khalo speaks out against what is fundamentally and constitutionally wrong. Deeply committed to fighting for the acknowledgment of LGBTI rights, Khalo is a full-time volunteer for the Ekurhuleni Pride Organising Committee, which she co-founded

in 2009. On the ground, with little support and zero financial reward, she hosts events, organises marches and facilitates workshops, all in an effort to create awareness, foster acceptance and unify her community. With an attitude of "if it has to be, it's up to me", Khalo has taken it upon herself to create change in her community and to access what, in black and white, is her constitutional right. — Lu Larché

 **Website:** ekurhulenipride.co.za

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Catherine Peter

Africa director: One Young World

Catherine Peter is on a mission to drive awareness for the impact that young people are having on society through action, not words. It's a passion that has seen 28-year-old Peter work with Prince Edward, meet Bob Geldof and present a campaign she co-founded to United Nations secretary general Ban Ki-Moon. As Africa director for One Young World she ensures that young, aspirant leaders from all African countries and socioeconomic circumstances are represented in the global One Young World movement, providing "an incredible learning and exchange opportunity" for young people to get their ideas recognised by the world at large. In 2011 she helped to bring representatives from 48 African countries together for the One Young World Summit in Zurich. Over 171 nations were represented — second only to the Olympic Games. A professional Brazilian Samba dancer, Peter knows how to marry skill with passion — an ability she uses to create opportunities for others.

— Cat Pritchard

 **Twitter:** @catherinepeter

Bandile Mdlalose

Secretary general: Abahlali baseMjondolo

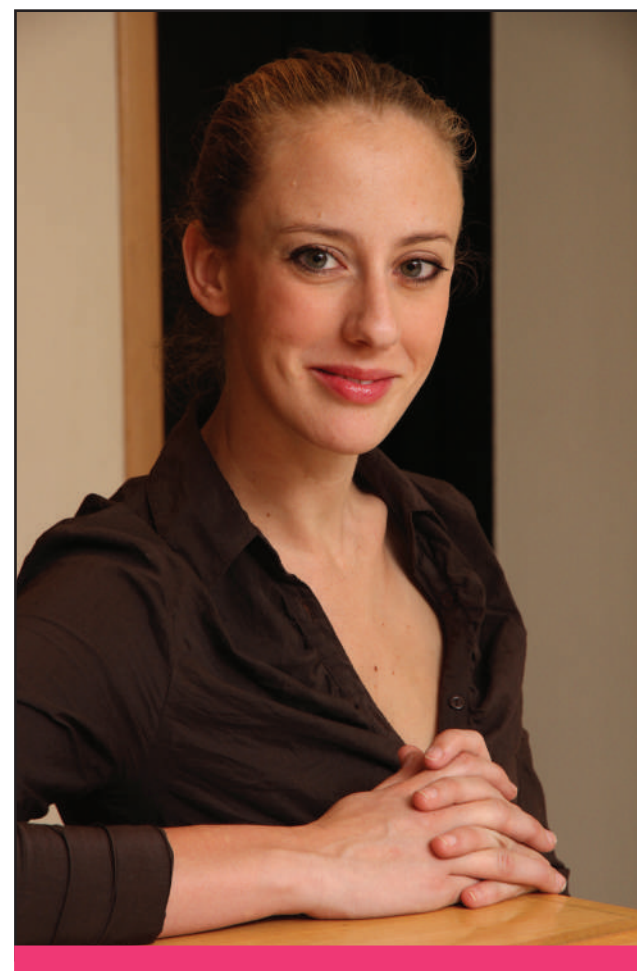
For Bandile Mdlalose and over 12-million people living in shacks, the struggle is far from over. With forced evictions, zero service delivery and removals to out-of-sight "transit" camps, they are still not free. Courageous, eloquent, compassionate, 26-year-old Mdlalose is a bona fide freedom fighter.

After enduring political, then criminal violence in townships like KwaMashu, living in dark, inescapable poverty left her feeling powerless. She joined Abahlali baseMjondolo (AbM), the shack-dwellers' movement, in 2009, to use her voice as her vote.

AbM arose in Kennedy Road in 2005 and, with 75 branches and tens of thousands of supporters, is building the power of the poor from the ground up. In fighting to protect, promote and advance the dignity of the poor, AbM took the government to court in 2009 — and won when the KZN Slums Act was declared unconstitutional. The victory put ironclad muscle behind their fight against forced evictions and against transit camps that are

unacceptable alternatives to shacks. Taking action despite repeated repression, AbM is ensuring the government recognises not only their rights and place in society, but also that being poor does not mean being poor in mind.

As secretary general of AbM, Mdlalose is its backbone. Despite leadership qualities, including humility, she deems her greatest to be her participation in the "living movement of the struggle", which has shaped who she is today. Drawing power from knowing her rights and the unity of AbM, she believes that the struggle can be won; that real freedom can be achieved. In her ideal South Africa, "everyone is respected, safe and can flourish freely". It is a place where everyone has a voice, is entitled to dignity and democracy is not defined solely by using your X. — Lu Larché

 **Website:** abahlali.org


Dmitri Holtzman

Executive director: Equal Education Law Centre

Basic education may be the field Dmitri Holtzman works in but it's not the outcome he is after. Holtzman didn't serve as the parliamentary liaison officer for Equal Education to watch education laws get passed and not properly implemented. Nor did he become the executive director of the newly formed Equal Education Law Centre to ensure access to adequate education. He may be 25, but this law graduate knows that our progressive Constitution promises all South Africans equal access to quality education. It's all part of his social activism, which started at university when he chaired

Students for Law and Social Justice and re-established the Street Law Project, helping law students to educate high-school learners from township areas about law and human rights. His job is challenging and the issues are complex but Holtzman has the one thing millions of South Africans don't — the backing of a quality education. — Cat Pritchard

 **Twitter:** @DmitriHoltzman

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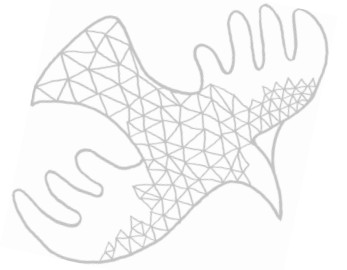
Kanchana Moodliar

Founder: Saris for Good Karma

If there's one thing Kanchana Moodliar — business owner, marketing strategist, yoga teacher, life coach, health and wellness expert and humanitarian — doesn't have to worry about, it's bad karma. Winner of the 2011 Inyathelo Award for Youth in Philanthropy, 33-year-old Moodliar started Saris for Good Karma in 2010, when her mother's overflowing sari cupboard inspired an idea to use the excess to help others. With the backing of her own corporate apparel company, Moodliar established a community of self-employed women in Chatsworth who could create an income for and empower themselves by reworking old saris. How? Saris are donated by the Indian community and the women turn them into

pillowcases, tablecloths and designer items. Trained in sewing, beading and business, many of the women now run successful businesses, and the eThekweni municipality has awarded the project with its own training centre. Excellent at creating opportunities for herself and for others, it makes sense that Moodliar's father calls her "Tata ma chance". — *Lu Larché*

 Website: sarisforgoodkarma.org



Angela Larkan

Founder and director: Thanda

At 22, Angela Larkan pioneered a smart solution to a local crisis. The estimate that there will be 5.7-million orphans in South Africa by 2015 catalysed Larkan into returning home from the USA to KwaZulu-Natal's South Coast and, in founding Thanda, work to change the statistic. More than 300 orphans and vulnerable children are fed and supported daily through Larkan's primary project, Thanda After-School. Using a sustainable model that incorporates after-school care into orphan care and shares the spirit of ubuntu, Larkan is helping communities to help themselves. From using existing schools and soccer fields to employing local youth as teachers, building a community library and starting a beadwork project to fund her efforts, Larkan's practices are far-reaching in both the lives of the locals and their potential for large-scale replication. It's no wonder then that, at 28, Larkan is already a Levi's "Go Forth" global campaign ambassador and was named Clarins's "Most Dynamic Woman of the Year 2012". — *Lu Larché*

 Website: thanda.org



Jabu Tugwana

Human rights education officer: Amnesty International

It was inevitable that 29-year-old Jabu Tugwana was going to fight for social justice. Growing up in Johannesburg during the volatile 1980s, Tugwana watched and learned as her parents, both journalists, fought hard to bring justice to the lives of ordinary people.

As an international relations and diplomacy student, Tugwana wanted nothing more than an opportunity to change the world. She started her career in human rights at the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), after meeting her boss-to-be in a bookshop.

Her work as a human rights education officer puts her in touch with a range of people and unusual destinations. She was selected to be part of the MAC Aids Fund fellowship, a 12-month programme for emerging leaders in the area of HIV prevention. The fellowship involved training in New York and enabled her to implement a successful HIV prevention plan for juvenile detainees at Johannesburg Prison.

Although she says fighting for the rights of others is more abstract than being a lawyer or a

world famous author (her other dream jobs) getting people to participate in appeals is a satisfying aspect of her job. Part of the challenge is realising that small gains are not necessarily the end of the struggle, which is often difficult to explain to someone seeking urgent action.

One of her proudest moments was co-ordinating the team that collected signatures on rural women's access to healthcare during the U2 concert tour in South Africa. Her team secured more signatures than teams in Europe, New Zealand, Australia and North and South America combined.

Tugwana was named as one of Unicef's 50 Heroes on its 50th anniversary. An eloquent speaker and passionate advocate for change, Tugwana, who represented Amnesty International at COP17, has also represented South Africa at human rights education conferences in London and Denmark. — *Amanda Strydom*

 Twitter: [@jtugwana](https://twitter.com/jtugwana)

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Zuki Mqolomba

Scholar-activist and fellow: McKinsey & Co

Zuki Mqolomba is a scholar-activist, researcher, policy analyst and, it seems, a born leader. She believes that one of the challenges facing South African youth is the “crisis in leadership and the brokenness of South Africa’s social imagination”, something she has aimed to address in her work and career.

While studying for her master’s degree at the University of Cape Town she won the Vice-Chancellor’s Award for most outstanding student leader for her record of service at the university. She was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, which she used to further her research into various aspects of international relations.

She has a passion for thought leadership and international youth development and has been involved in a number of international consultative forums, such as Unesco, Nato, the African Union (AU), Nepad and The Elders) giving representation to the power of youth agency in responding to the challenges of youth poverty and unemployment in Africa. This is an issue she sees as one of the biggest challenges facing the continent: “Our inability to respond decisively to the narratives of yesteryear lends itself to alarming levels of youth poverty and unemployment: eating away at youth dreams, stealing our tomorrows.”

Mqolomba participated in the AU Consultative Forum that developed a 10-year Action Plan for Youth Development in Africa and also formed part of the 2010 Young Atlanticist Summit, which connected emerging leaders to discuss Nato’s strategy and other pressing issues around global security; she affirmed the centrality of multi-plurality in international politics and defended the right of Afghanistan to determine its own destiny.

She currently works for McKinsey & Co and writes for *The Thinker* as well as the *Mail & Guardian’s* Thought Leader, and she mentors young learners as part of the Helen Suzman Foundation mentorship programme. — Lisa van Wyk

 **LinkedIn:** Zukiswa Mqolomba

Xolisa Gaca

President: South African Interactive Youth Club

Xolisa Gaca grew up in the township of Zwile in Port Elizabeth where he says the youth are exposed to a variety of bad influences. As a teenager he found salvation in a youth group which helped him deal with peer pressure. When he moved to KwaZulu-Natal to study engineering, he saw a need for a similar support system, and so the South African Interactive Youth Club (SAIYC) was born and registered in 2007. Since then the 28-year-old has grown the non-profit organisation into a club that stretches over three provinces and reaches over 400 members, targeting youth from 14 up with the support they need to become proactive members of society. From its economic development programme, which promotes entrepreneurship and provides mentorship, to its humanitarian programme, which offers counselling on issues like trauma and drug rehabilitation, Gaca is determined to make good on the club’s promise: “break out — making a difference.” — Lisa Steyn

 **Website:** saiyc.co.za



Thobela Mfeti

Student director: 18twenty8

Thobela Mfeti is determined to break the cycle of poverty in impoverished communities such as Bloekombos, Cape Town, where she grew up. As a management student at the University of Cape Town, she is working on the fledgling Langa Quarter project, driving development through tourism in one of Cape Town’s oldest townships and combating one of its strongest stigmas: crime. The 23-year-old is also the student director of 18twenty8, an organisation that seeks to provide financial and moral support for women from disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue higher education. Mfeti can relate to these young women. She has worked as a cleaner and waitress and is the only person in her family to attend university, let alone be awarded the prestigious Mandela Rhodes Scholarship. Right now she has her work cut out for her, finding a sustainability partner to help 18twenty8 to replicate its mentorship model in the Western Cape — because that’s how new cycles of empowerment are made. — Victoria Jones

 **Twitter:** @ThobelaMfeti



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Andrew Barrett

Co-founder: Siyakhula Education Foundation

Andrew Barrett is convinced that how things are is not how things have to be. He believes that, as South Africans, we have a sad privilege: it is relatively easy to make a significant difference in the life of someone who needs it. Which is exactly what he is doing.

As co-founder of the Siyakhula Education Foundation, which supports community-based organisations and grassroots social enterprises, Barrett works with two self-sustaining computer training centres in Gauteng to deliver low-cost, high-quality computer literacy training to the township communities of Ivory Park and Diepsloot.

The foundation also provides support to IkamvaYouth, — an academic support programme that helps township students to improve their exam results and gain access to tertiary education. The foundation established two IkamvaYouth branches in Gauteng and has played a significant role in IkamvaYouth's scaling strategy to produce an all-too-rare example of a successful collaboration between two independent non-governmental organisations with common objectives.

Born and bred in Johannesburg, 33-year-old Barrett

obtained an MA in philosophy at the University of the Witwatersrand and a social entrepreneurship certificate at the Gordon Institute of Business Science. He is passionate about creating sustainable solutions that provide high-quality, affordable and accessible education to improve the lives of those who would otherwise remain trapped in the cycle of poverty. He draws strength from like-minded individuals who are similarly invested in making positive contributions and he is always inspired by those who are working hard to improve their circumstances, often against all odds.

It is no wonder then that some of his most gratifying moments include sharing in the joy of a family whose child is the first member to be accepted into university or learning that an ex-student has secured employment or landed a promotion because of new-found skills made affordable and accessible through the foundation's centres. — Victoria John


 **Twitter:** @abarrett_qp



Michaela "Chaeli" Mycroft

Ability activist and co-founder: Chaeli Campaign

Cerebral palsy confined Michaela "Chaeli" Mycroft to a wheelchair but it also enabled her to become the world's first "ability activist", challenging the world's understanding of what it is to create an inclusive society. This 17-year-old matric pupil has more ability than most. At age nine, she teamed up with her sister and three friends to raise R20000 for her motorised wheelchair. The success of this small project awakened Mycroft to the bigger picture — promoting the ability of others like herself. Since 2004, the Chaeli Campaign has assisted over 3000 children to receive wheelchairs, hearing aids, food supplements and more, and translated their slogan "Hope in Motion" into a programme in Zimbabwe. Having won the 2011 International Children's Peace Prize and 2012 Nobel Peace Laureates' Medal for Activism, Mycroft will be using these international platforms to spread her message: "Always believe in yourself and know that you have gifts the world needs." — Cat Pritchard

 **Twitter:** @Chaelz_162
Website: chaelicampaign.co.za

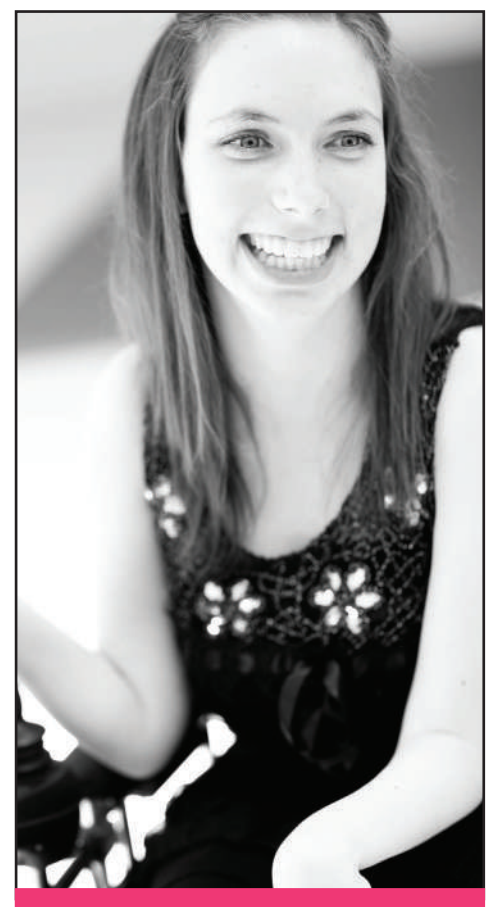


Gillion Bosman

Chairperson and co-director: Youth End Poverty

Growing up, Gillion Bosman could never accept a black-and-white version of South Africa. Inspired by Nelson Mandela and encouraged by his mother to expect more from the world, Bosman aspired to change his country. His belief that the youth have a significant role to play in building a better South Africa has translated into many meaningful contributions that continue to inspire and develop an active "now generation". Bosman is not only the chairperson and co-director of Youth End Poverty, a youth-led development initiative, but also a Global Changemaker who participated in the 2008 World Economic Forum and a South Africa Washington International Programme 2010 alumnus. Believing that education is key to poverty eradication and equality, Bosman, at 24, currently manages the basic and higher education portfolios for the British Council in South Africa. We can expect to read much more about Bosman — and the changes he'll be making to illuminate his country's true colours. — Lu Larché

 **Twitter:** @gillionbosman



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Joy Conradie

Projects co-ordinator: Umgeni Community Empowerment Centre

"When you are passionate about something, you will find the energy within yourself," says 32-year-old Joy Conradie, passionate project coordinator and dedicated mother of four. The Umgeni Community Empowerment Centre operates eight diverse programmes within KwaZulu-Natal communities, which means that, on any given day, Conradie could be taking sick toddlers to the doctor, running the crisis centre, applying for funding or combing the streets at night to offer hope to sex workers. Although she dabbled in hospitality, IT and events management, Conradie eventually found her calling in 2008 as the backbone and project co-ordinator of Umgeni. Earlier this year she was also closely involved in the rescue of 16 young women from a human-trafficking ring in the Durban city centre. It's an emotionally and physically taxing job, but one she cannot live without. "You're driven by the compassion you feel for the people you are giving aid to," she says. — Lisa Steyn

 Website: ucec.org.za

Rangoato Hlasane Co-founder: Keleketla! Library

Rangoato Hlasane is a visual artist, illustrator, DJ and organiser based in Johannesburg. He recently completed a master's degree in visual arts (cum laude) at the University of Johannesburg. His dissertation was an investigation into the role of the arts in mobilising communities, theory he has put into practice for the past five years. He has done creative work for publications such as *Chimurenga*, as well as facilitated and coordinated collaborative community-based arts and development projects around South Africa.

Rangoato's latest collaborative project, titled *Made in Musina*, is the formation of a community-led functional arts network in the small South African town of Musina, on the border with Zimbabwe.

In 2008, recognising a gap between the educational needs of young people and what infrastructure was being provided, Rangoato, together with collaborators Malose Malahlela and Bettina Malcomess, formed the Keleketla! Library, an interdisciplinary library and media arts project based at the Drill Hall in Johannesburg. He says: "Access to quality education is the greatest of obstacles.

It's a problem when a large number of schools in the country do not have adequate facilities and the human resources. It's a betrayal of the most basic of human rights."

Keleketla! implements arts, culture and heritage programmes in partnership with inner-city youth, educator and artists. Keleketla!'s flagship project, the After School Programme, is a youth learning space that relates history to the lived experience. Rangoato emphasises the role of education and the arts in empowering young people from all backgrounds: "The education sector is a rich opportunity, a fertile ground for new perspectives and imagination from youth. Most importantly, we need an education for humanity rather than for industry. We don't need xenophobia. Africa has enough for every child, woman and man. We get that right, we have a bright continent." — Lisa van Wyk

 Website: keleketla.org



M'Lani Basson Founder: Amado

As an art and psychology student, M'Lani Basson had her heart set on specialising in art therapy but, having grown up with horses on a farm, the minute she heard of equine-assisted therapy, her heart skipped a beat. After university, Basson volunteered at an animal-assisted therapy centre in Scotland, an experience that gave her all the tools she needed to start Amado, her Paarl-based non-governmental organisation. Amado provides animal-assisted therapy to 240 special-needs children who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford it. Harnessing the powerful

bond between humans and horses, Basson helps children to walk for the first time, to speak after years of trauma-induced silence, to care for themselves and, ultimately, to participate fully in society. Basson is a workhorse herself, juggling therapy and a trauma internship with raising funds and a family, but she doesn't complain. The joy the children find in her horses she feels in her heart. — Lu Larché

 Website: amado.co.za

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Musa Mbele

Founder: Sandisa Ubuntu Foundation

Musa Mbele is not part of the “born free” generation. Instead he embodies the patient, fighting spirit of the man freed in the year of his birth — Nelson Mandela, whom he gave as a character reference when interviewing for a place at St Stithians College. To understand this you have to understand where Mbele was coming from: a Soweto high school he describes as a place where learners went to sleep, not to learn.

But unlike his fellow learners, Mbele didn't equate free time with freedom. At 14 he started educating himself on ways to secure a better education, calling companies to ask for scholarships to study at his “dream school”, St Stithians. In 2006, he worked his way into the VIP section of Youth Day celebrations and a conversation with then-education minister Naledi Pandor, saying “Mama, I've been looking for you.” It gave him another door to knock on until, eventually, with support from the Mandela Rhodes Foundation and the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, one finally opened when St Stithians offered him a full scholarship.

