



DANIEL JOHNSON

2023 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Astrophysics,
University of Montpellier

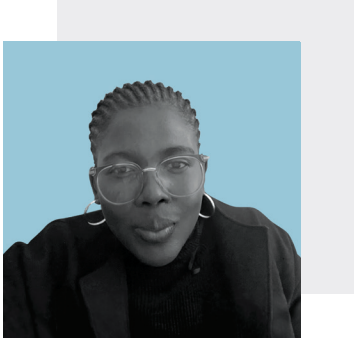
Daniel holds a BSc (Hons) in Astrophysics and Space Science from the University of Cape Town.

Over the past year, he has been completing an masters' degree in astrophysics, specialising in the detection of large-scale dark matter distributions from space-time distortions to strongly gravitationally lensed galaxies and super massive black holes. This has helped to cement a deep passion for using physics as a tool to explore the cosmos at its most fundamental levels, and, having had the chance to present his work as a speaker at a cosmology workshop in France last year, he will be starting a PhD at the University of Montpellier which builds on his masters' research, with the goal of contributing towards deciphering the nature of dark matter, dark energy and time.

Daniel has been involved in teaching and tutoring for many years and is passionate about alleviating South Africa's extreme inequality in access to a quality education. He served on the committee of the Golden Future Project for four years, and as its chairperson for two. Here, he oversaw the growth of the UCT-based outreach project to a team of several hundred active tutors, providing academic support to learners from more than 50 under-resourced schools in and around Cape Town, as well as developing an online programme through which tuition continued during the lockdown period. He hopes to continue to leverage his position in academia to develop and promote an understanding of and passion for mathematics and science throughout South Africa.

When not at his desk, Daniel can be found on a mountain or a football field, in a forest, or behind a piano, a camera, or a good book.

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AYABULELA MHLAHO

2023 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Philosophy, University of
Connecticut

Ayabulela holds a Master of Arts in African Literature (with distinction) at the University of the Witwatersrand which she completed in 2021. She has recently submitted a thesis for a second Master of Arts in Political Studies at the University of Cape Town.

She also holds a BA in African Literature and Philosophy and a BA (Hons) (with distinction) in African Literature, both from the University of the Witwatersrand. She has been the recipient of numerous merit and honours awards, scholarships and

grants at both the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Cape Town for her pioneering research in South African indigenous mythologies and their vast philosophical potential.

Notable among those is her status as the inaugural recipient of the UCT #RhodesMustFall scholarship and the rare Wits Sibusiso Mabena Memorial Prize for best Honours Long Paper in the Humanities. Her research foregrounds conceptual matrices embedded within South African mythic texts that display indigenous methods of crafting multi-dimensional structures of thought (or what we simply call 'wisdom').

Aside from her rigorous academic tutelage, Ayabulela has been deeply involved with community projects that aim to resuscitate knowledge centres and historical archives in Soweto. This community involvement is spurred by the conviction that academic knowledge should be democratised, and that various publics should be supported in their independent stewardship over – and cultivation of – cultural and historical memories. She has been a research assistant for the Dobsonville Heritage Foundation's in collaboration with the Narrative Enquiry for Social Transformation's Grandparents Project which records and keeps a public archive of the life histories of elderly members of the Dobsonville Community, and she is a recent collaborator of the Funda Community College in Diepkloof.

After the completion of her studies, Ayabulela hopes to establish her academic career in South Africa and teach about the transformative potential of imaginative thinking. She also looks forward to continuing her work with various alternative knowledge centres in South African townships and rural areas.

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JARON COHEN

2023 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Advanced Computer
Science, University of Oxford

Jaron completed his BSc (Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Mathematics) in 2021 and his BSc (Hons) Computer Science at the University of Cape Town in 2022.

During his studies, Jaron developed a fascination for the shortcomings of machine learning relative to human intelligence in several areas, such as abstract and commonsense reasoning.

As leader of a third-year capstone project, he coordinated the creation of a software tool for visualising and analysing graph-based meaning representation frameworks in the field of natural language processing, which resulted in a co-first author publication at Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing 2021. His honours thesis delved into novel entailment algorithms for propositional logic-based defeasible reasoning. Jointly recognised as the ‘Best Honours Project’ in his cohort, the consequent paper was also presented at the Southern African Conference for Artificial Intelligence Research 2022.

Beyond academia, Jaron engaged in hands-on industry experiences, such as his role as a software engineer intern at Aerobotics, and most recently, a six-month research internship at InstaDeep, exploring ideas within the field of meta-reinforcement learning.

Jaron was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship to pursue an MSc in Advanced Computer Science at the University of Oxford, which he hopes will provide an invaluable step towards achieving his long-term goal of contributing to aligned artificial general intelligence systems that will provide creative and unique solutions to the vast challenges humanity faces today.

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AZMINAH JHETAM

2023 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

Bachelor of Civil Law, University
of Oxford

**Azminah holds BA
and LLB degrees from
the University of the
Witwatersrand, both with
distinction.**

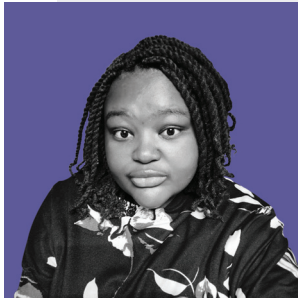
Azminah began her legal training at Bowmans, which is among the largest law firms in Africa. At Bowmans, she gained experience in public law, regulatory law, and general commercial litigation. She also worked on several *pro bono* matters relating to migrants' rights and inmates' rights. Azminah put her articles on pause to work as a researcher to Justice Leona Theron at the Constitutional Court, where she worked on a diverse set of matters ranging from evidentiary rules in criminal trials to the Legislature's public participation obligations.

Azminah is interested in law's potential – and limits – as an instrument for achieving justice.

