

Mail & Guardian

200 YOUNG

SOUTH AFRICANS 2013



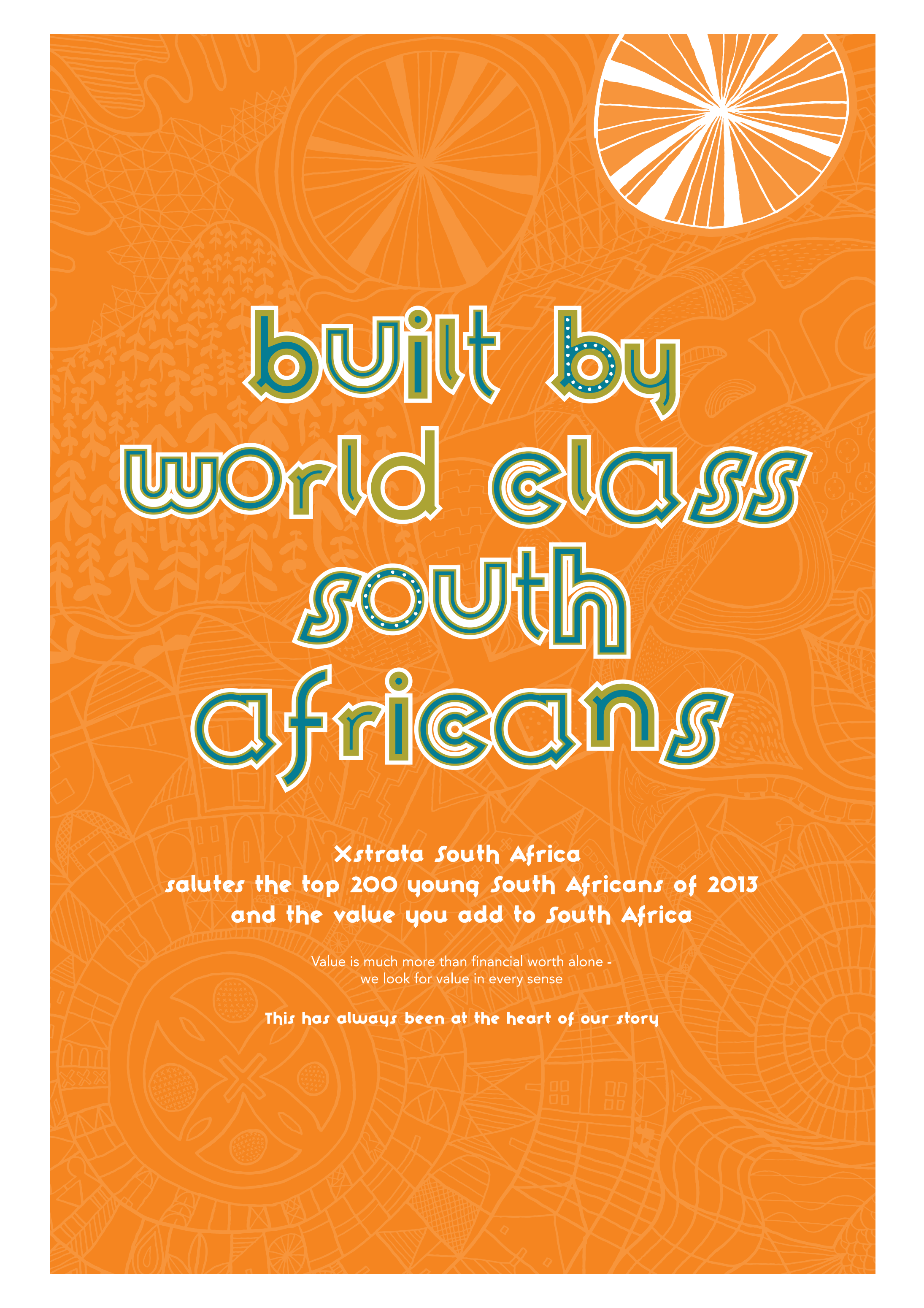
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**Xstrata South Africa
salutes the top 200 young South Africans of 2013
and the value you add to South Africa**

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This has always been at the heart of our story

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Editor's Letter

It's the eighth year that the *Mail & Guardian* has published its Young South Africans edition. It's a considerable undertaking, with half-a-dozen researchers independently scouring the country for three months searching for interesting young people doing amazing things. We also take our readers' nominations — more than 1 200 came through this year — and sift through them for the best of the bunch. Our editorial staff and our most reliable sources send in their recommendations. Then we whittle down our long list into a short list and ultimately into a final list of young people who then are profiled by a team of writers and presented across our platforms: a special print edition, an iPad version and online microsite (ysa2013.mg.co.za).

So when Guptagate gets us down, PetroSA heats up, and Mac or Moeletsi threatens us with legal action, the Young South Africans emerge and we remember why we do what we do. In our fledgling democracy, it really is the youth — including some of the best journalists in the country right here in our own newsroom, along with

the incredibly organised and creative project editor, Cat Pritchard, and the researchers, photographers and writers who have put this edition together — that give us hope for tomorrow.

Each year we find 200 young people, aged 35 and under, who were born here or have made South Africa their home, and who are full of talent, dreams and drive. What we know without a doubt is that next year we will find 200 more that are doing even more spectacular things. Turns out South Africa is full of overachievers.

This is one of the most inspiring reads of the year. These young people are a firm indication of where we are headed. And the future looks bright and beautiful.

Tanya Pampalone
Executive Editor, *Mail & Guardian*

 **Twitter:** @tanyapampalone



Foreword

This edition of the *Mail & Guardian's 200 Youth South Africans* appears at a very difficult time for many young people in our country. The fact that the youth are the greatest victims of unemployment is extremely worrying, because the longer it takes them to find work the less likely it is that they will find the kind of work for which they are trained.

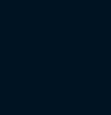
If we are to meet the challenges of unemployment and to contribute to an environmentally sustainable future and the creation of affordable technologies we need constant innovation. It always fills us with hope and optimism to see the great things young people are doing in the country, often with nothing more than the support and encouragement of friends.

The National Development Plan is South Africa's blueprint for the future. Our greatest wish is that, as far as possible, young people will be at the forefront of the implementation of its many facets. Since the future belongs to them, I do not think we shall find more passionate soldiers in the pursuit of our goals.

Congratulations to all those who have made this year's list. We look forward to seeing more great things from you in the future.

Andile Sangqu,
Executive Director, Glencore Xstrata

 **Website:** xstrata.com



LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR GREATNESS

The Department of Arts and Culture lays the foundation for greatness by:
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fostering social cohesion and creating an enabling environment

Meet young people who have achieved greatness



arts and culture

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Arts and Culture
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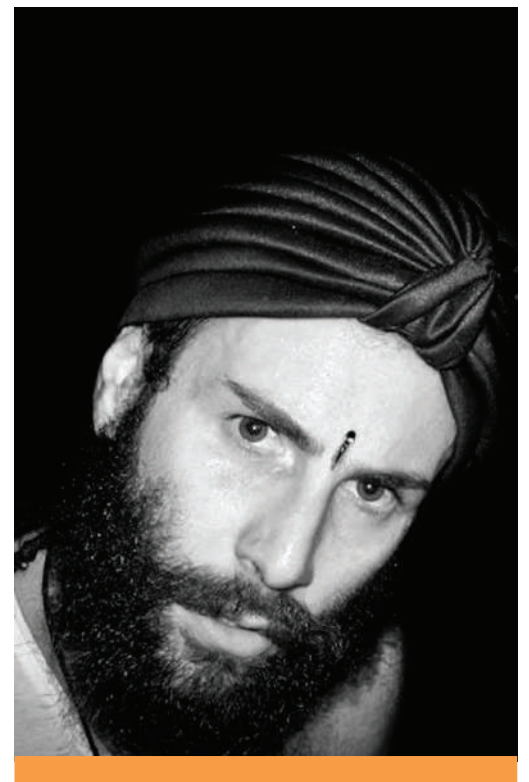
Blessing Ngobeni Artist

At the beginning of 2013, Samuel L Jackson walked into Blessing Ngobeni's art studio and asked him to finish the painting he was working on so he could buy it. This would have been a big deal for any 28-year-old artist, especially one with no formal training save a printmaking course at the Artist Proof Studio in Newtown. But to understand how far Ngobeni has come you have to understand what he's had to overcome — a broken home and an abusive uncle in Tzaneen that forced him to flee to Johannesburg and survive on the streets when he was barely 10. What he endured living under a bridge in Alex is something we can only imagine and he can only bring to life through his art — a cathartic process that helps him to marry the personal with the political, found objects and waste materials with intricate details and oils. "Painting my feelings down relieves me from thinking about these things. It's hard because I am sharing my soul with the world, but I hope that my paintings can also contribute by promoting peace in our society," he says. Listening

to Ngobeni's life philosophy you forget that he was once considered a "juvenile delinquent" and sentenced to nine years in prison for robbery. Seeking refuge from the gangs inside, Ngobeni chose to take up drawing and discovered what other inmates recognised as his true gift and calling. Back outside he struggled to turn his vocation into a full-time occupation, all the while acquiring the skills to find his authentic artistic voice. Years later, with several group exhibitions under his belt and the prestigious Reinhold Cassirer Award for 2012 next to his name, Ngobeni finds himself in a different reality, with his artistic style compared with that of Miró and his work destined for the home of a Hollywood royal. Just another chapter in a remarkable true story. — Cat Pritchard



Website: gallerymomo.com/artists/blessing-ngobeni



Tzvi Karp Fashion Designer

Take the literature of Brett Easton Ellis, the films of Andy Warhol and the new line of Star Wars Lego, mix them up in a blender and press "deconstruct" — that's the fashion style of 26-year-old Tzvi Karp. After graduating from the LISOF fashion school with a BA in Fashion Design, Karp received a special mention for "Innovative Design" from a panel of Africa Fashion International judges and his collection was showcased at the 2012 Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week as part of the Fast Track Initiative. Eschewing ready-to-wear utilitarianism in favour of avant-garde mind trickery, his own dress sense is as audacious as the designs he sends down the catwalk. Duty-bound to cause "creative problems" and to challenge people, his work addresses uncomfortable topics such as human trafficking and parasitic relationships. Tzvi is an Ayn Randian hero in a turban and leather jacket, yet his work is rapidly gaining an enthusiastic audience, despite his best efforts. — Rudi Benadé



Twitter: @Tzviyonce



Richard Antrobus

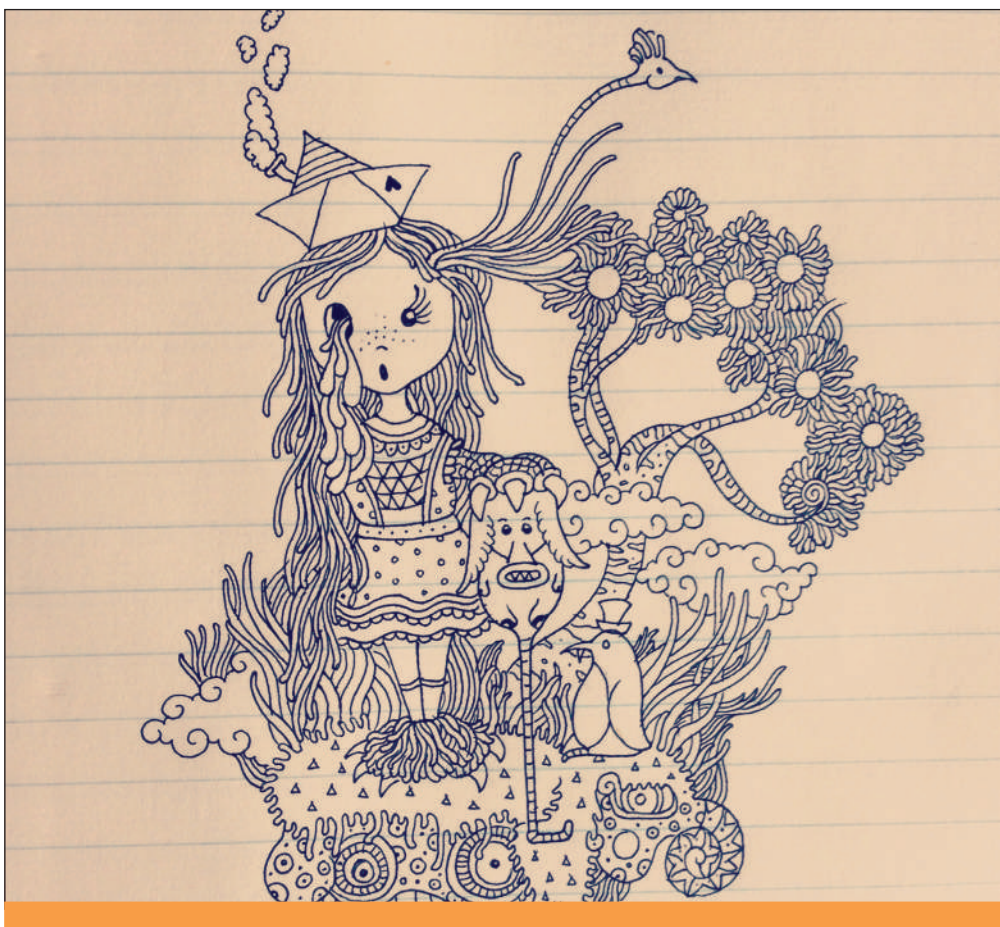
Physical Performer and Artistic Director: OddBody Theatre

A wave, a smile and a handstand — three gestures to encapsulate one man: Richard Antrobus. He's all about movement, blending his own carnivalesque brand of miming, clowning and acrobatics in a way that captures the imagination and wins awards, such as the Standard Bank Ovation Encore! Award for "excellence and innovation". Born in Port Elizabeth and raised in Grahamstown, this Rhodes graduate holds an MA in Contemporary Performance and, having won the Donald Gordon Creative Arts Fellowship, a diploma from the London School of Physical Theatre. Seeing the world as his stage and the streets as a school for performance,

Antrobus co-founded the Phezulu Project to help to bridge the gap between professional and community theatre. The street-theatre project started out as a successful mash-up of stilt-walking, poi, gumboot dancing and pantsula at the Grahamstown National Arts Festival and has since become a regular fixture and gone on to be performed internationally. — Billy Rivers



Website: oddbodytheatre.yolasite.com



Ree Treweek

Illustrator, Animator, Director: Shy the Sun Productions

Growing up on a small farm just outside Kokstad, Ree Treweek was enthralled by tales about a local witchdoctor called Khotsa. It was said that he had control of a powerful river spirit who took the form of a half-woman, half-snake. "The stories of Khotsa blurred my boundaries between myth, fantasy and reality. They still remain rather blurry to this day," she says. Drawing on an abundant imagination, Treweek combines traditional artwork and folklore from around the globe with modern aesthetics and ideas. The results are award-winning illustrations and animations that are fantastical, dark, and always beautifully detailed. Over the past decade her work has helped to bring global recognition for South Africa's animation industry. At 23, and having received a Fine Arts diploma from the Durban University of Technology, Treweek moved to Cape Town and began a career as an artist. She dabbled in illustration, puppetry and animation, started working part-time with several artists and co-founded the Blackheart Gang (BHG). The members of the group spent nine months teaching themselves how to animate and put together the music video *Ringo*. Her work on the video received international recognition, and she and BHG were invited to Australia to exhibit during the Commonwealth Games. They presented a short film, titled *The Tale of How*, which received a staggering 12 awards in the course of 2007. Treweek continues to work with BHG and has since co-founded Shy the Sun Productions, of which she is a director. Her efforts have won her and the two groups many awards, including several Loeries. She has produced three books and is currently working with BHG on her fourth, *The Mole Bear Wars*, which takes place in a world below our own, where dreams and magic take shape. — Billy Rivers

 **Website:** shythesun.tv **Website:** blackheartgang.com

Gerald Machona

Visual and Performance Artist

Federico Fellini was right: "All art is autobiographical." A case in point is that of Gerald Machona, named in 2011 by *Business Day* and the Johannesburg Art Fair as one of the top 10 young artists practising in South Africa today. The xenophobic attacks that swept through the country in 2008 had a profound influence on the Zimbabwean-born visual and performance artist. At the time, Machona was studying at the Michaelis School of Fine Arts in Cape Town and had been exploring issues of migration, and the attacks amplified the importance of that endeavour. Working with decommissioned Zimbabwean dollars, his oeuvre thoughtfully engages with "concepts of foreignness and alienation experienced by African foreign nationals". He has participated in a number of group exhibitions and, for his master's degree at Rhodes University, constructed a space suit out of Zim dollars. "The suit is a metaphor, communicating my own difficulties in adapting to the foreign terrain that is South Africa," he says. — Bongani Kona

 **Website:** research-africa-arts.com/team.html



Adam Hill

Graphic Designer and Illustrator

Award-winning graphic designer and illustrator Adam Hill inherited good genes — his father's appetite for hard work and his mother's "love and reverence for creativity" — which have been instrumental in getting him where he is. Apart from winning "a few Loeries", the 28-year-old Capetonian's work has been featured in international design books, including *Los Logos*. An avid music fan, Hill also plays guitar for progressive rock outfit, The Sleepers. These two passions — music and design — are at the heart of the work he is best known for: thought-provoking poster designs for bands such as Andy Lund,

Taxi Violence, Wet Set Sail and, of course, The Sleepers. A graduate of the AAA School of Advertising, Hill recently made a foray into books when Penguin South Africa asked him to design the cover of Paige Nick's second novel, *This Way Up*, after which he illustrated some stories for Pandemonium Fiction in the United Kingdom. — Bongani Kona

 **Twitter:** @adamhillspeaks
Website: velcrosuit.com

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Mdu Ntuli

Cartoonist, Animator,
Programmer

Mdu Ntuli is a university drop-out. Ironically, it was when he was studying for a BSc degree in Computer Science at the University of the Witwatersrand that the idea of becoming a cartoonist first took root. He drew a cartoon for the student newspaper, which — as a sign of things to come — left everyone in stitches. “The cartoon was so good that one of my lecturers had it pasted on the wall of his office while he was grilling me about my poor academic performance,” he said in an interview with *Mahala*. Born in Emalahleni in Mpumalanga, Ntuli, who swears that he’s “actually a really boring guy”, became the toast of South African comedy when his surrealist hand-drawn animations went viral. Sparing no sacred cows the 30-year-old reimagined Jesus as a black African National Congress supporter who, instead of offering salvation, demands an internet money transfer. Another clip portrayed respected talk-show host Noleen Maholwana Sangqu caught up in a love triangle involving a donkey. Lewd, and sometimes outrageous, the jokes kept coming thick and fast and the country loved them. South Africans were not the only ones burning up bandwidth watching Ntuli’s wacky *Izikhokho Show*. Comedy Central’s Africa Network also caught on, picking up the show in 2012. It hasn’t all been laughs and high-fives though. Ntuli found himself at the centre of a controversial storm last year when a Pretoria resident took issue with one of his cartoons and lodged a complaint with the South African Human Rights Commission. Even so, there have been more ups than downs in his world and he remains optimistic. “Every job is an adventure,” he says. “One minute you are making a hard-sell commercial, next minute you create an underwater community of Chuwawas [sic].” — *Bongani Kona*



Twitter: @mducomics **Website:** mducomics.co.za

Amy Jephta

Playwright and Columnist

Fact or fiction? Journalist or novelist? These questions plagued the young Amy Jephta growing up on the Cape Flats, where she still lives today. So Jephta chose to be a playwright, seeing it as “real life with embellishments”. And yet the 25-year-old’s achievements seem almost fictional. After winning the undergraduate class medal at the University of Cape Town (UCT) drama school, Jephta was awarded the first Emerging Directors Bursary from UCT’s Gordon Institute for the Performing and Creative Arts. That spurred her to write, direct, fund-raise, design and produce four shows in one year before “taking a break” to complete her master’s degree in 2012. A digital content producer by day, playwright by night and *Big Issue* columnist by calling, Jephta is still carving out new avenues for her talent. Last year she was chosen to participate in the Lincoln Center Theatre Directors Lab in New York and presented one of her plays at the Women Playwrights International Conference in Sweden. All facts, thanks to her fiction. — *Cat Pritchard*



Twitter: @thegravegirl
Blog: amyjephta.tumblr.com



Sifiso Seleme

Multidisciplinary Artist

As a child in Soweto Sifiso Seleme loved to help his granny to sew, to do crafts with his brothers and to dance in the streets with other children. The late choreographer George Khumalo noticed him and taught him contemporary dance, which he drew on as a member of the Ntsoana Contemporary Dance Theatre and its international workshop programme. In 2008 Seleme was selected for an intensive workshop at the ImpulsTanz Festival in Austria and later as a participant in the Goethe-Institut’s Moving Africa programme, through which he visited the Danse Meets Dance festival in Nigeria. A creative spirit by nature, Seleme is an experienced photographer, sculptor, puppeteer and costume designer and has presented Pantsula workshops in Vienna and, for two consecutive years, at Tanzafabrik in Berlin. He has his own clothing range, called Africanism13, a “vintage, old-school” style that caters for both young and old. Currently he is intrigued by site-specific work. His latest project, “Politics of this Country are like Fish & Chips”, has moved his creativity from centre stage into public spaces such as taxi ranks, where he can express himself to people who are affected by the topical issues he raises — xenophobia, the hospital crisis, the e-tolling system. During his last public intervention about the Gauteng hospital crisis he walked 75km from Chris Hani Baragwanath via the Coronation and Helen Joseph hospitals to the Union Buildings in Pretoria, collecting 500 signatures for a memorandum. Although his work has attracted threats, he remains resolute and is currently working on interventions about HIV and Aids and domestic workers. His talents may have taken him from Mozambique to Morocco, but his work remains rooted in local issues and public discourse. “I am not sure if I really love it. It is more that I can’t help myself. I have to do it,” he admits. — *Fatima Asmal*

Vimeo: Sifiso Seleme

Fana Tshabalala

Assistant Director:
Forgotten Angle Theatre Collaborative

Fana Tshabalala is a storyteller who uses the expressive medium of dance to relay his message. Through dance 26-year-old Tshabalala is grappling with the social issues that threaten to unravel the seams of his childhood community of Sebokeng and his current home of Soweto. He explains that through his work "people can experience glimpses into new ways of being, allowing them to connect with the change we hope to see". His sincere commitment to empowering South Africa's most marginalised and the authenticity it gives his work were acknowledged this year when he won the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Dance. Tshabalala, who is currently Assistant Artistic Director of the University of Johannesburg-based Forgotten Angle Theatre Collaborative, was crafted by Moving into Dance Mophatong. In 2009 he embraced the opportunity to work with European choreographer Michel Keleminis, a decision that resulted in the development of productive relationships with a number of dance schools and artists in France. In 2012 he used a residency programme in France to refine his duet, *Gates of Hell*. The piece was very well received at both the 2013 Dance Umbrella and the National Arts Festival. Tshabalala contends that travel is central to the life and success of African dancers. On the artistic side it engenders a more nuanced and reflective approach to choreography and on the more pragmatic side it creates international networks of support that offset South Africa's sometimes insecure funding environment. Confident that he has something special to offer the dance community, Tshabalala, with two colleagues, Themba Mbuli and Thulani Chauke, has embarked on a non-profit venture, the Broken Borders Arts Project. Recognising the gender chasm that persists in South Africa, Broken Borders aims to train and carve out a creative space for women dancers and choreographers. — Taryn Mackay

 **Website:** forgottenangle.co.za



CHRISTO DOHERTY

Tshabalala explains that through his work "people can experience glimpses into new ways of being, allowing them to connect with the change we hope to see".



SCOTT SMITH

MJ Turpin

Artist, DJ and Director: Kalashnikov Gallery

Frustrated with elitism in what he calls "the triumvirate monopoly of big galleries", Murray James Turpin began curating temporary exhibitions called *SATELLITE SPACES///THE UNTITLED GALLERY* throughout the inner city. Today the 30-year-old is director of the Kalashnikov Gallery in Braamfontein, newly established with his partner, Matthew Dean. Kalashnikov functions as a project space and traditional white-cube gallery, hosting "no-brow" work that defies categorisation while collecting and supporting artists left out in the wilderness by the art scene hegemony. A multitasking and habitual collaborator, Turpin sprouts aliases like creative yeast: "Team Uncool" was a freelance co-operative consisting of himself, a designer and a photographer. As a DJ he is known as M18J92T and he has also worked as experimental electronica outfit MtKidu with fellow "skelemon" Nicholas Nesbitt. Fresh from a residency at BijlmerAIR in Amsterdam, he is currently recording an album with his new band, Lesillo Rulla, and simultaneously working on his seventh solo exhibition. — Rudi Benadé

 **Twitter:** @KalashGallery **Twitter:** @M18J92T

Genna Gardini

Poet and Writer

Genna Gardini excels in every form of writing: as a poet she was long-listed for the Sol Plaatje European Union Poetry Award and was named *Art South Africa's* 9th Bright Young Thing. As a playwright her *WinterSweet* won a Standard Bank Encore Ovation Award at the National Arts Festival in 2012 and she returns to Grahamstown this year with *Scrape*, a play produced by Horse's Head Productions, a company she founded with Gary Hartley. Gardini recently completed a feature-length screenplay. Somehow this 26-year-old still finds time to write articles for *Art South Africa* and the *Cape Times*, curate monthly readings for new playwrights and tutor students while completing her master's in Theatre-making at the University of Cape Town, all this while tweeting 140-character posts. Poets, Gardini says, "dig out moments that fall between the cracks of ordinary life and analyse them like archaeologists of meaning". There's nothing ordinary about her life. — Rudi Benadé



PARIS BRUMMER

 **Twitter:** @gennacide

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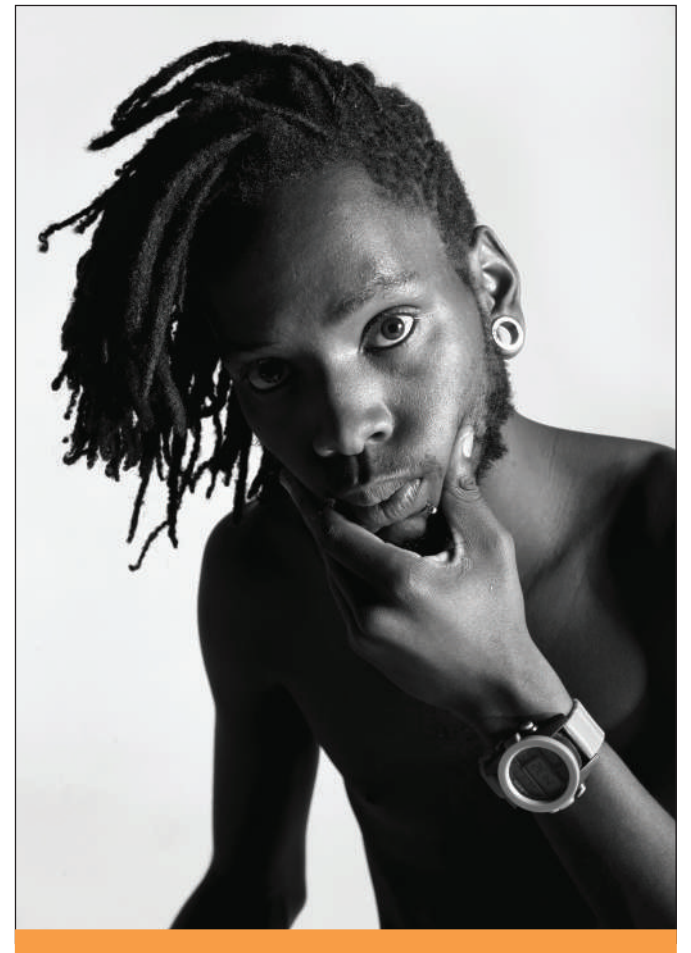
Nadine Mckenzie Integrated Dancer

When Nadine Mckenzie first danced in a wheelchair she was unimpressed. "What is this?" she thought to herself. But in time she fell in love with the art form and developed a keen interest in integrated dance — in which people with and without disabilities perform together. An accident at the age of two left Mckenzie paralysed from the waist down. She was introduced to dance at a school for the disabled. Eighteen years later life dealt her another blow — she lost her mother, brother and four other family members in a gruesome accident. But she remained dedicated to furthering her passion for integrated dance. Her patience and perseverance were rewarded when integrated dance pioneer Alito Alessi invited her to participate in an integrated dance teacher workshop in Vienna, one of the few internationally recognised qualifications for integrated dance teachers. Teaching the disabled and the able-bodied to dance together is not easy. "Many so-called 'able bodies' feel scared and ask questions like, 'Won't the person in the wheelchair get hurt?',"

or they themselves are scared of getting hurt by the wheelchairs, or they don't know how to move together at first," says Mckenzie. But she patiently teaches them to overcome their fears and express themselves comfortably. The 23-year-old is not only South Africa's first integrated dance teacher, since 2006 she has also performed in numerous productions with Remix Dance Company — which specialises in integrated dance. One of the highlights of her career was performing with Dave Toole, a famous double-amputee dancer from the United Kingdom, who performs using a wheelchair as well as standing on his hands. Mckenzie loves everything about her job. "I love performing, teaching, and absolutely enjoy watching the beauty of movement. And being able to use this art form as another way of expression and telling stories."

— Fatima Asmal

 **Website:** remixdancecompany.co.za



Mack Magagane Photographer

Mack Magagane draws on the work of "the master of suspense and suggestion", Alfred Hitchcock. His photographic series, entitled *Light Hours*, is an eerie, voyeuristic survey of buildings and courtyards, taken on nights on which he was unable to sleep. It's what *Rear Window* would look like if it had been shot in downtown Johannesburg. These images of his home city are travelling the world: *Light Hours* and the follow-up, ... *in this city*, will be exhibited in Lisbon this year, and his *I'll be gone soon* series of suicide imagery was exhibited at the Photoquai Biennale in Paris in 2011. In the same year the 22-year-old was represented by the Bailey Seppel gallery at the FNB Joburg Artfair and was awarded the Act ImpAct award for Visual Arts. While he was a Tierney Fellow at the Market Photo Workshop he was tutored by Jo Ractliffe and taught to "shoot from the heart". — Rudi Benadé

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

Elza Van den Heever Soprano

"I think opera awoke a part of me that I did not really know existed until I sang my first role on stage," says globally acclaimed soprano and winner of the 2008 Seattle Opera International Wagner Competition, Elza van den Heever. One of a set of triplets, 33-year-old Van den Heever grew up in Johannesburg and headed for the San Francisco Conservatory of Music after school. Her professional debut came in 2007 when she was cast as Donna Anna in San Francisco Opera's production of *Don Giovanni*, and her onscreen debut was in David McVicar's *Maria Stuarda*. In between she has made the world her stage, performing at the Opéra National de Paris and Munich's Bayerische Staatsoper, to name-drop a few. Last year she caused quite a stir when she shaved her hair off to portray Queen Elizabeth I, the wig-wearing monarch, for her big debut at the Met in New York. — Bongani Kona

 **YouTube:** [Elza van den Heever](#)





MADS NØRGAARD

Thula Sindi Fashion Designer

Thula Sindi is passionate about beauty in all its forms. This 29-year-old from Klerksdorp is living the dream — a dream that can be worn and enjoyed by others. He is already a household name in South Africa's fashion industry and his work has graced the runways of Beijing, Hong Kong, New York, Lagos and Paris. Sindi was passionate about fine art as a child and intended it to be his career. However, at the age of 16, while studying at the National School of the Arts in Johannesburg, he caught the fashion bug. The medium appealed to his sense of proportion and colour and he went on to study Fashion Design at the London International School of Fashion. After graduating he was snapped up by Dutch textile company Vlisco and worked as their head designer. Ambition, coupled with determination and a need to make his vision a reality, spurred Sindi to leave his post at Vlisco, a gutsy move that enabled him to launch his self-titled clothing label; a combination of sophisticated, elegant and timeless women's clothing,

which had its debut during the Couture Fashion Week in Paris in 2007. For his efforts, Sindi has been nominated by African fashion festival Fima as one of the top 10 emerging designers. The workforce of his clothing company, which designs, manufactures and markets his label, is largely made up of women. Sindi takes tremendous pride in this. "When you employ a woman you feed a household, and subsequently educate a new generation," he says. Sindi has won considerable recognition, including being named the Small Enterprise Development Agency Best Youth Entrepreneur as well as SA Tourism Designer of the Year. He believes his greatest achievements are still ahead of him and says he looks forward to a future of crafting creations that make women feel beautiful and confident. — Billy Rivers



Twitter: @thulasindi

Website: thulasindi.com

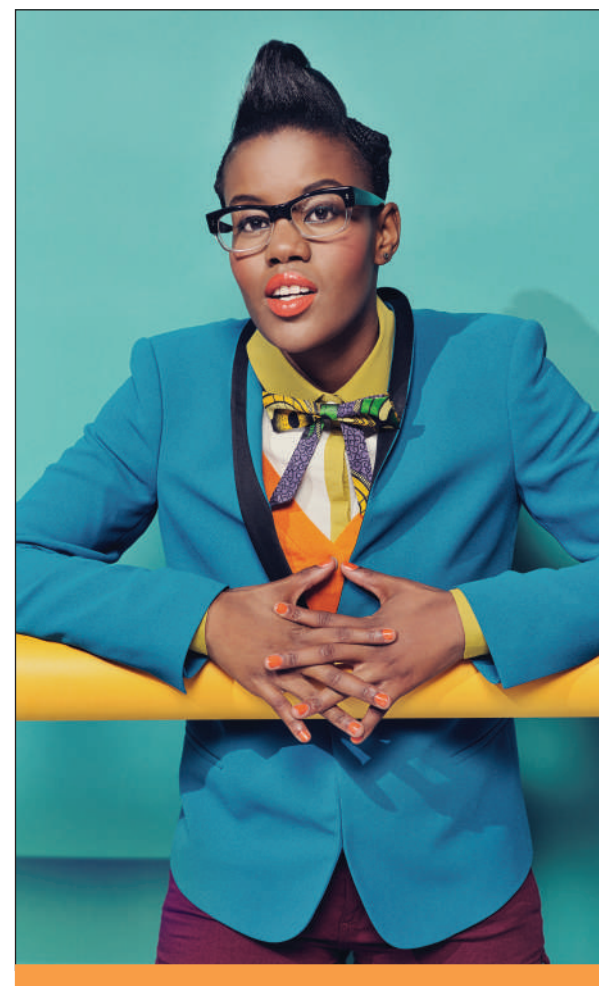
Toya Delazy Musician

Forged in the smoke-sheathed press of Durban's grungy back-alley bars, Toya Delazy is a classically trained musician who has clearly earned her stripes in the South African music industry. Her first single, *Pump it On*, went viral in 2011 with over 200 000 views, and since then Delazy's career has gone supernova with singles *Pump it On* and *Love is in the Air* reaching 5FM's Top 40 and receiving high rotation on Channel O, MTV Base and local radio stations. In 2012 the 23-year-old singer, composer and pianist released her debut album, *Due Drop*, an innovative fusion of jazz, electro and RNB that received widespread praise and won Delazy three Samas including Newcomer of the Year and Best Pop Album. She is currently working on her second album. "It means a lot to feel so much love from the country and continent," she says. — Billy Rivers



Twitter: @ToyaDelazy

Website: toyadelazy.com



ROSS GARRETT



Yewande Omotoso Writer

"I am designing my life versus living by default." It's an apt statement coming from a former architect turned writer. At 33, Yewande Omotoso's years of part-time writing and full-time commitment to honing her craft (she reads one to two books a week) is paying off, in recognition as much as in personal reward. Her debut novel, *Bomboy*, won the South African Literary Award for First Time Author and was shortlisted for the 2012 *Sunday Times* Fiction Prize, and her poem, *The Rain*, was shortlisted for the 2012 Sol Plaatje European Union Poetry Award. It's what you would expect from a

serious writer, one who submitted her book for her Creative Writing master's degree at the University of Cape Town in the same week as she took the manuscript to a publisher. She may have given up a career in favour of a vocation, but at least she's designing her own future, one in which she writes novels that "entertain but also get people to think, reflect on themselves and reflect on prejudice". — Cat Pritchard



Twitter: @jikajo

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WARREN VAN RENSBURG

Ross Garrett Photographer

Ross Garrett will tell you he's a "portrait and fashion photographer", but anyone who has worked with him will tell you he's a magician. From his little black box beauty magically appears. It's the reason the 33-year-old has scooped a few Loeries and the AFI Best Fashion Photographer Award in 2012. The fact that he's as humble as he is talented probably explains why he's one of the most hired (and respected) photographers on the fashion block. That, and the fact that his images are so beautiful they make you cut up your favourite magazine just to "own" one. Or

so I've been told. *Numéro* magazine doesn't call on just anyone to shoot Die Antwoord for its illustrious pages but it called on Garrett. So did *Dazed & Confused* and *V Man* magazine, the supermodels of the international fashion and culture scene. The world is a more beautiful place for having him in it.