The two years that followed were among the toughest and most rewarding of his life, and encouraged him to start the Sandisa Ubuntu Foundation to help high-potential, under-resourced schools to become true centres of learning. In 2010, the foundation adopted Mbele's old school, Kholwani Primary, as its pilot; it runs the school and raises funds for a school hall, media and arts centre. Mbele has secured R20000 from Nedbank, convinced the Soweto Gospel Choir to donate food and equipment to the school feeding scheme and even got Roedean school to adopt the Grade R Centre for a year. With newly painted classrooms and a renovated library stocked with books donated by *Morning Live*, you can see Mbele's touches everywhere. It's all part of his belief to “lift as you rise”. — Cat Pritchard

 Facebook: Musa Mbele Radebe

Xanele Puren

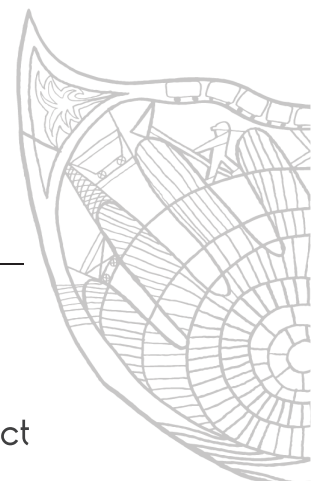
Founder: See-Saw-Do

In her final year of studying visual communication design at Stellenbosch University, Xanele Puren was encouraged to use design to make a difference. When she visited crèches in the nearby township of Kayamandi and discovered there were no relevant books for the children to read, she realised how she could put her creativity to good use. Puren illustrated and designed three educational, bilingual books, and then

took her creative activism a step further. She transformed dull, dreary-looking crèches inside and out by bringing traditional nursery rhymes, animals and imaginary worlds to life through bright paints and brilliant illustrations. At 22, after winning the Sappi “Ideas that Matter” award in 2010, she formalised her efforts into a social enterprise: See-Saw-Do. To date, See-Saw-Do has repainted 21 crèches and distributed 2000 of Puren's books. In addition to transforming the spaces where children learn and play, Puren is creating playgrounds in which their minds and imaginations can flourish. — Lu Larché



 Facebook: seesawdo



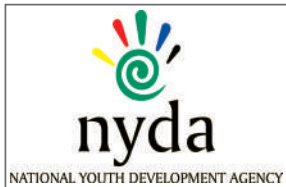
Lorenzo Wakefield

Researcher: Children's Rights Project

Just because they're children, it doesn't mean they're not entitled to human rights. This is the core belief held by researcher Lorenzo Wakefield. Working for the Children's Rights Project at the University of Western Cape's (UWC) Community Law Centre, Wakefield has focused his research on the civil and political rights of children, concentrating on legislative reform; the rights to education for children with disabilities; and child justice. At 27, Wakefield has established himself as an expert on children's rights nationally and internationally and is working on revising the juvenile justice system in Kenya on behalf of the United Nations Children's Fund. While completing his PhD in law at UWC, Wakefield is a board member of the Active Schools Initiative (an organisation that promotes children's right to play), sits on the research advocacy and policy advisory council of Child Helpline International and co-edits a lay journal called *Article 40*, which focuses on child justice issues in South Africa. — Lu Larché



 Website: communitylawcentre.org.za



Thobela Bixa

MSc student and board member: IkamvaYouth

Thobela Bixa recalls how his mother once sold chicken feet to support the family. "Her struggles were my motivation," he says. "I gave my all in school so that no one in my family would ever have to sell chicken feet again."

During his teenage years in Khayelitsha, Bixa discovered a way to demolish what he sees as "this engraved mentality of 'I can't do because I'm from the township'." He joined a non-governmental organisation called IkamvaYouth, which helps to educate disadvantaged youth for a life outside of poverty. "Through this organisation, I found a purpose in my life," he says.

Long troubled by the ill health surrounding him, Bixa made it his mission to do something about it. He resolved to study chemistry, so that one day he could return to his needy community with medicines and help to fight this scourge of disease. Now reading his MSc in organic chemistry at the University of Cape Town on a prestigious Potter Scholarship and conducting research at the University of Michigan,

it seems Bixa's plans are on track. His work in the US is particularly bold; his goal is to synthesise a new chemical compound that could be used to fight tumours more effectively than the drugs currently available.

All the while Bixa has been reinvesting in the group that helped to set his course for these great heights. He began tutoring at IkamvaYouth almost as soon as he left. Seven years on, he serves on the organisation's board and can think of no greater pleasure than watching the "kasi" kids he teaches achieve their goals.

With plans for a long career of research and teaching in the Cape, Bixa will no doubt steer far more than just his family away from the drudgery of selling chicken feet. — Ian Macleod

YouTube: IkamvaYouth_Thobela

Cordelia Nkosi

Mathematics teacher:
St Andrew's School for Girls

Despite matriculating top of her class in 2006, Cordelia Nkosi wasn't able to secure funding to further her education. It was while working in an after-care centre to help to support her family that she discovered a love of teaching. She was already teaching herself English by listening to the radio, so why not join the maths and English programme run by the Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa and help to fill the need for more competent black maths teachers? The programme places talented youth, like Nkosi, in some of the best schools while they study to become teachers. During her four-year internship at St Andrew's in Johannesburg, Nkosi juggled her studies with school, boarder-mistress duties and teaching at the school's Saturday outreach programme. She graduated cum laude and was offered a fulltime post at the school. Today, she sees every class as an opportunity to make children believe in themselves, just as others believed in her.

— Lu Larché

Website: standrews.co.za



Tshegofatso Leeuw

Founder: Sediba Sa Kitso

In 2009, Tshegofatso Leeuw decided to do something when she discovered that high-school learners in her hometown weren't thinking about their careers, or even given the tools to choose one. While working as a researcher at the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, she committed herself to paying forward the privileges she had enjoyed at school, such as effective career guidance. Initially she recruited friends to volunteer their time to pupils in Pampierstad, Northern Cape, but in 2010 Leeuw formalised her efforts into a non-profit organisation.

Through Sediba Sa Kitso she focuses on opening learners'

minds to the myriad of opportunities available to them, through career guidance, mentorship and work exposure. And even the smallest things, such as helping them to set up an email account or complete bursary applications, are making a big difference. In addition to penning a monthly education column for the local newspaper, Leeuw has a talent for short-story writing, and, evidently, for helping to write brighter futures too. — Lu Larché

Website: sedibasakitso.org.za

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Phumlani Stanley Nkontwana

Founder: Phumlani Nkontwana Foundation

At 26, Phumlani Nkontwana is fighting for a simple principle: quality education for all — and not just for those who can afford it. A One Young World Ambassador, Nkontwana is living proof that being disadvantaged doesn't mean you can't be successful and, through his Phumlani Nkontwana Foundation (PNF), he ensures that learners in under-resourced schools are given the chance to excel despite their circumstances. Nkontwana identifies under-resourced, high-performing schools through PNF and helps to sustain them by capacitating leadership and providing academic and financial support to top students. His long-term vision is to link 1 000

top-performing schools, creating a "club of excellence" that inspires under-resourced schools to perform better. With a degree in economics and statistics from the University of Cape Town and three years' experience heading up the Entrepreneurial Leadership Programme at the Alan Gray Orbis Foundation, Nkontwana recently started his own consultancy, providing support to start-up entrepreneurs. — *Lu Larché*

Twitter: @PNkontwana

Tumelo Malekane

Principal: LEAP School, Ga-Rankuwa

Few can argue with Plato's advice that a healthy society needs either its philosophers to become kings, or its kings to become true philosophers. Tumelo Malekane is one man who not only recites this wisdom, but also lives it. Three years ago Malekane was set to rule a vast commercial kingdom. He had earned a BSc in actuarial science from the University of the Witwatersrand and landed a top job in finance. But his personal commitment to the greater good prompted a change of plans. In 2010 Malekane joined LEAP Schools — a group of independent high schools placing special emphasis on maths and science — to teach and to follow his passion "to be a positive influence in children's lives". Having proven himself to be just that, in 2012 at age 27 he became one of the youngest principals in the country when he took charge of the LEAP School at Ga-Rankuwa. Malekane may be building his kingdom after all.

— *Ian Macleod*

Website: leap.org.za



Craig Paxton

Co-founder and executive director: Axiom Education

In South Africa, all are still not equal, especially when it comes to education. This is the reality Craig Paxton, an engineer-turned-teacher, has been plagued with since 2002 when a teaching practical in KwaZulu-Natal opened his eyes to the problems surrounding rural education. So, with an engineer's knack for problem-solving and a teacher's passion for the classroom, Paxton resolved to deal with them, one issue at a time.

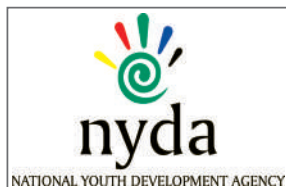
It was while pursuing a master's in educational leadership as a Fulbright and Reynolds scholar at Harvard that Paxton first penned his ideas. But it was only on returning to South Africa in 2010 that he co-founded Axiom Education with his wife Michelle. Committed to putting his theories into practice and, ultimately, improving results in rural schools, the Paxtons packed up their young family and relocated to Zithulele, in rural Transkei — the site of Axiom Education's pilot programme.

In between juggling jobs, raising funding for their non-governmental organisation and acclimatising

to "living with chaos", Paxton started putting smart, sustainable practices in place with the blessings of the local schools. To date, their model of using a three-tiered strategy of supporting students, teachers and school leaders seems to be working. Take, for example, the fact that, for the first time, science teachers are getting together to discuss difficult sections of the syllabus, while top students are receiving extra lessons on key subjects and taking what they learn back to their schools.

These improvements in the schools Axiom is working with, while significant, are not Paxton's ultimate ambition. What he really wants is to find systemic solutions that, beyond Zithulele, will break a cycle of poverty, unearth potential in rural scholars and engineer a way in which rural schools will be what they should be: equal to, if not better than, South Africa's best. — *Lu Larché*

Website: axiomeducation.org



Edward Ndopu

Founder: Global Strategy on Inclusive Education

"I love my body," says Edward Ndopu, "albeit a complicated affection." This "complication" is the spinal muscular atrophy that confines his wiry frame to a wheelchair. But his genetic disorder has no such control over his mind. As a teenager attending Johannesburg's African Leadership Academy, Ndopu founded the Global Strategy on Inclusive Education. Having battled to attend a mainstream school that could accommodate his needs, he has used the organisation to campaign for the educational rights of children with disabilities and has become an internationally renowned thought leader and activist for people with special needs. Ndopu has spoken at Yale University, delivered the keynote address for the International Association of Special Education 12th biennial conference, and won a scholarship to study at Canada's Carleton University, where the 21-year-old's studies focus on educational justice and inclusion. This month he will take an internship with the World Economic Forum, where he will make presentations on key links between education and business. — Ian Macleod

Twitter: @Edward_Ndopu

Khethelo Xulu

MSc student: University of Cape Town

Khethelo Xulu spent much of his first year at the University of Zululand in sleep-deprived limbo. But it wasn't the sort more privileged 18-year-olds endure. Xulu was essentially homeless.

"I had to study every night in the university library," he recalls. "When it closed, I would go to an open class and study until my morning lectures began. After class I could go to a friend's place to shower and sleep for a few hours. Then at night I would return to the library to start again."

This gritty determination earned him a degree in biochemistry — making him the first graduate he can think of from his village. In 2010 Xulu did honours at the University of Cape Town (UCT), where he is currently completing his MSc.

With a passion for using science to battle disease, he specialises in finding techniques to diagnose illnesses and develop drugs that cure them. More specifically, his master's investigates simpler ways to diagnose aplastic anaemia, a rare disorder the bone marrow that produces insufficient

new blood cells.

As someone who knows intimately the pains of learning in impoverished circumstances, Xulu is also active in the drive for improved education in his home district of Obuka, outside Empangeni. The community organisation he co-founded there offers career guidance and mentorship at high schools, and he contributes to a non-profit organisation that aims to bolster science and maths programmes in rural schools. His regular talks are also a source of priceless inspiration to the marginalised pupils who have never seen anyone go as far as Xulu has.

Named an ambassador for One Young World, a global forum for promising thinkers, and one of UCT's Emerging Leaders for 2010, Xulu is now set on doing a PhD in the United Kingdom next year. After that he'll bring his expertise home to fight for jobs and education. — Ian Macleod

Twitter: @xulukr



Lindelani Mnguni

Lecturer: Science education, University of Pretoria

Lindelani Mnguni is fascinated by "how the person on the street benefits from scientific developments in areas such as HIV/Aids". It's the reason the 28-year old completed his PhD on how HIV has been taught and learned in South African schools. It's a long way from his childhood in rural KwaZulu-Natal, where he was the only student in his year to pass matric and go on to university. Life has taught him many humbling lessons. When he was completing his BSc at Natal University, he worked as a gardener to earn money for food. Today, Mnguni takes his roles as lecturer and head of residence seriously, helping students from rural areas to adapt to university life, even leading them in group prayer and motivation sessions every week. Through his passion and perseverance, Mnguni is teaching his students an important lesson: it doesn't matter where you come from, only where you are going. — Victoria John

Twitter: drlindelanim

Nicola Frick

Programme manager: Shikaya

Nicola Frick is a self-confessed indoctrinator for good. Having worked as a teacher for 10 years, she considers her primary role to be influencing the thinking of her pupils, because she sees the classroom as a perfect space to create change. In challenging the beliefs her pupils have been brought up with, prejudices passed down from parents who belong to a different era in South Africa's past, she hopes to mould socially responsible, democratic citizens essential to its future.

As a history teacher, Frick understands the power of using lessons from the past to help pupils understand the present and show how their choices in behaviour — present and future — can impact on society. When she came across Shikaya, a non-governmental organisation that uses history as a tool to influence how teachers think and teach, there was instant chemistry. In 2011, she left the classroom to work fulltime at Shikaya to extend her influence as a teacher's teacher.

In facilitating workshops, Frick creates a space for teachers from different schools and backgrounds to connect with "the other", to explore their experiences of apartheid and understand its influence on their teaching and on pupils. Whether they teach history, maths, science, English or life orientation, Frick provides them with the tools required to teach without prejudice, to influence pupils positively and to instil values in democracy. She also works directly with youth through Shikaya's UP2US programme, helping them to understand how their choice to be "UPstanders" can impact on society. Through a new project, Classrooms4Change, she hopes to dovetail both programmes in an effort to make the classroom a place where real change happens.

In using her favourite subject, her influence and her passion for her country, Frick is ensuring that the democracy we fought for in the past only strengthens and thrives into the future. — Lu Larché

 **Twitter:** @NicolaFrick



SAM BURROWS

 Nicola Frick is ensuring that the democracy we fought for in the past only strengthens and thrives in the future

Brad Brockman

Head: youth and community, Equal Education

His parents were the first in his family to finish school and obtain degrees. The significance of this was not lost on Brockman, who has always appreciated the opportunities afforded him. A University of Cape Town graduate, Brockman joined the Khayelitsha-based non-governmental organisation Equal Education in 2010 to improve schools in the Cape's most deprived communities. His first task was to by show parents how to contribute through initiatives such as food gardens and libraries. Today, parent branches have taken off on their own paths and are growing organically. In addition to pushing Equal Education's book drive, which opened 15 school libraries from Mitchell's Plain to Hermanus, Brockman played a major role in organising the 20000-strong march on Parliament last year, helping ordinary citizens to assert their educational rights. "Most of all," he says, "it's about a team of like-minded people, working against the dysfunction of a highly unequal education system." — Ian Macleod



 **Website:** equaleducation.org.za

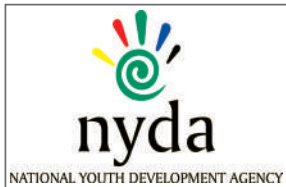
Kelly Gillespie

Senior lecturer: department of anthropology, Wits University

Kelly Gillespie sees teaching young South Africans "to think critically" as both a pleasure and her political duty. It's partly the reason she returned from the US, having completed a PhD in anthropology on scholarship to the University of Chicago. In her view, universities should be turning out "thoughtful, eloquent and critical citizens", not churning out a production line of employable youth. When not lecturing, Gillespie can be found researching topical issues in interesting places such as criminal courtrooms, prisons and feminist organisations, a skill that secured her a Friedel Sellschop Award for outstanding young researcher in 2010. Passionate about creating a space for critical engagement, Gillespie co-founded the Johannesburg Workshop in Theory and Criticism, hoping to shift the idea that high theory is produced in the northern hemisphere and merely applied in the South. We can't wait for her thoughts on how criminal justice interfaces with social justice in South Africa, which is the subject of her first book. — Cat Pritchard

 **Website:** jwtc.org.za





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Nkosinathi Freddy Ndlovu

Deaf counsellor: inclusive education and social support, Mpumalanga department of education

Imagine not being able to go to school because deaf education doesn't exist in your province. Imagine going to a hospital only to discover that the staff can't assist you, or trying to make yourself heard in a meeting where no one speaks your language: sign language.

These are just some of the challenges Nkosinathi Ndlovu has faced and is fighting to change for future generations. With an ironclad resolve to advance the rights of youth with disabilities — particularly deaf youth — Ndlovu is a 26-year-old deaf activist with fingers in many pies. He is deputy chairperson of Deaf Youth SA, founder and executive chairperson of the Ehlanzeni Deaf Youth Development Project, which provides services to the district's deaf youth, and the Mpumalanga provincial coordinator of the Kha Ri Gude mass literacy project.

As proof of his leadership skills, Ndlovu has represented his province as a youth ambassador in the Parliamentary Millennium Programme's Bokamoso Ba Rona national youth campaign since 2009. These duties, including being a member of the ANC Youth League and Mpumalanga Youth Economic Forum, all fall outside his nine-to-five. As a deaf counsellor for Inclusive education and social support within Mpumalanga's department of education, Ndlovu provides one-on-one educational counselling and support to deaf learners, while liaising with inclusive education curriculum implementers and school principals. He also teaches basic sign language.

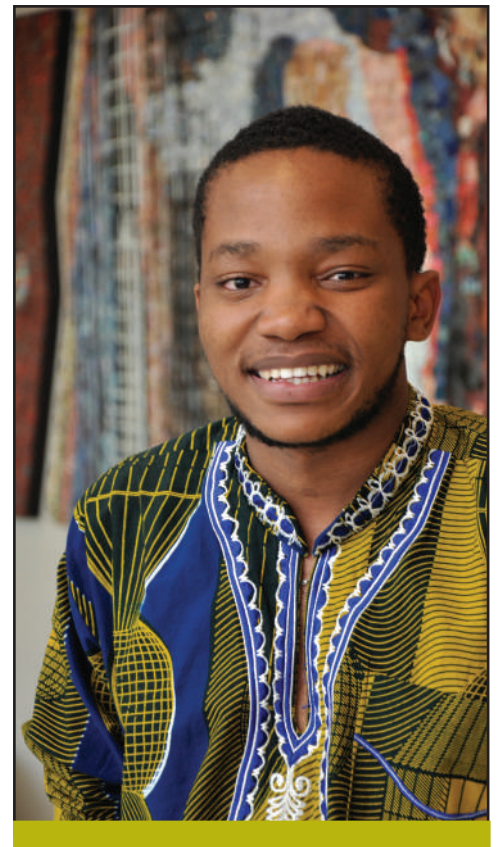
In his "spare time", Ndlovu is studying towards a national diploma in public management through Unisa, which he hopes will bring him one step closer to his ultimate goal: to become South Africa's best deaf politician. Already shouldering great responsibility for the plight of deaf youth in South Africa, there is little doubt that this lion-hearted leader, in addition to campaigning for equal rights, will be the best role model deaf youth could look up to. — Lu Larché

Website: deafsa.co.za

Sibusiso Tshabalala

Entrepreneur

Every year Google conducts a search for 10 international students who demonstrate "strong leadership capabilities, entrepreneurial drive and a commitment to social activism". In 2012, 20-year-old Sibusiso Tshabalala, a third-year BCom law student, was selected as one of Google's 10 Young Minds. He was chosen because of his Afrika Kusama initiative, which promotes literacy and critical thinking skills among previously disadvantaged learners in the Free State. He could have been chosen for many reasons. A former junior mayor of the Matjhabeng municipality and current Democratic Alliance Youth Free State chair, Tshabalala sits on the board of the Inqubela Foundation, which seeks to develop high school-age learners in a holistic way. He was also one of 100 students worldwide who were invited to attend the South American Business Forum in Argentina in 2011. Tshabalala may be used to winning many debate competitions, but he can't debate the fact that he is already making his Afrikaans teacher and mentor, Henry Welman, proud. — Cat Pritchard



Twitter: [@sbutshabs](https://twitter.com/sbutshabs)

Petro du Preez

Associate professor: North West University

Petro du Preez is described by colleagues as a "courageous thinker" and "scholar of international reputation" in the fields of human rights education and curriculum studies. Approaching the area from a feminist perspective, Du Preez focuses on conceptualising a "curriculum for social justice" by the infusion of human rights into every aspect of school life — as opposed to teaching human rights as a formal segment of the syllabus. When she calls the national curriculum "the only document with revolutionary potential", the political implications of her work become clear too. But despite her lauded publications and the higher-order principles at play, Du Preez is content to make her mark leading from the back. Once motivated by the guidance of a wise teacher to think outside the box, it is the capacity to influence teachers, and all the people they'll educate in turn, that sustains Du Preez. — Ian Macleod

Website: hroid.co.za



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Mzwabantu Ntlangeni at mntlangeni@nyda.gov.za
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200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Environment



Sandile Mbatha

Programme manager:
Decentralised Environmental
Solutions

Knowing he would have to rebuild his family's mud hut after each rainy season gave Sandile Mbatha a "bitter relationship with houses". But he reckons that only made him stronger. Mbatha battled his way from Durban's Nhlungwane informal settlement to a master's in housing at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Stints working for corporates were useful but unfulfilling, and in 2011 Mbatha established a non-governmental organisation, Decentralised Environmental Solutions, in Durban for German organisation Borda. The goal was to implement wastewater treatment and renewable energy systems that would make informal settlements independent and viable. Typical of his work is a pilot scheme at a 75-household community. Here a new technology, powered by the magic of gravity, is turning waste into greywater and fertiliser for community gardens, and even biogas for energy. Similar programmes at schools use vegetable gardens tended by students to raise money and supply feeding schemes, and should begin powering school kitchens soon. — Ian Macleod

 Website: des-za.org

Michael Markovina Co-founder: Moving Sushi

Michael Markovina has always had a deep love for the ocean, but he never imagined how far it would take him. From 2008 to 2010, along with his girlfriend Linda Schonknecht, Markovina crossed sea, sky and land to find, record and share innovative solutions to saving our marine life.

It was while working with the Wildlife Conservation Society in Gabon that Markovina, a fisheries biologist, came across two coast guards who inspired his epic marine expedition, Moving Sushi. Despite the depressing state of over-fishing and exploitation, the two were working exceptionally hard to create real possibilities for change. Markovina resolved to find similar people across Africa, Europe and Asia who, with positive ideas and projects, are turning a critical situation around. Schonknecht is a photojournalist and, in filming and sharing stories, they hoped to inspire action and "Africanise" solutions.