She has had a chance to consider this question, both conceptually and practically, through various extra-curricular and voluntary pursuits since she was a student. She worked as an archival assistant to the curators of the museum and archive of the Constitution at the Hill, where she was exposed to granular details of the South African constitution-making process. She interned at Richard Spoor Inc, a public interest law firm, where she worked on land rights matters. She is a member of the Muslim Personal Law Network, a diverse collective working for change in gender-based consequences of the legal non-recognition of religious marriages, where she assists with drafting representations to various legislative and law reform bodies.

Azminah will be reading the BCL at Oxford, where she will be well placed to continue to think critically about justice and its analogues – law, authority, rights, and duties.

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MALAIKA MAHLATSI

2023 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Geography,
University of Bayreuth, Germany

Malaika holds a Master of Urban and Regional Planning (*cum laude*) from the University of Johannesburg as well as a Master of Public Affairs with specialisation in Food Security from the Tshwane University of Technology. She has recently submitted her MSc in Water Resource Science dissertation to the Institute for Water Research at Rhodes University.

A dedicated civil servant, In 2017 Malaika was appointed as a cabinet liaison in the Ministry of Communications before joining the Ministry of Science and Technology as a researcher. In 2019, she joined the Office of the Executive Mayor in the City of Ekurhuleni metropolitan municipality as a senior specialist researcher.

In 2022, she moved to the Office of the Whip of Council in the same municipality, where she worked as a research specialist.

Malaika is currently a research consultant at the Centre on African Public Spaces and a research fellow at the Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation at the University of Johannesburg. The award-winning bestselling author of *Memoirs of a Born Free: Reflections on the Rainbow Nation and Corridors of Death: The Struggle to Exist in Historically White Institutions*, Malaika writes weekly columns for the Sowetan and the Herald newspapers, as well as EWN. She is a contributing author to various international publications including the WOZ in Switzerland and Kulturaustausch in Germany.

Malaika will be completing a PhD in Geography at the University of Bayreuth in Germany where her research will focus on the gendered geographies of gentrification in South Africa. The study will delve into an intersectional analysis of race, class and gender in the context of urban spatiality, exploring the complex ways in which women negotiate their existence and livelihood generation in African cities.

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MICAELLA ROGERS

2023 FIRSTRAND
OXFORD AFRICAN STUDIES
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in African Studies,
University of Oxford

Micaella holds an Honours degree in Economics and a Bachelor of Social Science majoring in Economics, Psychology, and Applied Statistics, both from the University of Cape Town. For the past two years, she has worked as a sustainable impact and economic consultant at Genesis Analytics.

Micaella's research and professional interests centre on the complexities of labour market dynamics in Africa. She is interested in topics spanning south-south migration, the Just Energy Transition, and the implications of emerging technologies, including generative AI, for vulnerable labour markets.

In her time at Genesis, Micaella worked on projects including a jobs strategy for the Just Energy Transition in Mpumalanga, South Africa, a baseline assessment for the industrialisation of the township economy in South Africa, and many projects across the continent aimed at leveraging corporate capital to create positive socioeconomic impact.

Micaella is pursuing a Master's degree in African Studies at the University of Oxford to gain a deeper understanding of African economies and communities within a global framework and to broaden her network of likeminded professionals and academics. Through this, she hopes to further her career focused on practical solutions to the continent's most pressing labour market challenges.

During her time at UCT, Micaella was a recipient of both the Mandela Rhodes and Klaus-Jurgen Bathe Leadership scholarships and gained recognition as a competitive debater at major tournaments including the World University Debating Championships in 2019 and 2020.

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CINDY CHERRY

2023 FIRSTRAND
IHE PARTNERSHIP

MSc in Water and Sustainable
Development, IHE Delft Institute
for Water Education

Cindy holds a BSc Civil Engineering Honours degree from University of Cape Town. She is registered as a candidate engineer with the Engineering Council of South Africa. Since her graduation in 2020, Cindy has worked as a civil engineer in the Water Resources Management team at Zutari, an African-based engineering consulting firm.

Her experience includes catchment modelling, water resources yield/system modelling, flood risk assessments, spatial data analysis, stakeholder engagement, and the participation in regional reconciliation strategy and drought planning studies. Cindy's interest in agriculture in conjunction with water resources was initiated during the establishment of the iSondlo food garden initiative which she founded as a student to address local urban food insecurity in Cape Town.

In 2022 she participated in the Stockholm International Water Institute World Water Week as a Young Scientific Programme Committee member, focusing on the seminar *Achieving food and nutrition targets by 2030 through water security*. These experiences have encouraged her to further her skills within the field of land and water management; specifically to contribute to the sustainable development of South Africa.

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SIYASANGA CHARLES

2022 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

Master of Music: Jazz
Trombone Performance,
The Juilliard School,
New York City

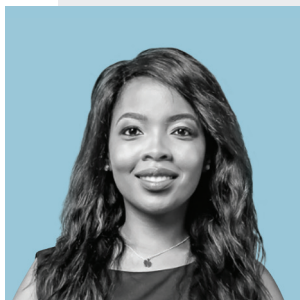
Updated 2023

Siyasanga passed the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 semesters with honours, achieving a 4.0 GPA (equivalent of 95% and higher), and straight As. She is also establishing herself as a freelance jazz and occasional classical tenor and bass trombonist in various small and large ensembles in and around New York City.

Siyasanga recorded her composition titled *Kwa Langa in New Jersey* with Grammy award-winning drummer and producer Ulysses Owens Jr, who is a Juilliard Jazz faculty member and her ensemble coach. She has received masterclasses with one of her musical heroes, Grammy award-winning jazz trombonist, composer and Berklee College of Music professor, Steve Davis.

She was recently appointed as a Juilliard International Ambassador, a student leadership position that assists incoming international students adjust to their new life as students in the Juilliard School, as well as citizens in New York City. Siyasanga was awarded the prestigious Jerome L. Greene Fellowship and the National Arts Council International Bursary for the 2023-2024 academic year. She has a work-study post as trombonist in the Juilliard Lab Orchestra. Through the Jazz Business class at Juilliard, she had the opportunity to write a project proposal of starting a jazz education programme for primary and high school students in the Eastern Cape region of South Africa. This has always been a passion project of hers, and she was able to flesh these ideas to life and present them in an end-of-year project during the 2023 Spring semester. When Siyasanga completes her studies, she is dedicated to bringing this jazz education project to life.