— Cat Pritchard

Twitter: @rossgarrettza
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Jade de Waal

Chef and Musician: Food Jams

At 22 Jade de Waal already has her philosophy of life pared down to three interlinking beliefs. Firstly, identify your passion and hone it into a skill; secondly, have the courage to collaborate outside your comfort zone and thirdly, use your new skills and partnerships to create a better world. It's the reason Cape Town-based De Waal works tirelessly to create partnerships and platforms that inspire others. Under her Eat Your Heart Out banner she harnesses her co-conspirators to devise Food Jams — special moments created through the artistic cross-pollination of food and music. When she's not mixing new ideas, De Waal is usually blowing a saxophone — a skill she shares with students at schools in Lansdowne and Khayelitsha. Her proudest achievements all speak to her collaborative nature — she co-wrote the *Luscious Vegetarian* cookbook, made it to the top 10 on MasterChef SA and spent a month touring on a French-South African music exchange. — Taryn Mackay

Twitter: @FoodJams
Website: foodjams.co.za



MICHAEL ELLIS

Shane Cooper Bassist, Composer, Producer

Shane Cooper might still only be in his 20s but the young bassist and composer is considered one of the brightest talents at the frontline of a new wave of contemporary South African jazz. When he was announced as winner of a 2013 Standard Bank Young Artist Award, Gwen Ansell, the doyenne of jazz writing, was full of praise in her weekly *Business Day* column. "This is good news," she wrote, "because Cooper has a long-time interest in original music and genre combinations that stretch the definition of 'jazz'." How true. An alumnus of the South African College of Music at the University of Cape Town, Cooper grew up in Port Elizabeth and cut his teeth playing in small clubs and bars as a teenager. "When I was 16 I decided to pursue music," he says. "My brothers played instruments and they influenced me." Since relocating to Cape Town Cooper has been the mainstay of a number of innovative musical collaborations: Indian jazz outfit Babu, the Kyle Shepherd Trio, Restless Natives and

experimental electronic jazz and hip-hop collective Closet Snare. He has also toured the world, sharing stages with luminaries such as the late Zim Ngqawana, Feya Faku and Louis Moholo-Moholo, the last surviving member of the Blue Notes. Channelling his alter ego, Card on Spokes, Cooper also found success as a solo electronica act, performing at Oppikoppi and Rocking the Daisies. In 2011 he released his debut EP, *In You Go*. His forays into film have also paid dividends. Together with the Restless Natives he composed the music for *Visa Vie*, which notched up a South African Film and Television Award for Best Music in a Feature Film. Cooper recently finished recording his debut jazz LP, *Oscillations*, which he'll be releasing at this year's National Arts Festival in Grahamstown. — Bongani Kona

Twitter: @cardonspokes
Website: shanecoopermusic.com

Simthembile Prince Lamla

Playwright, Director, Actor

The story of 31-year-old Simthembile Prince Lamla's early life is worthy of a screenplay. Born in QwaQwa in the Free State, the 2013 Standard Bank Young Artist Award-winner moved to Johannesburg as a teenager and found it miserable. "I was very unhappy," he says, "so my parents decided I should come back home because I was getting involved in crime." At home again in 1998 his life wasn't easy. Lamla had picked the wrong time to come back. It was the middle of the school year and no principal would take him in, so he sat out the rest of his grade 11 year. It was during those months of idling around that he fell in love with theatre. He joined friends who were involved in a community theatre project and the experience proved to be life-changing. Through sheer happenstance he had found his destiny. The turning point came when he was given a bit part, playing a gangster, and he "nailed it". From then on there would be no looking back. He

started directing plays with his late best friend, Ohenste Bodibe, to whom he dedicated his Standard Bank Award. They directed seven plays together, but it was *Coal Yard* that would shape their futures. The play emerged as the frontrunner at the Zwakala festival organised by the Market Theatre Laboratory and as first prize it premiered at the Market Theatre in 2006. More success followed. The Market accepted Lamla's proposal to stage the classic political satire *Woza Albert!*, and the play packed the theatre for months and went on to tour to Swaziland and Scotland. At this year's Grahamstown National Arts Festival Lamla will stage another South African classic, *Asinamali!*, together with *Woza Albert!* — Bongani Kona

 **Facebook:** Prince Lama



DAVID BLOOMER

Atandwa Kani

Actor

Atandwa Kani was born into acting. Son of the famous John Kani, "the grandfather of South African theatre", he tried to fight it but found himself on the theatrical side of a Wits Honours programme and, eventually, performing alongside Kani Sr and stepping into some of the master's original roles, most notably in *The Island*. At 28, Kani is already making a name for himself, winning a Naledi Award for Best Breakthrough Performance by a Newcomer and achieving commercial success abroad in the British television drama *Wild at Heart* and at home in the SABC's *High Rollers*. The critically acclaimed play *Hayani*, which he co-wrote and starred in, is scheduled for the Market Theatre. *The Miser* is due in Cape Town and *The Island* in Grahamstown. His most important role, however, is as father to twin one-year-old boys. Everything he does is directed by them, the heirs to the Kani legacy. — Rudi Benadé

 **Twitter:** @atandwakani

Sonia Radebe

Dancer and Choreographer: Moving into Dance Mophatong

Sonia Radebe, dancer and choreographer, believes in using the body to tell stories and, through them, to create dialogue and greater interconnectedness in society. Radebe, who hails from White City, was introduced to dance by the Arco Dance Theatre in Soweto. She began her career as a professional dancer in 2001 with Moving into Dance Mophatong in Newtown, where she continues to work. Radebe is passionate about training people with physical disabilities to explore and uncover the magic. She has shared her personal work with audiences

in Chile, the United States, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Her career has been punctuated by a number of accolades, most notably being acknowledged in 2007 by the Gauteng MEC for Arts and Culture as the Dance Umbrella's Most Outstanding Female Dancer in Contemporary Style and in 2011 being awarded the Gauteng Dance Manyano Best Female Dancer of the Decade Award. — Taryn Mackay

 **Website:** midance.co.za





Mpho "Poppo" Modikoane

Creative Group Head: Ireland Davenport

"You have not lived the South African dream if you have not been a call centre agent," says Soweto-born funny man Mpho "Poppo" Modikoane, a qualified call centre agent. It's his off-the-cuff humour that led his friends to push him towards a career in stand-up comedy — "They told me I was wasting my talent" — but he was too shy to make a go of it. He finally relented and entered SABC1's *So you think you're funny* in 2009. "It was the first time in my life ever doing stand-up comedy and I came second," he says. "Everything else is history." Since then he's landed guest spots on David Kau's *Blacks Only*, *Bafunny Bafunny*, and the Market Theatre's Just Because Comedy Festival, along the way swapping mics with top comedians such as Trevor Noah and Marc Lottering. The 25-year-old creative is also the Creative Group Head at Ireland Davenport and co-founder of the Monarchy Group, a boutique creative company. — Bongani Kona

 **Twitter:** @mphopopps

Bogosi Sekhukhuni

Writer and Performance Artist

It's telling that when Bogosi Sekhukhuni was growing up he wanted to be white. Much of his work as a writer and visual artist interrogates the complex and contradictory dilemmas of the "new" South Africa. *Fukin' Ridiculous*, his public performance piece with Sabelo Goma, took businessman Kenny Kunene's fondness for eating sushi off women's bodies as its departure point, offering a stinging critique of the "Rainbow Nation". At 22, this visual arts student at the University of Johannesburg has already exhibited alongside luminaries such as Kudzanai Chiurai and Steven Cohen and got the nod from Spoek Mathambo to be part of a presentation on South African contemporary visual culture at this year's Design Indaba. He believes the arts have a major role to play in reimagining our identities, addressing the burdens of our broken past "and being responsible to history". — Bongani Kona



 **Twitter:** @kwassakwassa_k

As a little girl, Mkutukana taught herself to play the guitar and this eventually led her out of a life of poverty.



Zahara Musician

As a six-year-old member of the Lumanyano Primary School choir in rural East London, Bulelwa Mkutukana dreamt that someday people would be moved by her singing. So when a fan told her recently that her music had inspired her to move forward after losing both her parents, the 25-year-old musician, whose stage name is "Zahara", was touched. She was performing at a club in East London where she impressed TK Nciza, the co-owner of TS Records, so much that he returned to the club with his wife and signed her on as an artist. The rest, as they say, is history. In 2011 her first album, *Lolilwe*, reached double platinum status in South Africa within 20 days of its release, winning her eight Samas in 2012 and two more in 2013. Zahara, who sings in her native isiXhosa as well as in English, dominated the South African Music Awards last year, winning six categories, including Newcomer of the Year, Female Artist of the Year and Album of the Year. She's currently preparing for a string of performances around Africa, as well in London and Germany. But she hasn't forgotten her humble beginnings. As a little girl, she taught herself to play the guitar and this eventually led her out of a life of poverty. Now she donates guitars to young girls living in Africa as a way of giving them hope, and plans to offer them free online lessons. Zahara is often hailed as South Africa's next Miriam Makeba, and she thinks that's amazing. "I have performed for Nelson Mandela and at Wembley Stadium, which were two of my 'must perform' wishes, and now my biggest wish is to perform at Castel Volturno in Caserta, Italy, where Mama Miriam Makeba passed away, as she is one of the musical icons I look up to and she also, ironically, passed away on my birthday." — Fatima Asmal

 **Twitter:** @ZaharaSA **Website:** tsrecords.co.za



Sbusiso Leope (aka DJ Sbu)

DJ and Recording Artist

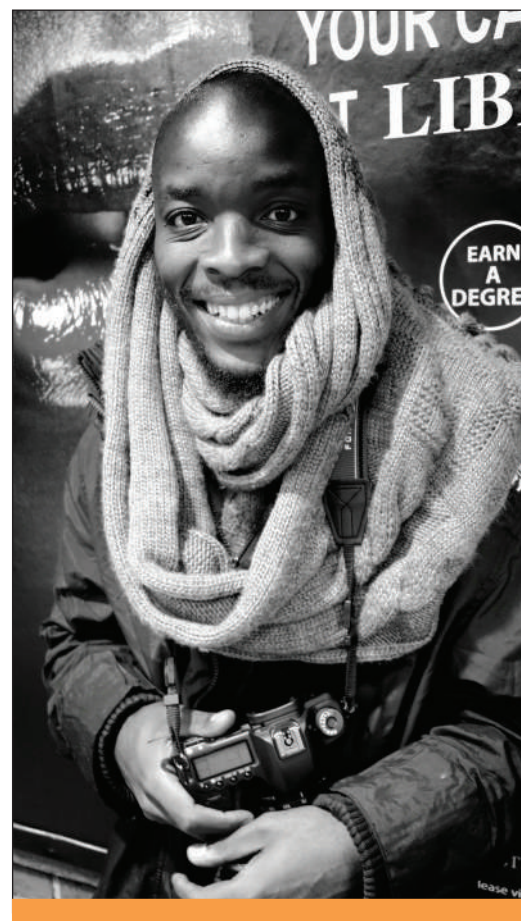
"Focus on what matters" is Sbusiso Leope's mantra. The popular radio personality, known by his musical alias DJ Sbu, seems to be doing just that. In between hosting his weekly radio slot, *Sound Revival*, on Metro FM, and the SABC 1 game show *Friends Like These*, the recording artist turned entrepreneur visits three schools a week to share his inspirational life story with young learners. In addition, he personally mentors 16 children, two of whom graduated from the University of Johannesburg in 2012, and his eponymous education foundation has given away 147 bursaries to date. Leope has come a long way. Named by *Forbes* as one of 13 young celebrities to watch in 2013, he "grew up all over Johannesburg, in places such as Daveyton and Soweto", but considers Tembisa the place where his roots are. He matriculated from Central Secondary School in Pretoria before studying sound engineering at Africa Media University as well as electrical engineering at Technikon Witwatersrand. His broadcasting career, which would later catapult him to mega stardom, began in 1998 when he started volunteering for a community radio station in Tembisa. It would be another 18 months before his talent would be recognised. "What opened doors was when I entered a talent search competition at Yfm and came second," he says. "That was my big break." Since then, DJ Sbu has become one of the most recognisable names on radio and faces in the media. A successful recording artist in his own right, with six studio albums, he has also been instrumental in unearthing new musical talent, including the chart-topping Afro-pop sensation, Zahara, who has signed with TS Records, the record label Leope started with TK Nciza. Music may be his first love, but business and philanthropy look set to become his passion. — Bongani Kona

 **Twitter:** @DJSbu **Website:** tsrecords.co.za

Mohau Modisakeng

Artist

Growing up in an informal settlement in Soweto Mohau Modisakeng often saw the effects of political violence and poverty. But there was never a shortage of stationery in the family shack. Modisakeng's father, recognising his son's love for drawing, often brought home drawing pads and pens from work. Modisakeng would draw obsessively and later graduated from the Michaelis School of Fine Art in Cape Town. Now 26, he has exhibited at VOLTA NY, New York, the Saatchi Gallery in London and in several other local and international venues. Much of his work focuses on violence, particularly within an African context. "Had it not been for art and my love for sketching and painting I would have probably lost my bearings and strayed from my goal to rise above my hardships. My work has always presented a channel for me to engage my mind and my spirit in something reflective and introspective," he says. — Fatima Asmal



 **Website:** brundynqonsalves.com

Jemma Kahn

Performer, Director, Set Designer

The only thing Jemma Kahn can't do is use Photoshop. Apart from that, the 30-year-old performer, set designer, illustrator, director and "general dog's body" can pretty much do everything required to create a story that inspires and entertains. Born in Johannesburg, Kahn holds two BA degrees — in Fine Art and Drama — which helped to kick-start her career in theatre. It was while teaching in English in Japan that Kahn discovered Kamishibai — a centuries-old form of street theatre in which stories are told by a performer using a series of illustrations. Inspired, she roped in writer Gwydion Beynon and director John Trengove to bring *The Epicene Butcher and Other Stories for Consenting Adults* to the stage. With themes ranging from pornography to the dream life of cats, the show moved audiences at home and abroad, picking up the Critics' Choice Award at the Amsterdam Fringe Festival and a glowing review on Twitter from singer Annie Lennox. — Bongani Kona

 **Twitter:** @jemmakahn **Website:** epicenebutcher.com



Stacey Venter
sources and
provides
secondhand
iPads for autistic
children to
help them
communicate
better.



Themba Moyake
tutors high school
students in his
free time.



Vusi Mahlaba
gives community
aerobics classes
to make people
healthier.



Thobeka Mathebula
and her friends started
an organisation that
empowers women
by teaching them
practical skills.



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Mzwandile Buthelezi

Founder: Satta Design Forum

Mzwandile Buthelezi is a child of Soweto who found his cultural home in hip-hop on Jo'burg's grungy streets in the 1990s. Graffiti afforded him the space to grow his artistic talent and find his voice as a socially conscious youth. With time, the attention to lettering and shading required by street art translated into a love for fonts and the digital colour palette employed by graphic designers. To augment his natural talent Buthelezi attained a National Graphic Design Diploma from the University of Johannesburg. Five years ago, 32-year-old Buthelezi decided to open his own design agency, Satta Design. Commitment and courage paid off and he has secured a reliable client base — a mix of big corporates and smaller entities. The flexibility of being his own boss allows him the time to focus on raising his two-year-old son. In partnership with Wandile Msomi, Buthelezi is art director of Funisu Skateboards, a local brand that uses design to foster a culture of Afrocentrism in the skateboarding world. Their work gained international attention and was featured in the book *Inside the World of Board Graphics*. Buthelezi, who is committed to growing authentic African design styles, continues to travel around the continent to build networks of creative people committed to using design to make a positive change. In recognition of his presence on the African design scene he was selected as one of only four artists from the continent to create artwork for the Absolut Blank vodka international campaign. Guided to this day by the authentic hip-hop culture of "each one teach one", Buthelezi is an arts facilitator at the Kgantsa ho Ganye after-school programme in Orlando West. He also contributes his time and craft to Liberty Asia, a network of non-governmental organisations in Asia committed to the fight against human trafficking. — Taryn Mackay

 **Website:** sattadesign.co.za



LWAZI HLOPHE

Graffiti afforded Buthelezi the space to grow his artistic talent and find his voice as a socially conscious youth.



Xavier Cloete

Cadet Bassoonist and Conductor:
KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra

For 11-year-old Xavier Cloete church was a white-hot bolt through the soul and into a world of music. Although he started when he was older than most beginners who go on to become professionals, Cloete's talent and fervour quickly made up for this and he learned to play the church's organ with relative ease. With the support of his parents, but with no formal training, he decided to do a three-year bridging course at Stellenbosch University when he finished school. He completed the course in a year and went on to study for a Bachelor of Music. Realising that his true passion lay with the orchestra Cloete began to focus on the bassoon and on conducting. The day before graduation he auditioned for the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra as a cadet bassoonist and landed the post. While there he continued to hone his conducting skills under the tutelage of conductor Lykele Temmingh and, in February, he won the second national Len van Zyl Conductors' Competition. — Billy Rivers

 **Website:** kznpo.co.za

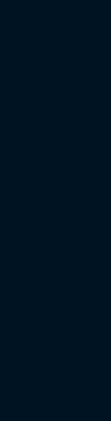
Bongeziwe Mabandla

Singer, Songwriter, Actor

Bongeziwe Mabandla's life took a turn for the better after a chance encounter with 340ml drummer Paulo Chibanga at a Melville convenience store. At the time, the 28-year-old singer-songwriter had an acting gig on *Generations* but it wasn't his thing and he wanted to break into music. So, with Chibanga as his guiding hand, the Eastern Cape-born musician set about recording his debut EP, *Umlilo*. Fusing traditional African and folk sounds, *Umlilo* netted the falsetto singer a nomination for a Radio Internationale Discoveries Award in 2011 — the first South African to be nominated — and he finished as runner-up. The success of the EP also ensured that Sony Music South Africa came knocking. He signed with the label and released his first full-length album, also titled *Umlilo*, to a chorus of high praise. *Rolling Stone* (SA) compared him to visionaries such as Busi Mhlongo, Vusi Mahlasela and Tracy Chapman and the album notched up two MTN South African Music Awards. — Bongani Kona



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



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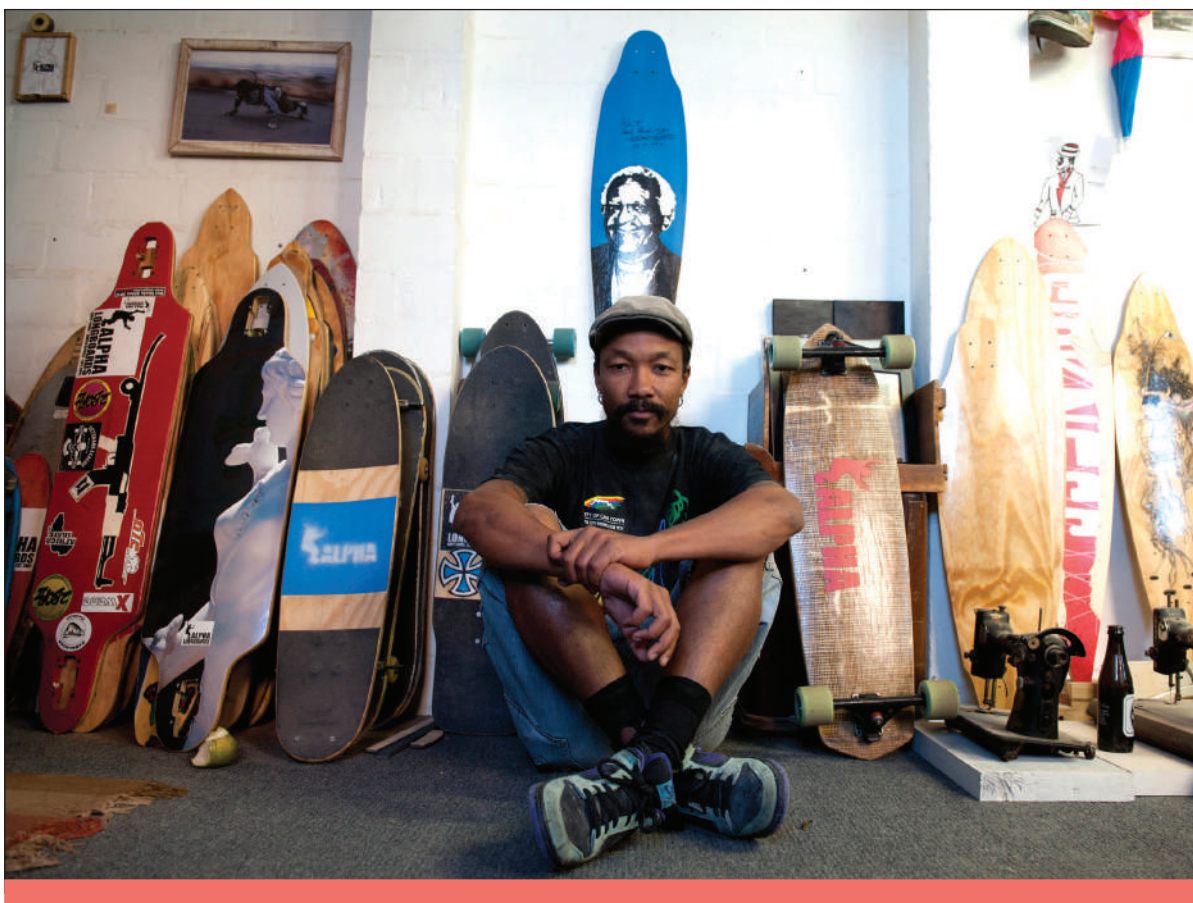
arts and culture

Department:
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Kent Lingeveltdt

Boardshaper and Founder: Alpha Longboards

If you walk into Archbishop Desmond Tutu's office today you will see an Alpha longboard hanging on his wall. The board was conceived and created by Alpha Longboards founder 32-year-old Kent Lingeveltdt, who works in a small workshop in Woodstock, Cape Town. Lingeveltdt, whose two passions are skateboarding and photography, gave the board to Tutu while photographing him for a documentary. A nomadic childhood on the Cape Flats, during which friends were scarce, led Lingeveltdt into skateboarding. His first downhill race was the Red Bull Downhill Extreme in 1999. After seeing what international competitors were doing he knew what kind of board he needed to become a better downhill skater, but he had no money to buy equipment, so he decided to make his own board. That was 13 years ago. Today Alpha Longboards is the best-known local longboarding brand and Lingeveltdt is shaping customised boards for local and international clients, as well as for some of the world's fastest luge riders. He collaborates with local artists such as Atang Tshikare from Zabalazaa,

graffiti artist NardStar and poet Toni Stuart to develop artwork and graphics for the boards. Alpha Longboards won the 2013 Jupiter Drawing Room's Constructus Award. His photographic work is also on an upward spiral. Last year he won the Market Photo Workshop's Social Landscapes competition and in June he will be exhibiting at several festivals in Germany, including the Detmold International Short Film Festival. He recently moved from the City Bowl back to his family home in Mitchells Plain, where he finds more inspiration for his photography. Here, as well as in lower Woodstock, he spends much of his free time with the local children, shaping boards for them and teaching them to skate. With his background in social work, Lingeveltdt is a skater for the people. — Ilham Rawoot



Twitter: @alphalongboards

Website: alphalongboards.com

Xabiso Sidloyi

Founder and Owner: ArchWorXS Architects and Project Managers

Many grand ideas start out on a computer screen, playing light across the bedroom and illuminating their creators' dreams. Such was the case with 30-year-old Xabiso Sidloyi. Working hard to build capital and a client base, Sidloyi filled in the foundations until his dream was made concrete. In 2005 he founded ArchWorXS Architects and Project Managers. Based in Port Elizabeth, ArchWorXS won the South African Breweries' KickStart competition for the Eastern Cape and was later judged the Small Enterprise Development Agency's Best Small Business Success Story in 2010. The awards kept coming and in 2011 ArchworXS was an Eskom Business Investment national finalist and recipient of a Productivity SA award in the Emerging Corporate sector. These days Sidloyi and his business continue to change South Africa's skyline, working on large-scale projects such as the Dimbaza Magistrate's Court and the new Jeffrey's Bay Comprehensive School. — Billy Rivers



Website: archworx.net



Zoe Waters

Finance and Corporate Services Director: Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber

When Zoe Waters launched Sober Chauffeur (later sold and renamed Good Fellas), she was brought face to face with drunken Port Elizabeth. The horrors she witnessed early on forced a commitment to create awareness of South Africans Against Drunk Driving. She raised funding by training for six months and trudging for seven days to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. Back down at sea level her day job is finance and corporate services director and company secretary at the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber. She sits on the Bay's Tourism Board, chairing the Finance and

Human Resources subcommittee, and was featured in the Chamber's Top 40 under 40, a showcase of business talent in the region. At home she is a mother of two and a scrapbooking enthusiast, selected as an Emerging Entrepreneur finalist in the Businesswoman's Association Regional Business Achievers Awards for her retail space Scrapaholics, now an online store. — Rudi Benadé



Twitter: @ZoeWaters78

Website: scrapaholics.co.za

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Lisa Chamberlain

Deputy Director: Centre for Applied Legal Studies

Lisa Chamberlain has an enduring optimism about South Africa's constitutional democracy. As a result of her work as a clerk at the Constitutional Court she was sponsored by its bursary trust to complete her LLM at the University of Michigan and now teaches Administrative Law, Sustainable Development and Human Rights in the Marketplace at the Wits School of Law. Her expertise in environmental justice saw her establish the first environmental programme at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, where she serves as deputy director while she leads the Save Mapungubwe Coalition to protect the integrity of the Mapungubwe Heritage Site from nearby coal-mining activity. When 30-year-old Chamberlain isn't using her voice to speak out for our human rights she is a member of the Wits Choir — an ensemble of races, demographics and nationalities, which sings in 27 languages, represents South Africa abroad "and looks like the South African democratic project in action". — Rudi Benadé

 Website: law.wits.ac.za/cals

Sizwe Nzima

Owner and Founder: Iyeza Express

While collecting medication for his grandparents at the local clinic Sizwe Nzima looked past the rampant overcrowding and stagnant queues and saw an opportunity. So, when he completed his six-month intensive entrepreneurship course at the Raymond Ackerman Academy, the 21-year-old founded Iyeza Express, a business that collects chronic medication from public health facilities and delivers it, by bicycle, to the doorsteps of clients, most of whom are too busy or too sick to collect it themselves. Since the inception of the business last year the number of clients has grown to more than 120. Nzima employs three people and has been provided with seed funding by the South African Breweries Innovation Awards. Recognition is streaming in from all sides. Iyeza Express was named one of the Top 5 Youth Entrepreneurs at Cape Town Entrepreneurship Week, listed as one of 30 Under-30 African Entrepreneurs on *Forbes.com* and, as he flits through the streets and alleys of Khayelitsha, Nzima's progress is marked by shouts of "Go Sizwe!". — Rudi Benadé



 YouTube: [Sizwe Nzima](#)



Nick Kaoma

Founder and CEO: Head Honcho Lifestyle Brand

Frustrated by the slow pace of studying for a BCom Accounting, writing hypothetical business plans and balance sheets, Nick Kaoma decided to hurry up the process and start a business. He dropped out and spent some time researching the Cape Town fashion and media culture, attending events such as Design Indaba and Fashion Week, while paying his way as a waiter and later as a sales executive for Cape Media. His blogs during this time drew the attention of Uhuru Communications and he progressed from feature writer for their *Student Choice* publication to editor at the age of 24. Finally, in 2008, he convinced Vega graduate Mzoxolo Gcwabe to become his business partner and together they started lifestyle brand Head Honcho. Thanks to clever collaborations with brands such as Miller and Play, as well as a symbiotic relationship with brand ambassadors AKA and Lulo Café, Head Honcho became the first local brand to be stocked in Shesha and SportsScene outlets all over the country and has become the voice of ambitious South African youths who aim to "live progressively". At the 2012 South African Hip Hop Awards the Head Honcho family picked up six awards, including King of Gauteng, for Marketing Director Tebello Motsoane and Hustler of the Year for Kaoma — an apt prize for a man who once hustled his way into a meeting with design icon Gavin Rajah, with just a few sketches and some exaggerated claims about a clothing label on the production line. Having secured accounts with national chains in Nigeria and Zambia, Head Honcho is set to grow into the rest of Africa. That's only the beginning — 31-year-old Kaoma has also just started a branding and marketing firm called 6th Avenue and is pushing ahead with his dream to take over the world, "one city, one country at a time". — Rudi Benadé

 Twitter: [@Nick_Kaoma](#) Website: headhoncho.co.za



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Karabo Mathang Founder: P Management

P Management more or less emerged from the boots of cars belonging to people who were passionate about football and came together to address the lack of proper and effective athletic management. Twenty-six-year-old Karabo Mathang, mother of two and one of the few women involved in the sport, was one of these people. It was at a match that her current business partner, Josy Tshabuse, mentioned the idea of becoming a soccer agent. The idea became a business, which Mathang started by offering free coaching clinics, and ultimately filled a gap by addressing the gulf between coaching amateur and professional league players, and helping unknown players to move up to a higher stage. Today, Mathang is recognised by Fifa as an accredited agent and is the first woman in South Africa to be accredited by the South African Football Association. P Management, which represents about 40 players, was pivotal in the rise of players such as Orlando Pirates's Mbongeni Gumede and

Banyana Banyana's Amanda Dlamini. The company still holds free coaching clinics for disadvantaged children because Mathang believes talented local soccer players work in a cruel world in which there are only a few teams and many youngsters are struggling to get a break. She also believes that, as a woman in a predominantly male-dominated industry, the fact that she sticks out like a sore thumb means people are intrigued by her business and want to learn more. She is currently studying law through Unisa and, on the side, works in an up-and-coming investment company with a diverse portfolio. — Ilham Rawoot

Twitter: @Karabo_Mathang7
Website: pmanagement.co.za

Khwezi Kondile

Management Consultant:
Accenture

Khwezi Kondile started out in construction, having completed his BSc Honours in Quantity Surveying in 2011, but the work he does now is more about building relationships, a key to his success as a management consultant at Accenture. When he isn't consulting with clients on developing business strategies, this World Economic Forum Global Shaper is leading the special projects portfolio of the non-governmental organisation Youth Lab, helping young people to find their voice through open dialogue on the social, economic and development policies that affect them. Getting high school children in Jo'burg to engage with the National Planning Commission on the National Development Plan is only the start of Kondile's plans to shape the future. At 24 he may not be much older than the youths he mentors, but he has already represented South Africa on the Economics Committee of the G8 and G20 Youth Summit — in Washington, DC, in 2012. — Caroline Cowan

Website: accenture.com/za-en



Ashley Uys Founder: Real World Diagnostics

Ashley Uys has made his diagnosis. The availability of reliable and affordable medical test kits will lead to a more promising health future for people in low-income areas. With a Bsc Honours Degree in Biotechnology and a MAP certificate from Wits University Uys started Real World Diagnostics to develop products that are absolutely necessary at prices those who need them most can afford. The malaria testing kit, for example, not only gives an early diagnosis and the strain of malaria but also indicates how well the medication is working. It costs R4. Having won the South African Breweries Innovation Award and been listed as one

of Forbes's 30 Under 30: Africa's Best Young Entrepreneurs in 2011, 29-year-old Uys is a great believer in giving back to the community, supplying drug rehabilitation centres with cost-price drug testing kits. He continues to research and develop new products, among them a pre-diabetic test and one that reveals whether an individual has consumed alcohol up to four days before the test. — Caroline Cowan

Twitter: @ashleyuys
Website: medi-tech.co.za



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Sizwe Nxedlana Chief Economist: FNB

Sizwe Nxedlana refers to himself as a former jock. Today, the only field the 31-year-old plays on is the economics field. The youngest chief economist ever to grace the halls of FNB, he conducts and co-ordinates economic research for the bank and for clients. After completing his master's degree in Economics at the University of KwaZulu-Natal he was selected for the economist internship programme of Stellenbosch University's Bureau for Economic Research, sponsored by Kagiso Trust Investments, which identified the need to support the development of black economists. This gave him the

opportunity to network with some of the top names in economics in the country. He then moved to Kagiso's stockbroking business in Johannesburg and from there to FNB. He is humble about his current position, attributing his success to the great economists who showed him the ropes, and to having been in the right place at the right time. — Ilham Rawoot

 **Twitter:** @sizwenxedlana

David Jacobson and Yossi Hasson

Founders: Synaq

David Jacobson and Yossi Hasson make a good team. To start with, they're both crazy about technology, having known from an early age that that is what they wanted to do. In the eight years since they formed their company, Synaq, they have acquired a 51% stake in an acquisitions deal with Internet Solutions (Dimension Data) and were listed as one of *Forbes's* top-20 tech startups in Africa in 2012. Synaq, which processes more than one billion emails a month, may be one of the leaders in cloud solutions and internet security services, but its founders most definitely do not have their heads in the clouds. Driven, determined, self-confessed tech geeks, they both completed the Stanford Endeavour Leadership programme as "High Impact Entrepreneurs". While Jacobson, as a martial arts First Dan, keeps the company fighting fit, Hasson, the cum laude MBA graduate and now lecturer, continues to ensure that it performs to its full potential. — Caroline Cowan

 **Website:** synaq.com



Since arriving in South Africa over a decade ago Dr Lilian Chenwi has held firm to her conviction that "even if your contribution is small, it's still relevant".