Travelling from Betty's Bay to Tokyo and back in "Johnny", a 4x4 that doubled as their home, Markovina and Schonknecht discovered their thoughts on marine conservation came to be worlds

apart from the ones they'd started out with. Over two years, crossing 42 countries, they photographed and filmed individuals who, by adapting solutions to suit their cultures and communities, are proving that change is possible. They soon realised that the real story was not about fish but about what a fish represents to people. And although people are the problem, they're are the solution.

In addition to a documentary, photographic exhibitions and talks, Markovina started TEDxSeaPoint — a local, self-organised event, in the tradition of TED, which brings people together to share "ideas worth spreading". Like Moving Sushi. It's part of his grand plan to link people globally and, in sharing ideas, change the fate of marine life. Despite another ambitious expedition — diving from Mozambique to Somalia — 30-year-old Markovina believes his foray into saving what he loves most is just beginning. — Lu Larché

 website: tedxseapoint.com



Junaid Francis Environmentalist

Junaid Francis may be the seafood industry liaison officer for the World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa, but this is just the latest in a series of roles he has played that focuses on the way people relate to the environment. In 2011 he worked with the Centre for Environmental Rights, acting as project officer for the Promoting Participation Programme that provides impoverished communities with the skills and capacity to partake meaningfully in decision-making processes about their environments. He has facilitated workshops across the Karoo to address hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and has worked with

communities in the environmentally sensitive Nyl River and Nylsvley wetland system. He recognises the need for young people to engage actively in the environmental sector, despite the current lack of job opportunities, describing the work as "morally satisfying, by promoting the protection and distribution of the nature's services to all". — Lisa van Wyk

 Website: wwwf.org.za

200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Environment



Tshepo Peele

Outreach co-ordinator: Greenpeace

When 29-year-old Tshepo Peele worked for FNB, the only green matter he ever dealt with was cash. It wasn't fulfilling his innate need to help, so he quit his job and jumped at the opportunity to work with Greenpeace's fundraising team. With charismatic verve and an ability to get anyone to buy into his ideas, Soweto-born Peele whizzed up the ranks and became Greenpeace's outreach co-ordinator in less than a year. His role since 2009 has entailed putting Greenpeace's campaigns in the public eye while developing outreach and volunteering programmes. From

riding on elephants across Thailand to being arrested in Durban for attempting to drop a climate-change awareness banner from a hotel rooftop, Greenpeace has shifted Peele's world. As his next venture, he would like to start his own NGO, helping people who don't have the time to help to save the planet — the only currency worth saving. — *Lu Larché*

 Website: greenpeace.org/africa

Bernelle Verster

Industrial biotech entrepreneur and founder: Merah Mas

Bernelle Verster's love of water, a symbol of which she has tattooed on her arm, often lands her in hot water. Her freethinking and speaking around anything water-related has earned the 30-year-old the nickname "the Water Maverick". Combining her pure passion with out-the-box creativity, Verster is currently pursuing her PhD in chemical engineering, focusing on cleaning wastewater and adding value to it, as well as addressing the huge implications wastewater has on health and sanitation. But it's not all theory. Through her company, Merah Mas, Verster puts her ideas into practice, proving that, when it comes to wastewater, an integrated approach to education, management of the resource and profitability are possible. As passionate about connecting people and ideas as she is about changing the way we think about wastewater, Verster curated the first TEDxCapeTown in 2011, helping to get people outside the industry to do exactly what she does: talk passionately about water.

— *Lu Larché*

 Twitter: @indiebio



DAVID HARRISON



Ella Bella Constantinides

Youth ambassador: United Nations Environment Programme

When Ella Bella Constantinides met Nelson Mandela she told him in isiZulu: "I am one of your free children" — a responsibility Constantinides is mindful of in her work to raise environmental awareness among young people and make sure older generations listen to the youth.

Along with her sister, Catherine Constantinides, she founded Generation Earth — an organisation that provides a platform for the youth to be active through initiatives such as Green Your School, which helps learners to talk about environmental issues and do what they can in their area to save the planet. By changing mindsets, Constantinides hopes to "change the supply and demand chain, by driving environmentally responsible consumerism".

The programme saw her crowned Miss Earth SA, and then selected as a youth ambassador for the United Nations Environment Programme, whose executive director warned her that she would soon steal his job. Both of these positions take her across the globe to address ordinary citizens and the

United Nations on burning environmental issues. And when young people got to draft an Africa youth statement for COP17 at the Tunza Generation Earth Africa Summit in 2011, Constantinides was there, supporting their efforts every step of the way.

She says that working with young people is exciting because they "always push the bar higher and think out of the box". The only downside to her work is "the realisation that I'm human with human limitations, which is a big let-down". She wants more nephews and nieces, and one day to "surround myself with the pitter-patter of little feet" — that is, after she has added a PhD to her master's in dramatic arts and education. For now, Constantinides has one request: "Please join our revolution. Get involved because this is our fight to save our planet and our people." — *Sipho Kings McDermott*

 Twitter: @EllaBellaC

200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Environment



Mariëtte Wheeler Zoologist and conservationist

When Mariëtte Wheeler enrolled for a BSc in zoology at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, she had no plan to pursue academia further than that. Five years and three cum laude degrees later, the nature-lover found herself 1 800km southeast of her alma mater on icy Marion Island (a tiny sub-Antarctic chunk of South African sovereign territory), conducting research for her PhD with the University of Cape Town.

Surviving on “chocolate, condensed milk and good friends”, Wheeler spent hours at a time over a whole year, starting in April 2004, out in the snow and wind observing the resident seals, king penguins and wandering albatrosses.

Her goal was to assess how scientific visits to the island were impacting on the lives of its seabird and seal populations. Completing her dissertation in 2009, Wheeler concluded that human activities were causing the creatures significant stress and prompted important regulatory changes in a place she calls paradise. She has since presented her findings as far afield as Scotland and Tasmania.

That doctoral adventure also sparked a personal

tradition Wheeler has continued on later voyages. The daring biologist has now swum in some of the world’s chilliest waters, ranging from Marion Island to Scandinavia’s Barents Sea in the Arctic Circle.

Wheeler has also worked with M2 Environmental Connections, for which she consulted on the environmental impact of mining and industry. Forays into the growing arena in which biology and computers merge, especially while working for the South African Butterfly Conservation Assessment, have given Wheeler experience with a range of geographic information systems.

Most recently Wheeler has worked for the Endangered Wildlife Trust, where she found a new passion for teaching. Running the organisation’s Conservation Leadership Programme, or what she calls “the people programme”, she made it her mission to “leave a legacy of conservation leaders for the future”. — Ian Macleod

LinkedIn: Mariëtte Wheeler

Dyllon Randall

Research officer: University of Cape Town crystallisation and precipitation research unit

If the next world war is fought over access to fresh water, Dyllon Randall will be part of the scientific special forces, on a mission to avoid conflict and prove that “waste is a resource”. More specifically, Randall’s interest lies in establishing novel ways to treat wastewater and recover the useful by-products it holds. Depending on the water source and method employed, these range from phosphorous to gypsum used in walls for low-cost houses. Now a researcher at the University of Cape Town, Randall concentrates on extracting nutrients from sanitation waste for use as inorganic fertiliser. And later this year he heads for Germany’s Technical University of Darmstadt to work on similar processes with potentially vital applications in South Africa. Randall aims to build a pilot scheme based on the water-treatment technology he developed for his PhD. But, as with any battle, he acknowledges “the biggest challenge is to change people’s mind-set”. — Ian Macleod

Website: uct.academia.edu/DyllonRandall



AMEN PHOTOGRAPHY



Xolani Lawo

Animal manager: Penguins Eastern Cape

Xolani Lawo saves lives. Penguin lives. He takes them from the verge of death to the point where he can release them back into their natural habitat. Lawo wanted to be a policeman, but while training as a guide at the Seal Point Lighthouse in Cape St Francis, he got to play with the penguins at the rehabilitation facility next door. His affection for the birds was instant and he quickly landed a job there. As animal manager, Lawo is responsible for the daily management of all birds, staff and volunteers at the centre and is on 24-hour standby for any

marine animals in trouble along his stretch of coast. Focusing on the bigger picture, Lawo hopes to extend the facility to create a land-based colony for penguins. For now, he’s happy to be on standby for the penguins and his local rugby team, who select him “when they get scared of the opposition”. — Siphso Kings McDermott

Website: penguin-rescue.org.za

200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Environment



LOUISE MEYER/506

Sboniso Phakathi

Environmentalism: Rights for Rhinos, Founder: Green Kidz Initiative

Sboniso "Spoon" Phakathi is a charismatic, 24-year-old eco-warrior who, literally, walks the talk.

Born in rural KwaZulu-Natal and a Maritzburg College matriculant, Phakathi joined private anti-poaching unit, Protrack, in Hoedspruit in 2008 and discovered a natural love for the bush. In 2011, he saw his first rhino carcass: a horrific, heart-wrenching sight that, for him, highlighted an urgent need to educate the youth about what was happening. When he met former game ranger Paul Jennings and learned of his plan to do just that through his "Rights for Rhinos" walk from Musina to Cape Point, Phakathi grabbed his walking shoes and, together, they hit the N1.

Over three months, the pair walked 1 700 kilometres, visited 25 schools and spoke to 16 000 children. Their mission? To educate children that no environmental factors are linked to the rhino's threatened extinction. It is purely a fate caused by human ignorance and greed – and one only humans can change.

During his walk, three children inspired Phakathi to start the Green Kidz Initiative (GKI), a Hoedspruit-based non-governmental organisation that provides environmental education to under-resourced schools. By teaching children about nature and its interconnectivity, Phakathi hopes to foster an environmental consciousness essential to protecting our planet's longevity. Understanding that the future of our planet – and the fragile existence of animals like the rhino – lies in the hands of our youth, he's teaching them to make the environmentally-conscious decisions needed to protect the planet for themselves and their future.

GKI also forms part of Rhino Revolution, a community-based initiative that has helped rhino killings in Hoedspruit diminish from an annual 32 to one. As a man on a mission to help save the planet "from the youth up", Phakathi lives by one question: "If my life is a message, what message would I be sending?" Our answer? Hope – and inspiration. — Lu Larché

 **Websites:** rightsforrhinos.co.za / greenkidzsouthafrica.co.za

John Duncan

Manager: seafood market transformation programme, WWF

John Duncan's life has been a struggle between his grandfather's philosophy of "never stop learning and questioning" and Winnie the Pooh's "keep life simple". Duncan started out studying law at the University of Cape Town, but he realised he "wanted to swim with whales" and "become a seaweed farmer". So he changed to zoology and did his MSc in environmental science, policy and management.

He now runs the seafood market transformation programme for the World Wide Fund for Nature fighting to keep endangered species from being fished to extinction through smart initiatives such as the Southern African Sustainable Seafood Initiative labels which tell you whether the fish you buy has been caught in a sustainable manner.

Duncan educates and works with both sides — the big retailers that buy the fish and the public who demand and consume it — hoping to create an "environmentally conscious market" so that one day he can take his children snorkelling in a sea still teeming with a variety of fish. — Siphos Kings McDermott



 **Website:** www.wwf.org.za/sassi

Rosh Sewpersad

Fynbos conservationist

Rosh Sewpersad was instrumental in forging Cape Town's first-ever public-private environmental stewardship programme. It started when he bought a patch of land to rehabilitate outside the city. While chopping through the thickets of alien vegetation he soon realised that it had been hiding fynbos — the most threatened and

biodiverse vegetation in the country. His model has since been adapted around the province.

When he is not working as a systems analyst, Sewpersad is on the land, discovering our natural heritage. He has so far found two species of fynbos that were thought to be extinct. Sewpersad plans to expand the project and make corridors of fynbos so "we leave a legacy for future generations". And now, with animals returning to the area, he is planning to have a visitor and research centre up and running within five years. — Siphos Kings McDermott



 **LinkedIn:** Rosh Sewpersad



Boitshoko Mokgautsi student

Boitshoko Mokgautsi likes to hang off people's roofs, installing solar panels. As part of student group CentiGrade, the 21-year-old University of Johannesburg student helps young people get to grips with climate change by showing them ways to combat it. Whether planting trees with primary schoolchildren or teaching people to install solar panels as part of the group's green living programme, Mokgautsi is actively involved in educating and empowering disadvantaged communities to be environmentally proactive.

Her parents are her heroes. "They allowed me to dream big. I wouldn't be where I am today, or have achieved what I have, if it wasn't for their constant encouragement." They also told her to ignore the slights of others, because "God will deal with the things they do and hate in your heart will consume you too".

Her work hasn't gone unnoticed. Last year Bayer chose her for their Young Environmental Programme, which brings 50 students from around the world to Germany for one week to learn about sustainable development. Being an ambassador

for this programme has allowed her to travel outside her comfort zone and see how people live in other cultures. She came away from the experience inspired by the work of others and excited to implement new ideas on how to develop sustainably. "I want to see myself working for the United Nations as an ambassador for South Africa". But not before she has completed her master's.

A lack of education is her biggest bugbear and she thinks the way to combat environmental damage is through teaching people about how their actions affect their surroundings. This could create green entrepreneurs, whom she hopes government will support by "allocating funds towards the green economy". Spoken like a true public management and governance student.

— Siphos Kings McDermott

 **Facebook:** Tshoki Mokgautsi



Phindile Mangwana

Environmental education assistant: Table Mountain Fund, Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa

It was through mountain biking in the great outdoors that Phindile Mangwana developed his childlike wonder and appreciation for nature. It kick-started a desire to protect it by acquiring a BSc in conservation biology, getting involved in environmental non-governmental organisations and entering competitions such as the Bayer Young Environmental Envoy Award, which he won in 2010. His passion also earned him a place in the Table Mountain Fund Young Professionals Programme, which aims to develop young professionals in biodiversity management. Focusing on environmental education, 23-year-old Mangwana spends his days supporting school- and community-based programmes. From reconnecting township youth to nature to making programmes relevant to people whose main concern is making a living, Mangwana works hard to foster environmental consciousness and involve people in what is essentially a losing battle without their support. By sharing his passion, Mangwana hopes to motivate people to do exactly what he does: bring about positive change in South Africa and on Earth. — Lu Larché

 **YouTube:** Young Professionals
— Table Mountain Fund



Guy Balme

Director: Lion conservation programme, Panthera

They say a cat has nine lives but, in the case of big cats, it's sadly untrue. Protecting the longevity of the planet's wild cats is the life mission of Guy Balme, whose doctorate focused on the impact of persecution on leopards at Phinda. A leading field scientist for Panthera's Mun-Ya-Wana Leopard Project, he was instrumental in driving legislation and revising protocols that not only protected but also increased leopard populations in KwaZulu-Natal. In his role as director of Panthera's lion programme, Balme focuses on mitigating the human-lion conflict to save the fewer than 30 000 free-roaming lions that remain on Earth. Balme oversees 25 African projects, working with communities, conservation organisations and governments to achieve meaningful scale before it's too late. His passion and expertise have taken him to Brazil to implement jaguar conservation initiatives, Mongolia to study snow leopards and the deserts of Iran to monitor Asiatic cheetahs. — Lu Larché

 **Website:** panthera.org



200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Film and Media



Riyaad Minty

Head of social media: Al Jazeera

As a boy, Riyaad Minty was enthralled by his uncle, Ameen Akhalwaya, and his tales of “struggles against apartheid using media as his weapon”. Today Minty fights a strikingly similar battle, but in a globalised, digitised age. Minty quit his BCom at Wits University in 2002 to start a mobile technology business. Several years of courting media giant Al Jazeera for business failed but Minty must have impressed as they brought him on board at their Qatar head office in 2006 as head of social media. Minty’s accolades there include a 2008 nomination for an international digital Emmy for his team’s coverage of the US presidential campaign and the moulding Al Jazeera English into the world’s most retweeted news organisation. Now a respected global pundit on all things digital media, 28-year-old Minty remains impassioned by the goal that changed his path 10 years ago: “Giving a voice to the voiceless”. — *Ian Macleod*

 **Blog:** riyaadm.com



SAM REINDERS

Erns Grundling

Writer

Erns Grundling is an adrenaline junkie with an appetite for adventure, an interest in covering offbeat stories in off-the-radar towns and an aptitude for penning these with heart in rich, smart and vibrant Afrikaans. With an honours degree in journalism from Stellenbosch University, Grundling worked at Litnet, *Insig* and *Huisgenoot* before landing his ultimate job as features writer at *Weg!* magazine. It’s a role that has him on the road, uncovering the quirkiest, craziest stories of South African life — like his feature on the 24 hours he spent with a long-haul truck driver, or his profile on the last-standing manual telephone exchange operator in Winburg. Since 2006, the inventiveness of his topics, his fly-on-the-wall reporting and effervescence of his writing have earned Grundling one Mondi, two Picas and four AKTV Mediaveertjie Awards. Grundling is the co-editor of Afrikaans zine *Ons Klyntji*, and co-hosts *The Unhappy Hour* on Bush Radio on Sunday nights. — *Lu Larché*

 **Twitter:** [@katvis22](https://twitter.com/katvis22)

Aisha Mohamed

Station manager: 5FM

Aisha Mohamed has long had a love affair with radio. As a little girl, she loved to discuss issues with her dad that she heard on the radio as he drove her to school. Decades later and nothing has changed. Radio still provides her with the same immediacy and intimacy as it always has; the difference is that, as the youngest appointed station manager at 5FM, she’s in the driving seat, steering the conversation for a much broader audience base.

With no two days alike, it’s a fun and demanding gig, and one that 32-year-old Mohamed takes seriously. “I believe we have a responsibility to the youth of our country to educate, inform and entertain them through unbiased and holistic programming content.”

A lot has changed since Mohamed started working for 5FM’s marketing department, where her creativity and agility got her promoted to marketing manager two years later. New social-media platforms are changing the way content is created and consumed, but although some may choose to treat these channels as “add-ons”, Mohamed and her team have created a “360 degree” approach to radio, seamlessly integrating every touch point, from marketing to on-air content.

She must be doing something right because focus groups show that the 5FM brand is stronger than ever, with a “past seven-day listenership of 2,35-million listeners”. In 2012, 5FM won Commercial Station of the Year at the MTN Radio Awards and was also the only African radio station to be nominated alongside the likes of BBC Radio 1 (UK) and Triple J (Australia) for “influential international station”. Perhaps it’s because it actively promotes local music or because it won the *Sunday Times* Generation Next Survey’s coolest radio station award six years running. More than likely recognition comes from Mohamed’s ability to understand that, even through an iPod has a personalised playlist, a radio station has a personality that cares about what you have to say. — *Cat Pritchard*

 **Twitter:** [@AishaMohamed5](https://twitter.com/AishaMohamed5)



5FM

Loyiso Gola Comedian and satirist

All jokes aside, comedy is a serious business. South Africa is still a politically correct society struggling to know when to laugh at racial stereotypes and when not to tweet racial slurs. As the co-creator and host of *Late Nite News* (LNN), Loyiso Gola is well aware that his satirical style of humour “has the power to raise very serious questions in the hope of becoming a catalyst to national debate”. A tall order, even for a man who stands around 1.96m. So it’s a good sign that LNN, which offers topical, often controversial, commentary on current events, is now in its fourth season. And to think the show might never have made it to air had it not been for Gola and his co-creator, Kagiso Lediga, bypassing commissioning editors to find decision-makers with “pop culture sensibility”.

It’s hard to say when 29-year-old Gola became a household name. He’s been honing his skills on stage since he was 19, when he won the Sprite Soul Comedy competition, and was already receiving

critical praise for his roles on talk shows like *Phat Joe Live* and the *Pure Monate Show*. When he was invited to perform at the 2005 and 2006 Cape Town International Comedy Festival, he was still the youngest comic on the festival bill.

Gola admits that the stage is his first love, which is why, even with a hit show and a cult following, he travels the week performing stand-up and spends the weekends preparing for LNN. “I’ll still be doing stand-up in my 70s.” His audience also extends beyond South African shores. He has performed at the Royal Albert Hall and more recently in Lagos as one of the African Kings of Comedy. But when you ask about his career highlight, his passion for creating local content that resonates with local audiences makes the choice easy — *Late Nite News*. — Cat Pritchard

 **Twitter:** @loyisoqola



Makhosazana Zwane-Siguqa

Editor: Drum magazine

In 2011, Makhosazana Zwane-Siguqa, aged 31, became the youngest editor in the 60-year history of iconic magazine *Drum*. Having launched the first black parenting magazine, *Move!*, in 2008, award-winning journalist Zwane-Siguqa returned to the title where she cut her teeth as news editor — and turned up the beat. In her first year, she proved her editorial prowess and ability to align strong content with the magazine’s business strategies by growing *Drum*’s circulation by nearly 10 000 copies and cementing its pole position in the black market. But for her it’s not all about numbers, even if *Drum* is the third-largest magazine in South Africa. What she’s interested in is taking the title beyond print, leading it through and beyond the digital revolution, and establishing *Drum* as South Africa’s best-performing family lifestyle brand. With the fiercely talented, family-orientated Zwane-Siguqa at its helm, there’s no doubt *Drum*’s beat will go on, at least for another 60 years. — Lu Larché

 **Twitter:** @khosiandherDrum

200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Film and Media



Liezel van der Westhuizen

Radio, television, print journalist

Mention the name Liezel van der Westhuizen and you get a mixture of responses. Wasn't she that *Idols* presenter? Doesn't she present on 94.5 kfm? Isn't she the morning host on SABC 3's *Expresso*? She's all three and a print journalist for *The Next 48 Hours*.

"I love interacting on three different media platforms and being able to engage with a variety of people," says the 32-year-old Pretoria native with a master's in communication management who plans to tackle her PhD next year. Van der Westhuizen may be top of the VIP list, but she knows about starting at the bottom. She juggled the graveyard shift at 94.2 Jacaranda FM with a fulltime job in PR. She loves a good challenge. She completed the Ironman in 2010 and the equally tough Dusi in 2012. But more than her tall, elegant physique and stunning beauty, it's this strong work ethic and passion for communicating with people that makes her a true idol in so many people's eyes. — Cat Pritchard

 **Twitter:** @liezelv



Asanda Magaqa

Specialist journalist: SABC TV

Despite being told she was too young and assertive and it was too dangerous for a female to go on certain assignments, Asanda Magaqa managed to justify why she deserved to report on hard-hitting current affairs issues, winning numerous awards to back up her statements.

Born in Butterworth, Magaqa sees her rural roots as an opportunity to shed light on the stories of our "forgotten people". That's why, when a law was passed in Hamburg in the Eastern Cape that prohibited vehicles on the coastline, Magaqa showed how severely it affected the livelihood of the local people who used the sand to manufacture bricks. After her investigation, legal concessions were made for the locals to go about their work.