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PALESA PHALAFALA

2022 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

Clinical Fellow in Hand
Reconstruction and
Microsurgery, National
University Hospital, Singapore

Updated 2022

Palesa holds an MBBCh from the University of the Free State and a Masters in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery from the University of the Witwatersrand. She has been a registrar for four years, consulting with and operating on patients in plastic and reconstructive surgery in clinics.

During her four years as a registrar, she has worked at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, Helen Joseph Hospital and Leratong Hospital.

Palesa has been involved in teaching plastic surgery related topics at the University of Witwatersrand and is completing her Masters in Medicine in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. She has been accepted for a 12-month training position as Clinical Fellow in hand reconstruction and microsurgery by the National University Hospital in Singapore. This fellowship, according to Palesa, is held in great esteem globally by both aspirant and practising hand reconstruction surgeons. Only a maximum of three fellows are accepted each year.

While her current skills enable her to perform plastic and reconstructive surgeries, she feels that these are inadequate in handling all reconstructive surgery cases presented to her (in particular hand reconstruction). There is a dire need for reconstruction surgeons, in particular hand reconstruction, at public hospitals in South Africa. The skills to be gained from this fellowship are not only particular to hand reconstruction but could be transferable to breast, head and neck reconstruction surgeries.

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TSHEPHISHO SOMO

2022 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc International Energy
Commerce, University of
Dundee

Updated 2022

Tshephisho holds an LLB from the University of Pretoria. She has completed her articles as a candidate attorney and then practised as an admitted attorney at Adams & Adams.

She has also practised as an admitted attorney at CMS RM Partners. Tshephisho is currently employed as a Law Researcher to Justice Unterhalter at the Constitutional Court where she conducts research, drafts legal opinions and reviews documents.

During her study years, Tshephisho served as a judge of the Constitutional Tribunal at the University of Pretoria.

In 2020 Tshephisho registered for a Masters in Extractive Industry Law in Africa at the University of Pretoria. While the masters degree she is completing is relevant to the work she would like to pursue, there are gaps it does not address. The proposed degree will focus on gaining an understanding of the economics governing the extractives sector and the international environment within this sector which influences the extractives sector in SA. The purpose of her proposed studies is to supplement the knowledge she has gained of Africa's regulatory framework and trade policies in the extractives industry. Together the degrees will equip her to provide energy-related legal professional advice to medium-sized and large corporations in SA and Africa and within the global community. In addition to her academic goals, Tshephisho is passionate about the development of indigenous languages in SA, and has started an initiative with her father called Lilimi LaMathipa (named after her late mother) to provide language support to schools in her local community. She speaks Afrikaans, English, Sesotho and Mandarin fluently, and hopes to learn more South African languages to better equip herself to do Lilimi LaMathipa's work.



MICHAEL BURKE

2022 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Business Analytics,
University of Edinburgh

Updated 2023

Michael is from Somerset West and studied Industrial Engineering at Stellenbosch University. There, he was Primarius of Wilgenhof Men's Residence and was active on the SRC. Before earning his MSc in Business Analytics at the University of Edinburgh, he worked in business intelligence for Investec in Sandton.

As a One Young World ambassador, Michael attended the 2020 summit in Manchester. At Edinburgh, his postgraduate research delved into offshore earthquake prediction using satellite data and deep learning, leading to new findings in the area. He's keen on applying these skills in the climate-tech sector.

Michael says that his year in Edinburgh expanded not only his skillset and network but also his worldview and desire to be a change maker in the world. With a focus on practical solutions and a passion for innovation, he hopes to contribute positively both locally and globally.

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ZAPHESHEYA DLAMINI

2022 FIRSTRAND OXFORD
AFRICAN STUDIES
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in African Studies,
University of Oxford

Updated 2023

Zaphesheya completed the MSc in African Studies at the University of Oxford and was awarded the African Studies Centre prize. She also holds a MA in Political Science, BA (Hons) International Relations and BA Political Science from the University of Pretoria. Through the assistance of grants and scholarships, she was able to graduate with distinction for previous degrees.

Prior to leaving for Oxford, she worked as the communications and promotions officer for the Embassy of Sweden in Pretoria. Before this, she interned for an opposition party in the South African Parliament.

However, her greatest joy has been working as a teacher's assistant and tutor at the University of Pretoria. The time spent at Oxford and the African Studies Centre has reinforced the dream of pursuing a career in academia and offer students from all backgrounds an opportunity to learn and collaborate to offer solutions to the problems that South Africa is facing.

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INGRID PIENAAR

2022 FIRSTRAND FNB
FUND OXFORD EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Child Development and
Education, University of Oxford

Updated 2022

Ingrid graduated from the University of Cape Town with a bachelors degree in English and Anthropology and an honours degree in English. During this time she volunteered in disadvantaged communities as an assistant teacher.

It was with these early experiences that she began to develop her love of teaching, her awareness of the need for reform in education and the important role that research has to play in effecting it.

Later Ingrid pursued a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and began to work as a qualified teacher, immersing herself in education research as a way to improve her own teaching. She was influenced by research on strategies for improving mathematics pedagogy, which she recognised has a crucial role to play in enabling all South African students to access inspiring, quality education.

Ingrid has taught different age groups at multiple schools, presented at colloquia on topics such as teaching during a pandemic, preparing for your first year as a teacher, the practice of mindfulness in the classroom, and assessment principles in mathematics. She has acted as mentor to newly qualified teachers from the UCT PGCE programme, and is the founder of Teachers Learning, a research discussion group for professional teachers.