Lilian Chenwi Associate Professor: Wits School of Law

Since arriving in South Africa over a decade ago Dr Lilian Chenwi has held firm to her conviction that "even if your contribution is small, it's still relevant". Chenwi's contribution has been anything but small. She has blazed a trail through the field of human rights, effecting change at both regional African and United Nations levels as a member of the Steering Committee for the international NGO Coalition for an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Her fervour for human rights has made her life a philanthropic one. She has served as acting co-ordinator of the Gender Unit at the University of Pretoria (UP), was an LLM tutor and researcher at the Centre for Human Rights at UP, receiving the centre's Vera Chirwa Human Rights award, and has been a senior researcher at the Community Law Centre at the University of the Western Cape, where she was also head of the Socio-Economic Rights Project. She is vice-chairperson

of the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children. Born and raised in Cameroon, 35-year-old Chenwi, now an associate professor of Law at the University of the Witwatersrand Law School, has a strong passion for teaching. "I feel that I am in a position to impart knowledge that will be beneficial to young legal minds," she says. In doing so she is creating a legacy of lasting change. She holds an LLB degree from the University of Buea, Cameroon, a Maîtrise in Law from the University of Yaoundé, Cameroon, and both an LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation and an LLD from the University of Pretoria. She is editor of the *Economic and Social Rights Review* and is on the editorial board of the *Housing and ESC Rights Law Quarterly*. — Billy Rivers

 **Twitter:** @lchenwi



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Mike Sharman

Owner: Retroviral Digital Communications

Mike Sharman is set on making a difference, and he is determined to do it in flip-flops. Although he sees himself as just a regular citizen, what he has managed to achieve in the past few years is quite extraordinary. After a stint at acting school in Hollywood and another as a stand-up comedian, Sharman realised he could use his performance skills to grow ideas and brands, as both require a knowledge of how to gauge and engage an audience. Retroviral, the digital communications consultancy he started three years ago, has won numerous awards, among them the 2011 Prisa Prism Gold award in the digital media relations category for Nando's "CEO" campaign and the 2012 award for Nando's "Last Dictator" campaign. But it is the work he does for the Put Foot Foundation that gives him the biggest kick. To Sharman, "being able to build something that gets other people involved is almost more important than any business success". Working in digital he is putting opportunities and ideas out into the public space so everyone has a chance to participate and be part of

the change. The Put Foot Rally, which is about putting shoes on the feet of the poorest school children in South Africa, has not only raised R1.3-million, it has also created a following of people inspired to get involved. Even through the work he does for major brands, he has managed to get people on the ground and doing something good. The Nando's #Diversity campaign, for example, focused on creating soup kitchens for people affected by xenophobia. "I work in a very tangible space, and getting an idea, and seeing the result, that gives me goosebumps," says Sharman. There is one message he hopes to get across with all his campaigns and work, and that is: you can be successful and have fun doing it.

— Caroline Cowan



Twitter: @mikesharman

Website: putfootfoundation.org

Website: retroviral.co.za



Jojo Tsheola

Owner: Tsheola Dinare Tours

Jojo Tsheola is going places, and he has the transport company to take him there. In just six years Tsheola Dinare Tours has grown from a one-man start-up to 35 staff members and a fleet of 14 vehicles. Tsheola's journey has already led to many successes, such as winning the Gauteng Emerging Tourism Entrepreneur of the Year in 2009, the Best Tourism Entrepreneur Award from Johannesburg Tourism, being listed as a finalist in the Africa Growth Institute 2010 SMME Awards and as a finalist in the Imvelo Responsible Tourism Awards for Most Improved Tourism Business. Driven by determination and a passion for building his brand, especially within the corporate sector, Tsheola knows there is a lesson to be learnt from every experience. It was his years spent as a cleaner for a tourism company that taught him the most about his industry. And through he believes in learning, his success proves that you don't need a formal qualification to achieve your dreams. — Caroline Cowan



Website: dinaretours.co.za

YouTube: Jojo Tsheola

Ryan McManus

Executive Creative Director: Native

Ryan McManus has gone native. After spending eight years abroad at some of the top advertising agencies in London, Munich and Amsterdam, winning accolades such as Eurobest and Art Directors Club awards, he is back in South Africa as executive creative director at Native. Connecting advertising and design with ideas that make a difference, McManus started *Jointhepipe.org*. The sale of uniquely shaped water bottles contributes to water pipes being built in areas where access is difficult. Jointhepipe won Unicef's best initiative of the year in 2009. Excited about making an

impact right here, McManus has big ideas in the pipeline such as the Nedbank Cup, which aims to give ordinary South Africans the opportunity to follow their dreams and play in a real football team. When he is not riding the wave of his own success, McManus is usually waiting to catch the perfect wave somewhere along the West Coast.

— Caroline Cowan



Website: native.co.za

Website: jointhepipe.org



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Dina Townsend

Lawyer: Centre for Environmental Rights



As an environmental lawyer Dina Townsend helps to lead the charge for accountable environmental and water management in South Africa's mines. Growing up in Johannesburg's Crown Mines, Townsend was surrounded by a very forward-thinking community. Many of her neighbours were activists and this affected her. From an early age she developed a strong interest in making a difference in people's lives. After graduating from the University of Cape Town she landed a position in a private law firm, but left soon afterwards. "I felt a very strong pull to work on environmental justice issues," she says. Townsend went on to study for a master's degree in Environmental Law at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. Upon returning to South Africa she joined the Centre for Environmental Rights, where she has been instrumental in the facilitation of a community activist

network in the field of mining and environmental justice and has led the centre's work on improving transparency in environmental governance. — Billy Rivers

 Website: cer.org.za

Wandisile Nqeketho

Founder: Gangster Museum

Wandisile Nqeketho is nothing if not entrepreneurial. Despite the fact that he grew up in a two-bedroom shack with eight other family members and received no formal tertiary education, he is already setting up his third business at the age of 23. The Gangster Museum aims to educate children about the dangers of gangsterism, a prevalent problem in Nqeketho's neighbourhood in Khayelitsha. It is his solution to keeping 14-year-olds from killing each other, a tragedy he has witnessed at first hand. The museum will exhibit art from former prisoners and former gangsters will share their experiences. He also co-founded Ilima Cleaning and Recycling, an initiative that encourages township residents, among them disabled people, to collect recyclable material, which they exchange for shopping vouchers. The project keeps the township clean while creating work for the unskilled, as well as educating township residents about the importance of recycling and protecting the environment. — Ilham Rawoot



 Facebook: Ilima Cleaning & Recycling

Recently Fakir acted for the Carolina community in their successful court challenge compelling government to provide the community with access to clean water.



Naseema Fakir

Acting Regional Director: Legal Resources Centre

Committed human rights and environmental lawyer Naseema Fakir is a slayer of giants. As acting regional director of the Johannesburg office of the Legal Resources Centre (LRC) she tackles cases concerning the pollution accountability of mines and government, co-ordinates the centre's Civil Society Project, engages with the problem of statelessness among refugee children, runs a large refugee practice that often requires fast-action litigation and still finds time for the managerial work her position entails. Thirty-two-year-old Fakir's passion for human rights took root during her time at the University of the Witwatersrand. She applied for a position with the LRC, got it, and has stuck with it ever since. After completing her articles and becoming an attorney in 2006 she began cutting her teeth on refugee law. A year later, reports of pollution requiring urgent intervention began pouring into the centre. Fakir responded, and thus began a series of legal battles to make mining houses and government accountable for pollution — especially with regard to water safety. It is a fight that has carried through to this day and she still keeps swinging, running with cases that have been going since 2007. Recently she acted for the Carolina community in their successful court challenge compelling government to provide the community with access to clean water. In 2008 Fakir travelled to Mecca. "I'm very proud that I made that decision to go on pilgrimage; it wasn't an easy one," she says. "It's changed my life since then, and I've carried the lessons that I learnt there into my everyday life." In 2011, wanting to understand her religion better, and feeling the need for a fresh challenge, Fakir began an honours degree in Islamic Studies at the University of Johannesburg, which she completed last year. — Billy Rivers

 Website: lrc.org.za



LIBERTY

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Chris Botha

Group Managing Director: The MediaShop

As a boy, playing cricket and rugby in the streets of Bloemfontein, Chris Botha wanted to be a sports journalist. His father, concerned about his earning potential, challenged him to find an advertisement in the paper for a paid position in journalism. What he found was a position as a *Sunday Times* advertising sales executive, paying what seemed to young Chris all the money in the world. It was a happy compromise that led to him to study marketing at the AAA Advertising School and on to a job at the MediaShop, under the mentorship of Harry Herber. Now, as group managing director of the MediaShop, 35-year-old Botha knows the odds against finding that ad in the newspaper. He also knows how many people watch the evening news, listen to the radio while driving, even how many are reading this article. In the age of the on-demand-streaming, PVR-ad-skipping audience, consumers are becoming ever more elusive and Botha uses his expertise to help brands to “stop interrupting what I’m interested in and start being the thing I’m interested in”. Botha, Media Innovator of the Year for 2010, has been selected as a jury member for the Global Awards at the International Festival of Media in Switzerland and the Cannes Media Lions Awards in France. Meanwhile, the MediaShop has raked in accolades under his leadership: the MOST Award for Best Full Service Agency and Best Overall Media Agency for two consecutive years; the OHMSA and AdFocus Awards for Media Agency of the Year, followed by the AdReview Large Media Agency of the Year. Today the MediaShop offices house 150 staff members and control about R4-billion in billings. Botha, thinking back to that day he found the ad in the *Sunday Times*, says: “I have a sneaking suspicion my dad glanced through the newspaper first.” — Rudi Benadé

Twitter: @Chrismediabotha Website: mediashop.co.za

Ntombizozuko Dyani-Mhango

Associate Professor:
Wits School of Law

Ntombizozuko Dyani-Mhango, born and raised in the small rural township of Peddie, has gone on to become the first black South African associate professor of law at the University of the Witwatersrand's School of Law. It was the oldest of her four older siblings, her sister, a social worker, who inspired her to reach such heights. “The biggest challenge is that I come from the background of Bantu education,” she says. Undeterred by that, “Zozo”, as she is affectionately known, overcame the challenge through sheer hard work and her motto of “reading, reading, reading!”. At 34 she holds both a Doctorate of Juridical Science in International Law from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, United States, and an LLM from the University of the Western Cape and has written for many local and international law journals. A firm believer in staying true to your roots, she is living proof that “your upbringing won’t stop you from accomplishing great things”. — Billy Rivers



Website: wits.ac.za/law

Sean Press

CEO and Development Director: Contact Media

Sean Press isn't just bucking the trend, he is creating his own. At a time when the media market is on a downward spiral his company, Contact Media, has not only survived but grown, adding two new brands to its stable. With a focus on development in Africa, he produces titles such as *Afropolitan*, in partnership with Kaya FM, and *Wits Business Journal*, for which he won a Pica award in 2011. With a turnover of R25-million, more than 35 staff and 15 titles launched since 2007, what is his formula for success? Giving people the chance to grow, learning from the experience of others and looking for the positive in every situation while building his brands in partnership with established businesses, he says. Listed three years running in Media Online's Top 40 under 40, the Pressman, as he is known to many, is always on the lookout for trendsetting ways to diversify his business. — Caroline Cowan

Website: contactmedia.co.za



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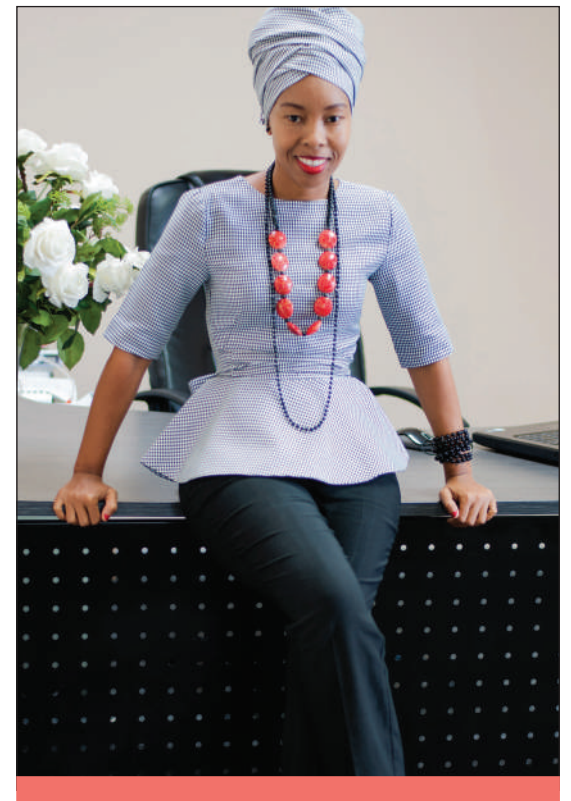
LIBERTY

Lise Kuhle

Director: Eco Smart Group

Lise Kuhle knows her way around an angle grinder and a circular saw. It's all part of being a hands-on social entrepreneur. In 2010, she founded Eco Smart, a business that manufactures commercially viable products such as recycling boxes, iPad covers, hotel slippers, conference and shopping bags, out of up-cycled waste materials. One of these products, a geyser blanket made from potato chip packets and billboards, was named the SAPRO Recycled Product of the Year and was featured on Talk Radio 702 as part of the Nedbank Business Accelerator Campaign as well as on Summit TV's *Big Small Business* show. Her central workshop in Germiston is deliberately situated within a 5km radius of 107 settlements. Social entrepreneurs like Lise "do good by doing good business" and she aims to help to reduce the unemployment rate in South African by 1%. To this end, as part of a job creation initiative, Eco Smart uses a franchise production model to enlist community projects and non-governmental organisations in its manufacturing process. The silver lining of trash is that it's free, allowing

up-cycled products like hers to compete with non-recycled products in both quality and price. At the same time, Eco Smart diverts half a ton of waste that would otherwise go to our ever-overflowing landfills. When she's not up-cycling the world one plastic bottle at a time 33-year-old Kuhle is a feature writer for *Ethical Living* magazine and gives talks on recycling to businesses and schools. She is currently designing a hotel range sourced from the hospitality industry's own waste products, as well as designing a bicycle trolley to be used by the trolley recyclers known as "pickers". When she was a prefect at Rhenish Girls High School, Kuhle was told by her principal that "if it's not broken, you don't need to fix it". She may not have trashed the advice but she definitely recycled it to contribute to a more sustainable future. — Rudi Benadé

Website: ecosmartgroup.co.za

Mamatsabu Maphike

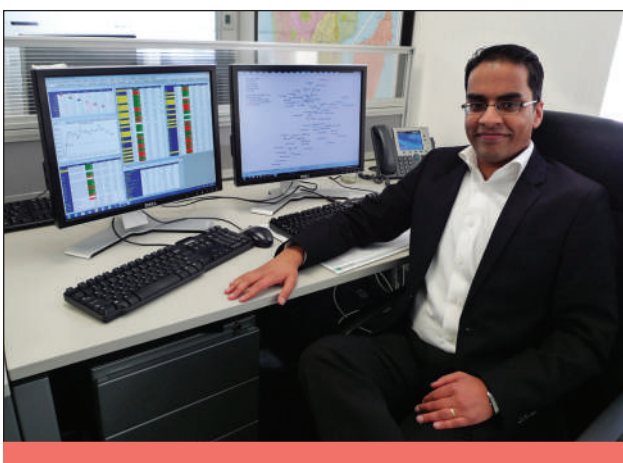
Co-founder and Director:
Motheo Chartered Accountants

Mamatsabu Maphike is passionate about the challenges we face as a country but refuses to complain about them — she'd much rather be part of a solution. Believing South Africa's issues will not be solved by government alone, this chartered accountant left her career as a development banker and co-founded Motheo Chartered Accountants, a firm of young accountants dedicated to building a foundation for sustainability and economic development within South Africa. Under her directorship the business has grown to include offices in North West, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng. Maphike works with several charity organisations, including women's lobby group New Faces New Voices and the Isibani Education Fund, and is a mentor at Business Partners and at the Goldman Sachs-Gibs 10000 Women Certificate Programme. Her grandparents were her biggest inspiration, infusing her with strong moral values and motivating her to leave a meaningful legacy that contributes positively to and changes people's lives.

— Billy Rivers

Twitter: @AfricanStylista
Website: motheo.co.za

Lise Kuhle knows her way around an angle grinder and a circular saw. It's all part of being a hands-on social entrepreneur.



Yashin Gopi

Quantitative Research Analyst: Cadiz

At only 30, Yashin Gopi has achieved a level of excellence in his field that others can only dream of. As head of quantitative research for Cadiz, a financial services group, Gopi has honed his knowledge of finance, maths, statistics and programming to a razor's edge — an edge he uses to analyse and model the financial markets. Gopi joined Cadiz's Graduate Internship Programme in 2004 after graduating cum laude in Actuarial Science and Financial Maths from the then University of Natal (now UKZN). For the past five years he has been ranked one

of the top six analysts for quantitative research and risk management in the *Financial Mail's* National Analyst rankings. Last year he was rated second in that field, and ranked fifth for innovative research — making him the highest-rated individual at Cadiz, one of the highest in the industry, and an extremely inspirational figure to the many interns he mentors. — Billy Rivers

Website: cadiz.co.za



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Shezi's aim is to be a game-changer, not just to do things the way they have been done for a long time.



Ntuthuko Shezi Founder: Scratch Mobile

If you need to catch a flight from OR Tambo airport and your car has a dent, or a cracked windscreen, Scratch Mobile will fix it for you while you are away. Scratch Mobile is the brainchild of 32-year-old Ntuthuko Shezi, whose passion for business stemmed from a desire to change his family's financial situation. He grew up in rural Ndwedwe in KwaZulu-Natal, with a single mother, a teacher who sold sweets, fish and vetkoek for extra money at the school she worked at, and Shezi would often help her. His grandparents kept cows for milk and grew their own fruit and vegetables. The family had no electricity. These difficulties have led to Shezi's dream of being a future Ndwedwe ward councillor. When he left his job in management consulting he fortuitously recognised a gap in the panel-beating industry. Even though he did not have a clue about panel beating, his degree in engineering from the University of Cape Town made it easier for him to demystify in his head a subject

many see as rocket science. His history in management alerted him to the fact that the industry was known for offering little compassion and care to customers and he wanted to change this and give customers who needed their cars fixed an option that was convenient for them and put their needs first. Scratch Mobile, which does panel beating, spray painting and auto glass repairs and replacements, is the first known business of its kind in the world and Shezi is looking to expand, as its success has been exceptional. The business fixes between 170 and 200 cars every month and has a turnover of a few million a year. His aim is to be a game-changer, not just to do things the way they have been done for a long time. — Ilham Rawoot

 Website: scratchmobile.co.za

Mdu Zakwe

CEO and Owner: Noventum Zakwe Consulting

Preaching the gospel of IT maturity, Mdu Zakwe is at the forefront of a charge to bring South African business and government into the 21st century. Zakwe holds a master's degree in Business Administration and was a director and head of IT Audit and Technical Accounting at KPMG's IT Advisory. "The IT advisory business in the entire province of KwaZulu-Natal was making a loss and I turned it around," he says. "By the time I left it was making [a] profit." Zakwe has gone on to establish his own business, Noventum Zakwe Consulting, following a massive deal with the German-based IT management consultancy Noventum. These days, in addition to running his consultancy, 35-year-old Zakwe spends his free time with his family on his Pietermaritzburg smallholding, indulging a serious enthusiasm for hydroponic and aquaponic farming. — Billy Rivers

 Website: noventum.co.za



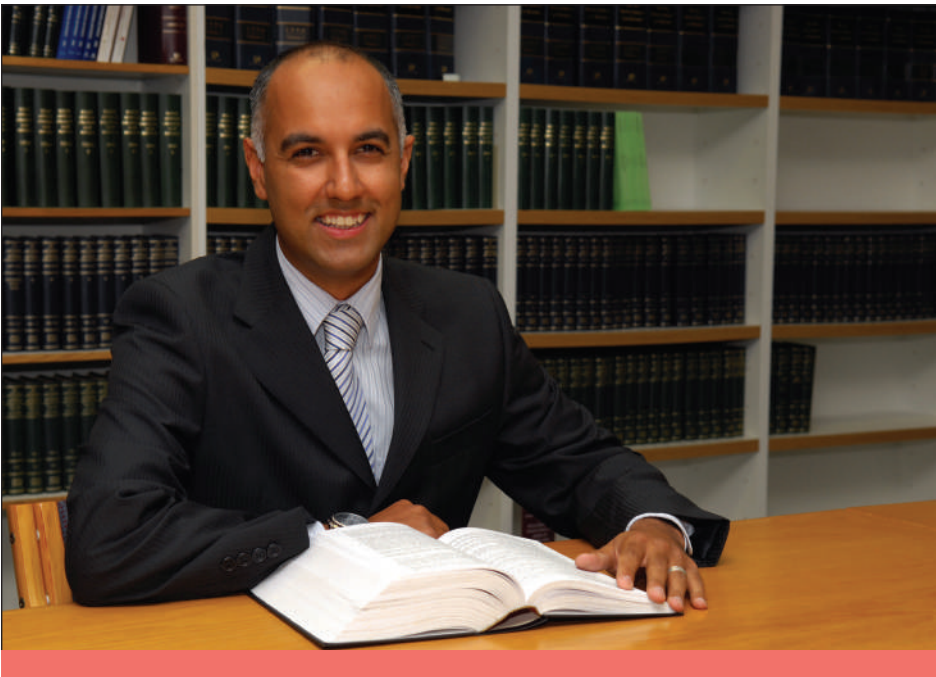
Don Mahon Advocate

Don Mahon was raised in commercial law, donning a suit and attending arbitrations and insolvency inquiries with his attorney father while still in high school. Then, having graduated with an LLB from the University of Pretoria, he was admitted to the Bar at the age of 22, making him one of the youngest advocates in the country. Since then the 31-year-old has litigated in matters involving both underdogs, such as the nursing union Hospersa, and high-profile corporate clients such as Dimension Data, JCI and Randgold. He has contributed to the

growth of South African law by obtaining several reported judgments and will be arguing the first case to head to the Supreme Court of Appeals relating to the business rescue legislation provisions of the Companies Act 71. His commitment to his profession continues in the founding of the Mahon Foundation, a trust to help to fund the education of future young advocates.— Rudi Benadé

 Website: sacommerciallaw.com

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Avinash Govindjee

Professor of Law: Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

Living by his motto “work hard, play hard, and pray hard”, Professor Avinash Govindjee has seamlessly married his two passions — law and education — as deputy head of the Labour and Social Security Law Unit at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU). Recent honours include being awarded Golden Key Society NMMU Lecturer of the Year and winning the faculty’s Researcher of the Year award two years in a row. Govindjee holds several degrees, including a Doctorate in Law from NMMU, which he attained at 27. He was visiting professor at the National Law School of India University in Bangalore in 2011 and has been published extensively in the fields of labour and social security law. Not only is family an extremely important aspect of his life, he is also an avid sportsman/fanatic, playing cricket, tennis and golf, and is an independent director of the Warriors cricket team. — Billy Rivers

 **Website:** law.nmmu.ac.za

Jurie Alexander Fourie

Founder: iFix and RiCharge

Jurie Alexander Fourie wakes every morning with a head ablaze with ideas. A self-made man at 26, he is certain that “everything the mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve”. He came up with the idea for iFix while working in England as a tour organiser for some of South Africa’s biggest bands. His iPod broke and he was told that it couldn’t be fixed. “I was disgusted that I was expected to just throw my baby away!” he says. And so, going online, he discovered a way to repair his treasured music player. The skill turned out to be very marketable and, six years later, iFix employs 40 people, services 4000 clients a month and repairs almost anything that begins with a lowercase “i”. During his time as an entrepreneur Fourie has been involved in starting eight business, including RiCharge — the first business to manufacture, design and distribute public cellphone-charging stations in Africa. — Billy Rivers



 **Twitter:** @alexfourie
Website: iFix.co.za
Website: RiCharge.co.za



Rapelang Rabana

Co-founder and CEO: Yeigo Communications

Rapelang Rabana wasted no time in founding Yeigo Communications right after graduating. Her bachelor’s degree in Business Science and honours in Computer Science from the University of Cape Town and her relentless perseverance provided her with the perfect tools to build a high-tech startup. The first recognition came when she won the Enablis Business Plan competition in 2006 and she has since been selected as an Endeavour high-impact entrepreneur. When Yeigo became a partner of the Swiss Telfree Group of Companies she was made global head of research and development. Ever responsive as she is to the rapidly shifting technological horizon, her most recent innovation is ReKindle Learning, a mobile learning application that is set to change the way we transfer knowledge and think about education. Her positive influence can be felt whether she is speaking at events such as the Pioneering Young Women Conference or the ICT Indaba, contributing to *Entrepreneur* magazine and News24, curating for the Cape Town Global Shaper’s Hub or serving as ambassador for the United Nations World Youth Summit Awards or as a board member of Ubuntu Child Healthcare, a non-governmental organisation that provides care for HIV- infected children. In January 2013 the 28-year-old entrepreneur was selected by the World Economic Forum as a Global Shaper and was invited to the annual meeting of the forum at Davos, a prestigious event that found her in the company of the president of Ethiopia, the founder of the forum, Prof Klaus Schwab, and the founder of Grameen Bank, Mohammed Yunus. She was listed by *Forbes* as one of 30 under 30 Best Young African Entrepreneurs, she’s made Oprah’s 2012 O Power List and this Botswana-born, old-Roedeanian has even been called the “South African Marissa Mayer” (chief executive of Yahoo!), a businesswoman she admires for “the ability to close the gap between imagination and reality”. — Rudi Benadé

 **Twitter:** @rapelangrabana **Website:** telfree.com



Nicholas van der Nest

Divisional Director, Risk Products

Nicholas van der Nest joined Liberty in 2009 and occupied the position of head of risk product development in 2010. In this position, where he was responsible for the risk product suite, consisting of traditional insurance products, Bancassurance and entry level market solutions. He was also responsible for the reinsurance function from a product development perspective. At 33, Nicholas is now a divisional director for risk products. His key areas of accountability are risk product development (complex risk); product development for Bancassurance and emerging consumer markets; management of the profitability of the existing in-force books through the insurance profit management function; reinsurance; management of the chief medical officer function and underwriting research and development. Under his leadership, Liberty has successfully launched four market first concepts and products: Whole of Life Lump Sum Disability, Best in breed Income Protector (including four market first benefits), Finger prick HIV and urine cotinine testing, Medical Advancement

Protection on critical illness benefits. Liberty was also recognised as the winner of the "FIA Long Term Insurer of the Year 2011: Risk Product Category" Award. Nicholas received the Cover Magazine Excellence award in the long term insurance category in 2012. "One of my proudest moments has been the launch of the HIV finger prick testing. The insurance industry conducted medical underwriting through testing venous blood samples in laboratories only. The launch of the rapid testing practice therefore revolutionised the market through both quicker issue times and a significantly less invasive and improved customer experience." Nicholas holds a bachelor of economic science from the University of the Witwatersrand and is also a Fellow of the Faculty of Actuaries (FFA). Nicholas obtained his Financial Planner Certificate in 2011 from the University of the Free State. He has a keen interest in most sports, but he particularly enjoys scuba diving and currently holds an advanced and deep diving speciality certification.

Keratile Pekane

Business Analyst and Junior Economist

Keratile Pekane joined Liberty in 2011 after she was selected into the Liberty Graduate Programme. At 28, Keratile is a business analyst and a junior economist within the Liberty retail strategy and execution department. This division is extremely diverse and gives her an opportunity to extend her footprint on various projects and initiatives, ranging from customer-orientated initiatives to looking at cost-optimizing projects. She is a consultant in her own right, and believes in getting her hands dirty in different areas in order to learn the business. Keratile has a BCom economics from Unisa, and also holds a diploma in business analysis. Born in Zambia while her parents were in exile, she has had the opportunity to live in different countries and meet people of different cultures. "Even though I travelled all over, I always knew I was a South African, and my parents always ensured that I should be proud of who I am and where I come from." Keratile looks at Africa as a booming continent with an abundance of opportunities. "It is crucial for us, as young Africans to have the necessary skills and specialties in order for us to see our continent progress, and to become a major player in the global economy," she says, "and being a business analyst is certainly not the end of my path." In her spare time, Keratile, who lives by Ghandi's motto of being the change that you want to see, enjoys anything to do with travel and adventure. She loves her country, and aims to learn and know every corner of South Africa.



Machela Bridgette Sathekga

Business Manager, Liberty Corporate, Chief Executive's Office

Machela Bridgette Sathekga was born in 1987 in Mohodi Ga Manthata, Limpopo. Driven by her belief that "impossible is nothing", Machela enrolled for an actuarial science degree at the University of Cape Town (UCT), after being awarded the prestigious Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Scholarship. She started her actuarial studies as one of over 250 hopefuls, and graduated in 2008 as one of only 67 graduates. Furthermore, she obtained a bachelor of business science degree in actuarial science with first class honours (average greater than 75%) and in the top 10% of her class. She joined Liberty Corporate as an actuarial specialist in 2011 and later qualified as the first black female actuary at Liberty.

She is now the business manager at Liberty Corporate in the chief executive's office, providing right-hand support, while learning the ins-and-outs of the corporate business, honing her business acumen, and developing her leadership potential. At this young age, Machela has already served on two of the Actuarial Society of South Africa's committees. While finance, academia and success are important, Machela has always understood that, "Motho ke motho ka batho" (I am who I am because of other people). With this in mind she has participated actively in activities empowering children, and now sponsors students through the Machela Sathekga Scholarship administered by the Fund-A-Dream Foundation.

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Lesedi Mogoatlhe

Trainer and Youth Facilitator:
Children's Radio Foundation

Lesedi Mogoatlhe understands the transformative power of radio. She sees it every time her young radio group uses the microphone to ask tough questions, debate real issues and formulate opinions, especially around HIV and Aids — a key component of her work in Khayelitsha. "There is something about having their voices amplified that seems to also amplify everything else about them," she says. As a trainer and facilitator for the Children's Radio Foundation, a non-governmental organisation that gives "young people the tools and skills to make their voices heard", Mogoatlhe empowers underprivileged and unemployed youth to become skilled radio journalists and active citizens who can take ownership of their lives and the issues that affect their communities. The 29-year-old, who grew up in Thembisa, can relate. As an actor, presenter and filmmaker with a master's degree in documentary film, Mogoatlhe has used many platforms to get her worldview across. Now it's her turn to help others voice theirs.

— Cat Pritchard

 **Twitter:** @jikajo

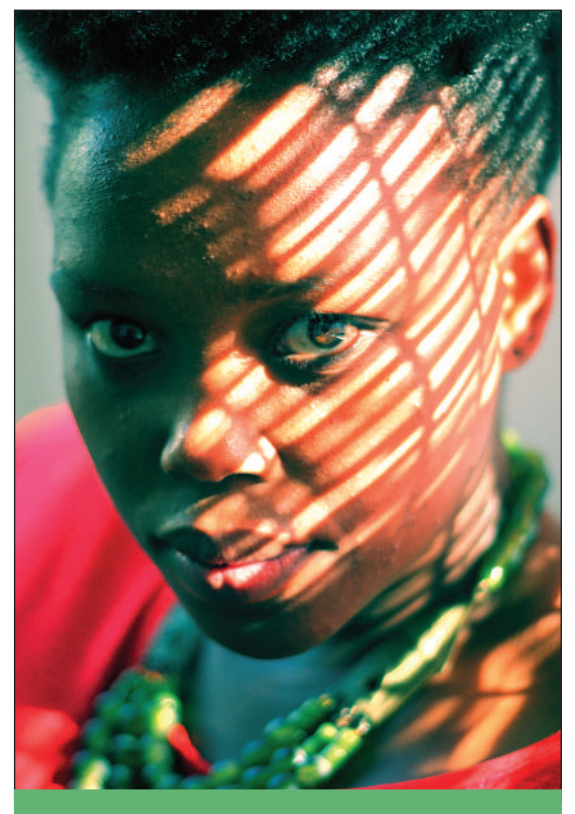
Daryl 'The Nightmare' Naidu

Youth Ambassador for the Chatsworth Youth Centre

Daryl "The Nightmare" Naidu is one of those complex characters who is living evidence that we are all able to transcend the boxes we were born into. The 125kg weight and 1.9m height of this 28-year-old perfectly fit his public persona of professional wrestler. His alter ego as a woman's rights activist and community youth developer, promoting an anti-bullying message, is, however, where he breaks the mould. Naidu uses his celebrity profile and training to respond to the leadership needs of his Chatsworth community. When he finished his formal World Wrestling Professionals

training in Jo'burg he moved back to Durban and opened the Chatsworth Youth Centre, a facility that offers children free extracurricular programmes, with Naidu teaching young fans professional wrestling. He views this as a step towards realising his dream of forming a "youth movement where the positive power of sports is used to change our nation".