A cross-language reporter with a focus on English and Nguni languages, Magaqa has won many awards for her reporting, including two Vodacom Journalist Awards, and has worked as a specialist journalist at *Special Assignment*. At 29, Magaqa currently works

as a field reporter, presenter and television anchor for the SABC, where she had been a radio anchor and reporter and was the youngest person, at age 23, to host a current affairs flagship show, which attracted 4.6-million listeners.

Magaqa remains connected to her roots, citing her parents as role models who taught her that "presidents and peasants are all human and definitions don't make one better than the other". She applies her father's words to her work, reminding herself that "when it comes to matters of principle you cannot be of two minds". In this family tradition, she too has become a role model, giving talks at rural schools and creating a body of work that proves it is possible for a woman from a rural area to become an award-winning journalist. — Zeenat Mahomed

 **Twitter:** @asandamagaqa



Michelle Atagana

Managing editor: Memeburn.com

Michelle Atagana does not remember a time before the internet. A thoroughbred digital native, the 25-year-old still remembers her first Netscape social network profile. "I was a kid who never played outside," she says without blinking. No wonder she started the media programme at the University of KwaZulu-Natal Pietermaritzburg when she was 16. After completing her master's about the impact of blogging on South African journalism, she started at Memeburn as a writer but was quickly promoted to managing editor. Arguably South Africa's fastest-growing

tech website, Memeburn goes beyond the headlines to provide analysis and context for the hyper-reality that is consuming the world. Much of Atagana's work at Memeburn feeds into her PhD on how the "twitterisation" of journalism is setting the agenda in society. Atagana is also working on a second novel, following her teen fiction debut in 2010. — Nadine Botha

 **Twitter:** @michatagana/@memeburn

Jeremy "Jerm" Nel

Cartoonist

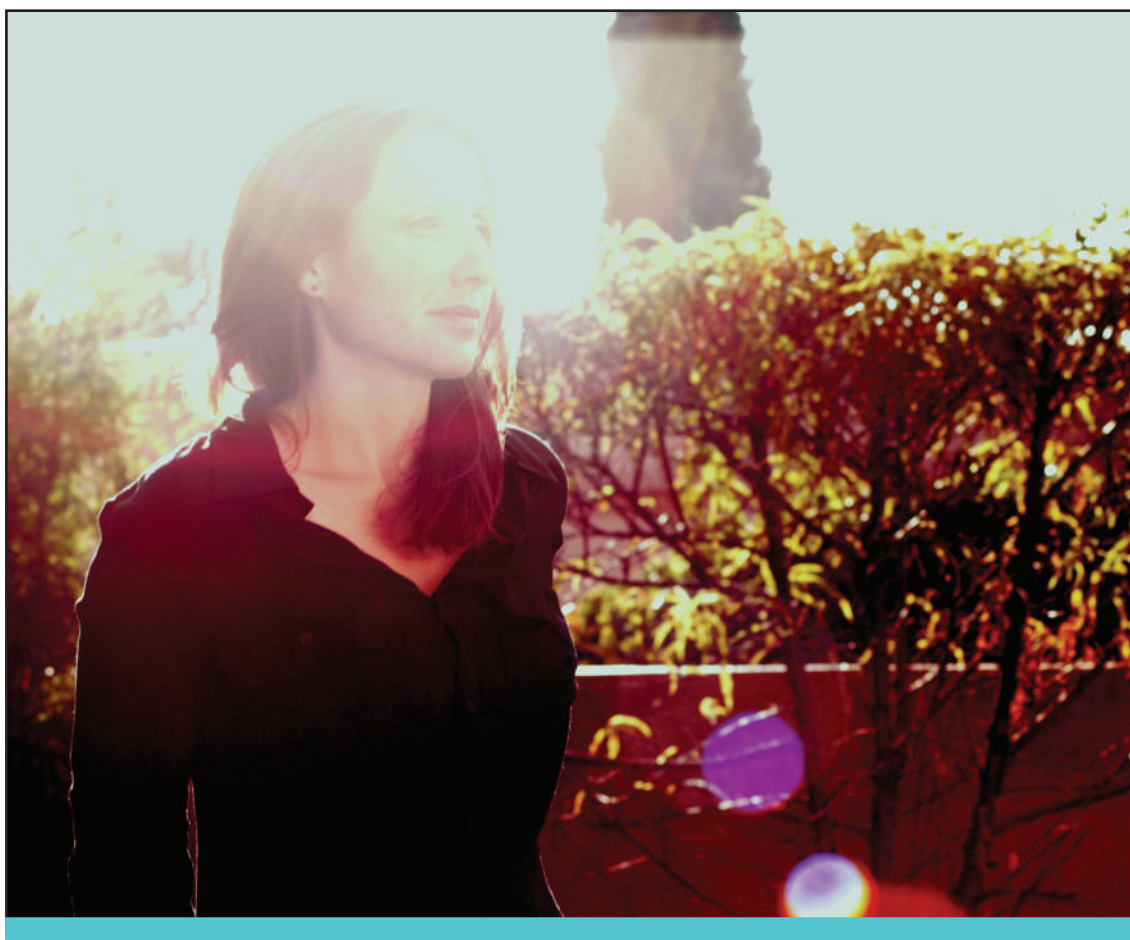
When Jeremy "Jerm" Nel tells people he's a cartoonist, most people ask him what he does for a day job. Citing role models from Daffy Duck and Monty Python to Peter Sellers and Bill Cosby, Nel had always hoped to become a cartoonist, but he nearly gave up, thinking there were no opportunities in South Africa. Taking the plunge in 2005 to become a full-time cartoonist, he landed a job at *The Times* in 2007, putting him in the political arena alongside other satirists like Zapiro.

He's grown a strong reputation as a political cartoonist, winning the national and regional 2011 Vodacom Journalist of the Year award for political cartooning. But Nel also draws non-political cartoons and illustrations that have appeared in a range of publications, such as *Cosmopolitan*, *FHM*, *Dekat* and *Playboy*.

A highlight in his career was a personal endorsement from Mark Shuttleworth in 2012 for Nel's use of Shuttleworth's Linux-based operating system, Ubuntu. Making use of good freeware, Nel says, has helped him to save a lot of money, as art tools and software are expensive. His cartooning is entirely digital and he hopes one day to teach young cartoonists and artists how accessible art has become and how to make use of "open cartooning", ie free technology.

Nel hopes his cartoons will "help people see the silliness in the world" and teach South Africans to laugh at themselves. Not that he knows what people actually get to see in the paper. Even today Nel can't look at his cartoons once they have been published. If you had told a young Nel that he would one day make money from his hobby and get to work from home, he would probably have taken his dad's advice and said: "Don't be a doos." — Amanda Strydom

 Website: jerm.co.za



Melanie Golden

Offline story editor

It's a well-known but little publicised fact that editors like Melanie Golden are the crux of every film and television story. She may be hidden away like a vampire in her editing suite, but without her rich understanding of how pace, rhythm and music can be woven together to elicit any number of responses in the viewer, many a great story would fall as flat as the screens they get displayed on. At 35, Golden has worked across all genres but is proudest of the work she did on *Intersexions* and *Inside Story*, both of which deal with issues around

HIV/Aids, saying: "If done right, education through entertainment is very powerful." A golden girl by name and reputation, she won South African Film and Television Awards (Saftas) for best editing in a drama in both 2011 and 2012 and continues to build a platform for excellence through her Reel Edge Film Academy, which she started with her husband in 2009. — Cat Pritchard

 Twitter: [@melgolden](https://twitter.com/melgolden)

Angus Powers

Sports journalist

Though award-winning sports journalist Angus Powers has had the pleasure of interviewing and writing about a variety of elite South African sportsmen and women, his greatest pleasure comes from telling the stories of those who have "achieved greatness in the face of overwhelming adversity". The year 2011 was a particularly good one for Powers as he bagged just about every award a sports writer could hope for, from Pica's Feature Writer of the Year to the SAB Sports Media Award for Print. If that wasn't enough, he also helped to pen *Rugby: In Our Blood* — a light and frothy account of the illustrious history of South Africa rugby. He admits it will be difficult to better last year's sterling performance, but awards aren't his game. "You just need to be receptive to what's going on around you instead of focusing on any one thing. Do that and success will find you." — Nickolaus Bauer

 Twitter: [@AngusPowers](https://twitter.com/AngusPowers)



200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Film and Media



A cinematographer should be a chameleon, maintaining the chosen style for 90 minutes



Africa Melane

Presenter: Cape Talk

If you've tuned into 567 Cape Talk on a weekday, you'll remember Africa Melane. He's the guy with the velvety voice and contagious laugh; the one who creates a "warm and engaging environment" while celebrating "this beautiful life". You might have heard him discussing the 68 professional theatre productions he watched last year, a number likely to increase now that he sits on the panel for the Fleur du Cap theatre awards. What you probably won't hear is him reminiscing about the four years he worked as a trainee auditor following his BCom. Not that he minded it. True to his community-driven nature, Melane enjoyed the people he met and the small businesses he helped to set up systems for. As a talk-show host, he's still helping people but in a way he hopes will empower them to become active citizens that will, like the initiative he supports, go out and "Lead SA". — Cat Pritchard



 **Twitter:** @africamelane

Donald Clarke

Producer/director and founder: Lucky Bean Media

Donald Clarke is not waiting for the death of the 30-second advert. He is creating shows that integrate advertising and content in a way that "assists the narrative rather than negates it". *Vodacom Thumb Wars*, a reality competition TV series developed by his company Lucky Bean Media, proved the success of the "branded content" model, having been acquired for the American market by Ben Silverman of *Ugly Betty* fame. At 34, Clarke is not some young upstart. He cut his teeth on youth shows such as *Get Real* and *X-Attitude*. As series director on *Survivor South Africa*, Clarke proved he could localise an international format in a way that resonated with local audiences. Since then he has directed or produced most of the major international franchises, from *So You Think You Can Dance* to *Big Brother* and *Project Fame*, and is currently executive producer on *MasterChef South Africa*. Looks like Clarke is giving the local industry the reality check it needs. — Cat Pritchard

 **Twitter:** @TheDonClarke



Trevor Calverley Cinematographer

Like many products of tiny towns, Trevor Calverley has a wide-angle view of the world. The Weenen-born cinematographer got an early glimpse of Hollywood when *Elalini*, the short film he made with his Afda Film School classmate Tristan Holmes, won a Student Oscar in 2006.

Calverley's subtly emotive work on *Material* and his 2012 Safta award for *Intersexions* have confirmed him as one of the most sought-after directors of photography in the country and fired him up for "Mzansiwood". "The problem in South Africa has been how hard it is to achieve a refined look with small budgets. But the latest equipment allows us to do that, so the bar has been raised," says the 33-year-old.

Calverley puts his success with *Material* down to unobtrusive camerawork and Sue Steele's inspired production design. "It's all about serving the story. A cinematographer should be a chameleon," he says, "maintaining the chosen style for 90 minutes." — Carlos Amato

 **Vimeo:** Trevor Calverley

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Dorianne Arendse

Current affairs producer/ host: Voice of the Cape

If you think community radio is the cute, agreeable cousin to the tough-talking commercial stations, Dorianne Arendse will change your mind. Who do you think broke the halaal scandal surrounding Orion Cold Storage? Not the commercial station that took the credit. And when Hangberg was about to implode over forced evictions, who do you think the community called to warn? Arendse and her team at Voice of the Cape. It's this kind of personal, almost familial, relationship with her audience that makes 27-year-old Arendse get up at 4am to host the breakfast show. As current affairs producer she also gets to decide

what stories to investigate, like the five-part series on the socioeconomic issues affecting Hangberg, which won her and Faatimah Hendricks a 2011 Vodacom Journalist of the Year Award for Community Media. It's a luxury her commercial cousins don't have and something she wouldn't give up, short of becoming the next presidential spokesperson. — Cat Pritchard

 **Blog:** doriannearendse.blogspot.com

Janine Jellars

Editor: Seventeen magazine

"I really want your job," said Janine Jellars to Khwezi Magwaza, then editor of *Seventeen* magazine, at a fashion event in 2009. So when Magwaza was planning to resign from her day job, guess who she called up? Jellars went from features writer at *Fair Lady* and *Elle* to editor of *Seventeen* in 2011 at the age of 27, five years ahead of her plan. After a BA in international relations at Stellenbosch University, her determination and hard work got her into the postgraduate journalism programme with a Media 24 scholarship; she won the Media24 Editor's Choice award in 2009. Cape Town-born Jellars does not consider her job to be simply about putting a teen magazine together. "As clichéd as it is, I really want to empower young women and make them feel fearless." With her sights set on being a talk-show host, it's only a matter of time before we'll be tuning in to her brand of empowerment.

— Zeenat Mahomed

 **Twitter:** @janine__j



Lindile Mpanza

TV producer: 3rd Degree

Grounded, courageous and principled — three words that could describe both Lindile Mpanza and the powerful human-interest documentaries she produces for *3rd Degree*. Take her story about a family whose four-year-old died mysteriously on the operating table of a public hospital after going in to get a few teeth pulled. The young girl's parents were made to wait six hours, not knowing whether their child was alive or dead. The post-mortem revealed she died of unnatural causes and, eventually, the doctor was found guilty.

"Being able to give a voice to someone who has given up all hope of ever getting justice" is partly the reason Mpanza shoulders big emotional stories like these.

It's a heavy responsibility for a 26-year-old but she knows that if she chooses the right stories and asks the right questions she can use this powerful medium to empower people and effect real change, although that's easier said than done. "Persuading someone to open up and share something they would never share with anyone is hard, but asking them to do it

on a medium like TV, for millions to see, can prove really difficult." But she's never shied away from telling the tough stories, working as hard to gain an interviewee's trust as she does to access information.

Mpanza has come a long way since she was named top television journalism student at Rhodes University in 2007, winning a *Carte Blanche* Investigative Journalism scholarship and the opportunity to hone her skills as a researcher. She must have really applied herself because, just four years later, she won the television feature category in the CNN Multichoice African Journalist of the Year Awards and recently accepted a Discovery Health Journalism Award in the TV category. It's easy to see why Mpanza features in this year's *Cool and Black* — a directory celebrating black African talent in the creative arts. — Cat Pritchard

 **Twitter:** [Lindile_Yolisa](https://twitter.com/Lindile_Yolisa)

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Rolie Nikiwe

TV and film director

It's been a blockbuster year for filmmaker Rolie Nikiwe. In March he bagged his second Safta Best Director award for his work on the acclaimed SABC drama series, *Intersexions*, while his debut feature film, *Inside Story*, is claiming ovations at film festivals across the USA and Africa.

A Discovery Channel educational production, *Inside Story* follows a young Kenyan footballer who comes to Johannesburg in search of stardom, with HIV pumping through his athletic bloodstream. The love and football plots are intercut with an animated recreation of the silent battle afoot in the hero's body.

This deft evocation of inner worlds is Nikiwe's forté. In the decade since he was recruited by Curious Pictures, he has explored emotional depth in a string of intelligent TV dramas, from *Tsha Tsha* to *The Lab* and *Hard Copy*. He's no snob about soapies, though, having created *Rhythm City*.

"Our history has created a schizophrenic country, and schizophrenia breeds mistrust in each other," says Nikiwe, who grew up in King William's Town. "We need to start creating belief in our diversity again. So whenever I make a piece of film, I try to represent our reality with romance. It's time to fall in love with ourselves again."

Tsha Tsha is still his favourite production. "It wasn't nearly as successful as *Intersexions*, but it's just as powerful. We're all trying to make a hit, but what actually makes a hit can be mysterious.

"We're better than we think we are, and it's time to take advantage of that," he says. "There's a new breed of game-changing directors like Tim Greene and Craig Freimond, and I'm glad to be a part of that. For a long time it was a producer's medium in South Africa, but now directors have taken the power back." — Carlos Amato

 **Twitter:** @RolieNikiwe



Mpumelelo Mkhabela

Editor: The Sowetan

It's no small task to steer *The Sowetan*, a historic title anchored in brave journalism. After a wave of upset and a consequent reshuffling of editorial ranks, Avusa chose Mpumelelo Mkhabela to maintain the paper's position and to drive its prestige forward. Mkhabela proved his editorial integrity, deep sense of civic journalism and understanding of the synergy between print and digital media as editor of *The Daily Dispatch*. Before that, he garnered respect through his shrewd political analysis and in-depth exposés at *City Press* and the *Sunday Times*, and as deputy editor of

The Sunday Independent. Unafraid to ask the tough questions or put controversial issues on the front page, he is driven "by the pursuit of truth — however inconvenient". He believes the media have a duty to contribute to building society by being the voice of reason. It is for this reason, among many, that Mkhabela stands at the helm of a new age at *The Sowetan*.

— Lu Larché

 **Website:** sowetanlive.co.za

Melini Moses

SABC senior reporter

Calling Melini Moses an accomplished radio journalist doesn't seem sufficient. As the recipient of the 2011 CNN Multichoice journalist of the year award in the radio general news category, the 2011 National Press Club journalist of the year for radio and the 2009 Gauteng Vodacom journalist of the year in the radio feature category, she is living up to her lifelong ambition of telling stories that would otherwise go unnoticed. From covering famine in Somalia to crime and corruption in all its forms, it is easy to see why Moses was one of two journalists in Africa to be awarded a 2012 World Press Institute fellowship. Her current position as senior specialist reporter and freelance news anchor for SAfm has taught her to embrace technology and think more creatively when creating stories. Living by the motto, "To whom much is given, much is expected", she has learned to work hard to achieve her goals and appreciate the rewards. — Amanda Strydom

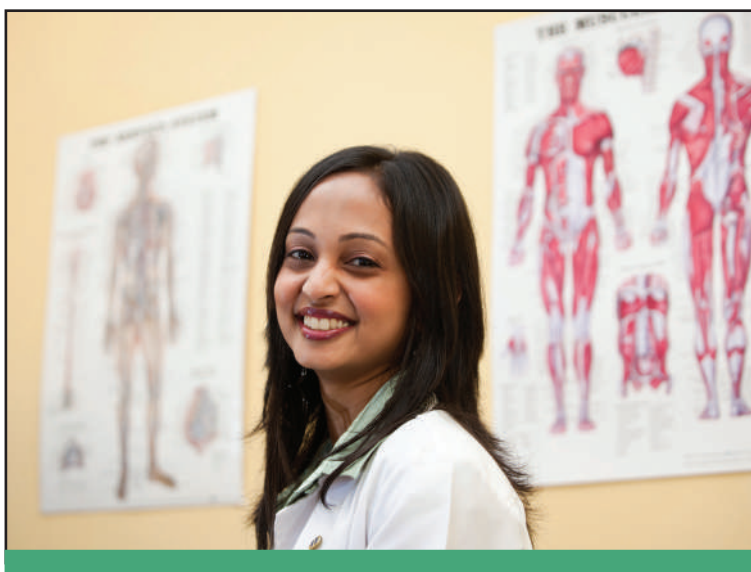
 **Twitter:** @melinimoses



Melini Moses is living up to her lifelong ambition of telling stories that would otherwise go unnoticed



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Praveena Maharaj

Chiropractor: Reservoir Hills Chiropractic Clinic

Dr Praveena Maharaj doesn't understand limits, especially time limits. In 2009, Maharaj completed her chiropractic degree at the Durban University of Technology in five-and-a-half years, instead of the usual seven. She broke another record working with 800 patients during her internship. Such extensive experience gave her the dexterity and confidence to start the Reservoir Hills Chiropractic Clinic at the age of 23. Where she finds the time to lecture and do community service in addition to running her own practice is anybody's guess. This year, 26-year-old Maharaj was unanimously elected

as the newest — and youngest — national council member of the Chiropractic Association of South Africa. Representing her profession both nationally and internationally, Maharaj is deeply committed to growing chiropractics, currently ranked as the third-largest healthcare profession globally. With Maharaj's passion, drive and seat on the council, it is probably only a matter of time before that statistic becomes true locally too. — *Lu Larché*

 Website: chiropracticclinic.co.za

Caradee Wright

Senior researcher: climate studies, modelling and environmental health, CSIR

Skin cancer is prevalent in South Africa, yet research on the effects of sun exposure is not. South Africa still bases its prevention campaigns on data from Australia and New Zealand. But not for long. Having completed her PhD on this burning issue, 33-year-old Dr Caradee Wright has spent the past five years writing papers and securing funding to turn the situation around. Her perseverance has paid off. In 2012 she will lead a project, together with the Cancer Association of South Africa, that looks at how schoolchildren behave in the sun. The result should be programmes that address the negative effects of sun exposure, including immune deficiencies and cancer. For her it's about the end result, which is why she nurtures young scientists, especially women, through the South Africa Young Academy of Science, which she co-founded. No doubt, as one of 250 scientists invited to the Global Young Academy, Wright will bring a more humanistic approach to pressing international science issues.

— *Cat Pritchard*

 Website: ehrn.co.za/sunsmart



MARIVI LUTENWEEDE

Gaone Tlhong

Founder: Beyond Vitiligo

Although its precise cause is unknown, vitiligo causes pale regions in the skin in which cells that produce pigment are mysteriously destroyed. One in 100 of us have it but for sufferers like Gaone Tlhong, it's society's skin-deep reactions that make vitiligo the fight of a lifetime.

Tlhong has borne the characteristic white patches since age four. Initially, as they spread along her arms, the name-calling worsened and she withdrew from the world in embarrassment.

"It hurt when I noticed my skin changing," she recalls. "I isolated myself from my community because I didn't look like the others." Battling through the marginalisation, she found the strength to turn her emotional decline around. In 2009 she started the non-profit organisation Beyond Vitiligo and set about dismantling the superstition and stigma that had weighed her down.

At the core of Tlhong's work is to educate people to change ingrained traditional beliefs about vitiligo.

She cites one African belief that vitiligo is a mark of a calling to be a traditional healer. In Tswana there is even a saying — *mollo wa badimo* — describing the white spots as burns from the ancestors as punishment for wrongdoing. But as far afield as India, there is a cultural bar on female sufferers marrying.

Working weekends and on lunch breaks from her job as a billing clerk, Tlhong and her expanding team are making slow progress towards what she calls "vindication" for fellow sufferers. Short on funding, they share their stories wherever they can, use social media like Twitter to publicise their cause, and even approach sufferers in malls and on the street to offer advice and invite them to join the movement.