The masters will, Ingrid hopes, allow her to pursue her interest in the overlap between second language instruction and the learning of mathematics principles by students in the primary years – a dynamic relevant to the majority of South African pupils' success at school. She looks forward to the opportunity to build networks in the United Kingdom that will help support the development of educational practice in South Africa.

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CHRISTINE STRAUSS

2022 FIRSTRAND FNB
FUND SCHOLARSHIP
FOR INTERNATIONAL
POSTGRADUATE STUDY
IN EDUCATION

Master of Laws in Law, Science
and Technology, Stanford
University

Updated 2023

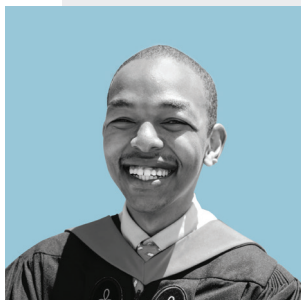
**Christine graduated with
her Master of Laws in Law,
Science and Technology at
Stanford University in
June 2023.**

During her time at Stanford, she was able to complete a variety of courses that dealt with emerging technologies and scientific innovations and the impact they have on the legal system, as well as their ethical and social impact on our society. During her time at Stanford, she received a Community Leadership award, for the LLM class of 2023, for her contributions to the Stanford Law School community.

Christine is passionate about the interdisciplinary analysis related to current developments in law, science and technology. She decided to return to academia, after working four years in private practice, in order to contribute to the development of the field of science and technology law in South Africa. Science and technology law aims to address ethical, technical and regulatory questions that arise with the introduction of emerging technologies in our society. She will be pursuing an LLD in the field of law, science and technology at a university in South Africa in 2024. She hopes to be involved in the development of a new interdisciplinary legal course for future law students that deals with the intersection of law, science and technology in South Africa.

Christine also holds a BSc in Human Life Science (2013) and BSc (Hons) in Human Genetics (2014) and an LLB (three-year postgraduate) (2017) from Stellenbosch University. Christine served articles at Adams & Adams and was admitted as an Attorney of the High Court of South Africa (2020). She continued to work as an associate attorney for a further two years at Adams & Adams, qualifying as a Trade Mark Practitioner in 2021.

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KHETHINKOSI (KHETHA) DLAMINI

2021 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

Masters in Public Policy,
Harvard Kennedy School

Updated 2023

Khetha is an economist serving at the National Treasury. His academic credentials include a BCom, BCom (Hons) and MCom from the University of the Witwatersrand, complemented by a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard Kenny School, with a concentration in Economic Development and Data Science. His dissertation, *Financing Electricity Distribution in South Africa*, was produced in collaboration with the Presidency.

His professional journey began at McKinsey & Company before moving to the National Treasury of South Africa. Here, he progressed from the role of a senior analyst to interim chief director of Fiscal Policy. His key responsibilities included shaping South Africa's fiscal response to the Covid-19 pandemic and presenting the fiscal framework proposal to the Minister of Finance for the 2020 and 2021 budgets.

At Harvard, Khetha worked as a teaching assistant for two significant courses led by Jason Furman, the 25th chairperson of the Council of Economic Advisors under President Obama, and Professor Carmen Reinhart, the former chief economist to the World Bank. He also instructed weekly economics classes for 25 undergraduate students under the guidance of Professor David Laibson, chair of the Harvard economics department.

In 2022, Khetha served as a summer research fellow at the Belfer Center, focusing on African energy policy and contributing to the African in Focus programme. Through his skills and commitment, Khetha continues to have a substantial impact on policy planning and implementation.

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ZAAKIR ESSA

2021 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

MPhil in Development Studies,
University of Oxford

Updated 2023

After an undergraduate degree in Economics and Finance from the University of Cape Town, Zaaqir made his way to the rural Eastern Cape of South Africa.

He worked at the Bulungula Incubator: an organisation committed to sustainably ending poverty in a generation. Living in Nqileni Village, he was surrounded by people who were committed to a better future for everyone in the region and to preserving the strong social cohesion and vibrant community life. He was surrounded by hope!

In 2021, Zaaqir migrated north to study an MPhil in Development Studies at the University of Oxford. The MPhil helped him to build a toolkit for unravelling the complexity of the world's inequalities: it showed him why politics matters, how history's ills linger long after liberation, and cautioned against the dangers of searching for simple solutions. Whilst studying at Oxford, Zak undertook fieldwork in Kenya, was elected as a Global Leadership Initiative Fellow, and worked as a research assistant at the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative.

Inspired by the hope Zak saw in his past experiences and education in international development, he is currently supporting the Presidential Employment Stimulus, the largest public employment programme run out of the Office of the President of South Africa.

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CHERIESE DILRAJH

2021 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

MA in Art and Politics,
Goldsmiths, University
of London

Updated 2023

Upon completion of Cherie's Masters in Art and Politics at Goldsmiths, her MA thesis, titled *Navigating the African-Indian Ocean as a site of re-worlding in South Africa's post-1994 era* has been published by the Ameena Gafoor Institute for the Study of Indenture and its Legacies, under new and emerging research.

Cherie has been awarded a residency at the Centro Luigi di Sarro in Rome this September, where she will present some of her work.

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PHILA MSIMANG

2021 FIRSTRAND FNB
FUND EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Philosophy, Macquarie
University, Australia

Updated 2023

Phila is pursuing a PhD in Philosophy at Macquarie University in Australia. He believes that this will help him make a difference in philosophy and the social sciences when he continues to teach after completing his PhD.

Phila's primary areas of research are in the philosophy of biology and social issues. His PhD focuses on the philosophical question of defining the concept of race as a social group. Phila argues in some recent publications that the significance of the work of understanding what races are lie in the application of that knowledge. He says that a practical example of this can be seen in how social group belonging can play a role as a social determinant of health. In a recent publication, he argues for the need for the less ambiguous use of concepts such as race and ethnicity in clinical settings because of the significant consequences for health outcomes this can have. As Phila nears the completion of his PhD thesis on the concept of race, he continues work on the problems that arise in the use of race and ethnic classifications in social and scientific settings.