— Taryn Mackay

 **Twitter:** @NIGHT_M_A_R_E


Lee-Roy Chetty

Speech Writer: United Nations

"If I wasn't a speech writer at the UN, I would love to be President Jacob Zuma's head speech writer," says Lee-Roy Chetty. His speeches "could be a lot more effective", because words are powerful vehicles for social change. Chetty's work at the UN has a spin-off in South Africa in areas such as HIV and Aids initiatives, TB and malaria prevention, and literacy campaigns. He is especially passionate about the use of technology to bridge the education crisis, on which he focuses in his book *Web 3.0* and in his online *Thought Leader*

columns. Chetty came to the UN as one of 70 young global shapers selected to form a UN think-tank and stayed on in Geneva when he was offered a job. From there he contributes to two radio programmes on SABC. The country would benefit from the services of a man like Chetty; his work speaks for itself.— Joonji Mdyogolo

 **Twitter:** @leeroy_chetty

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Titus's experience of the fragility of life fuels her drive to change her environment for the better.



Irma Titus

Community Activist: Zeal4Life and Concerned Education Forum

In her 27 years Irma Titus, a community activist on the Cape Flats, has defeated death on a number of occasions. Irma was diagnosed with kidney failure when she was four years old and her body rejected three transplanted organs before it accepted a kidney in 2002. Her experience of the fragility of life fuels her drive to change her environment for the better. Her intimate experiences with the public healthcare system prompted Titus to form Zeal4Life, an organisation that aims to rally support services for young working-class people living with chronic illnesses. A child of Bonteheuwel who lives in Hanover Park, Titus is most passionate about the role community media plays in collective action. Her participation in the African Canadian Eco-Leadership Programme in 2005 afforded her the opportunity of a six-month internship with a Canadian community newspaper. With her passion for media confirmed, she completed a National Diploma in Journalism at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. Titus derives

inspiration from the valiant contribution her community made to the struggle against apartheid and works with the Bonteheuwel History and Cultural Society to ensure that the memories of the past serve as a guiding light for her generation and those to come. Last year she was at the forefront of the formation of the Concerned Education Forum, a civil society group that successfully resisted the closure of 27 schools in the Western Cape. She continues to facilitate a twice-weekly after-school arts and culture programme at Protea Primary School, one of the schools that had been marked for closure. Because she is constantly aware of how precious time is, activism for Titus is a true labour of love. She asserts: "If we all learnt to be kind, loving, caring and nurturing, even to ourselves, we can live to see a new world and better society." — Taryn Mackay

 **Facebook:** zeal4life

Esther Etkin

Campaign Manager: Nal'ibali National Reading-for-Enjoyment Initiative

Esther Etkin is driven by her belief that having access to relevant content has transformative powers. She employs this drive in her role as campaign manager for Nal'ibali, a community-driven reading-for-enjoyment campaign, which uses every available avenue to make people aware of the reading resources available to them. Originally from Jo'burg but based in Cape Town, 31-year-old Etkin focuses on ensuring that the theory she learnt while studying at the London School of Economics and the American University of Paris is moulded into tangible benefits for her country. Each week she and her team disseminate 30 000 reading supplements throughout the Western Cape. In a country where reportedly only 5% of parents read to their children, Etkin is proudest of the World Read Aloud Day Drive Nal'ibali organised in March, during which 13 500 children enjoyed the pleasure of being read to. — Taryn Mackay

 **Twitter:** @EstEtkin
Website: nalibali.org



Dean Benjamin

President: Siyaya

Accounting major Dean Benjamin is doing far more with his time than the average university student. At 22 he is president of Siyaya, a social entrepreneurship organisation in the Cape Town township of Khayelitsha. Siyaya is a volunteer-based initiative that trains Khayelitsha residents in business management skills, sources capital for them to start their own businesses and then consults with them. Benjamin is an ambassador for the Dell Innovation Lab, which brings together 17 outstanding entrepreneurs from around the globe to work on their projects. He is a

fellow of the prestigious Kairos Society and still finds time to work with community leaders in his native Parys, developing educational programmes in the local community of Thumahole. Ultimately, his passion lies in creating something that will lead to new businesses that nurture the future citizens of our country. — Ilham Rawoot

 **Twitter:** @Dean_Benjamin
Website: uctsiyaya.blogspot.com

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Nangamso Khoza

Founding Managing Director:
Inqubela Foundation

Nangamso Khoza sleeps for less than four hours a night. The 26-year-old from Queenstown is the founder of the Inqubela Foundation, which converts schools in developing communities into centres of academic and leadership excellence. The foundation also sets up mathematics, debating and public-speaking clubs in schools, earning it the name "call centre for schools". Khoza's childhood was spent in township schools with no libraries or science labs and the aim of the Inqubela Foundation is to ensure that other young people have the opportunities she lacked. The foundation hosted the first Education Indaba in Bloemfontein and created the My Sister Programme to mentor and provide hygiene packs for young girls, a project that was conceived after it was discovered that a particular girl was missing school because she couldn't afford sanitary pads. With her siblings, Khoza makes documentaries about local community heroes. She is writing a novel and learning to play the guitar. Needless to say, any more sleep would be a luxury.

— Ilham Rawoot

 **Twitter:** @Inqubela__F
Website: makoza.blogspot.com

Toni Stuart Co-founder: I am Somebody!

Toni Stuart began writing poetry when she was 14 years old but it was a while before she was confident enough to find her voice, which, as a child, she felt had no value. Today, at 30, she has performed at international festivals, the Cape Town Festival and in Parliament, has given solo performances in Cape Town and opened for renowned British poet Lemn Sissay. Before becoming a full-time poet she co-founded the non-governmental organisation I am Somebody! with storyteller Nicole Le Roux, and directed it from its inception in 2010 until the middle of 2012. I am Somebody! aims to use youth development to build an integrated, reconciled and resilient South African society. The core Rites of Passage programme is an 18-month programme aimed at helping 18- to 25-year-olds to become the people they want to become. There is also a mentorship programme and a community-building programme. Stuart serves on the boards of I am Somebody! and the Children's Radio Foundation, a non-governmental organisation founded by Radiohead's Colin Greenwood, which gives young

people a platform on which to air their concerns. As an extension of her passion, Stuart holds poetry and creative-writing workshops called "The Silence That Words Come From", at which she assists participants to find their own voice and to express themselves. Recently she was commissioned by several organisations and universities to write about social problems such as HIV and Aids, gender issues and violence against women, although she also writes about her personal experiences. She is currently writing her first solo book, having contributed to several local and international poetry anthologies. Stuart's passion is using words in ways that help people to discover their true value, live their wildest dreams and find the courage to listen to the voice in their hearts. — Ilham Rawoot

 **Twitter:** @nomadpoet
Website: tonistuart.tumblr.com



Juzaida Swain

Programme Officer: Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR)

Three years ago Juzaida Swain made the scary decision to quit her corporate job and follow her dream of helping others. Soon afterwards she was awarded a scholarship by the Southern Africa Trust, through which she worked with orphaned children in the most impoverished communities of Mozambique. Now, at 28, Swain's key focus is facilitating fundraising for IJR — an organisation that aims to convert the lessons learnt from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission into building South Africa's future. She recently served as chairperson of a chapter of AFS Interculture, an international organisation that arranges inter-country exchanges for young people to

give them cultural learning experiences. She also works with the United Nations as an online volunteer, creating awareness about projects that benefit underprivileged youth. Her passion for youth and for changing the negative discourse about young people has led her to take on many roles, so much so that her friends call her a "serial volunteer". — Ilham Rawoot

 **Twitter:** @JuzaidaSwain
Website: opportune-za.co.za



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THAPEG MOTJUMI

Andrew Levy

Managing Director: Umuzi Photo Club

The frame through which we view life shapes how we experience it. Guided by this worldview, 29-year-old Andrew Levy fills his days with training young people to harness the camera lens as a tool for social change. As managing director of Umuzi Photo Club, Levy has, since 2012, found a practical application for his postgraduate Diploma in Leadership and Entrepreneurship from the University of Cape Town and Certificate in Organising and Action from Harvard Kennedy School, the graduate school at Harvard that focuses on public affairs. Umuzi Photo Club is a Jo'burg-based youth development vehicle that enables economically marginalised young people to learn the skills of photography and journalism. The club equips them with a creative, marketable skill that "allows young people to use their voices, begin new conversations and start new dialogues for the betterment of South Africa". Levy's business approach to the development field helps to address the constant need for donor funding. The photographic work produced by the

young activists is viewed as a visual archive, which the club sells to corporates. The model is already producing impressive results. Since opening its doors in January 2009 Umuzi has held 22 exhibitions, seven of them outside South Africa. To keep inspired, Levy turns to the deep well of South Africans who were willing to sacrifice their own wellbeing for their dreams of equality. At age 12, as a member of the Johannesburg Choir, he was given the honour of singing for Nelson Mandela. Star-struck, the only words he could summon when meeting one of his personal heroes was "I really like your shirts". Levy has long since found the right words to express himself by helping young people do the same. It's all part of his dream "to be a part of a society that feels empowered and where the voices of young people are heard". — Taryn Mackay

Twitter: @alevyrsa
Website: umuzi.org

Zukiswa Vuka

Campaign Co-ordinator:
My Vote Counts (MVC)

At 22 Zukiswa Vuka's main interest lies in educating young people and the poor about their voting rights. Her work at MVC involves campaigning to improve the accountability, transparency and inclusiveness of elections and politics in South Africa. She is currently on a fellowship with the non-governmental organisation Ndifuna Ukwazi, where she learns about activism and organising, as well as receiving the political and legal education she needs to be a good activist. Before this she worked as a volunteer in Khayelitsha with education NGO Equal Education, informally educating learners about issues that affect their education, ranging from the function of the minister to the history of the education system, in order to build an environment in which learners can find solutions to their common problems. Vuka's passion is using the law to advance the Constitution and eliminate inequalities and human rights violations in South African communities.

— Ilham Rawoot

Twitter: @zukiev



Nomsa Mazwai

Director: Emthonjeni Arts

Nomsa Mazwai, a 28-year-old from Soweto, refers to Emthonjeni Arts as her "baby". The artists' residency in the rural town of Hamburg includes a theatre, a gallery and dance and recording studios. The aim is to help with the economic regeneration of the small community. Mazwai was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 2010 and, while studying for her master's degree in Economics at Fordham University, she gave a presentation to the United Nations on behalf of South Africa on how to engage young people in the Millennium Development Goals. She also performed as a singer in the United States.

Back home, she has been nominated for three Sama awards and has won one — for Best Adult Alternative African. She was the first female president of the Fort Hare University students' representative council and has worked as a co-ordinator at the Nelson Mandela Institute, where she created educational progress opportunities for young people and students. — Ilham Rawoot

Twitter: @nomisupasta
Website: emthonjeniarts.co.za

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Nito Maluka

Founder: Savuka Africa Youth Crew

Kanyamazane Township, located on the outskirts of Nelspruit, is a place that offers its youth few inspiring options. Overwhelmed by the proliferation of social ills in his community, Nito Maluka decided to embody the change he wanted to see there. He began by simply sharing his passion for performance art with the youngsters in his neighbourhood and, 13 years ago, formed the Savuka Africa Youth Crew. Today Savuka has 126 members and 12 trainers. Maluka contends that the programme presents young people with positive activities that allow them to express themselves, embrace their culture and learn to make good decisions. Performance also acts as a form of therapy for disempowered young people. The organisation is funded entirely through the ingenuity of Maluka and those who work with him. His personal mantra: "Not all closed doors are locked. Knock" has resulted in his consolidating international support and artistic exchanges from Europe, Africa and the United States.

— Taryn Mackay



 Website: savukafrica.org.za

Tasmi Quazi

Research Officer: Asiye eTafuleni

When Tasmi Quazi was six she offered a beggar on a rickshaw in Bangladesh a packet of chips. He refused the offer, but was visibly moved. The incident left a lasting impression on her of the dehumanising effects of poverty. When she was in matric she received an award for social service and chose to study architecture at university with the aim of working on projects focusing on community-based and sustainable practices of design. As research officer at Asiye eTafuleni, Quazi has played a significant role in various similar projects. She has managed the Imagine Durban Inner-City Cardboard Recycling project, which, since 2010, has helped to increase the income of informal recyclers through several new interventions. For Quazi, it's an ongoing labour of love. "The proactive approach of the AeT team and the informal workers' drive to be agents of change has struck a remarkable dynamic of developing innovation through collaboration, which is not only pioneering but utterly inspiring," she says. — Fatima Asmal

 Website: aet.org.za



Thulani Madondo

Executive Director: Kliptown Youth Programme

At an hour when most people are only preparing to go to work Thulani Madondo is welcoming 400 young people to the Kliptown Youth Programme (KYP). As executive director of KYP, 31-year-old Madondo is involved in every aspect of this extracurricular support programme, from making sure every child gets a hearty breakfast to overseeing their after-school homework tutoring and skills training. Growing up and staying focused was not easy for Madondo, who was raised by his mother in a one-room shack that he shared with his seven siblings. He uses his own life as a living example for those from similar backgrounds, highlighting the possibilities open to those who focus on their education. After matric he gained access to youth development programmes that shaped his understanding of how strong democracies need active citizens. Armed with a Community Development Diploma from the University of the Witwatersrand and seven years of training and experience in various youth development programmes, he decided to help to build his community by opening KYP in 2007. In 2012 Madondo officially gained the title of hero — something his Kliptown community has been calling him for years. He was chosen as one of 10 CNN Heroes from a pool of 45 000 hopefuls. He is the first South African to win this accolade and was the only African representative that year. Another of his trailblazing contributions is the introduction to South Africa of the One Laptop Per Child programme. This United States-based non-profit organisation provides the world's poorest children with access to rugged, low-cost, low-power laptops with content and software designed for self-empowered learning. Demonstrating the humility that is characteristic of true heroes Madondo glosses over the accolades he has received and cites as his greatest achievement the 20 young people who have graduated from his programme and gone on to college or university. — Taryn Mackay

 Website: kliptownyouthprogram.org.za

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Ntshadi Mofokeng

Co-ordinator: Community Leadership Programme, Equal Education

At age 14 Ntshadi Mofokeng got a rare opportunity to attend high school in New York. It was a life-changing experience that led to a BA in Political Science from Bryn Mawr College and a passion for education. "I've always felt a commitment towards paying forward what I'd gained," she says. She got the opportunity to do so in 2012 when she joined Equal Education — a non-governmental organisation that promotes activism around education. Today the 24-year-old co-ordinates the Community Leadership Programme, which helps post-school youth to become active citizens within their communities and within South Africa. This means equipping them with the communication, organisational and political skills needed to find their voice and make it heard. "I'm tired of being fed the tired story that young people in South Africa are disengaged, apolitical, apathetic. I work with fellow young people to show that we care and that we will be part of the solutions to the problems that affect us," says Mofokeng. — Cat Pritchard

 Website: equaleducation.org.za



ROGAN WARD

Mnikelo Ndabankulu

Spokesperson: Abahlali baseMjondolo Movement

Mnikelo Ndabankulu is one of 12-million South Africans who "abahlali baseMjondolo" ("live in shack dwellings"), which often lack electricity, sanitation and refuse collection. In 2004 Ndabankulu migrated from the Eastern Cape to Durban in pursuit of a better life. Appalled by the squalor to which South Africa's urban poor have been relegated, he co-founded the now national Abahlali baseMjondolo Movement (AbM). Today, as spokesperson for the movement, he works to hold government accountable for the promises they have made to the poor. Since its formation in 2005 AbM has mobilised communities into a force that insists on the right to a quality life for all. The organisation has achieved a number of epoch-shifting legal victories to date. The Constitutional Court victory against the KwaZulu-Natal Slums Act in 2009 was one of the most important of these. These successes have come with heavy consequences and Ndabankulu describes part of his job as providing protection and security for activists from police brutality and arbitrary arrest.

Despite the violence employed to subjugate the movement, Ndabankulu does not view its actions as antagonistic towards the state. He explains the movement's stance: "No matter how hard we fight against the government they are not our enemies. We don't hate people. We hate oppressive actions and oppressive structures." To build international solidarity around the movement Ndabankulu played one of the lead roles in a recent documentary, *Dear Mandela*. This role was recognised by Amnesty International's Movies that Matter Foundation, which gave him the Golden Butterfly award for human rights — presented to him at The Hague. Ndabankulu, who sustains his activism by working at his brother's tuck shop, has vowed that even when he can afford to he won't move out of his shack unless his whole community gets houses. — Taryn Mackay

 Website: abahlali.org

Gabriella Razzano

Head of Legal Research: Open Democracy Advice Centre

Freedom of expression — the right to be informed and to translate that information into action — goes to the heart of what it means to be human. Like all intrinsic rights, it must be protected. Stellenbosch-born, 29-year-old Gabriella Razzano stands guard in defence of this liberty. After graduating with a BA LLB she cut her teeth as a law clerk at the Constitutional Court. Here, she found the professional calling she harnesses today as Head of Legal Research at the Open Democracy Advice Centre (Odac). Odac provides practical legal counselling to individuals and organisations with a social justice agenda. Razzano's research frequently results

in parliamentary submissions. To expand her frame of reference she contributes to global framing discussions on the issue. Notably, she was a member of the original drafting team that created the African Union's Model Law on Access to Information, which was adopted in February 2013 by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. — Taryn Mackay

 Twitter: @jablet
Website: opendemocracy.org.za
Website: opengovernmentafrica.com



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Gavin Silber

Deputy Secretary General: Social Justice Coalition

Gavin Silber dreams of everyone in Khayelitsha (and the rest of South Africa) having access to a safe, clean toilet. Silber, a founding member and deputy secretary general of the Social Justice Coalition (SJC), a social movement that campaigns for safe, healthy and dignified communities in some of South Africa's largest and most underdeveloped townships, says it is a travesty that one in three in people in the country lives without proper sanitation. Silber, who holds an honours degree in International Affairs and Political Economy from Stellenbosch University, works with about 2000 young activists in Khayelitsha who, despite living in abysmal conditions, continue to believe in their power as "active citizens to prompt change". "Our campaign for toilets speaks to the most fundamental needs of the poor and working class, but also forces all people to question inequality and social justice in South Africa," he says. The SJC promotes active citizenship through education, policy, research and community organisation, seeing these elements as fundamental to holding

government accountable and making it more open and responsive. According to Silber, whereas many advocacy groups in South Africa focus exclusively on national policy, the SJC is interested in ensuring that local government is held accountable for delivering effectively the most basic services, including water, sanitation and, increasingly, housing. With 11 active branches and over 40 partner organisations, the SJC is growing in size as much as in stature. Silber also serves as treasurer and a board member of Ndifuna Ukwazi, an organisation that provides support to social movements and non-governmental organisations in the form of research capacity and legal and strategic advice. He previously worked as a researcher for the Treatment Action Campaign and, with Zackie Achmat, co-founded the Centre for Law and Social Justice, the precursor to Ndifuna Ukwazi. — Charles Molele

Twitter: @Gavin_Silber
Website: sjc.org.za

Buntu Fihla

Founder and Chairman: Dlala Indima

Many communities have slums, unemployed youth and wells of untapped creativity. So why not bring these together? That's the role of Dlala Indima, a non-governmental organisation that uses the arts as a tool for social cohesion and community beautification. What started out as an artist residency concept in Phakamisa, near King William's Town, grew into a labour of love for its founder, 31-year-old Buntu Fihla, a graphic designer and art director by trade and a creative force by reputation. Under Fihla's guidance the creative team turned a drug den into an informal youth centre, painted murals and set up exhibitions and a core group of creative drivers. Today Dlala Indima, which means "playing your role", is helping community members to do exactly that. When funding dried up the community donated their spare belongings. Today the space is well loved and used, hosting everything from study sessions and a DIY cinema to open discourse and dance groups. Fihla is still playing his role. — Cat Pritchard

Twitter: @BIEF37



Gcobani Qambela

Researcher and Master's Candidate: Medical Anthropology

HIV and Aids may be a medical issue but Gcobani Qambela knows that the social sciences can uncover why behavioural interventions don't work and what strategies sub-Saharan governments should adopt. Qambela is completing his master's in Medical Anthropology at Rhodes, researching Xhosa men and issues of risk, responsibility and vulnerability in relation to HIV and Aids. His "big break" came in 2009, when he was selected by a Princeton University professor to help to research the "governance of infectious diseases". By 2011 he was working full-time for the Centre for Aids Development, Research and Evaluation, where he still consults on HIV

and Aids programme evaluations in the Eastern Cape. He also shares his passion and knowledge through Youth Hub Africa, for which he serves as the South African correspondent. Last year he was a member of the Unesco/Peace Child International task force of global youth leaders who put together the youth summary of Unesco's Global Monitoring Report 2012. — Cat Pritchard

Twitter: @GcobaniQambela



FOR NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP

The Southern Africa Youth Exchange nurtures leaders for the future through exchanges between talented and socially committed young people across the countries of the southern Africa region. It promotes civic participation by young people across borders, exposes young leaders to development challenges and workable solutions in the different southern African countries, and promotes a shared southern African regional identity amongst next generation leaders in different fields.

Through the dynamism of young people, sayXchange builds bridges between communities across the region and boosts intercultural understanding amongst the citizens of southern Africa.

The 2013 exchange between Mozambique, Zambia, South Africa, and Malawi is now open for applications from young people from these countries who qualify.

Go to www.southernaficatruftrust.org for more information or contact Katiana Ramsamy on +27 11 318 1012 or kramsamy@southernaficatruftrust.org.



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Nomusa Makhubu

Artist and Art History Lecturer: Rhodes University

Award-winning artist and hardcore academic Nomusa Makhubu manages to walk a mental tightrope of creativity and intellectualism. Makhubu sees the different aspects of what she does as going hand in hand, stating that “the arts are not only forms of expression but are also important modes of reflection that critique intricate sociopolitical environments and the powers that influence people’s everyday lives”. A lecturer in Art History at Rhodes University, Makhubu is currently completing the research for her PhD. She is also a successful artist who has exhibited in nine countries. “Identity” is a strong

theme in her work and she explores it in her acclaimed *Self-Portrait Project* series by projecting images of herself on to historically sensitive material. In 2006 she won both the Gerard Sekoto Award sponsored by the French Embassy, the French Institute and the Alliance Française and the Woman of the Year Award in the Art category from Rhodes Amnesty International. — Billy Rivers

 **website:** ru.ac.za



Mmabatho Mokiti

Founder and Managing Director: Mathemaniacs

Mmabatho Mokiti believes we need more inventions by Africans for Africans and she is making this happen one maths and science pupil at a time. Her company, Mathemaniacs, offers one-on-one maths, science and accounting tutoring as well as teacher training to school and university students. The company this 28-year old Boksburg local started in 2010 with only R500 in her pocket has won numerous awards, including being runner-up in the Business Partners Ltd, IBM and IFC Young Entrepreneur Business Plan competition. Helping hundreds of learners to get better marks is not enough for Mokiti. She is also director of the Dad Fund, a non-profit organisation that provides bursaries for prospective university students. Mokiti draws her inspiration from pupils like the one who started his matric year with a 17% mark for maths but achieved 89% at the end of it. He is now studying Medicine at the University of Cape Town. — Victoria John

 **Twitter:** @mmabathomokiti

Kate Wilkinson Media Officer: Equal Education

At 24 Kate Wilkinson heads the media operations of Equal Education (EE), one of the biggest non-governmental organisations in the country. EE is dedicated to ensuring quality and equality within the South African education system. A BA graduate of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, where she founded the Progressive Students Movement, Wilkinson went on to complete an honours degree in International Relations at the University of Cape Town. Looking for part-time work and not wanting to “fall into the waitressing trap”, she became involved with the Right2Know campaign (R2K). “I think it was here that my interest really shifted toward civil society,” she says. After graduating Wilkinson sought an opportunity to make a difference at grassroots level. Towards the end of 2011, and having previously worked as a fundraiser for Doctors Without Borders, she applied for a job as a junior fund-raiser with EE. Instead, impressed by her work with R2K and her interest in writing and journalism, they offered her the position of media officer. Under her leadership EE’s media campaigns have played an essential role

in preventing the unjust closure of schools and have exposed maladministration throughout the South African education system. The pressure created by the campaigns also contributed to forcing Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga to meet EE’s demands on school infrastructure regulations. Because of EE’s community-driven nature Wilkinson is able to experience, first-hand, the importance of working with organisations and individuals on the ground. More than anything she enjoys the opportunity to facilitate change within the system by working with teachers and students. “It’s incredibly inspiring to work with learners who have dedicated their very young lives to ensuring that not just themselves but all learners who come after them receive a quality education.” — Billy Rivers

 **Twitter:** @kateomega
Website: kateomega.wordpress.com



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Lebang Nong

Founder and Chairman:
Katleho Pele Education

Through his tutoring and mentorship organisation Katleho Pele Education, founded in 2006, Lebang Nong has coached pupils who have gone on to become some of the top matriculants in Soweto. Last year, a pupil who came into his programme with a Grade 11 Maths mark of 26% matriculated with a mark of 80%. That's a remarkable achievement, but, for Nong, it's not just about helping the almost 300 grade eight to grade 12 pupils the organisation tutors to do well at school. He also teaches them interview skills and helps them with university applications. Nong participated in his first social justice campaign — against drugs and alcohol abuse — at the age of nine. Protecting and promoting people's dreams isn't easy but the experience he gained by campaigning from such a young age gave him the strength he needed to continue tutoring during the teacher strikes of 2007, despite threats to his safety.

— Victoria John

 **Twitter:** @lebangnong
 **Facebook:** Katleho Pele Education

Kennedy Kitheka

Co-Founder and Managing Director: Fündä

When he was growing up in Kenya, 24-year-old Kennedy Kitheka's mother, a teacher and a devout Christian, would give everything she earned to the local church. Inspired by her selflessness and the emphasis both his parents placed on education, Kitheka dreamed of solving Africa's education challenges by using 21st-century technology. While studying Business Science at the University of Cape Town he joined forces with Kumbirai Gundani, Kolawole Olajide and Jason Muloongo, three friends who felt education had become a privilege rather than a right. Together, in 2009, they founded Blu-uni Mobile Solutions, a free wirelessly accessible archive for course material. Kitheka was awarded the Mazars and UCT Business Strategy prizes for his business proposals, but the Bluetooth technology on which his early initiatives were based was on the way out and something was needed to replace it. After what he remembers as heart-aching, soul-searching, brain-storming sessions in the back of Muloongo's beat-up Toyota Corolla, the group created Fündä, a social media-based education platform that allows teachers to share content with pupils. This

fledgling enterprise has already been recognised by being placed second in the South African Breweries Foundation's Social Innovation Awards. All the prize money goes right back into Fündä, developing educational content such as e-books and learning videos for the site. Earlier this year, the team was runner-up in the United Nations World Youth Summit Awards and was placed second in Superstage, a university business-idea competition. Having been voted the Best Business Venture in Africa in the Idea Works Indiafrica Awards, a personal highlight for Kitheka was being given the opportunity to present the concept of Fündä at the World Economic Forum this year. Fündä, which currently has a development mentorship at Citi Group's Bandwidth Barn in Cape Town, looks set to educate a whole new generation of potential Kennedy Kithekas. — Rudi Benadé

 **Website:** funda.ac
Website: blu-uni.com



Nikki Stein

Attorney: Section27

Nikki Stein is an attorney at Section27, focusing on the right to basic education. Working with schools in Gauteng and Limpopo she deals with issues of sexual violence, school infrastructure, learner and teacher materials and access to education. Facing a near-overwhelming volume of cases daily, 30-year-old Stein manages to cope by using her own "starfish theory", knowing that even the small difference she makes matters to an individual. Her work recently brought her up against the department of basic education and the Limpopo department of education in litigation to compel them to provide textbooks to all schools in Limpopo. Stein's

job goes beyond advocacy and into activism and she is a firm believer in the rights to equality, dignity and liberty. "I have had to learn fast since my days as a corporate lawyer [about] how to toyi-toyi outside a courtroom and use means other than the law to effect social change," she says. — Billy Rivers

 **Twitter:** @stein_nikki
Website: section27.org.za

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Sam Paddock

Executive Director: GetSmarter

Sam Paddock is executive director and co-founder of GetSmarter, an online education company endorsed by the University of Cape Town, which has successfully educated more than 13 000 students to date. "Education is a global issue," says Paddock, "and it is a privilege to be involved in a growth industry with the potential to impact people's lives so positively." Since establishing GetSmarter with his father in 2008, 30-year-old Paddock has enjoyed navigating this relatively uncharted business landscape and the freedom it affords to "fail regularly and succeed often". For him, both personally and professionally, it's all about the learning. He sees

what he does as a way of shaking things up, of disrupting outdated methods of thinking to make way for new and better ones. Paddock is a member of the Growth Academy, an initiative that trains digital artisans in township communities and provides scholarships to enable previously disadvantaged individuals to participate in online short courses.

— Billy Rivers



Twitter: @sampaddock

Website: getsmarter.co.za

Elizabeth Nosizwe Vale

PhD Candidate: Oxford

Elizabeth Nosizwe Vale's career has been characterised by a combination of academic excellence and a strong sense of social justice. After matriculating with distinction in 2006 she proceeded to Rhodes University, where she became president of the Student HIV/Aids Resistance Campaign, co-founded the Gender Action Campaign, the Students in Solidarity with Abahlali baseMjondolo campaign and the My Body, My Choice campaign. She received her BA Hons with distinction and went on to do a master's degree in Sociology in 2012, when she was awarded a Mandela-Rhodes Scholarship. Today the 24-year-old is researching the ethnography of medication-taking practices among HIV-positive teenagers in the Eastern Cape as part of a PhD in Evidence-based Social Intervention at Oxford University. She credits her activist parents with her sense of history, her fierce commitment to this country and a sensitivity to the complexity of its challenges. — Rudi Benadé



Website: rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/about/rhodes-scholars



"Every individual has something of value that must be nurtured and channelled to make a difference to those around them, creating a ripple effect that benefits all of humanity."



Yusuf Talia

President: Union of Muslim Students' Association of South Africa

Yusuf Talia has set himself the goal of invigorating young people and proving that they are all capable of attaining their goals if they maintain their passion and determination. Diagnosed at an early age with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Talia has been wheelchair-bound since he was 10. Now 24, he has a Bachelor of Accounting Science degree. In the first year of his second degree, a BSc at the University of the Witwatersrand, one of his lungs collapsed and he spent 42 days in intensive care. After recovering, Talia steeled himself for the task of catching up with his studies and is now in his final year. Fascinated with physiology, he dreams of becoming a medical doctor. Guided by the words of Umar Ibn Al Khattab, Talia believes that: "If something is meant to go elsewhere, it will never come your way, but if it is yours by destiny, from it you cannot flee." In pursuit of this destiny he contributes to a number of bodies on campus and in the Muslim community, with the aim of creating a world in which all our differences

are understood and able to find expression. As a member of the Disabled Students Movement Talia organised the first disability awareness concert in the Muslim community, in 2009. He has represented student interests on the Higher Education Disability Service Association for the past two years. As president of the Union of Muslim Students' Association of South Africa, Talia does not only focus on issues of disability. He is also the head of mentorship at Redineo, an organisation that steers the educational development of underprivileged children. "Every individual has something of value that must be nurtured and channelled to make a difference to those around them, creating a ripple effect that benefits all of humanity," he explains.

— Taryn Mackay



Twitter: @yusuf_talia

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Sibongile Khumalo

Academic Director: Student Sponsorship Programme

Sibongile Khumalo considers herself an alternative thinker, which is perhaps why, having received her master's degree in Sleep Physiology at the University of the Witwatersrand, she decided to make a difference in people's lives. Pursuing a career in education she used the influence this afforded her to help underprivileged children. In 2006 she volunteered for the Student Sponsorship Programme (SSP), a non-profit trust that provides high school scholarships to disadvantaged South African children. A year later Khumalo was heading SSP's operations in East London. It was here that

she joined Rotary International and established a literacy class in Gonubie township, teaching women of all ages how to read and write in isiXhosa. Still as selfless and single-minded as ever, she now works as SSP's academic director in Johannesburg and spends every Saturday running a media centre and library at Thabisang Primary School in Soweto. "I love the fact that I am influencing people, that I'm changing lives," she says. — Billy Rivers

Twitter: @desbo__jhb

Kave Bulambo

Director: Women Across Borders

At the age of 17 Kave Bulambo fled the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, spending a year in refugee camps before crossing into South Africa. Unperturbed, she finished high school and received a scholarship allowing her to study for a degree in Psychology at Harvard University. She returned to South Africa and, despite struggling to get permanent residence, considers herself unaffected by her refugee status. In 2008 she realised others weren't as lucky and founded the non-profit Women Across Borders, offering social support and English literacy skills to female refugees. During the day she is a training and assessment officer at Gold Peer Education, where she is involved in the implementation of youth leadership programmes. Thanks to the 28-year-old's efforts, her daughter Abigail will be part of a new generation of professional women we ought to be proud to call South African, regardless of what is written in their passports. — Rudi Benadé

Website: womenacrossborders.org.za
Website: goldpe.org.za



Nicholas Spaul

Education Researcher and Lecturer: Stellenbosch University

German statistician Andreas Schleicher said: "Without data, you are just another person with an opinion." It's a quote by which Nic Spaul lives his professional life. The 26-year-old is a member of the Research on Socioeconomic Policy team at Stellenbosch University, which analyses the data that inform South Africa's education policies. Spaul says there aren't enough people in the country who can interrogate problems in empirically rigorous ways, which means that all too often opinions or small local studies make policy. He hopes to change this. He is adamant that offering high-quality education to every child, not only the rich, is the key to a fairer South African society. It's not surprising, then, to find that his family put books, education and learning rather than TV on a pedestal. In addition to lecturing to international students at Stellenbosch University on economic development in Africa, he is studying towards his doctorate in Economics with a focus on primary education. His master's thesis on equity and efficiency in South African primary schools showed that far too many

South African pupils are functionally illiterate and functionally innumerate (do not have reading, writing and arithmetic skills beyond the basic level needed to manage daily living and working tasks). His work not only highlighted how flawed and unequal our education system is, it also resonated in international circles when a version was published this year in the prestigious *International Journal of Educational Development*. When Spaul visits schools that are so neglected they don't even have toilets, and when he is repeatedly confronted with shocking statistics about underperformance he doesn't despair, he gets angry. It's what motivates him to continue his work as a lecturer, academic and researcher-at-large because, if you don't truly understand the data about low and unequal performance, Spaul says, you can't fix the problem. — Victoria John

Twitter: @NicSpaul
Website: nicspaul.com

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Mashanda believes every South African citizen has the responsibility to take action to make the country a better place.