Their latest mission is to grow June 25 from a day when members gather in mutual support into World Vitiligo Day. — *Ian Macleod*

 Twitter: [@GaoneTlhong](https://twitter.com/GaoneTlhong)

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Zinhle Thabethe

Outreach director: iTeach

When Zinhle Thabethe takes to the stage to give yet another moving account of her personal and professional battle with HIV/Aids, it's hard to believe that this mother of one and leader of many was ever a voiceless statistic.

The 35-year-old from Umlazi is the outreach director of iTeach, a programme that improves the delivery of care and treatment for persons affected by HIV/Aids and tuberculosis "by educating and empowering communities, medical professionals and patients alike". A frontline activist, Thabethe provides medicine and counselling to those afflicted with HIV and mentors other counsellors to educate Aids patients. She is also the only South African to be named a National Geographic Emerging Explorer.

But back in 2002, when the Treatment Action Campaign was taking on the government for its draconian stance on HIV/Aids, Thabethe could easily have been the poster child for a government failing its people. "When I was first diagnosed the doctor told me treatment was not available and I would be dead in less than a year." With nowhere to turn, Thabethe

sought hope in the Sinikithemba Care Centre, a clinic in KwaZulu-Natal that provided care even before Aids treatment was available. It was here that she found her voice and calling, joining the Sinikithemba Choir, an HIV-positive vocal ensemble that has won international acclaim. "All we had were our voices, but that became a way to break down the stigma and encourage others to seek help."

iTeach has recently partnered with Pop!Tech and frog design to identify ways in which technology can be used in the struggle for awareness and drug adherence across Africa. Thabethe may not be a doctor or have much in the way of formal education, but she knows that fear and ignorance are still the most dangerous threats to the eradication of HIV, which is why she is determined to fight attitudes as much as the disease itself.

— Cat Pritchard

 **YouTube:** Zinhle Thabethe

Funeka Bango

Senior medical officer:
Ubuntu HIV Clinic

At Ubuntu HIV Clinic in Khayelitsha, the largest TB/HIV facility in the Western Cape, 31-year-old Funeka Bango makes a difference to each one of the 7 000 patients she treats every month. She was 25 years old when she was offered a post to pilot antiretroviral treatment just after it was introduced, and she's the first to admit it wasn't easy. But with the situation less "morbid" than before and unfailing support from a fantastic team, it's a role she's grown into and grown with. Today it's more than a job: Bango is physically, mentally and emotionally stitched to her work. To broaden her impact and that of HIV medicine, she's studying for her master's in public health at the University of Cape Town. Together with her experience in the intricacies of HIV/Aids and its tremendous social baggage, Bango is striving to live by her motto: "Dare to accomplish big things by making a difference to others."

— Lu Larché

 **Facebook:** Funeka Bango



Thashlin Govender

Programme officer and director: Dell Young Leaders Programme

Thashlin Govender lives by a code of excellence and a will to assist the urban poor. Determined to make an impact, he splits his days between his two defining passions: health and education.

With a PhD in community health from Stellenbosch University, he's striving to extend his influence and become a global health player in policy and development by studying his second master's in medical sciences with a specialisation in epidemiology. Equally passionate about education, he works at the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation as a programme officer and director of the Dell Young Leaders

Programme, which offers wraparound support throughout the university to students who show great potential.

At 27, Govender also serves on the board of the Health Professions Council of South Africa, has published numerous papers in international journals and has won scholarships and awards for his research. A strategic thinker, he is interested in changing the way people think about scalable solutions and, essentially, making a difference. — Lu Larché

 **Website:** dellyoungleaders.org



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Mandla Ndlovu

Programme manager:
Brothers for Life

Growing up, Mandla Ndlovu's role model wasn't someone famous. Instead, he wanted to be like his friend's brother: "An ordinary, hardworking community man who had values and time for people". As programme manager for Brothers for Life (BFL), he's mobilising men to be responsible, honourable and inspiring. BFL launched in 2009 as a nationwide healthy lifestyles campaign aimed at creating a movement of men who choose to "do the right thing" for themselves, their partners and their families. Implemented by over 100 partners, including the department of health and the South African National Aids Council, BFL uses workshops, mass media, celebrity ambassadors and advocacy to encourage men to play their part in fighting HIV/Aids. With his hands-on approach to the campaign, Ndlovu's greatest challenge — competing with negative social influences — is overshadowed by his greatest joy: men who are the change he wants to see. They're the real unsung heroes, like Ndlovu. — Lu Larché

 **Twitter:** @mandla26

Yandisa Sikweyiya

Senior scientist: South African Medical Research Council

Why do men rape? It's a question we all ask when we read almost daily of the inhumane rape of women and children in South Africa. Why, when and how men rape — as well as how to stop them — are questions that frame the cutting-edge research of 30-year-old Yandisa Sikweyiya.

As a senior scientist at the South African Medical Research Council (MRC), Mthatha-born Sikweyiya is committed to eradicating rape through research that's proven meaningful in and beyond South Africa. Sikweyiya's research describes the causes, patterns and magnitude of sexual violence in South Africa, has been influential at government policy level and is being referenced globally, with many countries replicating his research methodologies.

Managing, collaborating and co-investigating on local and international research projects, Sikweyiya liaises with government stakeholders, analyses data, contributes scientifically to co-authored draft papers and writes academic articles and research proposals. That's just by day. By night, he studies for his PhD in public health, specialising in research ethics, through

Wits University. It's part of his plan to become a leading scholar in research ethics, philosophy, gender-based violence and qualitative methodology globally.

It doesn't seem a far-off shot and, with his tenacity and drive, there's no doubt he'll achieve it. Tackling rape at the root of the problem, Sikweyiya's also motivated to work harder because he has hope: the behaviour-change interventions that have been developed within his research unit are proving to be effective in transforming the harmful behaviours of men.

In addition to serving on various committees and forums, Sikweyiya has been widely published in international journals and his research papers have been presented in national and international conventions. He is steadfastly and selflessly committed to the creation of a free, safe society in which women and children do not need to live in fear, and where we no longer read about rape. — Lu Larché

 **Website:** mrc.ac.za



Liz Gatley Doctor: Zithulele Hospital

Since 2009 Dr Liz Gatley has been proving how far determination can go in uplifting what she calls "almost the forgotten people of our country". Joining the Eastern Cape's Zithulele Hospital in 2009, 29-year-old Gatley has been a major role-player in reducing the hospital's mortality rates, despite rising patient numbers. Last year her tireless work earned her the Eastern Cape Rural Doctor of the Year award, as well as the class medal for her postgraduate diploma in HIV. Gatley is a stalwart of Zithulele's HIV programme, the first place she saw hope that we could beat the

pandemic. Zithulele now services 10 surrounding clinics, where before almost nothing had stood in the way of the disease. Gatley is also known for coming up with simple, innovative solutions. For one patient in need of protein and cheering up, she prescribed a boerewors braai. Her famous homemade cupcakes seem to have a similar genial effect. — Ian Macleod

 **Website:** zithulele.org



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Desmond Kegakilwe

Clinical quality improvement mentor:
Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute

Desmond Kegakilwe translates his favourite quote as: "Being a man is a very long, difficult career; many die without being a man." Appropriately, the original comes from Ernesto "Che" Guevara. In 1998 Kegakilwe left Mafikeng for Cuba to study medicine. In the midst of "the most exciting and challenging time", he found a health system he admired. Returning home as a doctor in 2007, Kegakilwe began his life's mission to improve rural health, often travelling 300km a day on the worst roads as a medical officer for the North West health department. It was also here that he first started to engage tirelessly with government on ways to improve care. Last year Kegakilwe took his fight to the next level, becoming vice-chairperson of the Rural Doctors Association of Southern Africa, and joining the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute to provide HIV/Aids instruction for 29 clinics near Mafikeng. — *Ian Macleod*

 Website: witshealth.co.za



Sindi van Zyl

HIV/Aids doctor

Sindi van Zyl knew from the days when she'd walk with her granny to the clinic in Harare that she wanted to be a doctor. And following her medical studies at the University of Pretoria, she was set for a career in paediatrics or surgery. But her internship at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital changed that. "The death, despair and suffering broke me," she recalls. So much of it was caused unnecessarily by HIV/Aids that Van Zyl made it her life's mission to fight the pandemic. Today she works with non-profit organisation Anova, travelling the country teaching and communicating broadly on how the disease can be prevented and treated. Van Zyl's major innovation thus far has been the use of smart technology. Through her blog she answers anonymous Aids-related questions that people feel too embarrassed to ask their doctors, and she is in constant contact with nurses even in rural clinics using Twitter and WhatsApp, advising on optimal treatment. — *Ian Macleod*

 Blog: qooh.me/doctorsindi

Olihile M Sebolai

Lecturer/researcher: Department of microbial,
biochemical and food biotechnology, University
of the Free State

At 26, Olihile Sebolai made international headlines for a groundbreaking discovery concerning future nanotechnology, earning him an MSc in microbiology, six awards and the title "genius". Now 33, he is using his genius and PhD in microbiology to tackle the cause of life-threatening Aids-defining illnesses, a pathogen that claims 500 000 lives in sub-Saharan Africa annually.

Through his research on *Cryptococcus neoformans*, Sebolai focuses on the "war" between the virus and the immune system, and what causes one to win. If his research is successful, he'll be able to advance much-needed literature and contribute towards future drug development that, in combating the disease, will save lives.

A lecturer at the University of the Free State, Sebolai is one of two members of the vice-chancellor's elite Prestige Scholar Programme — a capacity development programme for up-and-coming academics. Through it, Sebolai has the opportunity to pursue his critical research abroad, liaising with the world's leading minds on the subject. — *Lu Larché*

 Website: ufs.ac.za



Christiaan Scott

Paediatric rheumatologist: Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital

Christiaan Scott grew up hoping to become an American Indian — “the cowboy-battling kind” — and even toyed with the idea of journalism. Developing ankylosing spondylitis, a form of arthritis, as a child piqued his interest in paediatrics. After studying medicine at the University of the Free State and graduating at the University of Cape Town, he worked in paediatrics in Guildford and other London hospitals and then came back to complete his training at the Red Cross Hospital in Cape Town.

There was no training programme for paediatric rheumatology in South Africa, so he spent a year in Leuven, Belgium, on a Discovery Foundation scholarship in 2008 and time in Genoa, Italy, supported by funding from the Arthritis Foundation and the South African Rheumatism and Arthritis Foundation. When he returned to South Africa, the Red Cross Hospital created a post for him with a dedicated paediatric rheumatology component.

Scott is now one of only five paediatric rheumatologists in South Africa, with a special interest

in juvenile arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus. He teaches paediatrics and rheumatology to medical students and advocates children's rights and equal access to healthcare. With the prevalence of rheumatic diseases in South Africa, he has helped to secure funding and training opportunities at the Red Cross and Tygerberg hospitals, aiming to train at least two more paediatric rheumatologists over the next two years.

He is also part of a research team that collaborates with a number of universities across the world, including University College London and Duke University, studies various types of rheumatic diseases in Africa, with a special focus on how they affect children in South Africa. And if his small patients are looking for proof that juvenile arthritis can be contained, he's climbed Kilimanjaro, cycled from Brussels to Paris and goes in for trail running.

— Amanda Strydom

 Website: childrenshospitaltrust.org.za



Ntlotleng Mabena

Operations manager and technical adviser: Centre for HIV/AIDS Prevention Studies (Chaps)

Ntlotleng Mabena joined the Reproductive Health and HIV Research Unit as a junior doctor and came out a certified HIV clinician with a passion for public health. After working at several HIV clinics, Mabena trained general practitioners to perform safe medical termination of pregnancies through the Society for Family Health's Sisterhood Network programme. Currently studying towards her master's in public health, the 32-year-old Pretoria doctor now works in a related, if not unusual, field for a young female doctor and self-confessed feminist — medical male circumcision. As the operations manager at the Centre for HIV/Aids Prevention Studies, Mabena helps government to set up male circumcision clinics. “Medical male circumcision is a proven, effective HIV prevention strategy which in effect decreases the chances of a man acquiring HIV from an HIV positive woman by about 60%.” But her end goal is still women's health, for which she hopes to become an innovator, clinician and rights activist. — Cat Pritchard

 Twitter: [@tlotlo_b](https://twitter.com/tlotlo_b)

Mohammed Dalwai

Surgical medical officer and volunteer: Doctors Without Borders

Crossing borders and breaking boundaries: that's what 28-year-old Mohammed Dalwai, a surgical medical officer at Worcester Hospital, seems destined for. After his community service on the South African-Mozambican border, Dalwai was recruited by Doctors Without Borders to work as their emergency room co-ordinator in Timugara Hospital, on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. Working in an overcrowded and under-resourced venue, Dalwai sought a more proactive way to categorise and deliver time-critical treatments to patients with life-threatening conditions. In the end, the South African triage score (Sats), with its proven ability

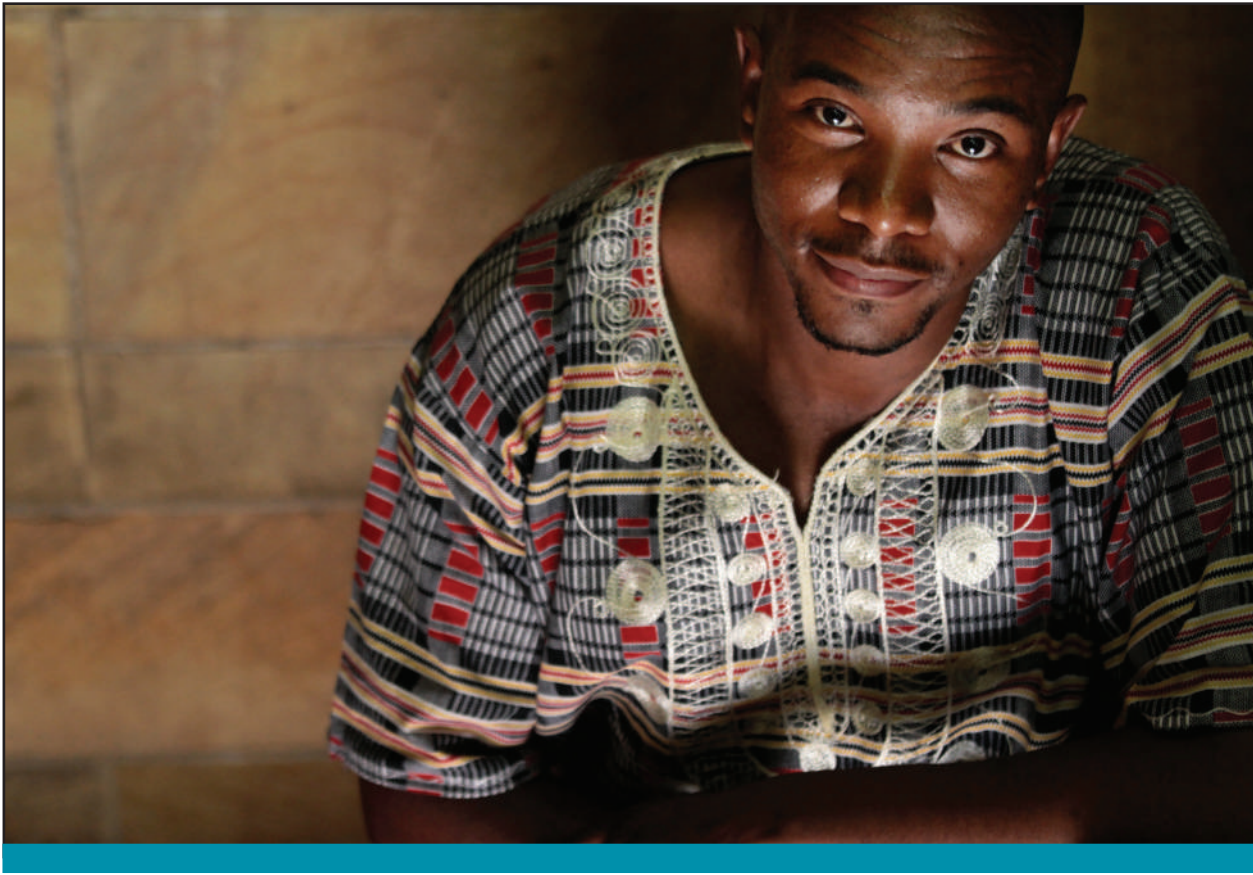
to work despite limited resources in rural areas, proved most suitable to the emergency room. But not everyone was convinced. Dalwai spent weeks proving to local doctors that the system would save more lives. It worked and today Doctors Without Borders has adopted Sats in several countries where their teams provide emergency medical care — a major breakthrough for emergency medical care, Dalwai and South Africa at large.

— Cat Pritchard

 Website: doctorswithoutborders.org



200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Politics and Government



Mmusi Maimane

National spokesperson: Democratic Alliance

His critics call Mmusi Maimane too young and suspiciously black. Others say he's far too 'white'. But he calls this sort of politics reactive and outdated. Maimane lives in the present with his eyes on tomorrow. As DA leader Helen Zille says: "In many ways, Mmusi Maimane symbolises our party's future."

Maimane grew up in Soweto and read his BA in psychology through Unisa. Thereafter he did a master's in theology through Bangor University in Wales, and just recently completed a second masters in public administration.

He crafted a successful career in business, consulting on topics such as change management, succession and talent retention, and taught at the Gordon Institute of Business Science. Maimane then moved almost organically into politics. He clicked with the DA, which made him its mayoral candidate for Johannesburg in 2011. Later that year he was made the party's national spokesperson.

Where Barack Obama used "change" to mobilise a nation, Maimane talks about "proactivity". He wants schools to go digital; ecofriendly public transport; and

efficient online billing from municipalities. "I just don't see the willingness in government," he says.

He also prides himself on being hands-on. Whether it's open toilets in the Free State or reports on the military-style Kommandokorps training, you are likely to see Maimane investigating the issue in person. In April he joined schoolchildren in the Eastern Cape for their daily 12km walk to school.

Political hustling frustrates Maimane, but he knows "it's worth it for those hard-fought victories", which he sees as anything from helping one constituent to solve a problem to effecting major political developments in DA-run Western Cape.

What lies ahead for the far-sighted Maimane? Near-term he is considering a doctorate in economics, and would love to see his party win two more cities. And "if the DA ever governs," he says, "I want to play right at the top." — Ian Macleod

 **Twitter:** @MaimaneAM

Fundi Tshazibana

Deputy director general:
economic policy analysis and
forecasting division, national
treasury

Fundi Tshazibana is a "big picture" person. It's her job. As head of economic policy analysis at the national treasury, 35-year-old Tshazibana leads a team of economists and modellers who contribute to decisions that change lives, history and our country. Through impact assessments, modelling and forecasting, Tshazibana ensures the country's finances are in order and that the government makes informed choices that "balance the needs of today's generation with those of the future". Balancing what the numbers tell her is good for the economy relative to people's experiences on the ground is Tshazibana's greatest challenge. But she hopes to create change by contributing to evidence-based policymaking and changing government's service delivery model to focus on things that matter to people. With a master's in commerce, and pursuing her second in business leadership, Tshazibana worked at TNS Research Surveys and the national electricity regulator before joining the treasury in 2003. — Lu Larché

 **Website:** treasury.gov.za



Troy Martens

Spokesperson: ANC Women's League

Air-force pilot and social worker are just two of the professions Troy Martens wanted to follow growing up. But instead this former journalist is breathing life into the ANC Women's League's communications machine, helping to amplify the voice of this historic organisation. "The Women's League is the custodian of the women's liberation movement in the country and is at the forefront of shaping policy relating to women." Martens says she became "politically aware" while studying journalism at the Durban University of Technology, where she contested the student representative council elections and became the first and only

white member and its deputy president. Today, 26-year-old Martens continues to serve the public by "educating men and women about their rights and responsibilities with regard to women's issues", especially the "astronomically high" rate of violence against women. "The louder the Women's League gets on these issues the more people will listen and, hopefully, start acting." — Andisiwe Makinana

 **Twitter:** @Troy_Martens



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The angry lad rebelled. "I was like a can of petrol rolling through fire," he says. By age 15 he was making guns for the ANC just to feel he belonged



Magdalene Moonsamy

Spokesperson: ANC Youth League; COO: National Youth Development Agency

As the media-savvy spokesperson of the ANC Youth League and chief operations officer of the National Youth Development Agency, 33-year-old Magdalene Moonsamy is a socioeconomic and political activist, feminist and fighter for youth development. Her activism was inspired in her childhood by the injustices of apartheid and heroes like Chris Hani who "demonstrated selflessness at all times". She joined the youth league in 1998 while studying law at the University of Durban-Westville. Elected on to its national executive committee in 2004, she has been the league's spokesperson since 2009. She is passionate about the role youth played in our past and will play in our future and is committed through various roles to fighting their struggles against poverty, inequality and unemployment. Defined by her beliefs in justice and integrity, she is committed to speaking the truth, being an agent of change in the lives of the oppressed and fighting for freedom in all its forms. — Lu Larché

Twitter: @MaggieMoonsamy

McIntosh Polela Spokesperson: The Hawks

McIntosh Polela recalls a "brutal childhood" in KwaZulu-Natal. He lost his mother early on, learned years later it was his own father who had killed her, and suffered years of abuse by the extended family he grew up with.

The angry lad rebelled. "I was like a can of petrol rolling through fire," he says. By age 15 he was making guns for the ANC just to feel he belonged.

The terror of being roughed up by police and shot at during IFP-ANC standoffs helped to spur a change in Polela, and he found a way to study journalism at the Durban University of Technology. Fine results attracted a scholarship towards a master's in media and communication at the London School of Economics.

Polela returned in 2002 and began an award-winning career as a political journalist for eNews. Moving on in 2007, he realised he needed to confront his past. So he penned his emotional memoir, *My Father, My Monster*, reliving his tragic history with heartbreaking honesty.

In 2009 Polela joined elite police unit the Hawks as their spokesperson. Still a journalist at heart, he loves the adrenaline of the job. "I'll get a call about an incident at 3am," he explains, "and I have to get in my car, press the button for the blue light and drive as fast as I can to the crime scene."

But being the public face of the Hawks brings risks, even if he is just the communications man. "People come after me because they hear 'McIntosh arrested so and so'," says Polela.