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JEREMI SWANEPOEL

2020 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Tropical Medicine and
International Health,
London School of Hygiene and
Tropical Medicine

Updated 2022

Since commencing his studies, Jeremi has been awarded the Duncan Medal in 2020 for best overall performance in the Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene programme at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He was also one of the recipients of the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 Research and Travel Fund Scholarship Award.

After qualifying in 2016, he completed his compulsory two-year medical internship at Tygerberg Hospital in the Western Cape. In 2019, he moved to Kimberley to complete his community service medical officer year in the department of internal medicine at Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Hospital. In January 2020 Jeremi was offered a grade 1 medical officer position in internal medicine and nephrology at the same institution. He was also responsible for managing patients with end-stage renal disease and organising the department's academic programme. Jeremi left the position to study for his MSc full-time.

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LIAM SWANSON

2020 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Cardiovascular
Biomedicine, University College
London

Updated 2023

Liam grew up in Cape Town and holds a BSc and an MSc in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Cape Town, with a focus on the use of computational simulations as a tool for clinical decision-making processes in congenital heart disease, which he completed in 2019. He is studying towards a PhD in Cardiovascular Biomedicine at University College London.

Between his MSc and the commencement of his PhD his primary focus was to extend his masters research towards greater capability with the goal of formalising it as a clinical tool. This role had a teaching aspect, where he could train new students on the team in software methodology. In parallel, Liam worked as an intern in statistical shape modelling at a German company, where he gained experience in the commercial application of the technologies he is studying.

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FATIMA DOCRAT

2020 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in International Health
Policy, London School of
Economics

Updated 2022

Fatima studied at the University of Cape Town where she completed a BCom in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, and a BCom (Hons) in Economics.

Fatima is a senior associate in the Performance Delivery Team at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. She completed her MSc in International Health Policy: Health Economics at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where her research combined econometric and behavioural analyses to explore whether ethnicity was a driver of vaccine hesitancy in the UK during the Covid-19 pandemic. She produced this research for the UK Department of Health and Social Care Strategic Unit.

Fatima developed her passion for development economics and its application to the African continent during her undergraduate studies at the University of Cape Town. Her honours dissertation focused on the labour market. Her research estimated the wage penalty for outsourced cleaners and guards in South Africa. Her academic interest shifted to health economics, as she believes this to be an understudied area in South Africa, yet one of the most critical perspectives to solving inequality in our healthcare system.

Between studies, Fatima worked as a senior associate consultant at Bain & Company, where she honed her strategic-thinking, problem-solving and project management skills. Her role at the Global Fund combines her strategy consulting skillset with her dedication to global health and the fight against communicable diseases in Africa.

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GUGULETHU KHUMALO

2020 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Plant Biochemistry,
Griffith University

Updated 2023

Gugulethu has just completed her PhD studies at Griffith University, Australia.

She have also been awarded a post-doctoral scholarship in Switzerland, to commence on 1 September 2023, at the University of Zurich by the Swiss federal government. The scholarship is called the SWISS Government Excellence Scholarship (Global Competitiveness) and will further her research on medicinal plants of southern Africa used to treat pain and inflammation as drug leads.

Gugulethu hopes to continue with medicinal plant research of South African species to scientifically validate the traditional use of these herbal remedies through pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetic studies.

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CHARL LINDE

2020 FIRSTRAND OXFORD
AFRICAN STUDIES
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc, African Studies Centre,
University of Oxford

Updated 2023

Charl completed undergraduate and postgraduate degrees (BA, BA (Hons)) at the University of Cape Town after which he read for an MSc in African Studies at the University of Oxford.

His research at the Centre for African Studies looked at institutional and researcher responses to race-related research controversies in South Africa. He has held competitive and fully funded research scholarships and fellowships at Stockholm University, Yale University, Ghent University, and was part of the 2019 Transparency International School on Integrity at Mykolas Romeris University in Vilnius, Lithuania. Charl has worked in research, EDI, and communications at universities across the world.

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SFISO NXUMALO

2020 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE BURSARY

Bachelor of Civil Laws,
University of Oxford

Updated 2022

Sfiso is completing his DPhil in Law at the University of Oxford.

In 2020 Sfiso was awarded a FirstRand Assistance bursary for a Bachelor of Civil Laws at the University of Oxford, starting in September 2020.

In January 2018, Sfiso joined Bowmans (formerly Bowman Gilfillan), as a candidate attorney for his articles of clerkship following his graduation. During his first year of his articles, he applied for the Constitutional Court of the Republic of South Africa's Law Clerk Programme 2019, and was selected to be a law researcher. He was placed in the chambers of Justice Sisi Khampepe. Following the end of his year with Justice Khampepe, Sfiso was offered a similar role in the chambers of Justice Steven Majiedt for a further period of six months.

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NONKULULEKO VILAKAZI

2020 FIRSTRAND FNB
FUND SCHOLARSHIP
FOR INTERNATIONAL
POSTGRADUATE STUDY
IN EDUCATION

MA Drama and Movement
Therapy, Royal Central School
of Speech and Drama,
University of London

Updated 2022

Nonkululeko is a qualified Drama and Movement Psychotherapist registered with both the British Health and Care Professions Council and the British Association of Dramatherapy.

Over the last two years, she has held contracts as a drama and movement therapist working with dementia service users, students with special educational needs and disabilities, young persons with challenging behaviour excluded from school, neurodiverse populations, young persons with parents diagnosed with terminal illnesses, children diagnosed with chronic illnesses, bereaved children/young persons, and young persons with emotional and mental health needs.

Nonkululeko conducted research on African bereavement rituals and their analytical significance in Sesame dramatherapy to help inform the Western context on cross-cultural approaches to grief and to create a culturally inclusive environment within grief psychotherapy. She began investigating whether dramatic play, rituals and embodied practices with themes relevant to a lived experience might mitigate the adverse effect of the incident and foster a platform to regulate emotions, or whether this embodied experience could trigger and re-traumatise the individual.