Patrick Mashanda

District Co-ordinator: IkamvaYouth

It's not good enough just to blame government for society's ills, Patrick Mashanda believes. Every South African citizen has the responsibility to take action to make the country a better place. Mashanda is doing just that by giving struggling township teenagers the support they need to pass matric, get into university, and go on to become educated and productive citizens. As a district co-ordinator in Gauteng and the North West for non-governmental organisation IkamvaYouth, he facilitates the after-school tutoring and career guidance of high school pupils. It's a worthy cause, given that only about 16% of young South Africans participate in higher education. Mashanda knows all about hardship. He grew up in a rural village in the Midlands province of Zimbabwe as one of 26 children of a polygamous father and a mother who could not write her name. Years of poverty and intermittent schooling only strengthened Mashanda's resolve to get an education and free himself from his circumstances. An uncle paid for his high school education and Mashanda eventually became the only one of his siblings to get

a university degree. But life in Zimbabwe in the mid-2000s was anything but stable, so he, like thousands of others, fled to South Africa, where he worked as a petrol attendant for two years. He never took his eye off the social justice prize, though, so, in various research jobs and working for non-governmental organisations, he founded the Hope Warriors Children's Charity, which helps vulnerable children in the Soshanguve community with after-school support, uniforms, stationery and a feeding programme. He joined IkamvaYouth in 2012 and his dedication to the education dream couldn't have been reflected more clearly than in the 100% final exam pass rate of the matrics on last year's IkamvaYouth programme. Education is your passport out of poverty, Mashanda says. Get it. — Victoria John



Twitter: @ikamvayouthGP

Website: ikamvayouth.org

Website: hopewarriorschildrenscharity.co.uk

Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh

Co-Founder: InkuluFreeHeid

After matriculating from the stone-arched halls of St John's College and completing his Xhosa initiation rites Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh did an honours degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics at the University of Cape Town, where he was elected president of the students' representative council and was awarded an internship at the United States House of Representatives. At 18 he co-founded Grow2Lead, a youth leadership programme which set the stage for his most recent endeavour, InkuluFreeHeid, a social movement that unites politics and civil society. In 2006 he was speaker of the Johannesburg Junior City Council and was nominated for an All Africa Music award for a hip hop album he released with AKA and Greyhound. Today the 24-year-old runs his mouth in the aid of political activism and is pursuing a master's at Oxford. He will present InkuluFreeHeid as an ambassador for One Young World at the London-based charity's summit in Johannesburg in September. — Rudi Benadé



Twitter: @sizwemw



Hedley Twidle

Archive and Public Research Fellow and Lecturer: University of Cape Town

Dr Hedley Twidle grew up in Aggeneys, a mining town that "made Pofadder look like the Big City", before travelling to Oxford, where he read English and worked as a barman and as a "jumper-outer" in the haunted vaults of Edinburgh. He completed his doctorate at York University, the result of which is a cultural biography of Main Road, Sea Point, soon to be released as a monograph entitled *Sea / Point / Contact*. He has written for the *New Statesman* and the *Financial Times* and has contributed to various journals and books, including the *Cambridge History of South African Literature*. At UCT he teaches and supervises

students from first year to master's and also teaches community leaders in Khayelitsha as part of the Equal Education campaign. In 2012 he won the FT/Bodley Head Prize for his essay on what it means to be a lecturer at UCT, the university "where JM Coetzee's pigeonhole lingers".

— Rudi Benadé



Website: seapointcontact.wordpress.com

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Jeanie le Roux

Director of Operations: Treasure Karoo Action Group

As South Africans we are all indebted to the efforts of 25-year-old Jeanie le Roux and the team she works with in the Treasure Karoo Action Group (TKAG). Had they not intervened on our behalf, shale gas extraction in the Karoo would have been a *fait accompli*. Le Roux, who was raised in Cape Town, is responsible for maintaining the TKAG database that is the basis for the civil and legal battle against shale gas extraction, or fracking, as it is commonly known. After completing her master's in Environmental Management at the University of Stellenbosch in 2011 she began working for TKAG, in what she describes as her dream job. Le Roux hopes that public awareness about fracking will serve as a catalyst for movement towards recognising humans as part of the ecological-social system, rather than viewing the environment as a static phenomenon and a luxury "retreat" for the rich. — Taryn Mackay

 **Twitter:** @JeanieleRoux

Xoliswa Fuyani

Environmental Co-ordinator: Earthchild Project

Xoliswa Fuyani is committed to teaching young people how to manage their waste in a way that allows fish to swim and birds to fly. But there is a question that daily plagues the environmental co-ordinator for Earthchild: "How can you love nature if you have never experienced it?" Even through the South African curriculum places huge importance on experiential learning, many schools lack the resources to create a garden, let alone to take their learners into the countryside. Fuyani and Earthchild, a Cape Town-based non-governmental organisation, aim to close this gap, teaching children to understand that there is a cycle to all things. Born and raised in Gugulethu, 29-year-old Fuyani is acutely aware of how seldom township youth get the opportunity to leave their tough urban environment to spend time in nature. Her own interest in the protection of the environment was born after school, when she got involved with the Wildlife Environmental Society of South Africa's Eco-Schools project in 2003. As an eco-schools co-ordinator she became involved in Mission

Antarctica, a campaign that raised environmental awareness among the youth through a team of environmental activists who travelled 16 000km around South Africa in six months. Today Fuyani spends her weekdays teaching students in eight schools: three in Khayelitsha and five in Lavender Hill, about worm farming. The classroom worm farms are a fun way to learn about waste reduction and recycling. Simultaneously, through the process, organic waste is transformed into a useful resource for the school. Fuyani is the organisational force behind environmental outings for the schools and the monthly hikes arranged by Earthchild. She believes that allowing children to experience "what it feels like to stand in a forest, surrounded by the stillness and glory of nature" is the surest route to raising a generation that respects themselves, others and the world. — Taryn Mackay

 **Twitter:** @xoliF
Website: earthchildproject.org



Tali Hoffman

Project Manager: MammalMAP

Experience has taught Tali Hoffman that successful conservation endeavours depend on the fusion of strong science, community education and community involvement. To this end, she is project manager of MammalMAP, an Africa-wide wildlife conservation initiative that enlists the aid of "citizen scientists" to map the 21st-century distribution of mammals across the continent. The project relies on verifiable photographs of mammals in their natural habitat. Hoffman, a seasoned public speaker and postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pretoria's Mammal Research Institute, regularly spreads the gospel of the power of citizen participation to diverse audiences. During her high school days at the National School

of the Arts, Hoffman was committed to the idea of being an actor. The time she spent after school as a tour guide in the Serengeti, the Maasai Mara and the Okavango Delta, however, moulded her ultimate commitment to involving the people of Africa in the conservation of our wilderness and biodiversity. — Taryn Mackay

 **Twitter:** @MammalMAP
Website: mammalmap.adu.org.za



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Lauren de Vos

Conservation Biologist: University of Cape Town's Marine Research Institute

Twenty-four-year-old Lauren de Vos's work as a researcher at the University of Cape Town's Marine Research Institute contributes to a growing body of scientific knowledge aimed at protecting our vulnerable oceans. In a bid to uncover a method to overcome the challenges facing regular marine monitoring of our coastline, de Vos conducted the first GoPro underwater camera survey of False Bay. An avid pianist, de Vos has channelled her creativity into finding innovative ways to communicate science. She writes regularly and edits her photographic footage into knowledge capsules that inspire her audience to fall in love with "the barefoot joy to be found in the wilderness". de Vos often speaks publicly and has represented South Africa at United Nations Environment Programme conferences in Kenya and South Korea. She is proudest of the regular talks she gives in schools that encourage younger generations to recognise their individual role in conservation and their potential as future scientists. — Taryn Mackay



Twitter: @lauren_de_vos **Blog:** barefootblog.wordpress.com



Dorette du Plessis

Outreach Manager: Limbovane Project

Dorette du Plessis is building an army of ant researchers to help to monitor biodiversity and identify environmental change. As outreach manager at the Department of Science and Technology/National Research Foundation Centre for Invasion Biology, she is leading a flagship outreach programme, the Limbovane Project, which encourages school learners to get their hands dirty and discover the world of science for themselves. Limbovane, a "citizen-science project", has, since 2006, drawn 8900 students from 18 rural secondary schools with no access to science laboratories and microscopic equipment into research, conducting ant surveys in their school grounds and nearby protected areas, at the same time expanding the available research field and research resources in a perfect example of symbiosis. Although the ants play a major role in ecosystem functioning, Du Plessis, who has an MSc in Conservation Ecology, is also playing a role in encouraging future careers in science and a lifelong love for and understanding of the environment.

— Caroline Cowan



Website: sun.ac.za/
limbovane



Roxanne Lourens

Chairperson: Green Beings

Roxanne Lourens always wanted to be a teacher. Little did she imagine that one day she would be involved not only in educating pupils but also teachers in sustainable living and the environment. Noticing a lack of leadership in this field, and frustrated by the absence of environmental education and action in schools, she and two partners started environmental non-governmental organisation Green Beings in 2010. Green Beings's motto is "acknowledge, embrace and release" and 26-year-old Lourens believes the organisation can make an impact by teaching young people and schools to acknowledge the need for more sustainable practices. One of her biggest challenges is getting a society driven by instant gratification to see the need to take action today to create a better tomorrow. By planting trees and starting recycling campaigns Green Beings aims to sow the seeds of knowledge and skills in teachers, school staff and children, as well as in the government's community works programme, with the goal being to see whole communities take responsible action. "I believe in life-long learning and encouraging people to keep learning about different things and opening up to different ways of thinking," she says. Building on the success of its pilot project in a Cosmo City school, Green Beings now runs projects in all seven schools in the area, touching the lives of over 10000 pupils and their immediate families. Collaboration is key, especially when it breaks down socioeconomic divisions. Green Beings arranged for Fourways pupils to plant indigenous trees at their own school before busing them off to assist Cosmo City pupils. For Lourens, the ultimate goal is to create a replicable model that can be rolled out to schools across all provinces and social boundaries. Lourens lives by her beliefs. Her innovative thinking and hands-on approach are what keep her moving forward on her sometimes crazy but essential mission of change. — Caroline Cowan



Website: greenbeings.co.za

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Nakampe Modike

Specialist Auditor Water

Treatment: Rand Water Board

Nakampe Modike knows the value of good water. And he is making sure that not only is there enough of this precious resource in our country but also that as many people as possible understand its value. Growing up in Relela Village in Limpopo where just getting to school meant a 6km walk, Modike was always aware of the importance of access to resources as well as to knowledge and information. Although proud of his role as specialist auditor for Rand Water Board in bringing close to 12-million people decent drinking water, his real passion is the Rural School Water Project, a community initiative focusing on awareness and education in rural schools. He believes we are where we are because of the contribution of others. Using the lingo of his other passion, playing provincial-level pool, his contribution is to empower rural youth through learning and mentorship, giving them a fair shot at the future. — Caroline Cowan

 Website: randwater.co.za

Rupert Koopman Botanist: CapeNature, Jonkerhoek

South Africa, which has the third-highest level of biodiversity in the world, is the only country to contain an entire floral kingdom. The Cape Floral Region, also known as the Cape Floral Kingdom, which has been declared a World Heritage Site, is 33-year-old Rupert Koopman's unofficial office. In 2007 Koopman completed his BSc at the University of the Western Cape and worked as an environmental consultant before taking on a targeted botany internship with the South African National Biodiversity Institute programme Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers, and CapeNature. Today his work is almost as diverse as the fynbos on which it is centred. His responsibilities at CapeNature's Scientific Services Unit, where he has worked since 2008, include specialist comment on environmental impact assessments, environmental education and threatened-plant monitoring. As part of the organisation's stewardship programme 33-year-old Koopman also focuses on convincing landowners adjacent to CapeNature's protected areas to voluntarily form part of the

protected-area network. He uses every opportunity to encourage a culture of volunteerism, which, he believes, is the wellspring of self-actualisation. Fynbos provides South Africans with a rich source of medicinal plants, from which many of us benefit without being aware of the fact. Koopman seeks to raise awareness of the various ways in which we rely on fynbos and the natural environment and to foster a greater commitment to their conservation. In 2011 he was elected chairman of the Kirstenbosch branch of the Botanical Society of South Africa, an honour that testifies to the respect he has garnered in a short time. He also serves on the council of the Botanical Society, through which he works towards his goal of winning the hearts and minds of various sectors of society to ensure that our great biological heritage is maintained for future generations. — Taryn Mackay

 Twitter: @RK_ct
Website: capenature.co.za



Sebastian James Bode

MSc Mechanical Engineering: University of Stellenbosch

Sebastian Bode is obsessed with natural energy. He knows his research into solar ray tracing for concentrating solar power layouts and energy balances can help South Africa to find effective ways to use one of its biggest resources, the sun, to solve one of its biggest challenges — renewable energy. Bode's research, driven by his insatiable thirst for knowledge, is helping to put South Africa at the forefront of this critical technology. After presenting the research at Sasec, South Africa's first solar conference, Bode went on to win the 2012 Record (Renewable Energy

Centre of Research and Development) renewable energy research excellence award for most promising "blue sky" research project. But Bode is not merely a theoretician. When he's not questioning how concentrated solar power can change the way we generate electricity he channels his energy into fighting fires as a volunteer and into competitive gymnastics, for which he holds national colours. — Caroline Cowan

 Twitter: @sebastianbode

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Thabo Mthembu

Researcher: Living Planet Unit, WWF

Thabo Mthembu challenges our old ways of thinking. As a researcher in the Living Planet Unit at the Worldwide Fund for Nature he is constantly trying to change the way people look at climate change and renewable energy, working with the private sector, government and civil society to find the best ways to realise South Africa's full energy potential. No stranger to a challenging debate, Mthembu once shared the podium with former president Thabo Mbeki, discussing how to combat energy poverty and the future of renewable energy within South Africa's infrastructure expansion programme. He found his

passion for renewable energy while doing his master's in Global Studies in Germany but it was in India that he became inspired by the way even the most impoverished citizens were using innovative energy techniques. He just hopes his research will one day help South Africa to shift to a low-carbon economy.

— Caroline Cowan

 **YouTube:** Thabo Mthembu

Kim Sarah Bernard

Assistant Professor: College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences: Oregon State University

When Americans begin saluting the sun after an icy winter Kim Bernard, an assistant marine biology professor at Oregon State University, starts digging out her extreme-weather gear in preparation for a very different summer. Pietermaritzburg-born Bernard, who holds a PhD in Marine Biology from Rhodes, spends her summers at the United States Palmer Station on the Western Antarctic Peninsula. A typical day is spent in a small inflatable boat, engulfed by the stark beauty of this remote tundra. Bernard's research focuses on the impact of climate change on polar ecosystems and informs international marine management. Professionally, she is proudest of having presented her research to former US Vice-President Al Gore and the Climate Reality Project team when they visited the station in 2012. Braving the glacial Antarctic water and swimming across the narrow Hero Inlet in the company of leopard seals was, however, her most invigorating task. — Taryn Mackay

 **Facebook:** Kim Sarah Bernard


Motivated by this desire to break through her comfort zone, after matric Liliana embarked on a three-month solo backpacking tour of Africa.



Linzi Lewis

Co-founder: AMbush Eco-Art Collective and Ethnobotanist

Linzi Lewis starts every weekday morning with a 15km bicycle ride to her work in the Maboneng Precinct. It is by simple but powerful acts like this ritualistic ride that she contributes to a healthier relationship between humans and the Earth. It's also her way of slaying the fear that she believes is bred into South Africans: a fear of the unknown that constricts our ability to live freely. Motivated by this desire to break through her comfort zone, after matric Liliana Transplanter, as she is also known, embarked on a three-month solo backpacking tour of Africa. Among many other lessons, the trip taught her how to be brave and to trust both herself and others. On her return to Jo'burg she began her studies in Environment and Conservation. Lewis won the prestigious European Union Erasmus Mundus scholarship, which enabled her to study Sustainable Tropical Forestry and complete two MSc degrees, one in Copenhagen, the other in Montpellier. During this time she visited and studied the forests of the world. As a third-generation dancer, 27-year-old Lewis works constantly

to uncover ways in which art can be employed to communicate within science. In 2011 her musings culminated in the formation of the AMbush Eco-Art Collective. The members of the fledgling organisation were commissioned to be resident artists on the Climate Train as part of COP17, creating gardens in 17 South African towns. Since then, they have grown guerrilla gardens in cityscapes throughout South Africa. The basis of the AMbush approach is to involve the community in the entire greening process. This "promotes agency and local responsibility and ensures that the intervention is relevant and sustainable", says Lewis, who choreographs the artistic and scientific in her bid to create more socioecologically resilient societies. — Taryn Mackay

 **Blog:** ambush-gardeningcollective.blogspot.com
Website: siyabloma.org

Khambule's philosophy is that "every generation equips the next generation with knowledge".



Happy Khambule

Gauteng Co-ordinator: Project 90 x 2030

Happy Khambule loves being part of a collective. It's his "we" attitude that makes him a British Council Global Changemaker and International Climate Champion. Khambule, a climate-change activist with a law degree, dreamt in early childhood of being president. Now he not only aspires to shape South Africa's environmental policies but also to effect real change within communities, working with schools and the youth to create awareness of climate change. Although he has big ambitions he doesn't allow them to overshadow his passions. The work he does as Gauteng co-ordinator of Project 90 x 2030 allows him to strike the right balance between the two. The project challenges society to change the way it lives in order to preserve the environment. The aim is to reduce our carbon footprint by 90% by the year 2030. Khambule's philosophy is that "every generation equips the next generation with knowledge". It is his job to get schools in the province to change their attitude towards the environment by setting up

green clubs and educating pupils about sustainable behaviours. In light of his involvement with Ashoka Youth Ventures, a global project that gets young people thinking about how to address social issues, it is only natural that the work he does focuses so strongly on change. But getting people to change has its own challenges. To keep the youth interested and involved in climate change Khambule and his team continually have to think of more innovative and exciting campaigns using social media and whatever other tools are available. His mom has always told him to enjoy whatever it is that he does. Khambule takes that advice further. He loves what he does — working with people and making change happen. "When you see change happen and it has come about from a collective effort that is perfect."

— Caroline Cowan



Website: 90x2030.org.za

Linda Olagunju

Senior Legal and Compliance
Director: Mulilo Renewable Energy

Linda Olagunju may have been recognised as a Global Shaper by the World Economic Forum but before she changes the entire world, her focus is on changing the way Africa manages its natural resources. She is committed to being part of the team of professionals who will bring positive change to government policies on the use of these resources. Just 29 and one of the first black female attorneys in the renewable energy sector, Olagunju has been involved in critical deals such as Eskom's \$250-m World Bank Loan for renewable projects and Mulilo Renewable Energy's bid to become the first independent renewable energy power producer in the country. She is founder of DLO Energy Resources, which initiated Renewable Energy Forum SA, and runs a pan-African online magazine, www.africabe.com. Seems this powerhouse has plenty of energy left in her.

— Caroline Cowan



Twitter: @lindaolagunju

Website: dloenergy.com



Regina Kgatle

Electrical and Computer Engineering Student: UCT

Regina Kgatle believes that learning should be fun, regardless of whether or not a student can afford an iPad. So she decided to level the playing field by using e-waste and other recycled materials to create her Educational Arcade Machine, making learning fun and free. Pre-programmed to match the school curriculum, the machines help to build strong foundations in learning, using simple games and lessons to help learners to excel in all areas of life. Her efforts haven't gone unnoticed. In 2012 Young People International Affairs listed her as one of their Top 35 under-35 African Leaders.

As a third-year Electrical and Computer Engineering student at the University of Cape Town, Kgatle continues to use her knowledge and success to inspire others. While other students are relaxing at home, Kgatle is filling her holidays with school talks in her hometown of Hammanskraal, in North West. No doubt her message is as fun as it is educational.

— Caroline Cowan



Facebook: Regina Kgatle

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Barry Bateman

Correspondent:
Eyewitness News

The Oscar Pistorius case thrust Barry Bateman into the social media spotlight, gaining him 139 000 new Twitter followers in a week. He says engagement was the key. "Other journalists were there, tweeting the same information, but I made a point early on to engage with my followers; to answer questions as much as possible." He takes this social media platform seriously, applying the same principles of journalism he would to traditional media. He is thrilled by the new media's global reach, but true satisfaction comes from bringing wrongdoers to book, as happened with the metro police deputy chief exposé that led to

criminal prosecution and earned Bateman a National Press Club award. Bateman has been commissioned to co-write a book on the Pistorius and Reeva Steenkamp case, whose title is still to be confirmed. True to form, Bateman broke the story of the Gupta jet landing at the Waterkloof Air Force Base, giving his growing Twitter following the inside scoop on yet another scandal. — Joonji Mdyogolo

 **Twitter:** @barrybateman



COURTESY FOOD NETWORK

Sibahle Mtongana

Food writer, Cooking Show Host

An endorsement from Jenny Morris, the Giggling Gourmet, is no laughing matter. Asked by her Food Network bosses in the United Kingdom to look out for new talent, Morris, the first South African chef to feature on the international network, sent a picture of Sibahle Mtongana accompanied by a motivation. "She's a beautiful South African, inside and out," she says, adding "I was the first to fall in love with her." The head of the network flew over to meet Mtongana and also fell under her spell, offering her the opportunity to be the second South African to headline her own show on the franchise. Mtongana is currently filming her new cooking show to air here, in the UK and in more than 90 other countries from the middle of this year. Morris is right, Mtongana has a grace and humility that frequently diminish in others when they end up in the spotlight. Morris was not the first person to fall in love with Mtongana, who focuses on traditional South African food. The celebrity chef and food writer had already been the star of her own show, *Cooking with Siba*, on MNet's Mzansi Magic, which proved so popular that in its second season the number of episodes was doubled. Mtongana got her training and established her name as food editor of *Drum*. At the height of her popularity, she decided to go it alone, a brave move that's starting to pay off. She's been a judge on *Masterchef South Africa*, featured by both *Destiny* and *Cosmopolitan* as a woman to watch and has won several awards, including a 2013 South African Film and Television Award for *Cooking with Siba*. She writes columns for Woolworths' *TASTE* and *City Press's iMag* magazine. South Africa is clearly taken with Mtongana, and the world is about to find out why. — Joonji Mdyogolo



Dara Kell

Documentary Filmmaker

You can learn a lot from a filmmaker's credits. Dara Kell's give credit where credit is long overdue — gay rights, domestic violence and shack-dweller associations such as Abahlali baseMjondolo — the focus of her award-winning documentary, *Dear Mandela*. Based in New York, this Rhodes University graduate spent more than four years travelling, filming, editing, even risking her life, to capture the heart of the movement but also the democracy that drives its success and South Africa's housing failures. *Dear Mandela* has been screened in 28 countries and translated into eight languages. It was named Best South African Documentary at the Durban International Film Festival and won the Grand Jury Prize at the Brooklyn Film Festival. Yet Kell cites winning the community's trust as her proudest moment. Making the invisible visible is what she does so passionately, or, as one audience member puts it: "There is something we have that's beautiful, even though we are shack-dwellers, even though people might not notice us." — Cat Pritchard

 **Twitter:** @darakell **Website:** dearmandela.com

 **Twitter:** @sibamntongana

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Malcolm Rees

Financial Investigative Journalist: Moneyweb

It must be satisfying to hear Pravin Gordhan reference your work in his budget speech. Malcolm Rees knows the feeling. His investigations into garnishees and irregularities around insurance loans and credit providers caught the attention of the national treasury, which set up a task team to investigate wrongdoings. It looks as though laws will be changed and offenders brought to book. Welcome to the human side of macroeconomics, the part that 28-year-old Rees questions every day as a financial investigative journalist. His investigation into the department of public works uncovered endemic fraud

and won him the Citadel Award for "breaking news story of the year, online" in 2011 — his first year on the job. This year he was shortlisted for the Taco Kuiper prize for investigative journalism. For him it's about addressing social and economic inequalities by "looking at people through a financial lens and trying to understand how economics impacts on how they live." — Cat Pritchard

 **Twitter:** @malcrees

Tebogo Malope

Director and Cinematographer

As a child growing up in Soweto, Tebogo Malope knew he wanted to be a storyteller. By the time he was a teenager he had already started gaining work experience in the dramatic arts: directing community theatre plays and earning money by tuning and tweaking his neighbours' TV sets. He worked as camera assistant on the sets of the TV series *Hard Copy* and *The Lab*, paying his dues by rolling cables and "pulling focus", before serving as second unit director on the award-winning *A Country Imagined*, starring Johnny Clegg. Today, he is a prolific director of music videos and advertisements across the continent and has published an anthology of photographs with Pako Magabane, called *Black Ambition: Life in Two Lenses*. Back home, the 29-year-old's work as director of popular dramas such as *Skeem Saam 2* and *Tempy Pushas*, now streams on to those rickety TV screens he used to fix. — Rudi Benadé

 **Twitter:** @tebogomalope
Website: tebogomalope.com



Tanja Lategan

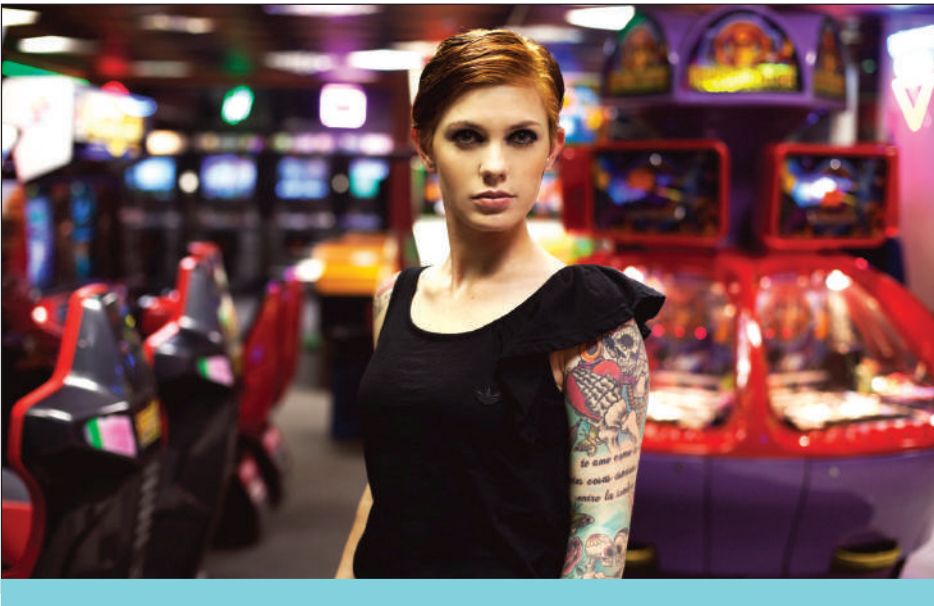
Chief Executive: Primedia Online

Tanja Lategan, the daughter of Sanlam Unit Trust chief executive Stephanus Lategan, has chief executive pedigree. Lesson number five from her father's apparently infinite catalogue of teachings was "sharpen your axe" and Lategan honed hers by graduating from the University of Stellenbosch with a degree in Business and Information Science and following it up with two years of sales experience in the United Kingdom while on a working-holiday visa. She returned in 2006 and joined Touchline Media as a sales executive, soon being placed in charge of growing their online department from scratch. Her success brought her to the attention of Primedia Online, who enlisted her as commercial director in 2008 and made her chief executive less than four years later. Primedia consists of 365 Digital and *iafrica.com*, one of the largest and most established portals in the country. Since her appointment Lategan has launched two divisions within the company: Dash of Lime (DOL), the company's sales house and South Africa's largest premium publishing network, and Juice Content, its

content syndication and strategy division. Under her leadership DOL has grown to become South Africa's largest premium publisher network, with a combined reach of over five million unique users across web and mobile platforms. It represents more than 47 commercial channels nationally and internationally and recently acquired the exclusive South African representation of MailOnline, one of the world's largest news sites. As part of the Primedia Bursary Programme Lategan is mentoring a young female UCT Business Science student, showing her that it's possible to make it as a professional businesswoman in a male-dominated corporate world "without painting on a beard". But how does one work nine-to-nine and still find time at weekends to go horse riding through the forests of Tokai? That, says Tanja, is lesson number 492. — Rudi Benadé

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Website: primediaonline.co.za

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Pippa Tshabalala

Gamer, Writer, Presenter, Producer

When Pippa Tshabalala started presenting *The Verge*, South Africa's first locally produced show about video games, someone online called her a "pretty-faced bitch". She didn't let it lie: "I have a master's degree in animation and just because I am a woman doesn't mean I don't understand the industry," she shot back. "A lot of people came around after that." It's frustrating, says Tshabalala, who has been gaming since she was 10, that people still don't realise that the average gamer is not a pubescent white boy. But she's not interested in preaching to the ignorant, she's too busy navigating her busy schedule. She is brand ambassador for Adidas and writes for NAG, *Gamecca*, *Gadget*, *Girl Guides*, *Obrigado* and *Gearburn*. Since *The Verge* ended she's been working behind the scenes as an online producer, but she can't wait to get back to presenting. "I realised that not only do I enjoy presenting, I'm good at." — Joonji Mdyogolo

 **Twitter:** @UnexpectedPippa **Blog:** pippatshabalala.blogspot.com

"I had to sink or swim, and I chose to swim." The fear that has always helped her to keep her head above water propels the ambition of this spoken-word poet.



Khanyisile Magubane

Radio Presenter, Filmmaker and Founder:
Zinokwanda Media and Communications

Khanyisile Magubane says she is driven by the fact that she lost her parents when she was 20. "I had to sink or swim, and I chose to swim." The fear that has always helped her to keep her head above water propels the ambition of this spoken-word poet, who is published in three anthologies and has "shared the stage with Lebo Mashile and Napo Masheane and performed around the world". She also presents two shows on SAFM — *The Friday Edition* and the Sunday gospel show, *Living Sounds*. But it's her work as a documentary filmmaker that she says makes her feel as though she's coming full circle in her career, especially after the warm reception last year of her six-part documentary series, *Why Are We So Angry?*, which probed, among other topics, xenophobia, gender violence and race. The series, which, she says, she conceived and fought to see to completion, was the realisation of a dream that had been maturing since she was at university. Magubane had originally planned to go to the Afda film school but when she saw the fees she put away the brochure. "I did not take it [the brochure] to my mother. I decided to take [my ambition] to the streets; I knew that even if I could not come out with the skills on paper, I could gain the experience myself." She's been a reporter at Radio 702, a news anchor at YFM, a magazine features writer and senior content producer for the SABC's archives audit project. At the end of last year she started her company, Zinokwanda Media and Communications, which, she says, is still in its crawling stages. She rattles off a list of projects she has underway. "My man tells me I go too hard, but I have to; I don't know anything else." — Joonji Mdyogolo



Bongani Siquko

Editor: Daily Dispatch

Bongani Siquko embodies the idea that "with power comes responsibility". As the newly appointed editor of the Eastern Cape daily, lauded for its unique brand of campaign journalism, he uses his power to ensure that the information he publishes is responsible and responsive to the community's needs. His leadership style offers new ideas but old values, many of which he learnt at his grandmother's knee. "We encourage our journalists to use their pens to fight social injustices, defend the vulnerable and fight hard for their own communities," he says. Having penned his way through every beat from education to politics, Siquko brings both experience and integrity to his managerial role. Even his brief years in corporate and government communications only proved what his heart already knew — that he is a journalist by vocation, not just training. That makes it his responsibility to be true to himself and the people who rely on him for information about their world. — Cat Pritchard

 **Twitter:** @siquko

 **Twitter:** @Khanyi_Magubane

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Nkateko Mabaso

General Manager Local Interest: M-Net

Nkateko Mabaso is a marketing man. Even as a child growing up in Pimville, Soweto, he was “always fascinated by the blinking billboards, so marketing was always going to be my destiny”. At 32, Mabaso is credited with playing an influential role in positioning Channel O, Mzansi Magic and Vuzu as the epicentre of South African youth culture. It’s tough staying relevant and fresh in the TV business, he says. “Keeping in touch with ever-changing consumer needs and upping the game in terms of creative output” is one of the biggest challenges. “Innovation is critical in moving the business forward.” Having studied Brand Management at AAA School of Advertising Mabaso started out as all good creatives do, working as an intern, first at Grey South Africa then at the Jupiter Drawing Room. The experience broadened his outlook and exposed him to “endless possibilities”. He then worked his way into the role of brand manager at Edcon before making the transition to television, as marketing manager for Channel O, Mzansi Magic and Vuzu, a position he held for three years until he was promoted to his current job. “My job really entails managing operations and the delivery of compelling creative work driven by my team and other key stakeholders,” he says. He must be doing something right: Mabaso is a member of the team that launched *Isibaya*, a telenovela set against the backdrop of the taxi industry. It was a proud moment for him and his team. “Launching an international format to the local market was not easy,” he said, “but through fearless passion for Mzansi storytelling, we have managed it.” Despite the pressure to stay ahead of the field Mabaso says he loves creating “content that speaks to the hearts and minds of our audiences”. — Bongani Kona

 **Twitter:** @Nkateko__Mabaso



Ntokozo Mbuli Presenter, Producer

From grade 6, when she started film studies, Ntokozo Mbuli wanted to work in television so badly the obsession consumed her. “I wanted my name to be among the credits,” she says. So, when she was in grade 11 she called every number listed under SABC to get an in. “I was there every school holiday and half-term break.” She decided to study at the Rand Afrikaans University (now the University of Johannesburg) in order to be close to the SABC’s studios. Driven as she is, she started with a four-minute slot doing book reviews and today is a presenter on 50/50. As a face of the brand she is called upon to be a mistress of ceremonies, gives talks and is involved in environmental initiatives. But she is happiest when she is behind the camera, as series producer, and heading the business development wing of Clive Morris Productions, the production company for which she works. — Joonji Mdyogolo

 **Twitter:** @ntokozombuli

Alex Eliseev

Radio, Online and Print Journalist

Alex Eliseev’s career has been a great adventure. Among other things, he’s chased a pet tiger around the farms of Limpopo and gone on the road with the Moscow Circus. Thanks to his investigative work, unsavoury people have been brought to book and it was he who broke the story that Hilton Botha, chief investigating officer in the Oscar Pistorius case, was himself facing criminal charges. He’s won one Mondi Shanduka award and been a finalist twice. As his career grows, however, he says he realises that it’s not just dodging danger that excites him, he wants to know what lies beneath the surface of this country. And he’s got just the story to help him to do that. He has been commissioned to write a book about the 13-year-old cold case of the murder of Betty Ketani, a story he broke and has been following ever since. The book might be the biggest thrill yet. — Joonji Mdyogolo



 **Twitter:** @alexeliseev

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Gasant Abarder

Cape Town Editor: Eyewitness News

When Gasant Abarder started his journalism career in 1997 he set himself the goal of becoming editor of the *Cape Argus* by the age of 35. He reached that milestone much earlier — being appointed editor at 31, the youngest in the paper's 156-year history. Today, at 35, he is moving on to a new project, heading Eyewitness News (EWN) in Cape Town. He says he is leaving on a high. It's been a tough time for newspapers, he admits. In fact, a year ago the *Argus* was on a downward trajectory. He helped to put it back on a sustainable path when he oversaw its conversion from a broadsheet to a tabloid with two editions a day. Though the circulation still needs work, Abarder says advertisers have found their way back. The final act of his editorship will be something he will have to enjoy from a distance: the new digital platform that launched in May. Apart from his personal achievements Abarder says he is proudest

of the people he nurtured and who have garnered the paper numerous journalism and photographic awards. "The greatest pleasure for me has been to see people excel under my leadership and become leaders in their own right." Abarder is proud of the career he's carved out for himself, which has included both print and electronic media. He worked as a news journalist for about four years at e.tv and later as an elections specialist at SABC news. He was also a member of the team that launched the *Daily Voice*, eventually becoming its deputy editor. From there he moved to the *Cape Argus*, and says he is looking forward to taking the Cape Town EWN team to new heights. — Joonji Mdyogolo

 **Twitter:** @GasantAbarder



MATTHEW JORDAAN

"The greatest pleasure for me has been to see people excel under my leadership and become leaders in their own right."