Hawks security recently advised that the one-time gunsmith carry a weapon for his own protection. "I already need a bulletproof vest," he says, "but I'm a writer, academic, fitness fanatic and a nerd. I'm not sure I can carry a gun." — Ian Macleod

Twitter: @toshpolela



Geordin Hill-Lewis MP: Democratic Alliance

Geordin Hill-Lewis is a busy man. In addition to his tasks as an MP, Hill-Lewis is the Democratic Alliance's chief of staff and the man in charge of the political programme of DA leader Helen Zille, including her media, research and diary. He is also responsible for the Greater Philippi constituency in Cape Town. In 2011, Hill-Lewis became the youngest MP to be sworn into Parliament and he hasn't stopped moving. "One minute I could be helping a constituent solve an electricity or pension issue, the next I am planning a press

conference that will define the news for the following day. It is so fast-paced and dynamic, and that is always interesting." But it's not just the pace of the job that makes Hill-Lewis believe more young people should get involved. "It is more relevant to our generation than to any other, as we will have to live with the decisions taken today." — Andisiwe Makinana

Twitter: @geordinhl

200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Politics and Government



John Oliphant

Head: investments and actuarial,
Government Employees' Pension
Fund

If you had asked 18-year-old John Oliphant what an actuary did, he would have offered a smile instead of an answer. Growing up in Parys, Oliphant was never exposed to anything beyond his township school syllabus. With hard work and an academic scholarship, Oliphant worked his way through a BSc in advanced mathematics of finance to head up Quant Investing at Stanlib, where his funds and management style earned him industry recognition. Today, 30-year-old Oliphant heads up the largest pension fund in Africa, having grown its assets from R620-billion in 2008 to over R1-trillion, during the economic crisis. His secret? Knowing 350 000 pensioners rely on him to invest their hard-earned money. It's no wonder he's a firm believer in responsible investing and serves on the advisory council of the United Nations-backed Principles for Responsible Investment. He may be a big deal and report to Parliament but Oliphant knows who his real boss is — the pensioner. — *Cat Pritchard*

 **Twitter:** @John_Oliphant

Ronald Lamola Deputy president: ANC Youth League

Ronald Lamola is the man touted to take over the ANC Youth League's presidency should Julius Malema's expulsion stand. Lamola, who is one of Malema's protégés, is empowered by the league's constitution to succeed the incumbent.

A lawyer by profession, Lamola grew up on a farm in Mpumalanga as the son of a farmworker. He joined the ANC Youth League in 1996 at the age of 14. In 2004, after being enrolled as a student at the University of Venda, he was elected SRC president and later became provincial chairperson of the South African Students Congress in Limpopo. He served as the Young Communist League secretary of the Gert Sibande region between 2008 and 2009, before joining the youth league's provincial executive committee.

Youth league members say Lamola is just as determined as Malema when it comes to the call for controversial policies like land expropriation without compensation and the nationalisation of mines. In some cases, Lamola is regarded as being more

vociferous than Malema and will offer added impetus to the league's "economic freedom in our lifetime" programme.

Lamola will advance the struggle much more aggressively than Malema and do so without abrasiveness. He's cool, calm and collected, but challenge him and he'll destroy you, according to a league member close to Lamola, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Lamola is also seen as having less baggage than Malema so will be able to flex more political muscle in the call for sweeping policy reform.

"He doesn't just talk for the sake of talking and hasn't made enemies unnecessarily. When Ronald talks you know it is coming from a man that isn't interested in business or tenders; it's about the people," said one source. — *Andisiwe Makinana*

 **Twitter:** @RonaldLamola



Ngabayomzi Kwankwa

Deputy secretary general: United Democratic Movement

Ngabayomzi Kwankwa is a jack-of-all-trades, which he says comes with working for a small party like the United Democratic Movement (UDM). Whether acting in his capacity as deputy secretary general, spokesman, speechwriter or researcher, Kwankwa takes every opportunity to hold government to account and ensure that the ideals that underpinned the liberation struggle are translated into service delivery and poverty alleviation programmes. Kwankwa knows first-hand the hardships that millions of South Africans face. When he arrived in Cape Town, he worked as a cleaner and security officer to support

his studies. Currently pursuing a master's in economics through Unisa, Kwankwa left the corporate world in 2009 to follow a career in politics, using his contacts in the private and public sectors "to help establish or support community development programmes around the country". Some believe the 32-year-old is being groomed by party leader, Bantu Holomisa, to take over the UDM leadership one day. — *Andisiwe Makinana*

 **Facebook:** Ngabayomzi Kwankwa





200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Politics and Government



Stella Ndabeni

Deputy minister: communications

Stella Ndabeni is making her second appearance on these pages, having featured last year as an ordinary MP sitting on the oversight committee on communications. This time around, Ndabeni is making a bigger impact as a member of President Jacob Zuma's executive. She was appointed deputy minister of communications in October 2011, a big comeback considering that she was expelled from the ANC Youth League in 2010 for supporting an opponent of Julius Malema.

Her rise to the top has been meteoric since becoming an MP in 2009. A few months before her appointment, Ndabeni surprised many when she called for the ANC-proposed media appeals tribunal to be placed on Parliament's agenda, despite assurances by Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe that the idea was on ice, pending an industry review of self-regulation mechanisms.

The 34-year-old is also one of those who would like to see changes to the South African Constitution. Asked what she would change in South Africa if she were president: "The Constitution of this country as it stands is not conducive to the ordinary people of South Africa," she responded.

Ndabeni, who hails from Mthatha, highlights the need to improve the rolling out of information and communications technology (ICT) connectivity to schools, rural development and health centres to ensure sufficient e-government services, among some of her challenges. She acknowledges that ICT access, services and benefits are "still a dream" for people who live in rural areas. However, "many studies have shown that, in order for South Africa to be globally competitive and more effective as an efficiency-driven country, we need to improve rolling out of ICT connectivity". On the personal front, Ndabeni is "finally doing her MBA and planning to settle down this year". — Andisiwe Makinana

Twitter: @stellarated

Gcina Hlabisa

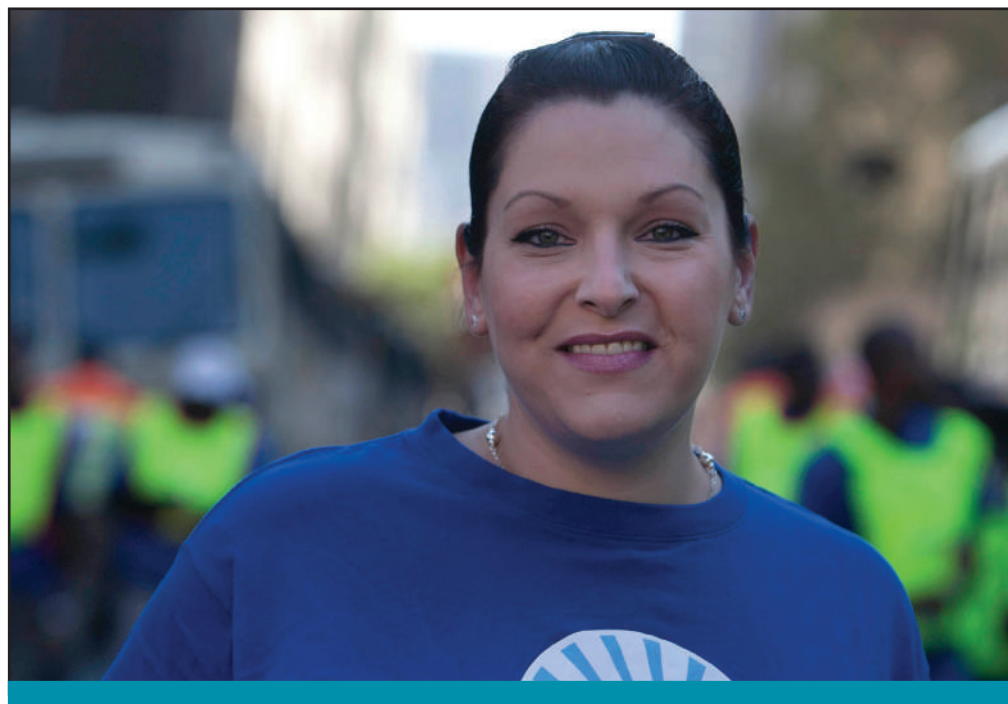
Director: economic policy co-ordination and employment creation fund, national department of trade and industry

Gcina Hlabisa's job is to create jobs. Directing the economic policy coordination and the employment creation fund at the department of trade and industry, 30-year-old Hlabisa tackles the issue of high unemployment in South Africa head-on, every day, and on a large scale. It's his responsibility to ensure the coherence and alignment of economic policies with job creation and to assist in refocusing the employment creation fund — one that supports innovative government initiatives that will create jobs and uplift poor communities. Born in rural Ntumbane in KwaZulu-Natal, Hlabisa started interning at the department in 2005. He quickly moved up the ranks, working in key programmes and with respected individuals such as Ravi Naidoo, David Jarvis, Ray Ngcobo and Tshediso Matona, the director general at public enterprises (who incidentally has



Hlabisa's dream post). Highly committed to his job and his country, Hlabisa is determined to make a difference in South Africa, one job at a time. — Lu Larché

Twitter: @qghlabisa



Natasha Michael

DA spokesperson for public enterprises

In Grade 1, Natasha Michael told her teacher she wanted to be president. By her 21st birthday Michael was the national federal youth leader for the Democratic Alliance (DA) and a member of the Tshwane Metro Council. Now 33, Michael is deputy chairperson of the DA's federal council and sits on the DA side of Parliament as the spokesperson for public enterprises, helping to ensure that the public coffers are spent in the way they were intended. To this end, Michael regularly takes part in planned and surprise oversight visits, offering workable solutions to problems

plaguing companies in her portfolio, including Eskom, Transnet and SAA. A gifted speaker, Michael has participated in Bill Clinton's South African Town Hall debate and given the DA's speech for the first Mandela Day celebrations in Parliament. She may not be president but she knows how to use the platforms given her to fight for the rights of all South Africans. — Cat Pritchard

Twitter: @NatashaMichael3



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Improving lives through youth development programmes

The Free State Province has adopted a multipronged approach to youth development through skills development and training, learnerships, internships, experiential training and small business promotion. In this feature, we focus on the province's groundbreaking bursary scheme, which has provided bursaries to 4 432 young people in the past two years to further their studies in scarce skills



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CHAMPION: Premier Ace Magashule announced recently during a meeting with bursary holders that starting from 2012 the provincial government will strive to provide current and new bursary holders with laptop computers.

The Free State Province has become the leading province in investing in youth through the trendsetting Provincial Bursary Scheme. A total of 4 432 youth, especially young women from rural areas, have received full-time bursaries to pursue their studies in scarce skills areas such as Engineering, Finance, Accounting, Medicine, Mathematics and Science.

Two hundred and fifty eight (258) of these learners are orphans. The beneficiaries of these bursaries are fully representative of all race and gender groups, including the people with disability from all districts across the province.

Bursaries have been spread across all towns in the province. For the 2011 financial year bursaries were allocated as follows: Fezile Dabi (125), Lejweleputswa (232), Motheo (420), Thabo Mofutsanane (236), and Xharipe (61). In addition to the provincial government allocation, some students are funded through the Operation Hlasela Fund, a charitable non-governmental organisation set up to fight poverty and eradicate homelessness. Free State government bursary holders on average receive R60 000 per annum which covers tuition fees, registration fees, books, accommodation, meals and transport.

Premier Ace Magashule announced recently during a meeting with bursary holders that starting from 2012 the provincial government will strive to provide current and new bursary holders with laptop computers. The main beneficiaries are Free State residents, orphans, disabled youth, higher achievers from poor backgrounds, and rural areas. Premier Magashule launched the trendsetting bursary

scheme soon after his inauguration in 2009. Before this, each provincial department used to administer its own bursary scheme. The Free State Executive Council took a decision to centralise the bursary scheme in the Department of Education. Additional budget was made available to the bursary scheme.

Previously the Free State provincial government departments collectively used to spend just over R20 million per annum on bursaries. In 2010 alone, following the launch of the new bursary scheme by Premier Magashule, the provincial government spent a record amount of R154-million on 3 098 full-time bursaries. A further 1 334 bursaries were awarded in the 2011 financial year, increasing the total amount spent on bursaries in the past two years to R288-million. "This bursary scheme is part of our drive to address shortage of skills in Mathematics, Science, Technology and Accountancy. The allocation of bursaries will ensure that the government recruit and attract students in the scarce skills categories," Magashule said.

"Our focus is to ensure that we give opportunities to previously disadvantaged students to further their studies and contribute to the growth and development of our province. However, we do not just give bursaries, we also ensure that we support and motivate our bursary holders," he said.

In August, Magashule and members of the Executive Council visited Free State provincial government's full-time bursary holders in their respective higher education institutions.

FREE STATE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT: INVESTING IN THE FUTURE



BUILDING A LEGACY: During visits to universities, students are given a chance to tell Premier Magashule and members of the Executive Council about some of the challenges they face

Institutions that were visited are in the Western Cape, Gauteng, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and North West. Members of the Executive Council met with all the students in each province in one institution. Premier led a delegation that went to Durban.

In September, the entire Executive Council met with more than 2000 bursary holders in the University of Free State and Central University of Technology at the Vista Campus in Bloemfontein. During the meeting, Magashule announced that from next year the provincial government will also provide laptops to all bursary holders.

The aim of the visits was to ensure maximum results from the students through maintaining regular contact to assess their progress and address challenges that they have. A similar visit was undertaken by the Executive Council in 2010.

Magashule said: “Our approach is not just to award bursaries and leave the learners to face the challenges on their own. We visit our bursary holders to ensure that we address all the challenges raised by them. In each university, bursary holders have nominated one bursary holder to act as student coordinator. This ensures that we have effective communication channels between the Free State provincial government and the bursary holders,” he said.

During the visits, Premier Magashule and members of the Executive Council also met with management of Higher Education institutions. As a result of the visits, the Free State provincial government is working to improve the administration of the bursary scheme. This includes the establishment of the mentorship programme, allocation of managers to specific institutions, provision of experiential training for bursary holders, and provision of accommodation.

During a meeting with bursary holders, Premier Magashule announced that from next year all bursary holders will be provided with a laptop to ensure that they are able to do their assignments and to connect to the Internet for research purposes.

Premier Magashule said: “We will undoubtedly derive the long-term benefit from this initiative.

We will continue to support our youth to ensure that they are better prepared and well equipped to help grow our economy and to eradicate poverty”.

At the end of the 2010 academic year, over 400 bursary holders received their degrees and diplomas. Aligned with the five plus two priorities, the Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) and the New Growth Path, the number of students who pursued studies in identified areas included: 673 in Education; 238 in Engineering; 230 in Accounting; and 220 in Medicine and other health professions.

Premier Magashule has committed to continue investing in deserving students.

Applications for full-time bursaries for Grade 12 learners, unemployed youth and current students at Higher Institutions for the academic year 2012 closes on 30 October 2011.

Successful applicants will be informed on the outcome of their applications after they have been accepted at universities, universities of technologies and FET Colleges of National Department of Higher Education only in order to study for qualifications that will address the identified skills for which they have been allocated bursaries.

For more information on the Bursary applications please contact The Bursary Section in the Department of Education on the following telephone number: (051) 447 2764 or visit your nearest Department of Education District Office and/or municipality offices.



IN FRONT: In each university bursary holders have nominated one student to act as student co-ordinator to ensure effective communication channels between them and government

Which Province has provided

4 432 young people with full time bursaries in the last 2 years?

A photograph of two young women in school uniforms, looking towards the camera.



200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Science and Technology

Rapela Regina Maphanga

Senior researcher: Materials Modelling Centre, University of Limpopo

It's no secret. The planet needs cleaner, sustainable energy sources and someone needs to discover and optimise high-performance materials, such as batteries. That someone is 33-year-old Regina Maphanga, a senior researcher and physics lecturer who uses computational modelling techniques to probe battery materials at the level of atoms and nanoparticles.

Sound complicated? You should read her physics thesis. It started out as a master's but her findings were so qualitative she was awarded a doctorate. On a scientific level, Maphanga can do everything that people in white coats usually do in laboratories, only with a computer.

Maphanga was the only female and first student to graduate with a BSc honours in physics (cum laude) from the University of Limpopo. Add to this the fact that she hails from Ga-Matlala Ngwanallela, a small village west of Polokwane, and you get an idea of how hard she has worked and the challenges she has bested.

In between being a top scientific researcher, she

is a passionate lecturer who jumps at the chance to hold exhibitions or give motivational talks to young learners, especially women, to further the development of the science, engineering and technology fields in South Africa.

If her body of work speaks for itself, her awards speak for her commitment to building a "knowledge generation economy". She has represented South Africa at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting of New Champions and received the 2010 National Science and Technology Forum Award as a Distinguished Young Black Female Researcher. The next year, she was selected to the prestigious Global Young Academy, the distinguished voice of young scientists internationally. It looks as if Maphanga has the empirical data to back up her firm belief that "everything happens for a reason". — Cat Pritchard



Twitter: @maphangar



Nokuthula Mchunu-Nxumalo

Microbiologist: Department of biotechnology and food technology, Durban University of Technology

The world is desperate for cleaner energy and safer industrial processes. Nokuthula Mchunu-Nxumalo's PhD may have found a part solution to both. During two years of research spread between the Durban University of Technology (DUT) and University Sains Malaysia, Mchunu-Nxumalo discovered how a common fungus, through the enzyme it produces, can be used to replace the dangerous chlorine used in paper production. This same harmless organism holds potential as a producer of biofuel. Moreover, as Mchunu-Nxumalo explains, "while the US and Brazil use actual food sources for energy, we are finding ways to generate energy out of agricultural waste from crops like maize so as not to sacrifice food security". Now teaching biotechnology at DUT, Mchunu-Nxumalo is busy writing up patent documents for her new-found industrial methods. On the possibility of creating viable biofuel from corn cobs in the coming years, she combines her answer with a warning: "We have to." — Ian Macleod



Website: dut.ac.za



Msizi Khoza Business analyst: AT Kearney

At their Davos summit this year, the World Economic Forum named Msizi Khoza a Global Shaper, and it's easy to see why. First, there's Khoza's master's in electrical engineering, in which he used engineering tools — chiefly artificial intelligence — to model the entire South African economy. He has already presented aspects of this groundbreaking work in Europe, and plans to take it to Australia and Korea next. Khoza's consulting work also impresses. Having worked originally in what he calls "hardcore engineering", he recently moved into management consulting, where his engineering skills and creativity

are used to tackle his clients' most enigmatic financial conundrums. As for political aptitude, he has published articles in journals including *The Thinker* and *The African Pioneer*. Khoza also reckons he can "sing — and sing well" but admits that asset is least likely to have swayed one of the great institutions of the globalised world. — Ian Macleod



Website: za.atkearney.com

200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Science and Technology



Annie Bekker

Lecturer: Department of mechanical and mechatronic engineering, Stellenbosch University

Annie Bekker's engineering career has been a unique fusion of three seemingly disparate passions: music, mathematics and mystery-solving. She joined Optimal Energy in 2008 to analyse vibration and sound properties in its prototype electric car, the Joule, having done her master's thesis in a similar area of research. From data recorded with the vehicle at full throttle, she could not only identify "disturbing noises and their source", but also "compose the vibrations into something not unlike a symphony" to achieve a sound matching the vehicle's branding. Bekker's PhD at the University of Cape Town was

less acoustically delicate, but stayed on theme. She studied blast-resistant vehicles to determine the level of protection required to prevent injury — specifically fractured bones — to occupants in case of a landmine detonation. Now a teacher and researcher at Stellenbosch University, Bekker is testing South Africa's polar research vessel, the *Agulhas II*, for vibrations during ice-breaking operations. — Ian Macleod

 **Twitter:** @Anstertjie



Bavesh Kana

Head of Wits Node: Department of science and technology/
National Research Foundation Centre of Excellence for
Biomedical TB Research

Bavesh Kana is used to working under negative pressure. Literally. It's one of the drawbacks of working with the bacterium that causes tuberculosis in trying to develop new TB drugs, vaccines and diagnostic methods. Even more urgent is the fact that South Africa ranks third for TB-burden countries globally, fuelled by the increase of drug-resistant strains and HIV/Aids. The TB scourge needs solutions, fast. Kana's PhD explored an area not previously researched in TB and resulted in a potential new drug, currently undergoing trial in South Africa. Because of additional

groundbreaking work, Kana was invited to Weill Cornell Medical College to assist a leading TB research group in establishing a new method. In 2011, the prestigious Howard Hughes Medical Institute ran a competition to find the best young scientists in the world. Of 760 scientists who applied, 28 were chosen. Kana was one of them. TB is in for a fight. — Cat Pritchard

 **Website:** tuberculosis.org.za



Megan Russell

Lecturer: Faculty of engineering and the built environment, University of Johannesburg

Most people know Watson and Crick as an easy point in many a pub quiz. They're the two old scientist fellows who discovered the helical nature of DNA. But for Megan Russell these intellectual mavericks were childhood heroes. Had she not known all her life she wanted to be a scientist, the handwritten letter from James Watson in her matric year wishing her well at university would certainly have convinced her.

Russell studied electrical engineering, followed by an MSc in biomedical engineering, at the University of Cape Town. In 2007 she moved her studies to Wits University, and last year completed her PhD, specialising in biomedical engineering.

That was more than an academic milestone for laryngectomy patients. Russell's doctoral research led to the development of an artificial larynx — or voice box — that literally aims to give these people their voices back. Computing what the user intends to say by analysing the way in which the tongue makes contact with the palate, the device generates prerecorded words designed to sound just like the patient's original voice.

That was Russell's first powerful taste of what inspires her most in her niche: "Using exciting cutting-edge technology to radically improve people's lives".