Additionally, she began merging her electrical engineering studies within her therapeutic practice. To the best of her knowledge, Nonkululeko is the first in the world to have completed two MAs in Drama and Movement Therapy studies from two different parts of the world. This has allowed her to compare and contrast the similarities, differences and what both qualifications lack.

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SHIMAL HARICHURN

2020 FIRSTRAND
FNB FUND EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Mathematics, University
of Bonn

Updated 2023

Over the past year, Shimal graduated with a MSc in Mathematics from the University of Bonn. Attending graduation at Bonn was one of the highlights of his year.

Furthermore, he attended a conference at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy where he gave a talk on the research in his thesis. It was a great experience to meet fellow experts in his field and discuss research with future collaborators.

Shimal also gave a series of talks in one of Stellenbosch University's research groups on the research he did during his master's thesis.

He hopes over the next year to continue the research initiated in his master's thesis and to publish a couple of papers in mathematical journals. More broadly, Shimal hopes to continue producing research in the fields of topology and mathematical physics and giving talks to help disseminate knowledge in these fields.

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JORICH LOUBSER

2019 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in International
Development, London School of
Economics (LSE)

Updated 2023

Jorich's MSc in International Development specialised in African Development, which shifted his research interests to the broader context of southern Africa. After his MSc at the LSE during Covid-19, he completed an MSc in African Studies at the University of Oxford in 2021 where his research shifted towards the political economy of business-state relations in southern Africa's mining sector.

During this time, he also worked on research projects at both the LSE and Oxford.

Jorich has now returned to the LSE, his old department, to complete his PhD in International Development. His MSc was instrumental in facilitating this, providing him with crucial exposure and allowing him to resume working with his old supervisor. Jorich's research studies the evolving relationships between states and mining companies in southern Africa. He is focusing on the case study of Botswana and aims to argue that economic growth in Botswana over the last five decades has largely been down to the state's successful management of its relationship with De Beers.

He also teaches regularly across programmes in London with a focus on courses related to international development, social policy and international politics. Jorich aims to return to a South African university after completing his studies to work at the meeting point of academia and policy.

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LONWABO MGODUSO

2019 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

MPhil in Engineering for
Sustainable Development,
University of Cambridge

Updated 2022

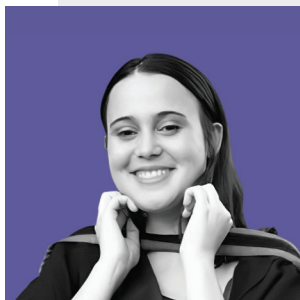
Lonwabo is a mechanical engineer interested in stimulating South Africa's green growth through transdisciplinary research and analysis and by creating synergies to accelerate the just energy transition.

He holds a Masters in Engineering for Sustainable Development from the University of Cambridge. His research applied a systems-thinking approach to investigating the opportunities, implications and barriers for renewable energy in South Africa, and developed intervention strategies to facilitate a transition to renewables for the country.

He works as an analyst at Meridian Economics in Cape Town, where he has been based since early 2021. Meridian is a specialised energy and climate economics and finance consultancy and think-tank that provides executive-level decision support, strategic advice and analytics capabilities in the South African power sector, as well as decision-making processes related to the just energy transition.

He co-founded a company called Rewoven in 2018, which facilitates the recycling and reuse of textile waste through offering a textile waste collection and disposal service for clothing manufacturers. He is passionate about the role of entrepreneurship in driving sustainable change for the betterment and benefit of the environment and future generations.

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KIRRA EVANS

2019 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Development Studies,
London School of Economics
and Political Science,
University of London

Updated 2022

Kirra is from Pretoria. She studied at Rhodes University for a BSocSc in Politics and Philosophy. She completed her BSocSc (Hons) in Development Studies at the University of Cape Town in 2018.

She was awarded a FirstRand Foundation scholarship in 2019 for an MSc in Development Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London, which she completed in 2020. Kirra is now an analyst at Genesis Analytics.

Kirra says that her year in London nuanced her career interests significantly by giving her the opportunity to study at a university that allowed her to explore new interests that profoundly affected her future plans. Kirra is now more interested in development finance and currently works in the shared value space.

kirrae97@gmail.com



NIKITA VALA

2019 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

Master of Science, Big Data
and Digital Futures, University of
Warwick

Updated 2023

Nikita works at the vibrant intersection of product and data, a space she fondly refers to as the realm of the “product data unicorn.” Although she has always worked in tech, her journey took a significant turn upon completing her Master’s in Big Data and Digital Futures at the University of Warwick in September 2020, an achievement made possible with the backing of the FirstRand Foundation scholarship.

On returning to South Africa, Nikita plunged into the dynamic world of product analytics at Yoco, the emerging African payments start-up.

By October 2022, she was ready to step into the role of analytics lead at Kandua, an early-stage marketplace start-up based in Johannesburg. At Kandua, Nikita’s versatility shines as she traverses the entire data lifecycle, from building data models and creating compelling visualisations to fostering data literacy and authoring in-depth reports.

In 2022, her dedication was recognised with the awarding of the TechWomen Fellowship. This programme, with its mission to empower the next generation of women in STEM, gave Nikita unparalleled opportunities to advance her career and aspirations. Nikita’s selection, an honour bestowed upon only 2.6% of applicants, facilitated a transformative five-week immersion in Silicon Valley expanding her exposure to global tech trends and practices.

When not immersed in her work, Nikita delves into topics close to her heart, including data feminism, algorithmic bias, and inclusive machine learning. Through her endeavours, she remains committed to championing a more inclusive and balanced tech world.

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TIYANI MAJOKO

2019 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

Master of Laws in
Law, Technology and
Entrepreneurship, Cornell Tech

Updated 2022

Tiyani is from Johannesburg. She is a graduate of the University of Pretoria where she obtained her LLB and served on the Student Representative Council in 2009 and 2010.