Lerato Tshabalala

Editor: True Love

It's been a steady climb to the pinnacle of the magazine world for 33-year-old Lerato Tshabalala. In 2011 she became editor of *True Love*, the bible for black women for 41 years and one of only a few titles catering to the interests of black women — a fact she considers "shocking". She moved into the hot seat in 2011 and during her editorship the magazine has, at times, reached the record sales figure of 90 000. Among the steps in her climb to the top she counts being a writer for *Fairlady*, women's editor of *Drum*, senior writer at *O*, *The Oprah Magazine* and *Marie Claire*, and assistant editor of *Real*. In 2004 she won a Mondi award for best feature with a piece provocatively titled "Would you put this up your vagina?". Now she has another target in her sights. "DJ Fresh has my dream job. Maybe I'll be DJ Gogo in my 50s!" — Joonji Mdyogolo

 **Twitter:** @LeratoTJ

Henk Pretorius

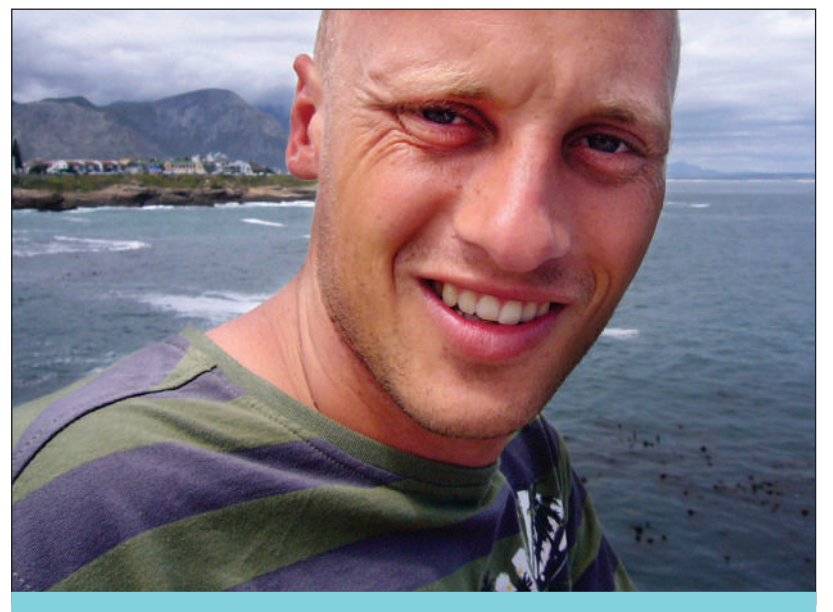
Writer, Director, Founder: Dark Matter Studios

At 31, Henk Pretorius is living the life he consciously created. There was no Plan B, only a goal to make films, whether his Afda film school degree got him the job or not. A self-proclaimed "passionate observer of humanity", Pretorius poured his ideas into two screenplays. They were both rejected. With his third screenplay he got a producer to help to raise the money and created *Bakgat* in 2006. "The first time I saw the Ster-Kinekor logo in front of my first film I burst into tears," he says. *Bakgat* went on to become South Africa's first trilogy and one of the most popular Afrikaans films ever made. Pretorius has

since created more local hits with *Hoofmeisie* and *Wolwedans in die Skemer*. Audience choice awards came with *Fanie Fourie's Lobola*, which he co-wrote and directed. Pretorius is currently trying to sign a big international star for his next film as his growing audience anticipates his break into the international market.

— Cat Pritchard

 **Twitter:** @Henk_Pretorius__
Website: dmstudios.co.za



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Willie Nel

Film Director

Willie Nel fell into his career by accident. He was about to enrol for a photography course when he overheard someone next to him talking about film school. He immediately rushed over to the Afda film school and signed up with them instead. In building his career he has relied on similar instincts. Most people on leaving film school have to become apprentices in the technical departments, to learn skills from more experienced crew members before making the leap to movies. Nel didn't do that: "I started shooting small projects, music videos and corporates until I was given a chance to shoot my first drama," he says. The programme was SABC3's newsroom drama *Hard Copy* in 2005 when Nel was 26. It was soon followed by the movie *White Wedding*. At first it was difficult, says Nel, to convince the industry, where the average age of the top cinematographer is around 45, that he was not just a youngster with ambition

but also had lots of talent. He was determined to prove himself and now the industry has come to respect him for his distinct style of filmmaking. Nel describes it as imagery that evokes a mood. You can see it in the melancholic SABC2 drama *Hopeville*, in *Lucky*, the sad film about an orphaned boy, and in his most recent film, the psychological thriller, *Sleeper's Wake*, of which he says: "It is my most favourite thing I've shot — it is dark, heavy and slightly twisted. It represents what I feel and can do the best, and I love the moods and tones." For someone whose career started by chance, Nel has a clear vision for himself and the industry: "I don't just want to give people what they want. I want to show them something new. I don't want to be standing still, I want to move forward." — Joonji Mdyogolo

 **Website:** willienel.com

Malibongwe 'Mali' Tyilo

Fashion Blogger

Mali Tyilo started the blog "Skattie what are you wearing?" to share South African fashion with his friends. But he got more than he bargained for, including the *Marie Claire* Best Fashion Blogger award in 2011 and a spot among *Cosmopolitan's* top-five fashion blogs last year. He was also a media partner in the annual Hyeres Festival for Fashion and Photography in France. In "Skattie" he showcases local fashion with the use of good photography and humorous writing, focusing on individuals who interpret style for themselves. Initially, he used a cellphone camera, but has since progressed to a "proper" one. Tyilo, a graduate of the London International School of Fashion, is editor-at-large of *Visi*, a design and decor magazine. And that's not all. He is also working with two other artists on a graduate development programme involving several participants and focusing on the documentation of South African arts, design and theatre. — Fatima Asmal

 **Twitter:** @skattie_what
Blog: skattiewhatareyouwearing.blogspot.com



Nicole Klassen

Head of Content: Bozza

Nicole Klassen has worked in television, film and animation, but her passion is Bozza, a mobile start-up and a video-on-demand app that at one point was downloaded 40 000 times in three days. In her industry the demand for content is growing; her job is to turn that into economic opportunity. It's work that requires tenacity for unearthing talent and drive to find innovative ways to unlock the opportunities for that talent. But she is not a bleeding-heart creative. Klassen makes use of a very strong network, cultivated during her time at the Cape Film Commission, as a board member of Animation SA, and in her travels as speaker. She also takes

a no-nonsense approach to "I wanna be famous" artists with an appetite for entitlement that is not matched by hard work. She dedicates her time to the artists for whom "being creative is not an option, but a calling" and endeavors to take their craft to the world. — Joonji Mdyogolo

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Website: bozza.mobi

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Candice Morgan

Executive Producer, Director and Presenter: Dtv

"The owner of a spaza shop in a small village is as famous in his village as a tabloid celebrity is in the world," says Candice Morgan. Although she is a celebrity in a broader field, the 32-year-old TV personality would prefer to be remembered as an advocate for the cause of the deaf. Morgan, who was born deaf, joined Dtv, a magazine programme for the deaf, independently produced for SABC3 since 1996, as a part-time presenter. Television was then largely unexplored by the deaf and new sign language words had to be created especially for the medium. Morgan was a member of a pioneering team that raised the profile of deaf television both in South Africa and abroad. In 2001 she joined Dtv on a full-time basis and learnt the skills of scriptwriting, editing and directing. She's since worked her way to the top and is now an executive producer and director of the company. In addition to mentoring and training deaf interns, Morgan has been a member of a dynamic team that has secured interpreters for news broadcasts and constantly fights for access to important events such as the State of the Nation address. Today, thanks to the dedication of people like her Dtv has become a model of sorts for the rest of the world. The company transfers skills to other African countries and helps them to create their own programmes for the deaf. BBC's Channel 4 has also asked Dtv for advice in this regard. Last year Morgan won the South Africa's Most Influential Woman in Business and Government Award in the Media, TV, Radio and Press sector. She's currently studying political science through the University of South Africa in an effort to further yet another ambition: "I will represent the deaf in Parliament in the future!" — *Fatima Asmal*

 **Twitter:** @Dtvchick **Website:** deaftv.co.za



Mandy Rossouw

Former International Correspondent: Media24
1979 – 2013

The best thing about Mandy Rossouw was her dimples. No. It was her hair, the way it turned up at the ends in this sort of retro look that could only have suited her. Actually, it was the way she would make you laugh, or how she would tell you, in no uncertain terms, that she was right about whatever point she was making and if she was later proven wrong she would tell you you were a fool for believing her in the first place. Rossouw, who graduated from Stellenbosch University with her journalism degree in 2000, had the kind of confidence, humour, style and drive that made her an asset to any newsroom. She loved her work and had a career most journalists only dream of. Her first job was as provincial government reporter for *Beeld*. She went on to become the international correspondent for Media24, based in London. In 2007 she joined the *Mail & Guardian* as senior political reporter and it was she who broke the Nkandla story in 2009. In 2011 she returned to Media24 as international correspondent and *City Press*'s political reporter. The next year she joined Eyewitness News, adding radio to her already impressive CV. She wrote three books: *The Year in Quotes 2010*, with Andrew Donaldson; *The World According to Julius Malema*, with Max du Preez; and *Mangaung: Kings and Kingmakers*, which came out in the run-up to last year's conference. When she died, unexpectedly, in March the journalistic community let out a collective howl. The ANC, Cope, Numsa and the Commission for Gender Equality issued statements. Social networks exploded, reports on radio, TV and websites and in newspapers all murmured in grief. She was only 33 years old. She was a Young South African destined for even greater things, and she is so missed. — *Tanya Pampalone*



Odirile Khonkhobe

Deputy Chairperson: Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa (Denosa), North West Province

Odirile Khonkhobe studied nursing because he needed the money. He shared a home with about 30 other family members and walked 5km to and from school. With nursing he could study while earning, so he went for it. His hard work paid off. During almost four years as chairperson of the student forum of Denosa, the country's largest nurses' trade union, he recruited close to 500 student members. At 32 he is Denosa's deputy chairperson in the North West, where his rapport with students has assisted in quelling potential strikes. As assistant director of hospital services in the North West department of health, Khonkhobe is involved in licensing private hospitals and issuing public hospitals with compliance certificates. He has come a long way. "If you want to achieve something you must strive for it — all that comes free is to work hard and get a good matric result," he says. — *Fatima Asmal*

 Website: denosa.org.za

Liezille Jacobs

Researcher in Alcohol Dependence Among Women: HSRC

Dr Liezille Jacobs's work has rated a four-page spread in *Fairlady*, something few people can claim. The 35-year-old, who grew up in coloured townships in the Western and Eastern Cape, now works at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), researching alcohol dependence, especially among women, both pregnant and not pregnant. She recently completed a project for the council on South African and American women's magazines' portrayal of anti-feminist messages through alcohol advertising and has written a policy brief for Parliament on the fact that dietary guidelines for South Africans contain no alcohol guidelines even for women who drink when pregnant. She has been chairperson of the Alcohol Expert Group, commissioned by the department of health to work on these dietary guidelines. She also worked as a doctoral and medical intern at the Medical Research Council, following her PhD in Psychology from the University of the Western Cape, and has since made presentations at conferences, including one at Howard University in Washington, DC, and to the Public

Health Association of South Africa. A popular subject of radio and newspaper interviews, Jacobs uses the opportunities afforded her to disseminate information about alcohol dependency, especially for women who drink "in secret" because of the stigma associated with women who drink heavily. The subject of alcohol dependence began to interest her while she was growing up in a community in which substance abuse had been a problem for generations — she wanted to change the way people lived. She is particularly interested in behavioural modification research and how psychological issues affect people's general wellbeing. The part of the work she enjoys most is the way in which women who have struggled with alcohol dependence for most of their lives describe the process of disclosing their stories to her as "healing". — *Ilham Rawoot*

 Twitter: @drLiezille
Website: liezillejacobs.blogspot.com



Keorapetse Tabane

Specialist Physician and Medical Oncologist: Sandton Oncology Centre

Medical oncologists specialise in diagnosing and treating cancer. There are only 17 such specialists in the country and 35-year-old Dr Keorapetse "Keo" Tabane is one of them. Oncology did not initially feature in Tabane's plans, but during her training as a physician the oncologists she worked with seemed to think she'd be good at it. Once she got a feel for it she realised it came naturally to her, so she stayed on. In 2008 Tabane joined the Sandton Oncology Centre, where she is heavily involved in the research unit, which also conducts clinical trials. Her work on

subjects such as pain in cancer and mesothelioma have featured in peer-reviewed publications and she was recently invited to share her research with peers at an oncology symposium in Dubai. Apart from continuing to give hope and encouragement to her patients she wants to further her research in the area of HIV and cancer. — *Fatima Asmal*

 Twitter: @keotabane



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Sha'ista Goga

Economist and Senior Researcher: Section27

Sha'ista Goga always fantasised about being a detective. Now, as an economist and senior researcher at non-governmental organisation Section27, although she isn't solving crimes, she is always investigating ways to improve healthcare. Last year Goga published a report detailing issues faced by public hospitals in Gauteng, creating a public outcry that forced the provincial department of health to respond. Currently she's advocating better standards in the public health sector and greater price regulation in the private sector. Goga excelled in her economics studies both at the University of the Witwatersrand and at Oxford, which set her up for the corporate world. She worked at Genesis Analytics until a stint as a volunteer in a Palestinian refugee camp changed her career path. Realising she needed to use her education to better society, she joined Section27 and started tackling healthcare policies, where "small changes can have significant benefits, since people are so vulnerable and directly affected by system weaknesses". — Fatima Asmal



 Website: section27.org.za



Lawrence Mashimbye

Researcher and Epidemiologist: Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute

Someone once told Lawrence Mashimbye that success is never an accident. The 28-year-old epidemiologist couldn't agree more. He worked hard to get to where he is today — leading studies on the prevention of infectious diseases at the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute (WRHI). Mashimbye, who matriculated from Mavalani High School in Limpopo, won awards for everything from academic excellence to good behaviour and neat attire. He then graduated with a BSc Medical Sciences *cum laude* from the University of Limpopo before completing a master's in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of the Witwatersrand. While he was working as a research analyst in a consultancy firm it became his job to monitor and evaluate health programmes locally, as well as in Botswana and Mozambique. Mashimbye has long had a special interest in TB and HIV research and his hard work in the field has yielded results. His research into a strain of TB that was resisting treatment among patients attending district hospitals in Limpopo resulted in patients being screened for drug-resistant TB before being treated. In 2009 a study he conducted in rural Mpumalanga revealed that older HIV-infected males, especially those who drink alcohol and smoke cigarettes, were less responsive to TB treatment. Today, people in this category receive more support and more follow-up visits. In 2012 Mashimbye joined the WRHI, where his work as a researcher and project manager focuses on the wellbeing of young people. He takes his work seriously, knowing that lives depend on it. "The piece of work I do could be a drop in an ocean, but combined with work from other researchers helps contribute to prevention of sicknesses and death," he says. This is also the reason he continually strives for quality and excellence in his work. "I tell myself that whatever I do should be the best I ever did in my life." — Fatima Asmal

 Twitter: @Lmashimbye Website: wrhi.ac.za



Kelly Gate

Medical Manager: Bethesda Hospital

When Dr Kelly Gate arrived at Bethesda as a medical manager in 2010 the rural hospital was on life support. Three junior doctors held the fort, making do with limited resources, and the patient population was dwindling rapidly. Two years later, 20 doctors work at the small rural facility in the northern KwaZulu-Natal district of Umkhanyakude, where more than 40% of all pregnant women are HIV positive. Gates and his team have succeeded in providing 7 500 HIV-infected patients with antiretroviral treatment. Since his arrival at Bethesda, the maternal and perinatal mortality rates have halved and the rate of HIV transmission from mother to child has been reduced to less than 2.5%. And things can only get better because the 2012 Rural Doctor of the Year and his wife intend to stay put. "Bethesda's become my life's project and I would love to stick around to see it go from strength to strength," says Gate. — Fatima Asmal

 Website: kznhealth.gov.za/bethesdahospital.htm
Website: rudasa.org.za

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Daniella Mark

Executive Director: Paediatric Aids Treatment for Africa (Pata)

Dr Daniella Mark enjoyed a privileged upbringing — private school, birthday parties with jumping castles and overseas travel. But her 24-month internship as a neuropsychologist at Groote Schuur Hospital opened her eyes to the healthcare issues facing poorer communities, inspiring her to apply for a job at the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation. There she spent seven years learning as much as she could about HIV, before joining Pata in May 2012. It was a life-changing move. Pata's main goal is to promote and facilitate improved healthcare for HIV-infected children and their families in Africa. Since her arrival 33-year-old Mark has launched several new initiatives, from the Pata Child-Friendly Clinic Initiative to uplifting paediatric HIV clinics in sub-Saharan Africa. It's thanks to these programmes that three South African clinics have benefited from grants enabling them to create child-friendly spaces. Concerned about the needs of frontline healthcare workers, Mark launched an advocacy portfolio that strives to make health system policies more inclusive by taking into

account the workers' experiences and needs. Her work is also hands-on and reaches into the African continent. At any given time Mark can be found in a clinic in Lesotho, addressing healthcare teams in Tanzania about psychosocial support for HIV-positive adolescents or meeting caregivers of children living with HIV. It's not always about tackling big issues or addressing the masses. Through the Sisanda FunDaytion, which she co-founded with friends, Mark turns her time and attention to underprivileged children, taking them on regular outings to places which would normally be beyond their reach. Mark may have grown up privileged but it is now her privilege to realise her dream of leading a life of purpose. "My mind is utterly engaged in this work that I find intellectually and academically stimulating — and my heart is filled with the deepest, most intense of joys," she says. — *Fatima Asmal*

 Website: teampata.org

Prudy Seepe

Researcher: Traditional Medicine Laboratory, UKZN

Thirty-one-year-old Prudy Seepe learnt about TB by accident, when she got a research job at the Centre for Excellence in TB Research at Stellenbosch University, while completing her degree in Medical Biochemistry. She is now one of the leaders in the search for a cure for TB and uses original ideas to find solutions to the scourge. One of these is a collaboration between Western TB medication and practice and herbal medication and traditional healing. Seepe's parents and grandparents were herbalists, so traditional medicine, the choice of about 70% of South Africans, has always been a part of her life and her work reaches many people who have been alienated by Western medical practices. She has won the department of science and technology's Women in Science award and is regularly invited to discuss TB issues on radio stations and television talk shows. — *Ilham Rawoot*

 Website: k-rith.org



Traditional medicine has always been a part of Seepe's life and her work reaches many people who have been alienated by Western medical practices.



Noella Moshi

Project Manager: Goodbye Malaria

Malaria is as much a personal as a professional issue for 23-year-old Noella Moshi, who grew up in Tanzania, Papua New Guinea and South Africa. Every member of her family, including herself, as well as most of her childhood friends, has, at one time, suffered from the disease. So it's not surprising that Moshi now works with the Nando's-founded initiative Goodbye Malaria, where she is project manager of the Social Impact Bonds project, which works with several private and non-profit organisations to eliminate malaria. During her studies in Clinical Science and Immunology at the University of

Cape Town, where she obtained her master's degree, she was awarded four scholarships, including a Mandela-Rhodes Scholarship. Today her achievements are more practical, with her knowledge being used to create an operations plan that will provide mosquito nets and insecticide sprays to people all over Africa. In her spare time Moshi participates in a philosophy and theology discussion group. — *Ilham Rawoot*

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

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Eliza Govender

Lecturer and Advocate for HIV Communication:
University of KwaZulu-Natal

Eliza Govender, who is 31, has worked for many years in the field of HIV advocacy. She is currently programme manager of the health communications postgraduate track at UKZN, through which she enables fellow lecturers, government officials, journalists and directors of non-governmental organisations to communicate effectively about public health. Concurrently, Govender is research manager at the Centre for Communication, Media and Society at UKZN. Before joining the university Govender worked at the non-governmental organisation HIVAN, where she held workshops with HIV-positive children and adults, empowering

them to address issues of poverty and resources. She has had several journal articles published in international public health journals, was co-author of a book on health communication and has submitted to UKZN her PhD thesis, which focuses on HIV and Aids communication strategies. Govender believes effective communication strategies can open doors to hard-to-reach communities and can be used effectively to address the daunting challenges of HIV.

— Ilham Rawoot

 **Website:** ukzn.ac.za

Vivek Naranbhai

Rhodes Scholar and Medical Doctor

When Dr Vivek Naranbhai was 12 he accompanied his father to the paediatric unit of Durban's Addington Hospital, where he met many sick children. It was then that he decided he wanted to be a doctor. He went on to study simultaneously for a medical degree and an honours degree in Medical Microbiology. Now, at 26, he is doing his doctorate in Clinical Medicine on a Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford University. Using modern genetic tools he is working to understand why some people get HIV or TB and others don't, in order to find new ways of preventing the diseases. He was deputy director of the Vaccine Programme at the Centre for the Aids Programme of Research in South Africa at the time that the organisation was working on the clinical trial of a microbicide gel that was found to prevent 39% of infections. — Ilham Rawoot

 **Facebook:** Vivek Naranbhai



Vuyane Mhlomi

Medical Doctor: Chris Hani Baragwanath

Vuyane Mhlomi grew up with his single-parent mother in a household of 10 children in Khayelitsha, using Sunlight soap to brush his teeth, wash his shirts and as deodorant. Now 25 and a doctor at Chris Hani Baragwanath he has come a long way from those difficult days. He struggled to get into medical school and then his mother suffered a stroke as he was studying for his final exams, and his books played second fiddle to looking after her. Despite these setbacks he graduated third in a class of 171 students. He was awarded the Dr Helen Brown Prize for the second-best final year student in clinical medicine and was on the Dean's Merit List and Medicine Honours List — no easy feat. His main interest is hypertension and he was primary researcher, investigator and first author of a research project with the president of the Hypertension Society of South Africa. When he has completed his internship he plans to apply for a Rhodes Scholarship to pursue a doctorate

in Cardiovascular Medicine. Concurrently with his medical internship he is studying law through Unisa in order to understand better the legalities of medical practice. When he is not studying he is something of a thespian, having appeared in the film *Madam and Eve* and a few foreign films, and a play he wrote won the award for best script in the residence festival at the University of Cape Town. He is currently assistant director of a South African short film soon to go into production. With friends, he founded the MH Foundation, whose mission is to see every disadvantaged child become an outstanding scholar, by providing the resources and tools to enable children to follow their dreams. — Ilham Rawoot

 **Twitter:** @vuyane
Website: mhfoundation.co.za

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Vanessa Naidoo

Medical Doctor: Médecins sans Frontières (MSF)

Dr Vanessa Naidoo was watching images of the injured in Libya on television when she decided to join MSF. As a member of a team sent to set up a maternity hospital in Afghanistan last year she helped to train midwives — some of whom had never seen an operation before — to work in the operating theatre and assist with caesarean sections. Naidoo also worked as an emergency doctor in a tent hospital at a refugee camp in Sudan, treating cases of malnutrition, lower respiratory tract infections and malaria, while struggling

to contain a Hepatitis E outbreak. In Syria she worked as an anaesthetist in a hospital where she also handled most female consultations and delivered babies. In June she'll return to Afghanistan. "I have to remain strong and believe that we are making a difference and trying to ease the suffering, but inevitably I wish I could do more," she says. — *Fatima Asmal*

 Website: msf.org.za



Phumzile Zwane

Mentor Mother: Mothers to Mothers (m2m)

When a pregnant Phumzile Zwane tested positive for HIV in 2009 her world stopped. "I couldn't breathe. I looked at my tummy and my eyes filled with tears. I was petrified," she recalls. This changed after her encounter with Mentor Mothers — HIV-positive women trained by the organisation m2m to provide education and psychosocial support to pregnant women and new mothers at public health facilities. They taught Phumzile how to live a healthy life and to prevent the transmission of HIV to her baby. When she gave birth to a baby girl who was HIV negative Phumzile applied to be a Mentor Mother. Now she passionately transfers her knowledge and experience to other women who feel the same sense of fear she felt when she received her test results. With her positive attitude she educates hundreds of mothers-to-be and new mothers at the Siphosensimbi Community Health Clinic, inspiring them to live a happy, healthy life. — *Fatima Asmal*

 Website: m2m.org

Dalene von Delft

Co-founder: TB Proof

When 30-year-old Dalene von Delft was still a medical student she contracted multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), probably from constant exposure to patients with the disease, although she cannot be sure about that. Von Delft, already facing the prospect of death, also began to lose her hearing. By the time she was taking 30 tablets a day she was swallowing back her own vomit to keep the pills down. The treatment was harder to bear than the disease and there was always the threat of sudden death as a side effect. It was then that she applied for compassionate access to a drug called Bedaquiline, which she saw as her only chance. The drug cured her TB and now, as a full-time emergency-room doctor she uses her spare time to press for the drug to be made available to all TB sufferers. Along with her husband, and with some fellow MDR-TB sufferers, she founded a group called TB Proof. The group, which includes people who have been affected by TB, either themselves or

through loved ones, does advocacy work locally and abroad, informing people about Bedaquiline and the need to make it available in South Africa. Earlier this year, through USAid in Washington, DC, TB Proof was awarded the Centre for Global Health and Diplomacy Award for distinguished work in the field of global health diplomacy. Von Delft is a member of a growing global movement to bring MDR-TB into the media spotlight. The disease recently made the cover of *Time* magazine. In the meantime, Von Delft and TB Proof have been holding teaching sessions with most of the medical and allied health students at the universities of Stellenbosch (where she lives with her husband) and Cape Town, educating them about the risks of contracting TB and how to protect themselves.

— *Ilham Rawoot*

 Website: tbproof.org



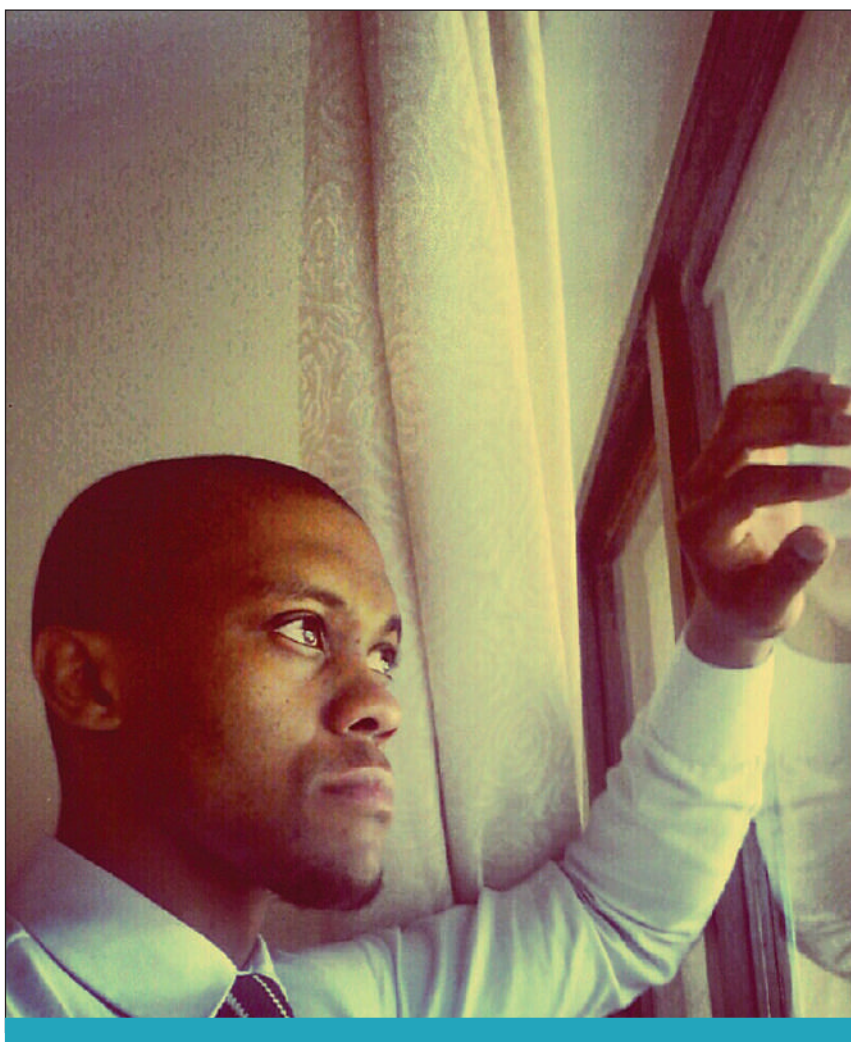
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Mayihlome Tshwete

Spokesperson: Public Enterprises Minister
Malusi Gqaba

Mayihlome Tshwete is regarded as a safe pair of hands, according to colleagues who have seen him in action, defending his principal, Public Enterprises Minister Malusi Gqaba. He is articulate, smart and usually walks into a room with the swagger of a Wall Street investment banker. Tshwete, 31, was appointed as Gqaba's spokesperson in 2010 and has since asserted himself as one of the best government communicators around. This son of the late sports minister Steve Tshwete, says being Gqaba's spokesperson is a challenge he enjoys. "It is great to work with a young minister. He is open to ideas and is extremely hard-working and it keeps us on our toes." Tshwete advises the minister on issues of public relations and communications and deals with media inquiries and internal communication for the department, where he currently serves as acting head of communications. He also engages with his counterparts in state-owned enterprises, communicating their programmes and keeping the minister abreast of developments. Tshwete is not new to communication. He previously worked as a speechwriter for the then labour minister, Membathisi Mdladla, and has also worked in corporate communications, serving as public relations officer and events co-ordinator for various companies. He wrote and published a book, *Road from Now*, while studying for his bachelor of business administration degree at Varsity College. The book, which he dedicated to his late father, is a collection of poems dealing with the country's painful history, the human condition and the triumph of good over evil. "Given his own patriotism, it is clear that the only reward Mayihlome would expect for this splendid piece of poetry work would be for the youth of his time to take up the challenge and emulate the standard that he has set," wrote former president Thabo Mbeki. — Charles Molele

 **Twitter:** @MTshwete



Tshwete is articulate, smart and usually walks into a room with the swagger of a Wall Street investment banker.

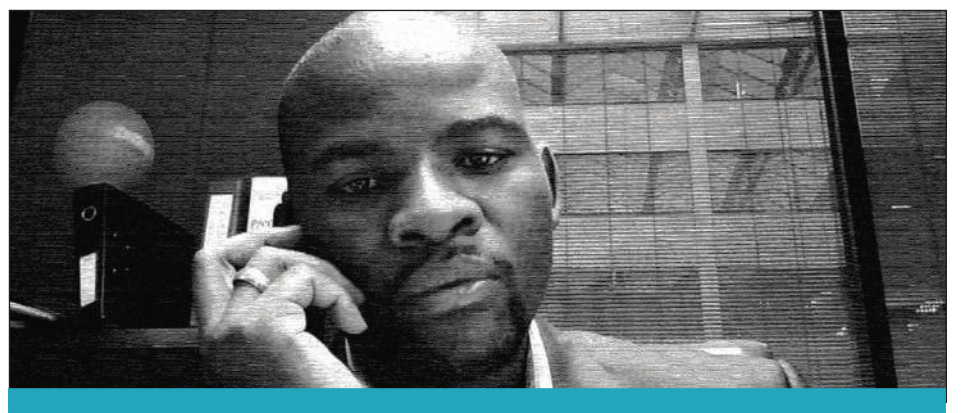


Makashule Gana

Deputy Federal Chairperson, Youth Federal Leader,
City Councillor: Democratic Alliance

"Win Gauteng in 2014 and the country in 2019" and show that "young people can be entrusted with positions of leadership". These are some key issues currently driving DA youth leader Makashule Gana, who doubles as one of the party's deputy federal chairpersons and a City of Johannesburg councillor. "My election as deputy federal chair dispels the myth that young people are not interested in politics," says 29-year-old Gana. He believes his new role could change perceptions that the DA is a white party and he's happy to be used as an example. Referring to himself as "a shy village boy", Gana cites campaigning for the youth wage subsidy and establishing a DA political school with fellow leader Khume Ramulifho in Gauteng's southern region as highlights of his career. He wants to use his position to improve the DA's interaction with young people both in their daily challenges and during next year's election campaign. — Mmanaledi Mataboge

 **Twitter:** @makashule



Molelekwa Marumo

Provincial Treasurer: Young Communist League (YCL),
Free State

An accountant in the office of ANC chief whip in the Free State Legislature, Marumo was elected provincial treasurer of the YCL in 2011. His political activism began as a student leader at the former Vista University, where he served on the YCL's Free State provincial executive and acted as provincial treasurer from 2007. When he's not guarding the YCL purse, 30-year-old Marumo is using his writing skills to highlight social ills through radio dramas in his mother tongue, Sesotho. At 16, Marumo wrote his first radio drama and, in 2006, created a 20-episode drama, *Se nkganang se nthola morwalo*, which was broadcast on Lesedi FM. In keeping with his passion for using creativity to preserve culture, Marumo's dramas focus on issues such as HIV and Aids, women abuse and politics, "stories that my community can relate to", he says. His second drama, *Malakabeng*, was aired in March, its story line a condemnation of violent service delivery protests — Mmanaledi Mataboge

 **Facebook:** Molelekwa Marumo

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At 25 Manana became the youngest member of Parliament in South Africa's history. But if you know his personal history this comes as no surprise.