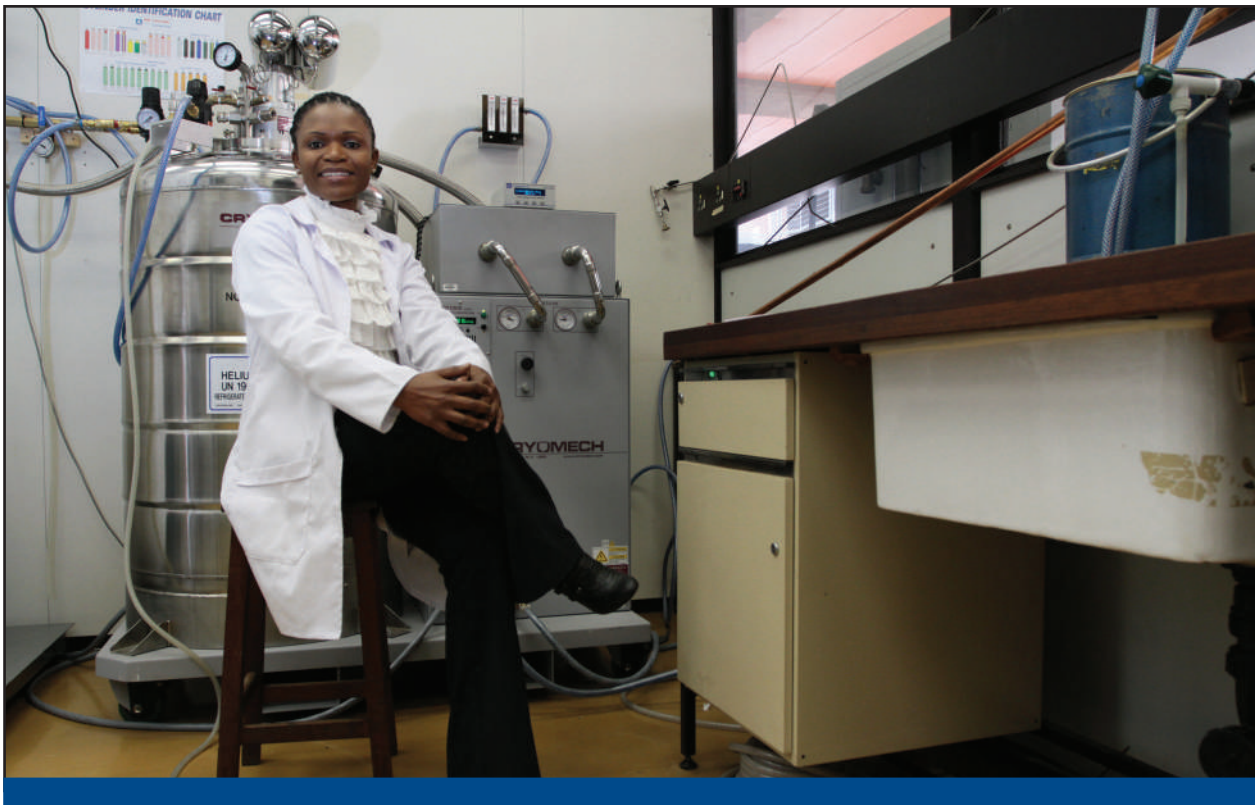
Russell now lectures in electrical engineering at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) while furthering work on her now-patented larynx technology. She was also a finalist in last year's UJ/Group 5 Excellent Women in Engineering and Technology competition.

The next ailment on Russell's hit list is tuberculosis. X-rays have long been available to diagnose the lung disease, but that requires the time of a skilled technician. "The system we're developing," explains Russell, "uses image-processing algorithms to attempt to distinguish X-rays of a patient with TB." Russell recently presented the project's latest findings at an international congress in Beijing. — Ian Macleod

 **Website:** wiebe.co.za



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Buyisiwe Sondezi-Mhlungu

Scientist, lecturer and researcher: Department of physics, University of Johannesburg

As an award-winning scientist, researcher and lecturer in the department of physics at the University of Johannesburg (UJ), Buyisiwe Sondezi-Mhlungu hasn't let anything stop her from breaking through the glass ceiling as a woman in science or pushing the boundaries of pioneering research. Plus, disproving the assumption that it's impossible for women to combine the highest levels of scientific achievement with raising a family, she's also the proud mother of two.

Currently completing her PhD in physics at UJ, Sondezi-Mhlungu is studying quantum-critical phenomena of cerium-based compounds and the magnetic field dependence of physical properties in these and other intermetallic systems. As a study neither well known nor traditionally participated in by women, Sondezi-Mhlungu will be the first South African woman to hold a PhD in this field of study once she has completed it. As a consequence, she won the 2009 department of science and technology's Women in Science Award and a fellowship to finance her ongoing research.

Sondezi-Mhlungu studied part-time and worked as

a scientist at the Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa before applying for and accepting a lectureship at UJ. In 2007, the opportunity to be close to the labs to complete the required experiments for her PhD while working to build a science-conscious community through teaching was a dream come true. And it is in teaching — transforming minds through physics, guiding research and expanding the science pool — where her greatest fulfilment and contribution to individuals and to her country lies.

Apart from publishing in multiple journals, Sondezi-Mhlungu was named as one of *Cosmopolitan* magazine's "Fun and Fearless Women" in 2009 and received a human and institutional capacity development grant in 2011 and University Research Council funding in 2012 from the National Research Foundation. In addition to tutoring school pupils in maths and physical science on Saturdays, Sondezi-Mhlungu is involved in a variety of church-based activities. — Lu Larché



Website: uj.ac.za

Renée Hlozek

Postdoctoral research fellow:
Department of astrophysics,
Princeton University

Fascinated by the burning questions about the universe — its origin, fate and evolution — Renée Hlozek gravitated towards science at school in the hope of one day being able to answer them. It seemed destined because, through various programmes, scholarships and natural aptitude, the universe literally opened up to her. Hlozek's honours in applied mathematics in 2006 at the University of Cape Town was part of the National astrophysics and space science programme; her master's was funded by the SKA human capital development programme and, between 2008 and 2011, as a Rhodes scholar, she read for her DPhil in astrophysics at Oxford. Currently conducting postdoctoral research in cosmology at Princeton, she is analysing light originating just 380 000 years after the Big Bang. As passionate about making science accessible as she is about giving back, Hlozek is involved in several outreach programmes, including teaching maths in prisons and astronomy at schools. — Lu Larché



Twitter: [@reneehlozek](https://twitter.com/reneehlozek)



KATHERINE TRAUT

Jeff Murugan

Senior Lecturer: Department of mathematics and applied mathematics, University of Cape Town

Jeff Murugan is fascinated by cartoons and *McGyver*. That's appropriate, given that his esoteric area of science is one in which the rules don't always apply. Murugan earned his PhD in 2003, working jointly at Oxford and the University of Cape Town. By his early 30s he was one of four South African experts on string theory, which attempts to explain the high-energy world where our traditional (but incomplete) rules of physics break down. "If we're correct," says Murugan, speaking for his colleagues, "it will be the biggest revolution in our understanding of the universe

since Einstein." Now researching and teaching at UCT, he is constantly seeking "the expression on the face of a student when an idea you're trying to convey suddenly clicks into place". According to his students' "Jeff Murugan appreciation page" on Facebook, he achieves this with a certain flair for deeply sarcastic academic humour. — Ian Macleod



Facebook: [Jeff Murugan appreciation page](#)

200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Science and Technology



Amanda Weltman

Senior lecturer: Department of mathematics and applied mathematics, University of Cape Town

"I study the big questions — how the universe began and how it will end," says 33-year-old Amanda Weltman. Paradoxically, the keystone of her major contribution to physics is a tiny particle we're yet to spot on Earth.

Weltman completed her BSc in physics and applied mathematics and honours in theoretical physics at the University of Cape Town (UCT). A series of scholarships took her to Columbia University in New York, where she advanced to her PhD. While in the US Weltman also took up a teaching fellowship at Columbia and won a research fellowship from Nasa. In 2007 she received a postdoctoral fellowship to the Centre for Theoretical Physics (then headed by Stephen Hawking) at Cambridge University.

Weltman's signature breakthrough came at 24, when she proposed a model based on the idea of dark energy, the esoteric entity scientists believe causes the ever-quicken expansion of the universe. "Chameleon" dark energy was Weltman's explanation of how this happens. She argued that "the particle responsible for

this acceleration should interact directly with all matter types", the upshot being that the particle's behaviour must vary along with its environment, like a chameleon. And that's where it gets galactically complex.

What is the point of this far-out ingenuity? For starters: "It's really amazing to apply just the powers of the brain and arrive at a greater understanding of the universe," says Weltman. But she hastens to add that "the applications of pure science are enormous", pointing out how Einstein's theories led to tools we use every day, such as lasers and GPS devices.

Having returned to UCT in 2009 to research and teach, Weltman continues to impress. Recent accolades include the 2009 National Women in Science award for best emerging young researcher, and the Royal Society of South Africa's Meiring Naudé medal for young scientists in 2011. — Ian Macleod

YouTube: Amanda Weltman

Fulufhelo Nelwamondo

Principal researcher: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Fulufhelo Nelwamondo obtained his PhD in electrical engineering by 25, was made visiting professor at the University of Johannesburg a few months later, and is now a senior researcher at the CSIR, where he turns the far-fetched technologies of crime thrillers into everyday reality. A leading expert in fingerprint analysis, Nelwamondo has made discoveries any TV detective would die for, including an algorithm that increases the speed and accuracy with which partial fingerprints can be matched. He has also done award-winning work in artificial intelligence, most notably the development of techniques to make sense of online polls with corrupt or incomplete data. An extension enables effective computer modelling on the spread of HIV as well as evaluation of efforts to stop the disease. Nelwamondo has achieved many breakthroughs and published widely in books and journals, but his proudest achievement remains being South Africa's youngest recipient of the Harvard-South Africa fellowship.

— Ian Macleod

Website:
csir.co.za



James Mason

Research associate: Nasa Ames Research Center

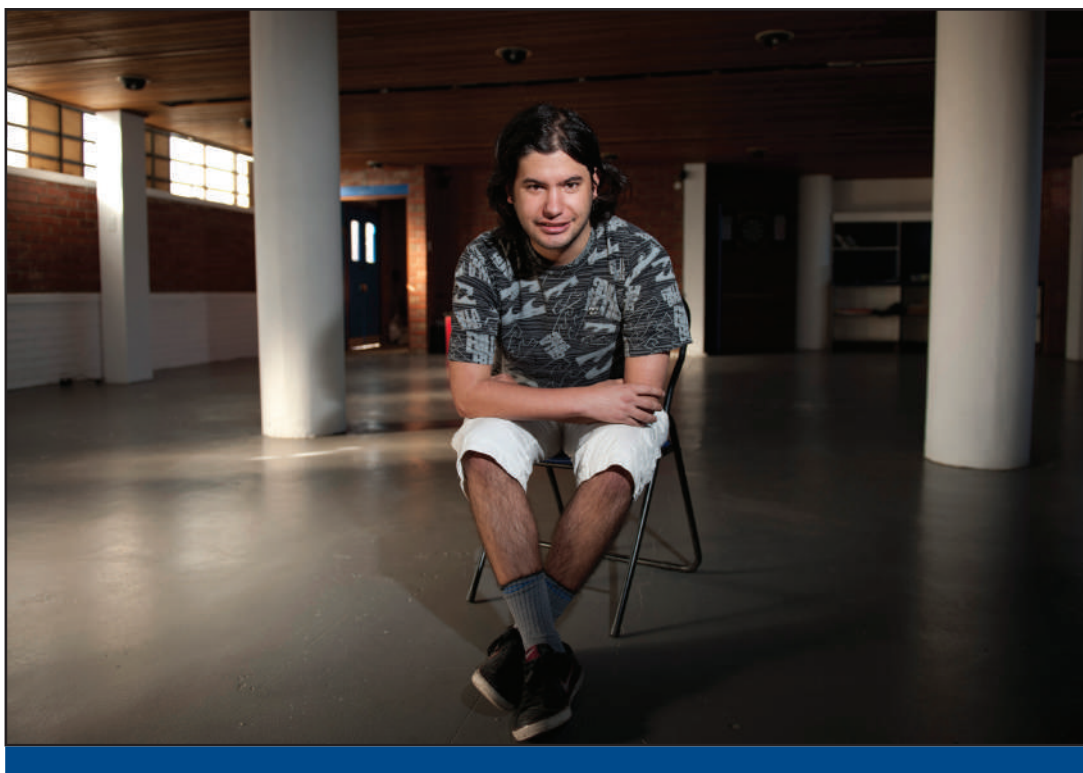
James Mason recalls a boyhood fascination with building balsa-wood gliders. He'd throw them from the balcony at home in Durban, hoping they'd soar into the adjacent valley. Today his playing field is light years larger, but his ballistic curiosity is unchanged. Mason studied physics and applied mathematics at the University of Cape Town, followed by his honours at the associated national astrophysics and space science programme. He completed his master's in space studies at France's International Space University. In 2010 Mason joined Nasa's Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley, California, where the 27-year-old rocketeer has become a key member of the team researching novel methods to counter the growing problem of deep-space collisions between satellites and space debris — a situation he calls a celestial "tragedy of the commons". Though he still loves the work, Mason sees himself back in South Africa in the medium term, leading a local research and design programme and promoting space science. — Ian Macleod



Twitter:
@jamesmason84



200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Science and Technology



Marco Gallotta Software engineer: Loki Studios

Marco Gallotta's career seems destined to be intertwined both with his own start-ups and with helping other start-ups to succeed. A Cape Town native, Gallotta is jetting off to San Francisco to join mobile gaming start-up Loki Studios after a brief stint at Facebook.

Gallotta says that his time at Facebook made him realise that he was not cut out to work in a large corporation and that he needed to find a new home in a smaller organisation.

When Gallotta started studying at the University of Cape Town he wasn't in the technology game — he'd chosen to study actuarial science instead. However, he quickly realised his true calling and switched to computer science. While at UCT he was involved in the Computer Olympiad, which he had competed in during his school days.

He was also one of the founders of Project Umonya, which brought students from underdeveloped areas into UCT on weekends and taught them programming skills. The

project, which was funded by Google, saw about 100 children who had never programmed before coming away with programming skills. Gallotta's work at UCT landed him internships at Google in Zurich and Nvidia in the USA, putting him on the radar for tech firms on the lookout for hot talent. He also founded #breaktherules, a community project bringing student developers and software companies together.

Although the move to Silicon Valley will take him away from the South African technology scene, Gallotta says that he plans to find a way to filter what he learns in the valley back to South African start-ups. "I am sad to be leaving South Africa and I am sure that I will be back but the opportunity to work in Silicon Valley is not something I could pass up," he said.

— Ben Kelly

 **Twitter:** @marcoq

Aisha Pandor

Human genetics researcher

The two dominant genes Aisha Pandor inherited from her parents are the right-brained creativity of her father and the left-brained logic of her mother. An ambitious, curious, fun-loving scientist, she's the brilliant blend of both. Pandor, 27, recently completed her PhD in human genetics at the University of Cape Town (UCT). Her thesis investigated the molecular mechanisms behind retinitis pigmentosa 17, a form of hereditary blindness, seeking a gene therapy that may also cure other hereditary diseases. In addition to organising seminars and speaking at meetings of retinal support groups, she has won numerous awards including the David and Elaine Potter Fellowship and a doctoral fellowship at the 2011 Women in Science awards. Pandor has also studied management and is working as a business analyst. It's part of her grand plan to blend science and industry and, by commercialising it, push the boundaries of genetic research. Now that's smart genes. — Lu Larché

 **Twitter:** @aishapandor



Joe Botha Founder: TrustFabric

Joe Botha describes himself as a start-up junkie and with 10 tech start-ups under his belt, the 34-year-old computer science graduate is proving his point. Botha's success story grows out of a need to find solutions to new problems — like his failed online wine site that led him to start an internet service provider. He followed this with his wireless network provider Amobia and data centre provider Teraco. Botha's newest venture, TrustFabric, aims to simplify the relationship that customers have with the companies they deal with. Its latest success has been a deal with social network MXit, to provide an opt-out service to protect its users from spam. Just a few months after it launched it already has over 100 000 MXit users signed up to the service. It's one in a lengthening line of successes — just don't expect this to be his last hurrah. — Ben Kelly

 **Twitter:** @SwimGeek

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DRIVE THE CHANGE



200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Sport

Preferring 10km ordeals in open ocean to dashes across the pool, Chad Ho's game is to swimming what the Comrades is to running



Chad Ho

Marathon swimmer

Sports pundits might sooner pick Chad Ho as a rugby flanker than a swimmer. Thick-set, of average height, he lacks the prototypical torpedo shape of the aquatic racer. But Ho is no ordinary swimmer. Preferring 10km ordeals in open ocean to dashes across the pool, his game is to swimming what the Comrades is to running.

"In primary school my mom insisted I did everything," recalls Ho, but it was only at Westville Boys' High that he specialised in swimming. He was good in the pool, but quickly realised he had magic over the long haul.

Ho completed his first open water race at age six, and took on the Midmar Mile the next year. "From there I was hooked," he says.

In 2004 he won the under-14 section at Midmar, and in 2005 the teenager powered to seventh in the men's event.

He was happy to race in the middle of the field and kick late, but competitors became wary of the late-charging Ho. To avoid blocking and other

roughhousing in the pack, Ho learnt to lead from the gun, watching his wake for attacks.

The new strategy and an unchanged work ethic took Ho to the Beijing Olympics in 2008, where he earned an admirable ninth place in the 10km event. At 18, he was the youngest in the field, too.

In 2009 Ho won bronze at the 5km World Championships, and announced himself as a world-beater the next year, winning the gruelling Fina Marathon Swimming World Cup Series.

Now nearing the end of a four-year plan, swimming some five hours a day, gymming once a day, and winning the past three Midmar Miles, Ho has his sights locked on the London Games. "I'm expecting a great swim," he says. "I've beaten the best before, and I can do it again." — Ian Macleod

Twitter: @swima__chadho

Sameehg Doutie

Soccer player

Samheehg Doutie is not moulded in the form of the traditional South African footballing archetype, for his modesty matches his talent and skill. At only 17 he broke into the Ajax Cape Town first team and after an impressive debut 2007/2008 season has never looked back. His slick ball control and darting pace impressed the local football fraternity in a short space of time and after also representing his country at Under 23 and 20 level, he earned what many players only dream of: in 2011, a move to Orlando Pirates. Although his stint at Pirates was short-lived and he's currently on loan to Supersport United, he's determined to take his game to the next level and repay the good faith his coaches have shown in him over the years. His long-term goal is to play for Spanish La Liga football as, he says, it "suits his style of play". — Nickolaus Bauer

Twitter: @DOUTIE11



Kgothatso Montjane

Wheelchair tennis player

Kgothatso Montjane knows what it takes to be a champion. Unbeaten by any other South African, Montjane has been the number one seed for South African wheelchair tennis women since 2005 and ranks in the top 10 internationally. A consummate professional at 24, Montjane practises at least three hours every day, in between attending lectures in retail business management, and has represented South Africa at World Cup and Paralympics meets since 2008. It's not easy being a full-time student and a professional athlete, but Montjane is used to challenges. She was born

with a congenital deformity of one leg and hands, and her other foot was amputated when she was just 12 years old. Of course it wasn't long, despite a prosthetic leg, before she was winning trophies for ballroom and Latin-American dance. Because that's who she is — a born champion and South Africa's 2011 South African Sportswoman of the Year with a disability. — Cat Pritchard

Website: tennis.co.za



Amanda Dlamini

Captain: Banyana Banyana

The first time Amanda Dlamini played football, she was just standing in to make up the numbers for some local boys. But she had good fun, so she joined a club and before the age of 20 she had debuted for the national side. Later this year "Toki", as teammates know her, will captain Banyana Banyana for their Olympic debut in London.

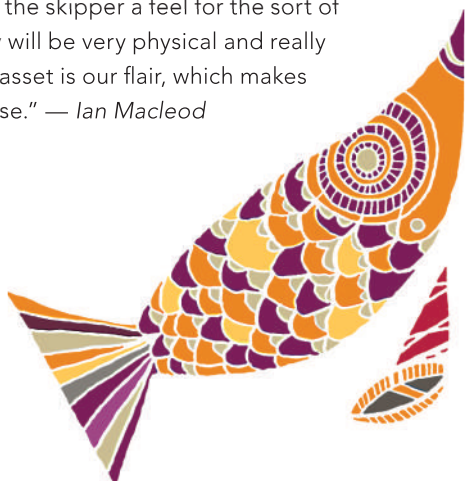
Dlamini was a solid footballer when she began her studies at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) in 2007, but she was there for the academics. Joining the UJ ladies' team was a fringe benefit. Nonetheless, the striker was soon firing in goals at such a rate that national selectors came looking. Dlamini was drafted into the national setup and debuted in green and gold that July against Nigeria.

In 2010 Dlamini was nominated for the South African Football Association's Women's Player of the Year award and finished as top goal-scorer at the African Women's Championship. Despite her reputation as a sharpshooter in front of the posts, Dlamini calls her biggest asset "the ability to motivate the players around me". Management must have agreed, as they gave her the captain's armband in late 2010.

In July 2011, and freshly reborn as an attacking midfielder, Dlamini repaid that faith and led Banyana to a 4-1 aggregate victory over Ethiopia, and with that the right to attend the 2012 Games in London. "For those last few minutes of the game we knew we had done it," she recalls. "When the whistle went, it was the best feeling ever."

Tours to Brazil and Cyprus have given the skipper a feel for the sort of opposition they'll face in London. "They will be very physical and really disciplined," she says. "But our biggest asset is our flair, which makes us unpredictable. We can cause a surprise." — Ian Macleod

 **YouTube:** Amanda Dlamini



LJ van Zyl Hurdles athlete

Be it 1950s legend Gert Potgieter or Sydney Olympics gold medallist Llewellyn Herbert, South Africa has been blessed when it comes to 400m hurdlers. Current national record-holder LJ van Zyl is no different. Bursting on to the scene in 2001 when he bagged gold at the World Junior championships in Kingston, Jamaica, Van Zyl has built a career littered with successes, including a first-place finish at both the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Australia and the 2010 African Championships in Kenya. Van Zyl feels his best performances come when he's donning the green and gold and that will be no different when he competes at the London Olympics, where he will be hoping to improve on his fifth place at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. Although you'd be hard-pressed to believe he's ever failed in his career, he says he uses the "many disappointments" he's experienced on the track to develop his skills and improve each performance. — Nickolaus Bauer

 **Twitter:** @ljvanzyl



Bridgitte Hartley Sprint canoeist

At the canoeing World Championships in Hungary last year, Bridgitte Hartley narrowly missed a spot in the 500m final. She proceeded to the B-final, where she obliterated the field with her trademark power finish, beating the world record and qualifying for the 2012 Olympics. Hartley began her paddling career doing river events, including the Dusi. She completed the move to flat-water sprinting while training at the University of Pretoria and earned national colours in 2006. The biokinetics graduate made the semifinals at the 2008 Beijing Games, and followed this up the next year by becoming South Africa's first canoeing World Championship medallist, taking bronze in Canada. Training three times a day with her squad in Austria for the upcoming Olympics, Hartley has already tasted success on the waters she'll race in London, having taken silver during last year's official test race. Hartley plans to be even faster the next time she and Dorney Lake meet. — Ian Macleod

 **Twitter:** @for_bridgitte

200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Sport



Kevin Anderson

Tennis player

Picture an opponent, 24m away, thrashing luminescent yellow spheres at you from over 3m up, so viciously the cracking sound is almost indistinguishable from the sonic boom of a gunshot. That's what tennis ace Kevin Anderson's opponents have to deal with.