She was awarded a FirstRand Foundation scholarship for an LLM at Cornell University in the USA in 2019.

In 2014, she co-founded Lawgistics Legal Consultants, a niche legal consultancy with a specific focus on providing advice on environmental, labour, health and safety, regulatory and commercial law. Lawgistics was founded on the vision to “disrupt the *status quo* of the law” with its dynamic, young leadership and collaborative work model.

She lives in New York and is the co-founder and CEO of Anü. She is making inroads into the US venture capital industry, building relationships with leading funds like Sequoia Capital, A16Z and even becoming a scout for Indie VC.

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MICHAEL KRAMER

2019 FIRSTRAND FNB
OXFORD EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Education,
University of Oxford

Updated 2023

Michael is from Cape Town and studied at the University of Cape Town. He holds a BBusSc specialising in the field of marketing which he completed in 2013. He was awarded a FirstRand FNB Fund Oxford Education scholarship in 2019 for an MSc in Education at the University of Oxford.

Michael lives in the Philippines, where he is a high school social studies teacher at the International School Manila. He says his year at Oxford challenged him, made him question many of his previous beliefs and reinforced others. He feels that being surrounded by driven, ambitious and passionate individuals is infectious and forced him to think bigger and dream of more.

Micheal is now engaged, qualified for the Ironman World Championships and is still in Manila, the Philippines.

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HEATHER KAYTON

2019 FIRSTRAND
FNB FUND EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP

DPhil in Education, University
of Oxford

Updated 2023

Heather studied at the University of Johannesburg, completing a BA (Language Practitioners) in 2007. She went on to attain postgraduate degrees including a BA (Hons) Applied Linguistics, an MA in Applied Linguistics, and a PGCE (Foundation Phase and Early Childhood Development) in 2015.

After working as a foundation phase teacher at schools in Johannesburg for seven years, Heather commenced her DPhil research at the University of Oxford in 2019. She is currently nearing completion of this doctoral programme while also working part-time as a junior dean at Hertford College Oxford and a research assistant at the Oxford University Centre for Educational Assessment.

For her thesis research, Heather is evaluating the contextual validity and comparability of the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) assessment for diverse students in South Africa. Her findings expose issues with the use of large-scale assessments in developing contexts, highlighting concerns around the alignment of test difficulty and student ability, cross-language comparability, and contextual relevance. She has contributed to national reports such as the PIRLS 2021 National Report for England and presented the findings from her PhD work at leading international conferences.

Heather is passionate about ensuring assessments being used to evaluate the achievement of South African students are fair, unbiased, and effective for diverse student populations across developing countries. Looking ahead, she aspires to publish rigorous, culturally responsive research that influences education policy and practice to improve quality and equity in South Africa.

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IRENE PAMPALLIS

2019 FIRSTRAND
FNB FUND EDUCATION
ASSISTANCE BURSARY

Masters in Education and
Learning, University of Turku,
Finland

Updated 2022

In the 2021-2022 academic year Irene completed her masters thesis, which focused on flexible mathematical thinking in high school students, and graduated with the highest possible marks.

She also continued to serve as a university ambassador and as a student representative on the governing board of her degree programme.

On the extracurricular side, Irene increased her experience of the educational research community by volunteering at the biennial conference of the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction in August 2021. During the current academic year, she also volunteered as a classroom assistant at the Turku International School and ran an after-school reading club for first graders at the same school.

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ANDREW MOLVER

2018 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

Masters of Law, University of
Cambridge

Updated 2022

Andrew is from Pretoria. He studied at the University of Pretoria for a BCom (Law) and LLB, completing his studies in 2008. It is there that he served as chief electoral officer and deputy chief justice of the Constitutional Tribunal. Andrew was also a member of the university team that won the International Criminal Court Trial Competition, hosted by the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Andrew is a litigation specialist with particular expertise in administrative and commercial matters. After university, he served articles at Adams & Adams, where he was a partner from 2014 until 2021. He acted as lead attorney for the former Public Protector in several politically critical and precedent-setting court cases. These matters fostered his fascination with the role of good governance as a deterrent to corruption and as a guarantor of fundamental human rights. Last year, Andrew made the transition from being an attorney to an advocate. He is now practising as the latter at Group 621 in Sandton, Johannesburg.

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IRFAN HABIB

2018 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Condensed Matter
Physics, University of Oxford

Updated 2022

Irfan participated in the Open Africa Power 2020 programme on energy policy and governance on the African continent, which was held at the UCT Graduate School of Business and sponsored by the Enel Foundation.

In 2018 he was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship for a PhD in Condensed Matter Physics at the University of Oxford.

He also participated in the Open Africa Power 2020 programme. A group of young African professionals and researchers in the energy industry were given a crash course on energy policy, hosted by the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business and sponsored by the Enel Foundation. In addition Irfan has continued with his PhD, which was significantly set back by the Covid-19 pandemic as he lost laboratory access for most of this year, slowing down his progress significantly.

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BONOLO MATHEKGA

2018 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Bioengineering
Innovation and Design,
Johns Hopkins University

Updated 2023

Bonolo co-founded a start-up company which has won several awards and funding grants since its formation in 2019, including the Venturewell E-team grant and the Johns Hopkins Alliance for a Healthier World Impact grant. It was also included in the Rockefeller-Acumen Student Social Enterprise Accelerator programme and the CBID Technology Accelerator Fund grant.

Bonolo was awarded a FirstRand Foundation scholarship in 2018 for an MSc in Bioengineering Innovation and Design at Johns Hopkins University in the USA.

She is the co-founder and head of research and development at Drizzle Health, LLC. Drizzle Health is a global health company that is focused on creating accessible medtech products for patients in low- and middle-income countries. The company's first product, MagnaSlide, is focused on providing an accessible, accurate diagnosis for tuberculosis patients in India and sub-Saharan Africa. Bonolo also has part-time employment with RADx (Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics), which is the initiative of the US health department's National Institutes of Health to speed up innovation in the development, commercialisation and implementation of technologies for Covid-19 testing in the USA.