Mduzuzi Manana

Deputy Minister: Higher Education and Training

When he was growing up in Mpumalanga Mduzuzi Manana wanted to be a history teacher because he wanted to understand how the past shaped the present and to teach young people to do the same. As Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training he is not teaching history today, but he's certainly making it. He has led initiatives that have changed the face of higher education in South Africa. One of them was the Apply Now campaign, which contributed this year to curbing long queues of desperate students applying late to universities as well as avoiding potential stampedes like the one in 2012 that left the mother of a prospective University of Johannesburg student dead. At 25 Manana became the youngest member of Parliament (MP) in South Africa's history. But if you know his personal history this comes as no surprise. The involvement in the struggle of his parents and grandfather, staunch ANC supporters, laid the foundation for Manana's involvement in the battle for democracy. It was a concept he fought for from the age of 14 as a member of the Congress of South African Students and the ANC Youth League throughout high school and at the then University of Natal. After graduating he entered the business world but also continued to work his way up the ANC ladder. After the 2009 elections he was invited to become an MP. Three years later President Jacob Zuma asked him to take his place as Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training. Today this 29-year-old is hoping for one thing: that he can use his power to ensure that many more thousands of young people have access to higher education and can get the skills they need to find jobs and contribute to the economy, because that is the only way, he says, that the scourge of unemployment, inequality and poverty can be defeated. — Victoria John

Victoria Hasson

Adviser to the Democratic Alliance Chief Whip

Dr Victoria Hasson is so passionate about parliaments that if she wasn't already working in the South African Parliament she would join a think-tank to petition for parliamentary reform from the outside. Hasson runs the DA chief whip's office and also heads the party's research and support office. Her role is to ensure that DA MPs are equipped to perform effectively and are given good procedural and research support. She also assists the chief whip by providing strategic and procedural support in respect of Parliament's internal functioning. With a PhD from the University of Sheffield — her thesis was on "Deliberation and Parliamentary Procedure in the Parliament of South Africa" — she is probably the best person for the job. "I worked as part of a research team which cross-compared the parliaments of Westminster, India and South Africa. My particular focus was on the question of whether the new Parliament of South Africa befits the deliberative ideals it has set for itself and which are enshrined in the Constitution. The answer to the question was, 'no, it doesn't.'" Hasson says "communist-like" use or abuse of the term "people's Parliament" should be dismissed and replaced with "sincere forms of public representation". "In order for this to be achieved, the Assembly must assert itself. Laziness and ignorance must be replaced by detailed and substantive oversight; pantomime question time must be replaced with reason-giving and public accountability. If this happens then Parliament won't need to spend R70-million a year on promoting itself as a 'people's Parliament'." Among her professional highlights, Hasson lists supporting the DA's parliamentary leader, Lindiwe Mazibuko, in her fight to move a motion of no confidence in the president. "It was the lowlight of my career when [the motion] was deemed 'frivolous' by the ANC," she says. — Andisiwe Makinana

Twitter: @victoriahasson



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Sindi-Leigh McBride

Research Associate: South African Human Rights Commission

Sindi-Leigh McBride, a research associate at the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), lights up when she talks about academia, human rights and politics. While her peers are obsessed with settling down to a family in a manicured suburb, 25-year-old McBride is working on how to conquer and change the world. She has just registered for her second master's degree, in political communication, at the University of Cape Town, and says she hopes to complete two doctorates before she reaches the age of 30. Her first master's was in international relations at the University of the Witwatersrand. "I am Stalinist like that. I work in five-year plans. I just want to school myself. You must be in school and getting smart," she says. McBride's first love at university was Law, but she quit after only a year, switching to a BA in Political Science and International Relations. She is currently employed at the SAHRC as a research associate to human rights commissioner Danny Titus in the Commissioners Programme. Her

day-to-day duties include conducting research into law enforcement, the prevention of torture and criminal justice. McBride says she entered the field of human rights to do "a service to humanity", but she now plans a career in academia and politics. "I want to be an academic and I'm interested in politics. I have seen people doing PhDs, leading amazing lives and travelling the world while other people are paying for it," she says. Titus, a commissioner and McBride's mentor at the SAHRC, says her future looks bright. "She has been a researcher with us for two years now and has been supportive. She is young and energetic. I was also struck by the fact that at such an age she was already doing her second master's degree. She's really someone to watch." — Charles Molele

 Website: sahrc.org.za


Themba Masondo

Secretary General: South African Students Congress (Sasco)

"He is a disciplined young revolutionary and an intellectual with enormous potential." This is how a friend and mentor described the new secretary general of Sasco, Themba Masondo. With the ANC Youth League now seen by many as a mere desk, Masondo and his comrades at Sasco have taken on the radical role once played by the Young Lions. Under his leadership Sasco has been a thorn in the side of Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande, accusing him of failing to provide free, quality higher education for the poor. Sasco also rejected the national development plan on the basis that "it is built on the ultra right-wing notion of open opportunity society". Masondo is a full-time PhD candidate in the department of sociology at the University of the Witwatersrand and a PhD fellow at the university's Society, Work and Development Institute. He has contributed a chapter to a book on Cosatu's legacy. — Matuma Letsoalo

 Website: sasco.org.za

Gugu Ndima

Spokesperson for the Speaker: Gauteng Legislature

Despite her busy schedule as mother, part-time student at the Wits Business School and spokesperson for the speaker of the Gauteng Legislature, Gugu Ndima fulfilled her dream of writing a book. *All in a Galz Life* tells the fictional story of five women from different backgrounds who find common ground through their life experiences. Formerly national spokesperson for the Young Communist League, Ndima joined the Gauteng Legislature in 2011, first as media and communications officer in the office of the ANC chief whip, and moved to her current

post in 2012. Ndima sees her life in politics as a calling, not a career. She was a member of the ANC Gauteng communications team that assisted with local government elections and still works for the party in the province whenever she can. She writes opinion pieces for several national newspapers and serves as a regional executive committee member of the ANC Youth League in Ekurhuleni.

— Matuma Letsoalo

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


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Once a close ally of youth league president Julius Malema, Mabe is now seen as an adversary.



Pule Mabe

National Executive Committee Member: ANC

At 32, Pule Mabe is the youngest member to have joined the powerful ANC national executive committee. The former ANC Youth League treasurer general was elected in December last year after he campaigned tirelessly for the re-election of Jacob Zuma as ANC president. Once a close ally of expelled youth league president Julius Malema, Mabe is now seen as an adversary of Malema, who unsuccessfully campaigned for Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe to replace Zuma as ANC president. A former *Mail & Guardian* journalist and former government communicator, Mabe has been roped into the ANC communications subcommittee. He is also part of the ANC's election team, which is led by former Limpopo Premier Ngoako Ramahlodi. A politician-cum-businessman, Mabe is determined to change the lives of many South Africans. Despite his busy schedule he has managed to build a successful business empire in the media industry. At 32, he owns a publishing company called KG media, which publishes *Kwela Express*, a monthly transport newspaper. Through

Kwela Express Mabe has managed to create both a print and an electronic platform for the transport industry. He also launched a programme on SABC2 focusing on transportation issues throughout the country. Three years ago Mabe established the Kedibone Mabe Trust to fund deserving students from his hometown, Phalaborwa, to study journalism, marketing and transport engineering. He also established the Kwela Media Institute in Johannesburg, aimed at training young people in journalism, design, media and sales. Mabe's previous leadership roles included serving as deputy president of the students' representative council at Technikon Northern Gauteng, now called the Tshwane University of Technology, between 1998 and 1999. He also served as a Gauteng youth commissioner between 2003 and 2009. — Matuma Letsoalo

 **Facebook:** Pule Mabe

Rebone Tau

Head of International Relations:
ANC Youth League, Tshwane

"Solidarity" is an important word in 28-year-old Rebone Tau's vocabulary. She believes Africa will prosper if it unites against the continent's growing ills. It's what first attracted the Soweto-born Tau to an advocacy job at the Southern African Liaison Office, a non-governmental organisation involved in educating, lobbying and advocacy initiatives. Knowledge of South Africa's foreign policy and laws protecting human rights is vital and good relations with policy-makers are essential. "We focus on human rights violations on the continent and I'm the lead person on lobbying the government," she says confidently. A member of the ANC Youth League's Tshwane regional executive committee and head of that region's international relations committee, Tau was appointed to the league's national task team in April. Using workshops, campaigns, video-recorded interviews and her writing to share information, Tau has also written a book about the struggle for democracy in Swaziland, Southern Africa's last absolute monarchy.

— Mmanaledi Mataboge

 **facebook:** rebone.tau



Phumzile van Damme

Head: DA Parliamentary Research and Communications

The Democratic Alliance is known for its well-oiled communications machine. The party issues press statements at the drop of a hat on issues every day. Twenty-nine-year-old Phumzile van Damme, head of the DA's parliamentary research and communications department, is the woman behind this machine. Her team is charged with communicating the party's role as the official opposition in Parliament. She has been a political communicator for four years, following her years as a political support officer for the then DA national spokesperson, Lindiwe Mazibuko, and for

a short while with Mmusi Maimane. Van Damme is chairperson of the DA's Cape Town City Bowl branch. Her long-term career goal is to become a public representative and Cabinet minister one day. "When I worked as the spokesperson for the Western Cape minister of finance I saw how, if utilised correctly, government resources can actively contribute to changing people's lives."

— Andisiwe Makinana

 **Twitter:** @zilevandamme

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Alta Schutte

Director: Hypertension in Africa Research Team, North-West University

Alta Schutte is an overachiever — a character trait she wears with pride. So it did not faze her when a fellow student called her weird because she received a distinction for every subject in her undergraduate and honours studies. “I also finished my PhD in one-and-a-half years [at 24]. I am just driven,” she says matter-of-factly. She is a distinguished scientist with a list of accolades, among them winner of the Distinguished Young Women Scientist in the Life Sciences award in 2010 and recipient of the 2011 British Association Medal from the Southern African Association for the Advancement of Science. She is also a founding member of the South African Young Academy of Science. At the age of 30 she was appointed director of the Hypertension in Africa Research Team (Hart), where she leads a group of scientists who focus on high blood pressure, especially among black people, the most vulnerable section of the population. Schutte says she has always wanted her career to

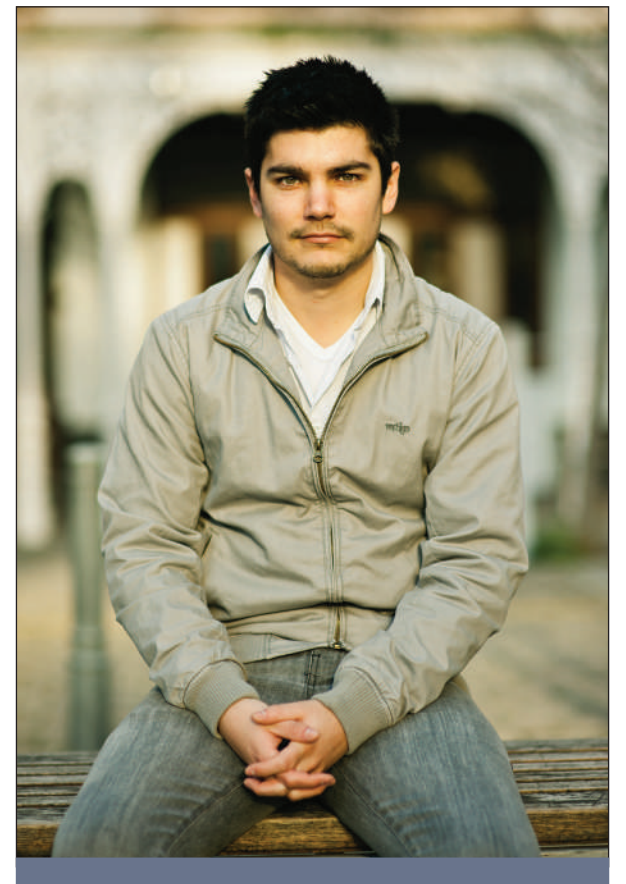
have an impact on the person in the street. The opening in 2012 of Hart’s Hypertension Clinic, which offers affordable pre-screening, was another step closer to that vision. Within the clinic she heads a research project called African-Predict, which aims to identify early predictors for heart disease in black South Africans. “These results will be some of the first in South Africa that could be used to prevent the development of heart disease from younger ages,” she explains. The giant leap in her career was the awarding last August of a research grant from the South African Research Chair Initiative. This means she can finally shrug off her administrative and managerial duties as director of the centre and focus on what she is good at — studying research data and coming up with solutions. — Joonji Mdyogolo

 Website: nwu.ac.za/HART

Evan Robinson

Director and Chief Technology Officer: TaxTim.com

Evan Robinson is trying to make you love doing your taxes. He created TaxTim, a virtual tax consultant that makes filing fast and easy. The idea came to him after his tax consultant friend (and co-founder of TaxTim), Marc Sevitz, helped him through his own confusing filing process two years ago. So TaxTim is a digital version of Sevitz. Robinson, a Biotechnology and Biochemistry master’s graduate of the University of Cape Town, says TaxTim is different from e-filing because Tim talks you through the form by asking you simple questions. And now the service has added isiZulu and isiXhosa to the Afrikaans and English already on offer. TaxTim has attracted the right kind of interest: Google Umbono’s incubator programme provided seed funding, and more investors have come in, including one of the country’s great tech minds, Justin Stanford. Robinson’s biggest focus now is to draw big clients, but he is happy with the returns so far. — Joonji Mdyogolo

 Website: taxtim.com


Kilian Hagemann Director: G7 Renewable Energies

It has become a tech law that people amass a list of failed start-ups before they finally succeed. Not Kilian Hagemann. By 2007 he had started Redbutton, a wifi hotspot provider that flourished, winning an entrepreneurship award. That was while pursuing a full-time PhD in Atmospheric Science, which he achieved *cum laude*. He always wanted to be an entrepreneur. “I have very specific ideas, which I know I can realise if I am running the show myself.” Redbutton, of which he is still a shareholder, was an IT hobby that turned into a business. G7 Renewable Energies, which specialises in

wind energy project development, is a passion; one that has secured R27-million in funding. As the farm developer, Hagemann finds the best locations for wind farms, the basis of optimal electricity production. He has high hopes for South Africa, with technology developing so rapidly and the government so committed. His own standards are even higher: “My vision is 100% renewables by 2050.” — Joonji Mdyogolo

 Website: g7energies.com

Anna Zawilska

Student: Oxford University

We may have lost Anna Zawilska briefly to Oxford, where she is doing her DPhil in Computer Science on a Rhodes Scholarship, but her work there will make a big impact here one day. Zawilska is driven to finding technological solutions to empower those who would otherwise have no access to critical resources. From designing a system to enable disabled people to control gestures and body movements to her latest research into how online education systems can be better designed to encourage students to participate and learn, she is looking for ways in which technology can make a real difference to people's lives rather than merely be used for entertainment and comfort. Zawilska's academic achievements are impressive. She received her BSc in Electronic Engineering *summa cum laude* and her MSc in Engineering *cum laude*, was awarded the Vincent Maphai Scholarship for the most academically outstanding postgraduate student at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and won the 2010 Women in Science and Agriculture Scholarship and

the Eskom Academic Award, to name just a few of her achievements. In a world where most people are obsessed with buying the latest gadgets we need more people like Zawilska to make appropriate technology more accessible to the masses. "I hope to become one of those people who are using technology to make a difference in people's lives," says Zawilska, who takes her inspiration from social entrepreneurs such as the founders of Coursera's free online educational hub. Following the dictum of South African-born pioneer of artificial intelligence Seymour Papert that "the point is not to predict the computer future, the point is to make it", Zawilska loves the fact that she can use her skills and knowledge and all she is learning right now to empower people in the future. Proving her point, she is already engineering her own bright future. — Caroline Cowan



Twitter: @AnnaZawilska



Florian Breuer

Professor and Head of Mathematics: Stellenbosch University

Florian Breuer has a theory: if you believe in something strongly and enjoy doing it, you will surely excel in it. It's a principle he applies daily, whether he is teaching his students, serving as head of Mathematics at the University of Stellenbosch or doing research in Numbers Theory. Now 36, Breuer holds a PhD from the Université Denis Diderot in Paris and sits on the editorial board of the *Journal of Number Theory*. His work was recently published in the *Journal für die reine und angewandte Mathematik*, the world's oldest mathematical journal. Although the impact of his research may only be fully realised in the far future, it is his role as professor, inspiring students to take up the numbers quest, that shows immediate results and proves his theory of excellence to be correct. That, and photography, to which he applies equal parts of scientific theory and personal passion. — Caroline Cowan



Blog: floriansphotographs.blogspot.com

Ross Tucker

Consultant, Scientist and Honorary Senior Lecturer: UCT Sports Science Institute

For Ross Tucker performance is everything. In a world where a half percent means the difference between being champion or runner-up, he is 100% committed to providing objective insights into the field of sport and exercise. Tucker is not one of those "all theory, no practice" types. He has done extensive research into sports performance, including barefoot running, and has written a book, *The Runner's Body*, an Amazon bestseller in its category. He also manages the biggest website in the sports science world and has walked the summit of Kilimanjaro barefoot. Putting muscle

behind his PhD in Sports Physiology and a Diploma in Marketing and Management to enhance his own performance in a field that is growing in importance, Tucker has long been making sports science more accessible to both the average person and the not-so-average sports star. His ultimate goal? To help the Southern African Sevens rugby team win Olympic Gold in 2016. — Caroline Cowan



Twitter: @scienceofsport

Website: sportsscientists.com



200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Science and Technology



Nonjabulo Gule

Postdoctoral Fellow: University of Stellenbosch

Nonjabulo Gule, a 28-year-old scientist, is guided by curiosity to uncover answers to pressing developmental problems. Gule's PhD research in Polymer Chemistry tackled the human rights issue of how to provide clean, cheap drinking water to those most in need. Her research, which has been patented, is of consequence to the one-billion-plus people who die every year from water-related ailments. Gule produced a point-of-use filtration system using nano-sized fibres that not only destroy bacteria but also prevent bugs from attaching themselves to the surface of the fibres. In 2010 the ingenuity of her invention was recognised by *Scientific American* magazine, which selected it as one of "Ten World-changing Ideas". Originally from Swaziland, Gule is based in Stellenbosch, where her days are consumed by her postdoctoral research and raising her four-month-old baby boy. — Taryn Mackay

 Website: klumperman-group.net

Cecilia Haak

Infrastructure Engineer: Square Kilometre Array

Dropping out of MIT was the best decision Cecilia Haak ever made. After a month of working towards a master's degree in Aerospace, she left, with a vision of doing work that would be meaningful to her country, South Africa. She is currently an infrastructure engineer at the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), working with the team that is building MeerKAT, precursor to the SKA, and the SKA radio telescope — which will be the world's biggest. Haak co-wrote the submission that nabbed South Africa the bulk of the hosting rights for the SKA and was involved in awarding all the infrastructure contracts, work that has earned her a seat on the National Research Foundation's Bid Award Committee. She says that, although the SKA has its eye on the sky, its effects are on the ground. It is driving economic activity in the Karoo, where Haak is directly involved in recruiting and training local talent. — Joonji Mdyogolo



 Twitter: @ceciliahaak



Shadreck Chirikure

Senior Lecturer: Archaeology, UCT

Shadreck Chirikure's work serves to debunk the myth that there was no science and technology in Africa before colonialism. "Most knowledge is acquired in a Western way, but before then, what were Africans doing?" he asks. "How much do we know about the mining that was being done, about the spears that made Shaka Zulu so successful?" Chirikure found answers to some of these questions while studying for his master's and PhD in Archaeology, looking at precolonial technology in indigenous mining and metalworking in Africa. His research revealed that not only were Southern Africans prospecting and mining to extract metals to use locally, they were also exporting the knowledge to China and to countries on the Indian Ocean. It's knowledge worth spreading. But, one wonders, is anybody listening? If the number of international conferences he is invited to is any evidence, the answer is "yes". Most importantly, he says, the government is putting money into indigenous knowledge systems such as those revealed by his research. At a practical level, Chirikure is working with communities in Limpopo to reproduce indigenous technologies to create objects for the tourism market. His expertise has been acknowledged in various ways, among them an invitation to study the rare gold coins found in the Oranjemund shipwreck discovered in Namibia in 2008 and to suggest methods of conserving them. Cambridge University Press has asked him to write a book on his research and he was awarded a Mandela Mellon Fellowship, enabling him to spend time at Harvard. He sits on the editorial boards of three journals and is a founding member of the South African Young Academy of Science. It's hard to believe now, but Chirikure says he was once so shy he was afraid to look his lecturers in the eye. Thank goodness he decided to speak up; his work enables Africans all to hold their heads up higher. — Joonji Mdyogolo

 Website: uct.ac.za

Stuart Ntlathi

Chief Executive: SNSET Institute

Everything about Stuart Ntlathi defies belief and in that way he resembles many innovators and great scientists. He started the Stuart Ntlathi Science and Technology Institute when he was 13. The institute was formalised when, as a university drop-out, he decided to focus all his energies on it. He had felt trapped in electrical engineering, he says: "I left without hesitation. I'd spent my entire childhood tinkering with electronics and in the library on the internet — I was not learning anything new." Every year since then the institute has done something exceptional: selecting 10 grade 10 science, maths and commerce pupils from three schools in different provinces and running them through a three-week innovation clinic where they learn basic science, engineering and technology, opening them up to the opportunities available in information and communications technology and helping them to build a project and business based on their own innovations. The best students team up to compete provincially and present their work at the International Innovation Indaba in December. Among the innovations to have emerged from the indaba are an automatic cooling umbrella with a built-in motor running on solar power and a battery that recycles carbon. How does he manage to do this without even a tertiary qualification? It's a question the 26-year-old says he has become accustomed to. "There is no university in the world that offers an innovation degree. Creativity does not need a degree," he says. He does employ a team of experts and an advisory board and a sales team to solicit sponsors. And here's something else to stretch your imagination: Ntlathi is scheduled to go into space on the Virgin Galactic mission conceived by Richard Branson, a role model and fellow drop-out. This is a multimillion-dollar project, for which it has been agreed Ntlathi will only pay R600 000. Unbelievable! — *Joonji Mdyogolo*

 **Twitter:** @SirNtlathi **Website:** snsetinstitute.com



Abdul R Mirza

Researcher and Co-founder: QZN Technology

If it wasn't for Abdul Mirza the 2010 Fifa World Cup might not have run quite as smoothly. Using his research and development work in quantum encryption systems at the Centre for Quantum Technology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), he project-managed the installation of vital communications and security systems for the event at the Moses Mabhida Stadium. Mirza, who has an MSc in Applied Physics and a PhD in Quantum Physics, would describe himself as an out-of-the-box thinker. Whether through his research at UKZN or through QZN Technology, the company he founded to take this research into the marketplace, he takes ideas and translates them into cutting-edge technology for the future: think quantum computers and high-precision instruments. Though to many of us these quantum technologies may seem like a dream, Mirza's goal is to get us to that future, through innovative ideas and by teaching the thinkers of the future. — *Caroline Cowan*

 **Twitter:** @abdulmirza **Website:** qzntechnology.com

Mokhotjwa Dhlamini

Associate Professor of Physics: University of South Africa

Mokhotjwa Dhlamini does very illuminating work — literally. His research in nanoscience — working on nanophosphors (luminescent materials that emit light under some type of external stimulation) — could bring much-needed answers to cancer treatment and solar energy synthesis. At present it is difficult to single out cancerous cells because the material used to identify them needs high energy to illuminate them, which also excites the body's cells, making it hard for scientists to label the bad cells. With the new technology low energy can be used to excite material (which has longer wavelengths) and the cells do not react, making this labelling process more focused. The technology can also improve the efficiency of solar cells, which could result in the production of less expensive solar panels. Dhlamini is not keeping this work in the dark. His research has been published in internationally accredited journals, a book chapter and a book in 2010. — *Joonji Mdyogolo*



 **Website:** unisa.ac.za



Giving children in rural communities the chance to experience hands-on science teaches them the valuable lesson that with hard work anything is possible.



ROGAN WARD

Candice Potgieter

Chief Executive: KZN Science Centre

Candice Potgieter is dedicated to improving the quality of education in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). To make this happen she plays many roles. She is chief executive officer of the KZN Science Centre, the second-largest science centre in the country, and a member of the committee that advises the KZN MEC of education on career guidance in schools. She also started one of the first early childhood development centres in the province, in which more than 90 crèches have become school-ready, and has created the cheapest science resource kit in the country, now used in 100 schools. With a BSc Honours degree in Applied Physics from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, she first discovered her passion for empowering others through education while teaching science to educators in disadvantaged areas. Under her guidance the number of visitors to the science centre, a non-profit organisation that assists in educational development in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, has grown from 40 000 a year to more than 100 000. Potgieter believes in former

president Nelson Mandela's statement that "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". Giving children in rural communities the chance to experience hands-on science not only gets them interested in the subject but teaches them the valuable lesson that with hard work anything is possible. Potgieter puts her executive management courses from the University of Miami and the Australian National University to good use, ensuring her projects have sufficient funding to fulfil their mandate of inculcating in learners the importance of education. Potgieter, a fan of Jeremy Clarkson, is in top gear herself, racing her way to the top. But her career isn't all that is on the fast track. With more than 70% of all visitors to the Science Centre sponsored and from previously disadvantaged backgrounds, she is "creating the future generation of scientists". — Caroline Cowan

 Website: kzn.sc.org



Balindiwe Sishi

Junior Lecturer Physiological Sciences: Stellenbosch University

Balindiwe Sishi says she had no interest in specialising in the heart during her studies because she found it such a complicated organ. That was until one of her professors made her understand its significance. "We were speaking about how in lifestyle diseases the common factor is the heart, and a light bulb went on in my head." So the 29-year-old started looking at the heart with new eyes. This clear perspective and new drive led her to do her most sterling work as a researcher. Her study of the way science can be used to delay the onslaught of chemotherapy on heart cells won her recognition at the 2011 congress of the South African Heart Association, where she was given the award for best oral presentation in the Basic Sciences category. Sishi says she is constantly experimenting with new ways to uncover the secrets of the heart. But now she's not daunted, just driven by the opportunity to save lives. — Joonji Mdyogolo

 Website: sun.ac.za/physiologicalsci

Tsakani Lotten Mthombeni

General Manager: Technology Innovation Agency's Energy Unit

At the core of Tsakani Mthombeni's work is giving people a shot. Mthombeni would not be where he is today were it not for just such a shot — a De Beers scholarship to study electrical engineering at the University of Cape Town. Using his studies as a stepping stone he paved his way to career success. After obtaining a PhD in the United States he took a research position at the University of Cape Town. While there, he sent a proposal to Eskom for an energy-savings programme that so impressed them they offered him a job. Years later he made

another bold move — to the Technology Innovation Agency, where the 33-year-old now helps entrepreneurs to turn their innovations in energy into viable businesses. His dream is to be a philanthropist: "If you pick the right people and give them the right resources, you can change lives," he says. He should know — he's a shining example. — Joonji Mdyogolo

 Website: tia.org.za



YOUNG DESIGNERS

READY TO CHANGE ENERGY USE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Over 28% of the South African population is aged between 15 and 34, so it's really no surprise that some of the most innovative and exciting developments in energy efficiency are being pioneered by young South Africans with a passion for energy efficiency and creating a greener country.

In fact, at the 2012 Eskom *eta* Awards, Eskom's prestigious competition that recognises and rewards excellence in energy efficiency, young people were responsible for some of the most exciting entries.

The *eta* Awards have been running for 23 years, and were originally established to generate awareness and encourage action in the energy efficiency field. Over the years they have grown from strength to strength, and are now considered one of the most prestigious energy efficiency awards in the country.

Entries are invited in 8 categories: Innovation, Commercial, Industrial, Residential, Energy Saving in Households, Energy Efficiency Awareness, Community as well as a Young Designers category that recognises learners doing impressive things to reduce energy consumption.

But it not just the school learners that shine, in fact the runner-up in the Innovation Category in 2012 was University of Stellenbosch Electrical Engineering student, Frederick Bruwer.

Bruwer was fed up with having to take regular cold showers due to an intermittent supply of hot water, so he took matters into his own hands. Soon the days of lukewarm showers in the morning could come to an end if he had anything to do with it.

Bruwer decided to think outside the box and create a device that works in collaboration with an electrical geyser and uses solar power to ensure that there is a constant supply of hot water.

He designed a geyser powered by solar energy and electricity. Through stratification (arranging of layers), a certain amount of hot water is stored in the geyser and the hot and cold water are kept apart.

The geyser optimises the use of solar energy during the day and only uses a certain amount of electricity at night to keep the solar heated water warm for use in the morning. By preventing the hot and cold water from mixing, the geyser is able to heat the water without using as much electricity as required for cold water alone.

This has produced average savings of up to 2.19 megawatt hours of electricity per day and can reduce the electricity consumption by 85% per heating cycle.

This cutting-edge energy saving solar powered geyser impressed the Eskom *eta* Awards judges so much that it was a runner-up in the innovation category.

Says a proud Bruwer: "I wanted to create something that would not only help me, but

everyone else too. The geyser is a common thing but can be easily innovated and what this has shown me is that we can implement a change without changing our behaviour significantly."

Dr Steve Lennon, Eskom Group Executive of Sustainability says: "I think that this young man's invention should demonstrate to all of us that saving energy is something that does not always require the implementation of complicated measures. It also demonstrates that the younger generation are indeed at the forefront of the green revolution and are looking at ways of reinventing the old for present day energy challenges."

The other category which attracts exciting entries that propose unique solutions to common problems facing South Africans is the Young Designers category. This category is aimed at school-going children with a creative idea, programme, design or prototype that looks at the efficient use of energy.

eta Awards judge Alistair Schorn gains inspiration from the high levels of enthusiasm and understanding that these entrants show regarding issues of sustainability, energy efficiency and environment.

"This is particularly true of our school entrants – their submissions are generally the ones that we as judges enjoy the most," he says.

The 2012 awards saw a submission by budding 13-year old engineer Daniel von Eschwege. He built an affordable and energy efficient solar geyser system that could help millions of South Africans.

With the abundance of free solar energy that South Africa has Von Eschwege from Bloemfontein has created an affordable solar geyser system that does not require construction, labour or installation costs, and will ultimately help people to save on electricity costs.

An innovation and technology design whizz, Von Eschwege has been entering the Eskom Expo for Young Scientists for the past three years but last year was a winner in the individual young designer's category of the Eskom *eta* Awards.

After testing many different pipes and materials, the 13-year-old found that black plastic pipe or high-density polyethylene (HDPE) was just as efficient as a copper pipe, much easier to handle and much safer for use in a solar geyser.

The substitution of black plastic pipe for copper also helps to curb theft. Von Eschwege has focused his attention on this to produce a more affordable solar geyser that would benefit people in disadvantaged communities without sacrificing the quality and efficiency of more expensive solar heating systems.

Dr Lennon says: "Time and again the youth always surprise us with great ideas that nobody else has thought of. Daniel is really deserving of this *eta* Award for his never-give



Daniel von Eschwege



Daniel building his hosepipe geyser



Frikkie Bruwer and his innovation - the solar geyser

up attitude and coming up with something that might potentially help millions."

Solar geysers typically have a saving of around 40% per household, and can reach temperatures of 70 degrees during summer time but the conversion of solar energy is both complicated and expensive.

His high-pressure solar water heating is completely DIY with a saving of approximately 75% on the price of a geyser, coming in at R2 500 against an average price of R10 000 for a normal retail 150 litre high-pressure geyser.

Von Eschwege's aim is to have his high-pressure solar water heating system publicly available as a DIY pack, and widely advertised as a substantially more affordable option that can help people to address the rising energy costs that await us all.

He has learned from this project that one doesn't have to simply accept or buy what is available, but that it is possible to find new ways of doing things that can be just as effective.

Both of these unique entries show that increasingly we should be looking to the youth for innovative solutions that will help to address South Africa's developmental challenges and begin to shift habits of energy inefficiency across the country.

Visit www.eta-awards.co.za, follow the *eta* Awards on Facebook and Twitter, and watch videos of previous winners on YouTube. Email: amroux@mweb.co.za for more information. Entries close on 2 August 2013.



Get more hot water from a solar geyser that uses less energy.

Even though the geyser is one of the appliances that uses the most electricity in our homes, taking cold showers and baths is not what everybody looks forward to.

A solar-powered geyser could be the solution. Built by Daniel von Eschwege from the Free State, this solar geyser uses far less energy and is 75% less expensive than the conventional one. Can you beat Daniel's invention that topped the *eta* awards Young Designers category in 2012? Enter the Eskom *eta* awards today and stand to win R30 000 in cash! Plus, your invention can change the world.