Scarer still, his immense physique and power hitting are not the Illinois-based Anderson's greatest weapons. Plenty of big guys can hit rockets when they're on form. Anderson's mind is what has earned him two ATP Tour titles and a career-high ranking in the world's top 30.

"The mental side is so important, but I don't know many people who actually work on it," he says.

Even as a junior, where on-court tantrums and self-destructive thoughts are a staple, Anderson maintained an unbreakable focus and unspoken confidence that impressed more than just his coach.

Following his schooling in Johannesburg, Anderson accepted a scholarship to the University of Illinois where, for three consecutive years, he received the highest accolade in US college sports: All-American honours.

With nothing more to prove on the amateur stage, he cut his studies short and joined the pro tour in 2007.

Anderson's calculated improvements were punctuated in 2008 with a win over Novak Djokovic — his first top-10 scalp — at the Sony Ericsson Open in Key Biscayne, Florida. The meteoric rise this might have indicated was slow to kick in, but promising showings at big tournaments did follow. Ironically, Anderson captured his first ATP title at the South African Open in 2011, just up the road from where he grew up in northern Jo'burg.

Despite recent victories over the likes of Andy Roddick and John Isner, Anderson has lost all four encounters with Djokovic since that win four years ago. But when asked whether he'll ever repeat that initial success, he answers with characteristic resolve: "Don't worry, there'll be lots more of those."

— Ian Macleod



Twitter: @kevinanderson18

Kate Roberts

Triathlete

What do you do when, by age 16, you've won provincial colours for athletics, biathlon, hockey, swimming and cross-country? If you're Kate Roberts, you combine your skills and start competing in the ultimate endurance event: the triathlon.

Roberts traces her love of sport to 1992, when she watched Elana Meyer racing to silver at the Barcelona Games. "That really sparked something for me," she recalls.

Today this Bloemfontein girl does much of her training in Canberra, Australia, with a professional squad. Around May each year she moves to Davos, Switzerland, to get ultra-fit at altitude level before travelling to races throughout the European summer.

Since a respectable 32nd at Beijing 2008, Roberts has been as high as seventh in the world rankings and won races in South Africa, France, Italy and Australia.

Right now just one race matters to Kate Roberts: Olympic triathlon, August 4 2012, London.

— Ian Macleod



Twitter: @katiepure



Francois Hougaard

Rugby player

The tattoo on his muscled right forearm is a date: 21-11-2009. That's the day Francois Hougaard debuted for the Springboks. The gutsy, explosive scrumhalf spent just a few minutes in green and gold that afternoon, but explaining the emotion still gets him tongue-tied. Hougaard has since proved himself a creative and dedicated player, with eruptive pace from the base of the scrum and heart-on-sleeve defence. Game-breaking tries in the finals of both the 2009 Currie Cup and the 2010 Super Rugby competition indicate a champion's temperament, too. But despite the body art, luminous

pink boots and flashy manoeuvres on the pitch, away from rugby Hougaard is a shy, hard-working bloke. "I really like it when I meet people who don't know I'm this famous rugby player," he says, "'cos people who know you treat you differently." Now established as a priceless asset for the Bulls' Super Rugby side, Hougaard can look forward to many more big dates in green and gold.

— Ian Macleod



Twitter: @Francoishougi

200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Sport



Tommy Oosthuizen

Boxer

"Hulle word ouer; ek word sterker, (They get older; I get stronger)" says 24-year-old IBO world supermiddleweight champion Thomas Oosthuizen. He may respect the boxers now dominating his division, but he can't see any of them standing up to him in two years' time.

Tommy Gun, as he is known to his fans, remains undefeated after 20 professional bouts against opponents from nine countries and is currently ranked fourth in the world by the authoritative *Ring Magazine*.

At 1.93m, Oosthuizen may have the wiry frame of a high jumper, but his tally of 13 knockout victories tells a different story. Ferocious honing of his natural abilities has given the new fighting pride of Boksburg dynamite in both fists and balletic movement that leaves even the most accomplished opponents lunging at shadows.

Oosthuizen's long-time trainer and pugilistic mentor, Harold Volbrecht, has modelled his charge's game plan on bygone champions Thomas Hearn and Bob Foster. Pundits will have no trouble spotting the Hearn-like footwork and piercing jab, and Foster's

aggressive body-punching is also clear to the trained eye.

On his debut on American soil last November, Oosthuizen also seems to have passed the test of courage that every fighter must. Over 12 toe-to-toe rounds with Aaron Pryor Jr, the tourist battled his way to a unanimous win on points. "We bashed each other up pretty good," recalls the handsome southpaw, "but it was definitely my sweetest victory so far."

Now at that crux of his career, when so many local fighters implode, Oosthuizen shows no signs of following suit. He trains for four hours a day, every day but Sunday. And, at the urging of the wise Volbrecht, Oosthuizen has even taken up golf to learn the patience he needs in the ring.

By most accounts the blond bomber, whom schoolmates dubbed Superstar, is living up to his billing. — Ian Macleod



Twitter: @__Tommy__Gun__

Tshilidzi Nephawe

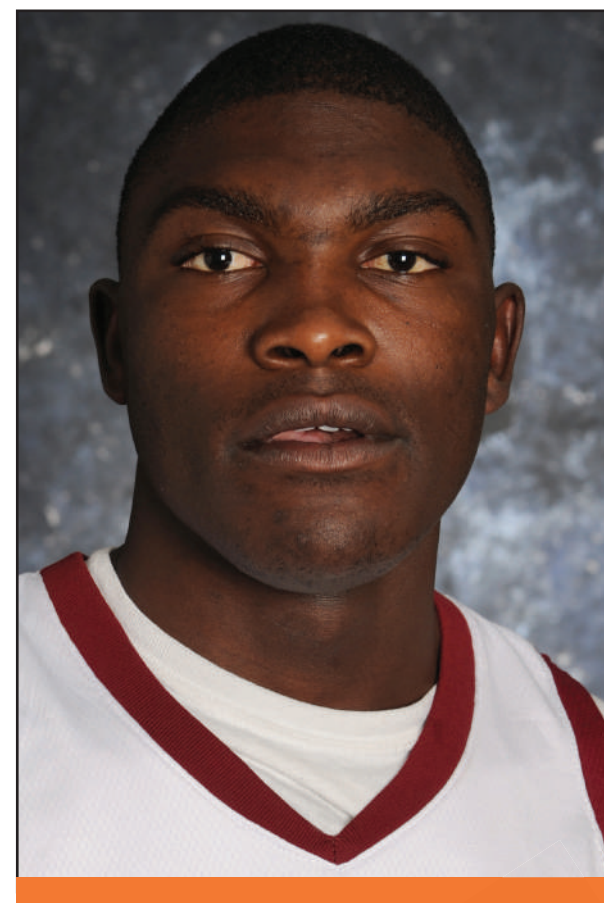
Basketball player

He didn't want to go at first, but Tshilidzi Nephawe's schoolmates convinced him that, with his physique, he'd be a hit at the basketball clinic. The provincial players visiting Mphaphuli Secondary in Limpopo that day agreed. "Oh, this is the player right here!" they declared. In 2008 US-based Basketball Without Borders whisked the young phenom to California's elite Stoneridge Prep on a scholarship. Here Nephawe excelled, becoming a mainstay playing centre for the basketball team. He even found the schoolwork "a lot easier than back home". In 2010 Nephawe took a scholarship to play college hoops and study at New Mexico State University. He turned out for the Aggies in every game and — at 2.08m and 120kg — led the team in number of shots blocked. ESPN calls Nephawe an "aggressive post player that loves to create contact [and] uses his strength, athleticism and power to impact the game on both ends of the floor".

— Ian Macleod



Twitter: @chilidzi15



Marsha Marescia

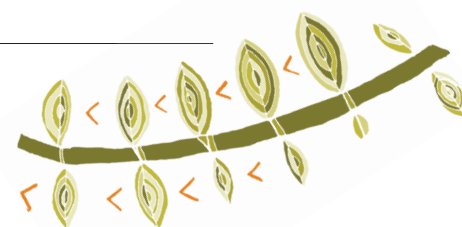
Hockey player

London 2012 will be 29-year-old Marsha Marescia's third Olympic Games. It also presents another opportunity to achieve her aim of "always being a threat to the opposition". With beauty, brains and brawn, the dynamic captain of the South African women's hockey team is a triple threat to competitors and, combined with rock-solid dedication, a true champion to her country. With the nickname "Nator" (as in "Terminator"), the midfielder boasts over 250 caps in her 11 years of playing on the national squad, which she has captained since she was 23. Leaving a career in

branding behind to focus full-time on hockey, Marescia is currently based in Holland, playing for Rotterdam Hockey Club. Having represented South Africa in two Olympic Games, two World Cups and the Commonwealth Games, she hopes her experience will help her team in London 2012 and lead them to the one thing that makes all the hard work worthwhile: "sweet victory". — Lu Larché



Twitter: @MarshaM8



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Sifiso Myeni Soccer player

They call it the “silly season”, that window of time in sports leagues when teams wield all the power they have to draw the best talent money can buy. The Premier Soccer League’s recent mid-season edition was defined by an all-out hunt for the affections of a footballer so brilliant, not even a broken leg could hold courtiers at bay.

In the end Sifiso Myeni switched off his phone for three days and emerged with a decision. The Wits FC midfielder and captain would move to Orlando Pirates on a three-year deal.

Myeni had joined the “Clever Boys” at Wits for the 2008/09 season. Over the next three years, the rocket-footed Myeni became a Nedbank Cup winner in 2010, took Midfielder of the Tournament at the 2011 Telkom Knockout — giving the entire R100 000 prize to his mom — and represented South Africa at the under-20 level.

Renowned for his turf-churning pace, Myeni’s shimmies and waltzlike turns on the ball induce chills in opposition dugouts. More important is his dexterity with both feet. “I trained my left foot so hard, people don’t know I’m right-footed,” he says. “It gives defenders a lot to think about.”

He’s quick to add that football is also a game of intelligence. He says he needs to improve his positional play, learning to mark more effectively and track back to help in defence.

Myeni made his debut in national colours last year against Tanzania. The goal that resulted from one of his corner kicks was a massive high, but he downplays the importance. “I don’t want to relax,” he explains, “so I try to treat it as nothing.”

While hoping to prove a wise investment for the Buccaneers, 23-year-old Myeni is now eyeing further Bafana success at next year’s Africa Cup of Nations and Brazil’s 2014 World Cup. — Ian Macleod

Imran Tahir

Cricketer

South African cricket has seen a catalogue of fine talents poached by rival test nations, but the Proteas selectors were reluctant to poach back — until Imran Tahir forced a change in policy. The Pakistani-born legspinner plundered so many wickets in four years of domestic cricket that his claim could not be ignored. Tahir’s Proteas one-day international debut in February 2011 was destructive. He claimed four sticks against the West Indies in Delhi. He currently boasts a fearsome ODI bowling average of 10.71. Armed with four different deliveries disguised by the same action, the exuberant Tahir offers a package of guile, persistence and accuracy, rivaling Shane Warne in his pomp. Masterful legspinners like Tahir are a rare commodity. So when pitches turn on future tours of the Indian subcontinent, we know Tahir can be relied on to reward the department of home affairs richly for declaring him a citizen of this republic.

— Carlos Amato

 YouTube:
Imran Tahir



Cecil Afrika Rugby player

Whether hurtling for the try line or diving into tackles, the sight of Cecil Afrika’s whipping dreadlocks is a terrific sight on Sevens rugby fields around the world. A mere 70kg, Afrika last represented South Africa in the 15-man game at age-group level but his hair-trigger bursts of speed, unpredictable attacking lines and fearless scrambling in defence have made him the heroic face of the Springbok Sevens team. Since debuting for the Blitzbokke in Dubai in 2009, Afrika has won Commonwealth bronze at the 2010 Games in India, finished top try-scorer in the 2010/11 Sevens World Series (dotting down no fewer than 40 times) and was named the International Rugby Board (IRB) Sevens Player of the Year in 2011. This year the smiley flyhalf’s leadership was recognised with roles as ambassador for both the IRB’s Keep Rugby Clean campaign against doping and South Africa’s Olympic team for the 2012 Games in London.

— Ian Macleod

 Facebook: Cecil Afrika



Mignon du Preez Cricketer

Mignon du Preez started her cricket career earlier than most, at four years old, to be exact. And after scoring a double century at the tender age of 12 in a 40-over game, she realised her destiny would be on the sports field. It wasn't just any innings, though, as she hit 16 sixes and 25 fours in an innings of 258 in a provincial Under-13 match between Gauteng and North Gauteng.

Fast forward five years and Du Preez is playing for the Proteas' women's side after being called in as a replacement for injured captain Shandre Fritz in the washed-out fifth ODI against Pakistan in January 2007.

Impressing selectors with her fine stroke play and cool temperament in the middle, she quickly became a mainstay in the side. It was natural progression that led the lithe blonde to be named team captain four years later in 2011, at only 21. A true patriot, Du Preez admits she still gets goosebumps when she slides into her cricket gear each time she prepares for the

honour of leading the national team on to the field of play. The year 2012 will be a busy one for the young skipper as she leads her charges in the International Cricket Council Women's World Twenty20.

To many it would be easy to boast about these achievements at such a young age, but not Du Preez. To her the difference between hero and zero is a fine line and she's always looking for ways to improve her talents.

"Always be aware of your talents and areas where you can improve. Everything comes down to making decisions. And with experience comes the ability to make the right decision within a split second and in tough times I decided to use my stumbling blocks as stepping stones to better myself."

— Nickolaus Bauer

 **Twitter:** @MdpMinx22



Du Preez admits she still gets goosebumps when she slides into her cricket gear each time she prepares for the honour of leading the national team on to the field of play



Vernon Philander Cricketer

His six-wicket haul against New Zealand in March took Proteas pace-man Vernon Philander past his half-century of Test wickets. It was just his seventh match, making him the fastest bowler in well over a century (and joint second-fastest ever) to reach this milestone. Philander's journey began with street cricket in Ravensmead, Cape Town. The gifted all-rounder muscled his way to South Africa under 19s, but a stint for the Proteas one-day side in 2007 failed to impress. His deadly form for provincial side the Cape Cobras earned the "Ravensmead Wrecker" a call-up to the national Test side late last year. The powerful 26-year-old calls his debut, with eight wickets against Australia at his home ground of Newlands, the highlight of his career. Following his recent stint with county side Somerset, much will be expected from Philander's unyielding accuracy and late swing when the Proteas tour England later this year. — Ian Macleod

 **Twitter:** @VDP__24

Oscar Pistorius Sprinter

Part man, part carbon fibre, all heart. Since his first race in 2004, double amputee Oscar Pistorius has lived the ultimate story of athletic achievement against the odds. Right now, that tale is building up to another dramatic crescendo. Last year Pistorius qualified for the able-bodied athletics world championships. Not satisfied with that feel-good headline, he went on to compete for South Africa in the 4×100m relay, earning a silver medal — a first for a disabled athlete. Since then he's focused squarely on defending his three sprint titles at the

2012 Paralympics and earning a historic place at the Olympics themselves. And despite the world's excitement at his potential berth at the latter, Pistorius refuses the hype, calling the events "equally important" to him. His real goal for London, it seems, is one of principle. "If I can inspire people with disabilities," he says, "then I've gone a long way to being fulfilled as a person." — Ian Macleod

 **Twitter:** @OscarPistorius



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Greg Minnaar

Mountain biker

Greg Minnaar starts his day around the same time that farmers get up, finishing in the saddle around 7pm. You would expect no less from a man who has won 16 world cups, three overall Downhill World Cup titles, been crowned American national champion twice and even holds the honour of being the “most podiomed rider” on the circuit. Sensing his destiny, Minnaar dropped out of Grade 10 to race mountain bikes in Europe. It was a risky move that paid off. In 2001, barely out of his teens, Minnaar beat Nicolas Vouilloz, 10 times world champion and his idol, to win the world title. In March this year, 30-year-old Minnaar was swamped by adoring fans when he snatched another World Cup win in his hometown of Pietermaritzburg. With so many titles under his helmet, Minnaar is making good on his mantra “don’t leave for tomorrow what you can do today”. — Cat Pritchard

 **Twitter:** @Gregminnaar



Hilton Keith Langenhoven

Paralympics athlete

Hilton Keith Langenhoven is adept at overcoming challenges — whether it’s having 10% vision owing to albinism and a tough childhood or competing against the world’s best athletes. He overcame hardships in his youth when he discovered his speed and broke his school’s record for javelin with his first throw. The rest is history or, as Langenhoven puts it, “making history” — something he’s been doing for 10 years. Among a list of international victories, gold medals and local awards, the 2008 Beijing Paralympics stands out: Langenhoven broke the world record in pentathlon and, after winning the 200m and long jump, became the first South African to win gold medals in both track and field. An ambassador for youth development, Langenhoven believes that, whatever the situation, you can and must make your dreams come true. He plans to do just that at the London Paralympics 2012 by taking gold and conquering yet another challenge — the 400m. — Lu Larché

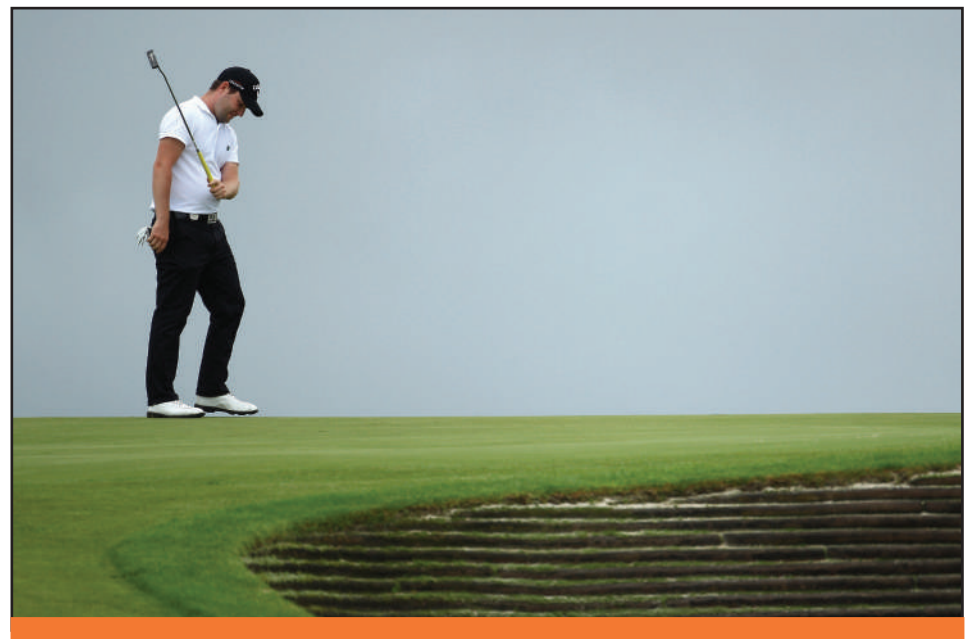
 **YouTube:** Hilton Langenhoven

Branden Grace

Golfer

Branden Grace writes “believe” on his scorecard before the start of each round. “It’s just a positive thing that reminds me I’m here to win,” he explains. And after his outstanding start to 2012, it seems the message is getting through. Grace captured his maiden European Tour title on the season-opening swing through Jo’burg in January. A week later, at the Volvo Golf Champions event at Fancourt, he became the first player since 1995 to follow a debut win with another on the trot. He clinched this second trophy in a play-off involving Ernie Els — the man whose foundation once taught a young Grace the game. Having won again in April at the China Open, Grace’s new targets are clear: “I want to be one of the best, if not the best, in the world,” he says. “And obviously it’s every golfer’s dream to win a major... I’ve always liked Augusta.” — Ian Macleod

 **Twitter:** @bgrace58



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These days, still knee-high to a pony, his tiny frame is a major asset as one of the country's top jockeys



Muzi Yeni

Jockey

Muzi Yeni was always the littlest at school. He recalls the teasing this drew while growing up in Clermont township outside Durban. These days, still knee-high to a pony, his tiny frame is a major asset as one of the country's top jockeys. Learning his craft at the South African Jockey Academy at Summerveld, Yeni became a highly versatile rider, happy to lead from the gates or surge later on. One of the most active riders on the circuit, by 2010 he was riding over 1 100 races a year and travelling twice a week from his home in Kloof, KwaZulu-Natal. Yeni has been awarded national colours twice, frequently threatened the podium at the Durban July and last year, aged 24, finished a career high of third on the national jockeys' log. His goal now is to "find that special horse that helps you win the big ones". — Ian Macleod

 **YouTube:** Muzi Yeni



MARK KENJETT

Siyoli Waters

Squash player

Excelling at sports from a young age, squash maestro Siyoli Waters could have easily slotted into several national teams. She received her provincial colours in hockey, tennis and athletics before she was a teenager, but it was squash that came to the fore when she won her first tournament at 12. Fast forward to 2008 and Waters was a household name on the local and international circuits. Her latest career success is climbing up the rankings to 36th in the world. Waters says she doesn't regret taking up a sport far less popular than rugby or football. "I do this for the love of the sport and in the hope I can help to grow it in this country," she says. She runs a squash coaching programme, offering clinics to would-be players. "It's important sharing what I know, especially as one of the few black squash players in the country. I need to be a role model for my sport." — Nickolaus Bauer

 **Website:** siyoli.wordpress.com

Sarah Baum

Surfer

Durbanite Sarah Baum can't go more than a few days without tearing up her local waves from 'Toti to North Pier, all for that high "only a surfer knows"'. It took a podium finish at her international debut in Australia in 2008 to convince then 14-year-old Baum that she could surf as a career. She returned to South Africa and dedicated herself to the sport. A naturally aggressive rider, Baum has developed her own progressive style. "I'm always trying to do more futuristic manoeuvres," she explains. "I like showing the boys we can do all the stuff they can." Her signature backhand, in particular, has earned her respect on tour. In 2011 Baum entered the top 10 on the world rankings of the Association of Surfing Professionals. That doesn't mean she's forgotten her roots. "The best thing about surfing is just being out there with your best friends and family." — Ian Macleod

 **Twitter:** @SarahBaum94



Lloyd Murenzvi's story



"I feel I am part of the Xstrata family. With family, you give it your all to make it successful. That's what I do. I foresee success for the company and I want to be part of the company's success story."

– Lloyd Murenzvi

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