CATEGORIES

- Industrial - do you have what it takes to change energy consumption in the industrial sector?
- Commercial - if your energy saving idea produces results in the commercial sector, this is where you can make a name for yourself.
- Young designers - this is for school children with bright energy saving ideas.
- Innovation - can your brand-new energy saving idea be put to practice?
- Residential - can your ideas reduce consumption in the residential sector?
- Community - can your energy saving ideas change the community?
- Energy Savings in Households - can you reduce consumption in your home?
- Energy efficiency awareness - are you creatively spreading the word about energy saving?

**To find out more, visit www.eta-awards.co.za
Entries close 2 August 2013**

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Faf du Plessis Cricketer

A century on his Test debut for the Proteas last year might belie the sober progression of François du Plessis's career. He was already 28 and a warhorse of provincial, county and even ODI cricket. But the wait was worth it. "Test cricket really is the ultimate," says du Plessis. "Physically and mentally, nothing compares." With an average of nearly 70 in this format, it seems he's up to the challenge. An effervescent fielder and quiet leader, du Plessis is now also a star of IPL outfit the Chennai Super Kings and has cemented himself in the novel role of permanent

skipper of the national T20 side. But in important ways du Plessis has only begun to achieve his goals. "I want to be able to really score runs 360 degrees around the field," he says. "And I'd like to be a top batsman in all formats of the game for a long time. But I can't say anything will beat a Test hundred on debut." — Ian Macleod

 **Twitter:** @faf1307

Ilse Hayes

Paralympian

Ilse Hayes has her eye on the long jump world record. And that doesn't seem far off — considering that she won gold at last year's Paralympics in spite of a torn quad muscle. She also came second in the 100m sprint. Hayes has 15% vision in both eyes, owing to a condition that caused her eyesight to start deteriorating when she was 11. At her first international competition, the Junior Wheelchair Games in Australia in 2001, she won the long jump, as well as the 100m, 200m and 400m events. In time, though, she found her niche in the long jump and 100m disciplines, in which she took gold and silver respectively at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics. "It feels good to be at the top of your game," she says. "But it takes hard work to stay there. Success is dependent on self-discipline, sacrifice and support. I am already preparing for Rio!" — Fatima Asmal

 **Twitter:** @ilse_hayes2016


Chad le Clos Swimmer

He had beaten Michael Phelps before. But not like this. Not in the greatest sporting theatre there is. This time Durbanite Chad le Clos was also behind for much of the 200m butterfly final at the 2012 London Games. The surge that looped his muscly body over the water and past his boyhood hero and the most decorated Olympian of all time is what made this gold medal iconic. It's worth remembering what earned Le Clos that 0.05 second margin. "I'm training 10 sessions a week," he said a month before the Games opened. "Right now, it's 7km in the morning and another 6km in the evening. But I'll get up to 20km a day soon." The omens of international glory were there from at least the 2010 Youth Olympics in Singapore. Then 17, Le Clos thundered to five medals across his favourite disciplines: butterfly, freestyle and the individual medley. Not two months later that infectious smile was gleaming again after five more medals at the

Delhi Commonwealth Games. Still, Le Clos reckons, "it all started in Dubai for me, because I didn't expect to swim so fast there". He's talking about the 1.51.56 he swam for 200m 'fly gold in the World Cup event that December — nearly five seconds faster than his Commonwealth gold in October. Named 2012 Sports Star of the Year in South Africa, Le Clos is now that and more. A-list celebrity, role model, sex symbol, the swimmer with the beach-boy looks accepts the praise with bashful gratitude. Le Clos called winning Olympic gold the greatest moment of his life. "Nothing could ever compare to this moment," he declared through tears of poolside joy. But remember, the plan has long been for him to test the waters in London and then dominate at Rio 2016. — Ian Macleod

 **Twitter:** @chadleclos



Natalie du Toit swimmer

When Natalie du Toit retired from competitive swimming at the Paralympics last year, she did so in true champion style, coming second in her final event, bringing her tally of Paralympics medals to 15, 13 of them gold. Add to that eight Commonwealth Games gold medals, a Laureus award for Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability and you soon understand why the 28-year-old Capetonian is lauded and admired the world over. Du Toit swam competitively even before she lost her leg in a car accident when she was 14. She returned to the pool three months after

the accident to embark on a journey that would mould her into a global icon. "I'm fortunate that I was able to win medals, but it's not about medals; it was a goal and a dream which I worked hard towards achieving ... it's great to be able to retire and know there's nothing more I can achieve in the pool." — *Fatima Asmal*

 **Twitter:** @natsdutoit
Website: nataliedutoit.co.za

Anriëtte Schoeman Cyclist

The odds were stacked against Anriëtte Schoeman at this year's Pick n Pay Cape Argus race. A disastrous race last year followed by a bad patch had affected her mentally. Written off as a serious contender by many because she's 35, she never considered she might win, but found herself racing to her seventh Argus title. "It was so unexpected, it felt like I've been given something special," she says of the race. Schoeman has been the Elite National Road Champion eight times and has won the Pick n Pay 94.7 Cycle Challenge five times. It's not surprising, then, that she's been named South African Cyclist of the Year on three occasions. And she isn't ready to give up just yet. "I am slowly converting to mountain biking, but my main focus and passion is still on the road. I think I will know when I have had enough." — *Fatima Asmal*

 **Twitter:** @Anriettes



Venessa Clack Pole Dancer

Most people think Venessa Clack dons a pair of perspex heels, then twirls around a pole. They also assume that in her fitness studio in Johannesburg she teaches women how to do a sexy striptease. What they don't know is that competitive pole dancers like Clack require similar levels of physical strength, flexibility and stamina to those of Olympic gymnasts. In fact, pole dancing has become so popular among men and women all over the world that there's a push to have it recognised as an Olympic sport by 2020. And Clack thinks it's about time. "Any discipline whereby an individual dedicates time, motivation, diet, consistency and determination to succeed beyond a social level requires professional respect," she says. At the first-ever World Pole Sports Championships held in London last year, Clack was placed fifth overall in the women's category. Impressive, considering that the competition attracted pole dancers from as far afield as Japan, Russia and Italy. She also won the Pole Fitness Championships organised by the Pole Fitness

Association of South Africa and hasn't fared too badly in its more theatrical counterpart, Miss Pole Dance South Africa, finishing as a runner-up four times and winning the contest in 2011. In November she's off to Singapore for the International Pole Championship, for which she qualified as a semifinalist thanks to an impressive three-minute video she sent to the organisers. Inspired by her father's advice: "Never let others determine your dreams, you can achieve anything," Clack has developed her own signature moves, which she recently shared with dancers at various workshops in Australia. She's also a digital strategist, wife, and mum to a two-year-old girl. It's a busy schedule, but she loves every minute of it, particularly the impact she has on the lives of women — both as a teacher and as a sportswoman. — *Fatima Asmal*

 **Twitter:** @VenessaClack

200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS | Sport

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Iain Campbell Bodyboarder

Iain Campbell learnt the basics of bodyboarding when he was seven years old. He was instantly hooked, and spent hundreds of hours in the water, riding waves and learning how to do cut-backs, floaters and spins. The hard work paid off — his achievements range from two South African under-15 titles to a South African Pro Tour title. But the best was yet to come. Last year Campbell attended the International Surfing Association World Bodyboarding Championships in Venezuela, where he overshadowed bodyboarders from seven other countries

to take the coveted world title in the drop knee category. He's now working towards qualifying for the World Bodyboard Tour, something that entails more hard work, which he welcomes. "I love the fact that I can get up in the morning, watch a beautiful sunrise and get some amazing waves. It's very easy to just forget about all my troubles and focus on something that is so close to my heart." — *Fatima Asmal*

 **Twitter:** @iamiaincampbell

Dean Furman

Footballer

Dean Furman was Bafana Bafana's overnight sensation at this year's Africa Cup of Nations. Mind you, "overnight" fails to take into account the fact that he left Cape Town as a boy and doggedly worked his way across Britain's professional leagues, eventually earning a safe first-team spot — first at Oldham and most recently, on loan, at Doncaster Rovers. He also sat unused on the bench for South Africa in a 2008 friendly against Australia. So the nifty Furman's senior job with Bafana is deserved. The workaholic midfielder is charged with buzzing about the centre of the park, snatching possession, then co-ordinating attacks with his laser passes and sniper-like vision. Furman's performances and affable nature have even earned the 24-year-old a talismanic status among local soccer fans. A rare white star in a traditionally black team, he's known as "Mlungu", or "white man". And as any South African sports fan knows, a catchy moniker is as good a predictor as any of sporting-legend status.

— *Ian Macleod*

 **Twitter:** @de4no22



Tasnim Amra Chess Player

It was a stroke of fate that introduced Tasnim Amra to chess. As a grade 2 learner at Durban's Gordon Road Girls School she had to choose an extramural subject from computers, chess or music. She chose computers, but, because the class was already full, had to opt for her second choice — chess. Two weeks later she was chosen to play in her first schools' tournament and the rest is fodder for her biography. At nine she became the youngest recipient of the eThekweni Mayor's Award for Outstanding Achievement. Amra went on to become the South African Girl Chess Champion in the under-10, under-12, under-14 and under-16 divisions. She was also crowned the under-12 African Girl Chess Champion in Cape Town in 2009, and scooped the under-16 title in Lusaka in 2011. Her outstanding achievements have taken her around the world. She has represented South Africa at the World Youth Chess Championship in the United States (2006), Turkey (2007), Vietnam (2008), Greece (2010), Brazil (2011) and Slovenia (2012). It's not surprising then

that the World Chess Federation has twice awarded Amra the title of Woman Fide Master — a prestigious ranking. Amra is proud of her achievements but would like to see South Africa become more serious about its talent. "South African chess champions still have to purchase their own tracksuits and kits and cover their own travel costs to represent their country," she says. Although chess involves receiving coaching, studying the games of opponents and developing an individual style and strategy, Amra dedicates many more hours to her schoolwork, which is why she averages 70% to 80% at Northlands Girls High School, where she is currently in Grade 11. Amra recently won the South African Junior Closed Chess Championships in the under-18 division, making her eligible to participate in the World Youth Championships in the United Arab Emirates later this year. — *Fatima Asmal*

 **Website:** chessa.co.za



Hashim Amla Cricketer

With consecutive batting failures in his first six Test innings for the Proteas, Hashim Amla's start in international cricket had all the hallmarks of a failed experiment. Perhaps worse, his batting technique — an unusual crouch with troubling pre-shot "trigger" — was widely deemed to be inadequate. The quiet Durbanite looked set to melt into obscurity. And he did. Briefly. "Not being successful at the start left me with many doubts," recalls Amla. "You want to fulfil this idealistic career path that you've imagined. In reality, there aren't many 'happily ever after' stories." The "Silent Warrior" applied the stoic, unrelenting grit he is now famous for, rebuilding his form while captaining the Dolphins franchise. Although his technique looked more refined and, scoring runs as he was, even his critics began to warm to the "flaws". His second chance in Proteas whites came against New Zealand in Cape Town in 2006. He opened with a dominant 149 in a drawn match, and suddenly the awkward technique was solid

in defence, rapier in attack. Amla was back. His career since then suggests that there is such a thing as a "happily-ever-after" story. Surrounding the pinnacle of 311 not out against England at the Oval in 2012 (the first-ever triple century by a South African) are the fact that he has reached the top spot in both Test and ODI batting rankings, averaging well over 50 in both formats to become the fastest batsman ever to reach 3000 runs in ODIs. Despite the aura of calmness people love about him, Amla insists it isn't easy. "Very seldom do you get to the crease and feel comfortable or 'in the zone'," he says. "It's hard to explain. I think it's about not looking ahead and not looking behind, treating each ball with respect." But if he's pushed to look ahead: "Being part of a World Cup-winning team would be a major highlight." — *Ian Macleod*

Twitter: @amlahash



Trisha Chetty Cricketer

When Trisha Chetty walked on to the field for her first game of hardball cricket she could hear the whispers: "Take it easy on her, she's a girl." But she let her bat do the talking and soon she was just one of the guys. Chetty started playing cricket at seven at a mini tournament in her hometown of Chatsworth. The coach suggested the girls' team but she insisted on playing with the boys, and took seven wickets in her first match. She moved over to girls' cricket as a teenager and was selected to play for South Africa at the age of 18. Now 24, Chetty serves as wicketkeeper, vice-captain and opening batswoman for the national team. Her goal this year is to be among the top 10 female cricketers in the world — not far-fetched considering that she's currently number 17. — *Fatima Asmal*

Twitter: @trishchetty1

Siyabonga Sangweni Footballer

The moniker Nsimbi, isiZulu for Iron Man, describes only one facet of Siyabonga Sangweni's football. The rugged central defender's tackling is hard as steel. But it's his knack for finding vital goals that lights up stadiums. Chief among these is the late curling strike in Durban to put Bafana Bafana into the quarter-finals of the 2013 African Cup of Nations. "I don't know. I just told myself to let go and try my luck," the unassuming star said later. The 31-year-old Empangeni-born player spent much of his career

at Golden Arrows, only transferring to Orlando Pirates in 2011. There Sangweni was pivotal to his side's treble-winning season. In return, Bucs named him their player of the year and fans did the same in an online poll. Sangweni is now also a farmer and businessman but Bafana fans hope to hang on to his football skills until at least the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. — *Ian Macleod*

Twitter: @siyasangweni

The rugged central defender's tackling is hard as steel. But it's his knack for finding vital goals that lights up stadiums.



The "Oarsome Foursome"

Rowers

Their dramatic gold-winning surge at London 2012 was no fluke. South Africa's "Oarsome Foursome" — Sizwe Ndlovu, Matthew Brittain, John Smith and James Thompson — finished every training session with a lung-busting effort just like their gold-winning performance. "Someone would call, 'One goal!' recalls Smith," and we'd shout back, 'GOLD!', and you were forced to find more." Still, it was almost apt that the TV commentator mistook the rented South African boat for the Australian vessel when its bow crossed the line first. Being a dark horse was one of the team's secret weapons. "The absence of media pressure was definitely helpful," recalls Brittain. "We just wanted to go there and race hard." Olympic glory was followed by international Male Crew of the Year honours and being named Team of the Year at the South African Sports Awards. It remains for sports history to decide whether the unofficial title of "Greatest Olympic rowing finish ever" will stick. — Ian Macleod

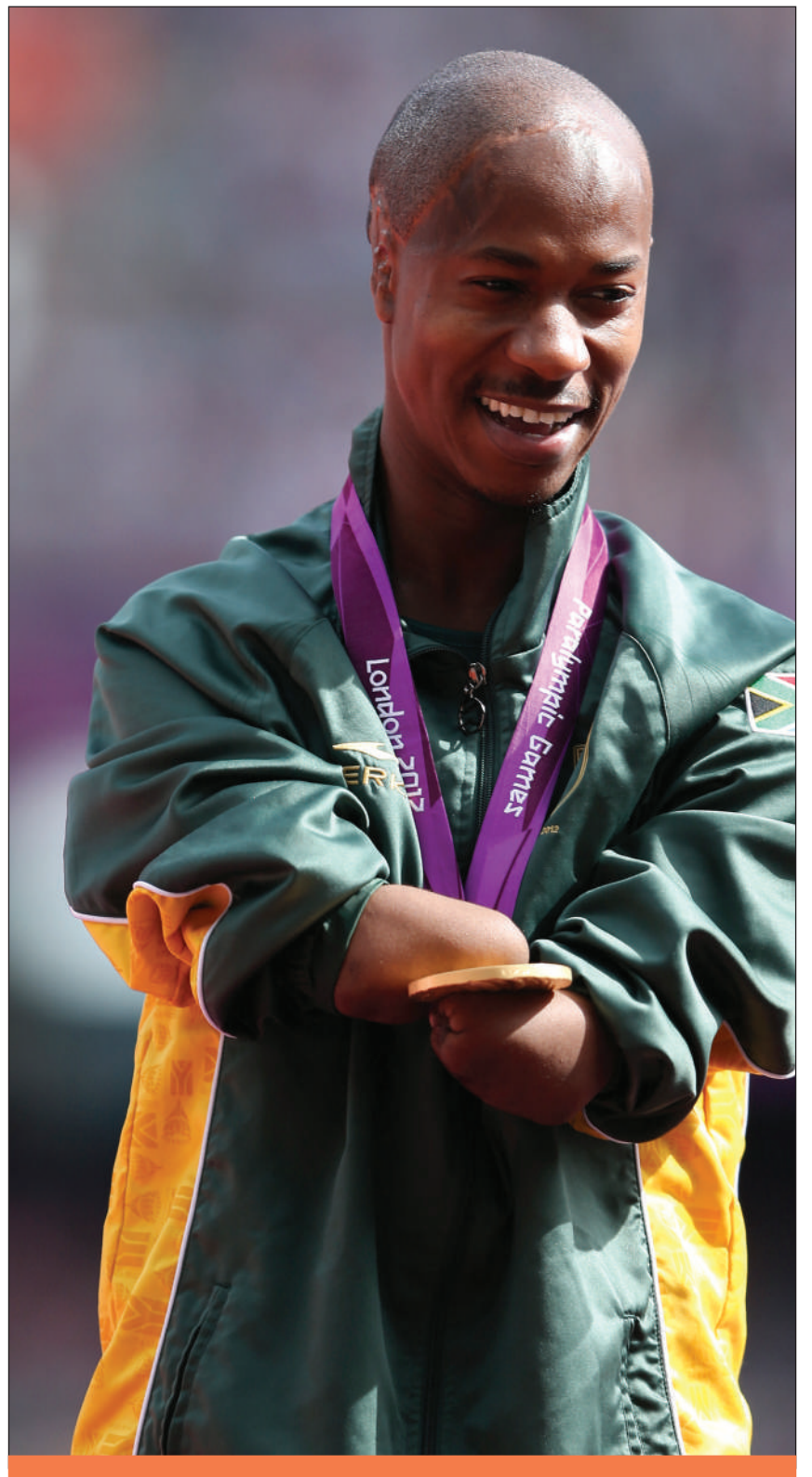
 Website: teamrowrsa.co.za



Arnu Fourie Paralympian

When Arnu Fourie was little he wanted to play rugby for the Springboks. In 2003 he signed a contract with the Golden Lions Rugby Union, but fate had other plans for him. Fourie was involved in a boating accident and lost his left leg below the knee. At first he was devastated, but his love of sport and encouragement from loved ones led him to the athletics track. Adaptation was slow. He initially lost most of his races by more than 10m but after a year of hard work he found himself featuring in the top three in most 100m and 200m events. Fourie fared well in the 2012 Paralympics, bringing home a 100m bronze medal, but his most treasured moment was being a member of the winning 4x100m relay team "... singing our national anthem ... seeing our country's flag being raised ... just thinking about this still brings tears to my eyes," he says. — Fatima Asmal

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



Samkelo Radebe Paralympian

"If only I could make you experience the feeling," says Samkelo Radebe. He's talking about the world-record 41.78s it took him and his teammates to go round the track in the 4x100m relay at the London Paralympics last year. "I did more living during that race than some people do in a lifetime." Radebe has experienced equally low moments. When he was nine he had both his forearms amputated after the kite he was flying hit an electricity pylon. The injuries were so severe that he recalls a time during treatment when he couldn't tell skin from bone. But he's philosophical to the point of being chipper. "I still have no reason to be angry," he says. "I have a great life, filled with loving friends and family. I just happened to lose my hands when I got naughty with electricity." More relevant to the 24-year-old is that he's fast. "I have a lot of explosive power, which means a great start," he explains. He proved this with his opening leg for the relay team in London, as well as for their gold win at the IPC World Championships in 2011. His personal bests of 11.10s for the 100m and 23.12s for the 200m are both national records for the T45 class. Running solo, he also took silver in 2011 at the Commonwealth Games in India. "I really love what I do with a passion," he says. "Hard work is my daily life." Another part of his routine is studying Law at the University of Johannesburg. "My big, big goal is to finish my degree this year," says Radebe. "I enjoy talking and listening, so my personality fits Law quite well. Apparently I like arguing too. Next year I'll do articles," he says. "But working while training and competing is going to be a different ball game." — Ian Macleod

 Twitter: [@samkelo8](https://twitter.com/samkelo8)



Eben Etzebeth Rugby Player

Pundits talk about Eben Etzebeth's physical power as though describing some otherworldly gift. As proof they cite feats like his bouncing of Sharks hard man Bismarck du Plessis off his left shoulder during a trademark charge upfield last year. The 21-year-old is more sober about the incident. "Ag, it was more about being excited to be back on the field after a few weeks of injury," he says. His rise to rugby dominance was meteoric. Early on, in high school in Cape Town, he was the little guy who slotted in anywhere in the backline. Better known as a sprinter and high-jumper, Etzebeth only grew late in his teens. By 2009 he was near his current 2.03m and 120kg frame and playing lock at Craven Week. He was a star of the Varsity Cup-winning University of Cape Town Ikeys in 2011. His severe running and mauling impressed the Western Province selectors and, in February 2012, aged just 20, he debuted for the Stormers. By June he was a Springbok, starting for a winning outfit against England in Durban. It was the sort of rise a young bloke from Goodwood might find difficult to handle. But the towering Etzebeth has taken it in his ample stride. "Andries [Bekker, his lock partner] helped a lot," he explains. "But I really loved becoming friends with guys I had only ever seen on TV. Even the guys you play against. On the field you hate them, but afterwards you're friends." Responding to forecasts that he'll become a legendary Springbok enforcer, the deep-thinking Etzebeth is composed. "That is what's expected of me. But I also enjoy running with the ball, which not all number 4s do. I love flowing rugby. What I really want to do is win trophies for my teams. The World Cup for the Boks would be the ultimate." — *Ian Macleod*

Twitter: @EbenEtzebeth



Cameron van der Burgh Swimmer

Cameron van der Burgh was a superstar when he broke the 50m breaststroke world record in 2009. His beaming grin after winning the 100m event at the 2010 Commonwealth Games and "Ke Nako" (Sotho for "It is time") printed on his palms made him a South African hero. Olympic gold at London 2012 ensured his legacy as a swimming legend. Proud to have achieved it all by training from his home town of Pretoria, "Killa Cam" attributes much of his success to his mind. "If you get too serious, the pressure will get to you," he explains. "I get really pumped up, but I don't get nervous. I hate training, but I love racing. It's about being in the moment." Now Van der Burgh's role is as much racer as it is leader. "Chad [le Clos] and I spoke about it," he says, looking ahead, "and we have the opportunity to change South African swimming." — *Ian Macleod*

Twitter: @Cameronvdburgh



Anaso Jobodwana Sprinter

Anaso Jobodwana's goal at the London Olympics was to better his 200m time and reach the semifinal. He ended up running his best time of 20.27 and reaching the final, no mean feat considering that the 19-year-old had no plans to feature in London. He did show Olympic potential in 2010 when he won the South African Schools 200m title but when 2011 turned out to be an injury-filled year he turned his focus to Rio 2016 instead. His two outstanding times in 2012 saw the Eastern Cape athlete qualify for his first Olympics. Jobodwana, who is now based at Jackson State University in Mississippi, is currently ranked number 10 in the world and is a member of the Sascoc Operation Excellence programme, which supports 48 leading athletes financially and logistically ahead of the 2016 Olympics. Watch out Rio, here comes South Africa's own lightning bolt. — *Fatima Asmal*

Website: sascoc.co.za

Kutloano and Sefenya Moloi Show Jumpers

Kutloano and Sefenya Moloi took an instant liking to horses when their businessman father bought a farm in the Eastern Free State four years ago. Impressed by his children's newfound passion, Moloi bought them an Arabian horse — thanks to which the boys became more “loving, caring and disciplined”. As a result he bought them an Arabian stud and more horses, which they started riding. The brothers began to compete in different types of competitions about two years ago, eventually decided to concentrate on showing Arabian horses, and have excelled ever since. Last year 13-year-old Sefenya won the child rider class at the Mpumalanga Arabian Championships and was placed fourth in the overall rider category. At the South African Arabian National Championships this year 14-year-old Kutloano won the show hack child rider and the English pleasure child rider categories. There was also a top-10 place for each of them at this year's Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show in Arizona, United States, which draws 2 500 accomplished riders

and 30 000 spectators annually. This qualifies them to participate in the US National Youth Championship in July. Although Kutloano likes the faster performance classes and Sefenya enjoys precision riding, they often compete against each other. “Although we both try to win, we are always happy and proud of the one who does the best,” they concur. If the brothers have to miss school, their teachers prepare homework for them, which they complete at shows between events. Kutloano and Sefenya attribute their success to hard work and correct preparation. That and the fact that they love what they do. “We enjoy the challenge and the fact that the horses and competitions keep you humble. You can be at the top of your game today, but a tiny mistake can put you at the bottom tomorrow.” — *Fatima Asmal*

 **Website:** hilltopsaddlery.co.za



Although we both try to win, we are always happy and proud of the one who does the best.



Bridgitte Hartley

Sprint Kayaker

“This time I heard nothing,” recalls Bridgitte Hartley, speaking of the nearly two-minute explosion that won her bronze in the kayak single 500m final at the 2012 London Olympics. “My body was aching from the start. The end was a blur.” Her signature power finish earned South Africa its fifth medal of the Games and Hartley's first taste of Olympic precious metal. A niche star until then, the smiley Hartley came home a hero. “I thoroughly enjoyed every moment,” she explains, “realising just how many people had watched me race.” Afterwards she took a longer break than usual, getting stuck into some river paddling and media gigs. But she's not done yet. Hartley's new goal is a world championship medal in the 500m, and she's made changes to boost her 200m results. And for the 2016 Games in Rio? “I've started working on my weak points already,” she says. “Hopefully in three years I'll be even stronger.”

— *Ian Macleod*

 **Twitter:** @for_bridgitte

Portia Modise Footballer

After a lengthy absence, midfielder Portia Modise announced her return to Banyana Banyana emphatically by scoring two goals in an international friendly. Modise, who started playing for the national team in 2000, was nominated for the Women's Fifa World Player of the Year award in 2005 and the 2006 Confederation of African Football Women's Football of the Year award. But in 2008 she quit the team because of irreconcilable differences with the former coach. She was recalled by new coach Joseph Mkhonza last year and scored South Africa's only goal at the London Olympics.

She also played a key role on the road to the final of the African Women's Championship in Equatorial Guinea and was one of three nominees for the 2012 African Women's Footballer of the Year award. Modise, who has scored 73 goals in 102 Banyana appearances, started playing soccer when she was seven. “I always dreamed of wearing the Banyana jersey,” she says. — *Fatima Asmal*

 **Facebook:** Banyana Banyana





His lashing pace and smart attacks helped Mahlangu's team to the league and cup double, and he was named both league player of the year and Sweden's athlete of the year.



May Mahlangu Footballer

Even some keen local sports fans only really took notice of May Mahlangu six months ago. It happened at the glittering moment he received a pass on the 18-yard box at the Moses Mabhida stadium during the Africa Cup of Nations, took two steps and ripped the ball past the stricken Morocco goalkeeper with his rifle right foot. It was his second goal for Bafana, but that sort of strike is Mahlangu's stock in trade for Swedish club side Helsingborgs IF. "Every time after training I always stay behind and do shooting outside the box," he explains. "So [scoring] was not a surprise for me." Mahlangu grew up in the small industrial town of Secunda, in Mpumalanga. By 15 his talent was obvious and he won an opportunity to train in Sweden. That's where the mohawked midfielder has been ever since, debuting for Helsingborgs in the top league in 2009. But it was his 2011 form that made him sporting royalty in Sweden. His lashing pace and smart attacks helped his team to the league and cup double, and he was named both league player of the year and Sweden's athlete of the year. He won 17 man of the match awards that season. Bafana Bafana selectors took note and picked Mahlangu for his international debut early in 2012 in a friendly against Equatorial Guinea. Predictably, the transfer market is alive with chatter about this "Scandinavian Messi". Only a reported R25-million price tag was said to have kept him in Helsingborg in the January transfer window. Bids for the wonder from Secunda are expected to revive in July, but one suspects this mature youngster will take that in his ever-assured stride. "You have to be patient," says the 24-year-old. "Everything is possible. I know several teams are looking at me." — Ian Macleod

Facebook: May Mahlangu Fan Club



Siya Kolisi Rugby Player

Siya Kolisi is the boy from the townships who took every chance he got. From a bursary to attend the famous Grey High to a surprise Stormers debut off the bench at age 20, he hasn't let one slip yet. Hailed for his rampant dashes up field, Kolisi takes special pride in his tackling. "That first-phase defence is one of my real strengths," he says. But he's clear on his flaws, too. "I want to get better at the breakdown, steal possession more often and start getting myself into better positions with the ball in hand." The youngster from Zwide hasn't forgotten why he plays this game. "It's my happy space. It's just honesty on the field. No matter what else is happening in life, I just love playing rugby with my mates." Denied a first shot at Springbok glory last year because of injury, the flanker now looks set for plenty of chances at the highest level. — Ian Macleod

Twitter: @kolisi1



Reinardt Janse van Rensburg Cyclist

When Reinardt Janse van Rensburg was 12 his dad bought him a bike for Christmas. He started racing and was soon hooked, becoming the National Time Trial champion in his age category two years later. He soon moved from club teams to bigger teams such as MTN Qhubeka before joining Argos Shimano, a world tour team, for the 2013 season. Van Rensburg was the South African time trial champion in 2012. His first international victory was a stage-two win in the Jayco Herald Sun Tour in Australia. Last year he won the Tour of Morocco comfortably, and his debut win in Europe was the fourth stage of the Tour de Bretagne in France. Adapting to different roads and weather conditions can't have been easy for the 24-year-old but his determination to succeed has meant that this year he'll feature in some of the biggest races in the world. — Fatima Asmal

Twitter: @Reinardtvnsbrg
Website: reinardtvanrensburg.wordpress.com



Naseera Ebrahim

Executive Assistant to the CEO
(Massbuild)

Naseera Ebrahim (28) is the executive assistant to the chief executive of Massbuild, the home improvement and DIY division of Massmart Holdings.

Ebrahim completed her law degree (LLB) at the University of Johannesburg in 2006. During her final year of study, she was appointed as an academic research assistant to the professor of Law of Persons and the Family as well as Jurisprudence. She also co-founded the University of Johannesburg law student's society. She articulated at one of the leading commercial litigation practices in South Africa and was admitted as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa in April 2009. During her articles, Ebrahim gained significant experience in commercial litigation matters, high court and magistrate's court litigation, labour law as well as exposure to the drafting and negotiation of commercial agreements. Her interest in commercial drafting led her to complete a postgraduate diploma in the drafting and interpretation of contracts in 2009.

After completion of her articles, Ebrahim decided that she would prefer to be in a corporate environment and given her affinity for retail took the opportunity that arose at Massbuild. She joined Massbuild in March 2009 as the legal officer, responsible for all legal matters pertaining to the division. At the time of her appointment, Massbuild did not have a legal team and Ebrahim established from scratch a legal framework and legal service offering that, according to Massmart Group services manager Tracy Haiml, "is highly respected within all areas of the business." Ebrahim was promoted to the role of legal adviser within a year, which included focus on the division's African operations as well as the Builders Trade Depot format. In 2010, she was awarded the Massbuild Young Achievers Award for "the exceptional contribution she has made to the legal environment and, with recognition of her limited exposure to the retail industry as a whole, she has demonstrated consistently high levels of understanding, enthusiasm and professionalism. The contribution she has made at her young age of only 26 is clear evidence that she is a young achiever." She was subsequently awarded the Massmart CEO Citation for Excellence as testament of her performance excellence and contribution to the organisation.

In October 2012, she was appointed to her current role as executive assistant, where she has had exposure to the strategic side of the business and has found herself in the fortunate position of working on various projects with the Massbuild executive team. Ebrahim describes her current role as both intellectually stimulating and dynamic, with just the right amount of variety.



Zandile Manana

Marketing Director (Massbuild)

Zandile Manana (33) is the marketing director of Massbuild, the home improvement and DIY division of Massmart Holdings.

After graduating with a Commerce degree from Rhodes University, Manana began his career at Unilever on the graduate development programme. After two years at the company he was promoted to national account manager, at age 23. He remained in that role for five years until January 2008 when he joined Massmart as a channel forum manager.

At the end of 2007, Manana won the Gibbs (Gordon Institute of Business Science) 60-second challenge for a scholarship to study for an MBA at the business school in 2008 and 2009.

In November 2009 he was appointed executive assistant to the Group chief executive of Massmart, Grant Pattison, who describes Zandile as a role model for young executives in South Africa. "He's got that X factor, something which is hard to describe. But when you meet him you are convinced that he will occupy the position of CEO for some company one day," says Pattison.

In July 2011, Manana landed his current role to head up marketing for Massbuild. For him, marketing is not only about delivering and communicating value to customers; it is also about managing customer relationships in ways that will benefit the organisation.

After two years in the role, he seems encouraged by the significant changes his team has made in communicating the company's value proposition to its customers. He said that the extended price cut campaigns (which commenced after the Massmart-Walmart merger) have triggered a new thought process, both from an advertising perspective and in in-store execution.

Manana was raised in Kagiso (Mogale City)

in the West Rand, Gauteng. Despite being a reluctant leader, he has always ended up in leadership positions since high school. He was deputy head boy in Grade 12 and went on to become president of the local chapter of an international non-profit student organisation in his first year at Rhodes, and was a sub-warden at College House in his third year. "I recall being elected as the student representative for the Information Systems 2 class; I had no clue that half the class even knew my name, and I ended up failing the course to my embarrassment," he says.

Although he considers setbacks to be an important part of life, not going to university was one that he was not going to accept. When he was in high school he realised that many talented learners were not furthering their studies owing to financial constraints and he vowed that lack of money was not going to stop him from obtaining his degree. And when he boarded that Greyhound bus to Grahamstown in February 1997, he had no idea where the money was going to come from, but took the step of faith anyway. He soon discovered that faith indeed moves mountains and managed to get funding from the Tertiary Fund of South Africa (now called the National Student Fund Aid Scheme) in his first year and then a full bursary, through the help of his aunt, for the rest of his studies. "Had I not taken that big step and boarded that bus to Grahamstown, I might not be where I am today," he says. That experience has taught him that, although nothing in life comes easy, dreams can still be achieved if one is determined and committed. Since then Manana has never stopped dreaming and believing.

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- ☐ *Designer of the year*
- ☐ *Microbiologist*
- ☐ *World renowned engineer*
- ☐ *Tennis champion*

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