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BUBELE BOOI

2018 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

Masters in Music Technology,
New York University

Updated 2022

Bubele is from Johannesburg and studied at the University of Cape Town. He completed his bachelors degree in Music Technology in 2017.

Bubele was awarded a FirstRand Foundation scholarship in 2018 for a Masters in Music Technology at New York University.

He is working full-time as a producer and songwriter. He is also the founder of a start-up named aMood that uses customer listening habits to suggest recreational establishments they may use in real time. He divides his time between Johannesburg and New York.

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TSHEPO MOLOI

2018 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Economics and Public
Policy, University of York

Updated 2023

Tshepo is an award-winning economist, currently working at the Parliamentary Budget Office in Cape Town. His responsibilities include providing research and analysis on the macroeconomic situation, fiscal policy and other policies in support of Members of Parliament to fulfil their oversight role over the Executive.

Prior to joining Parliament, he worked as an economist at the Bureau for Economic Research, South African Reserve Bank and the National Treasury. Not many economists, let alone at his age, have had the privilege to work for such prestigious institutions at the heart of South Africa's macroeconomic policy. For this reason, his personal insights on economic affairs have been featured on various national media platforms such as Power FM, eNCA, Lesedi FM, News 24, SA FM, Newz Room Afrika, Radio 702, CNBC Africa and Business Day TV.

Tshepo holds an MCom in Economics from the University of the Free State and a Masters in Public Administration and International Development from the University of York. He has co-authored academic publications in renowned local and international journals, such as the South African Journal of Economics and PLOS ONE.

Tshepo's commitment towards serving his community has earned him numerous awards and accolades. Among these are the 2023 Mail and Guardian Top 200 Young South Africans and the UFS Chancellor's Distinguished Alumni Award. His long-term career objective is to help South Africa improve its budget process, specifically to ensure that it addresses critical socio-economic problems in the economy and supports structural economic transformation.

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SHAEERA KALLA

2018 FIRSTSTRAND OXFORD
AFRICAN STUDIES
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in African Studies,
University of Oxford

Updated 2023

Shaeera is a filmmaker and activist. Her unique style of filmmaking aims to blend lines across genres by collaborating with talented storytellers, artists and communities who are imagining and creating new and more just worlds.

In 2022, she participated in the African School of Storytelling mentorship programme for cultural documentary filmmaking and spent time in Moshi, Yaeda Valley and Lake Eyasi regions in northern Tanzania living with different groups of the Hadzabe tribe, one of the last hunter gatherer tribes in Africa. A short film was made and screened for the community and more storytelling from a critical lens on carbon credits and the “business of sustainability” is anticipated. She also spent a month shooting in Zanzibar for her first independent feature documentary and has been working on the development of a fiction script delving into her family history in Marabastad and cinema culture in multi-ethnic communities which were destroyed by apartheid.

Shaeera is honoured to be selected amongst 18 filmmakers from around the world for the prestigious Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris programme that commences in October 2023. She will be based between Germany, France and the United Kingdom for a year.

On a strategic level she is involved in the #PayTheGrants campaign which is now a registered NPO bringing together local activism with global research showcasing that a universal basic income guarantee is a sound and necessary policy decision. She continues to serve on the board of SECTION27 – an organisation which has proven to be a catalyst for social justice and a public interest law centre that protects, promotes and advances human rights.

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EMMA WHITELAW

2018 FIRSTRAND
FNB FUND EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Economics,
University of York

Updated 2023

Emma is a postdoctoral researcher at the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit at the University of Cape Town. She recently graduated from UCT with her PhD in Economics, which investigated topics related to inequalities in post-school education in South Africa.

Emma continues to build on this body of work, contributing to studies falling under the Siyaphambili Project - a hub for post-schooling information and research. Her current research also includes work on the education, labour market, and intergenerational socioeconomic consequences associated with the expansion of education funding in Ghana, as well as topics related to wealth, privilege and structural inequalities in both South Africa and Ghana, under the African Centre of Excellence for Inequality Research.

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HEIDI BARENDs

2018 FIRSTRAND
FNB FUND EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP

MPhil in Engineering for
Sustainable Development,
University of Cambridge

Updated 2023

After completing her MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development at Cambridge University, Heidi returned to South Africa and started the sustainable finance team at one of the four major banks in South Africa. In this capacity she received an excellence award for her leadership in sustainability. She now heads up the team and has settled down in Johannesburg.

Before returning to South Africa, Heidi was selected as a talent for the UNLEASH innovation lab, and participated in a SDG innovation lab in Shenzhen, China. She was also a top six finalist in the Hult Prize London, an international social entrepreneurship competition.

Her MPhil thesis unpacked the South African education system and is titled Elements shaping the South African Education System of the Future.

heidi.barends@gmail.com



ALISON POLLEY-GREEN

2018 FIRSTRAND
RMB FUND *AD HOC*
SCHOLARSHIP

MPhil in Art Education,
Cambridge University

Updated 2023

Alison is the Educational Manager at ASSITEJ SA.

Her most impactful project to date has been the establishment and overseeing of The Kickstarter Creative Arts project for working with teachers, artists and youth (2015 until now). The pilot project impacted over 8 000 learners and won the Business Arts South Africa Development award in 2017 with funder RMB. The programme has expanded under her management and Alison hopes that it will become a national educational initiative in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education by 2025.

In November 2021, ASSITEJ SA signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Basic Education, which cites ASSITEJ SA as being the official provider of “the development of quality arts education practices in Creative Arts and Arts and Culture.”

Alison is also a sessional staff member and masters candidate supervisor for Drama for Life (DFL), an Applied Theatre department at the University of the Witwatersrand. DFL trains and equips students with the skills to work intensely, through theatre practices, to develop and sustain their communities. She also lectures in a dramatic arts teacher training course at the Wits Department of Education. From February 2020 to December 2021 Alison was a project manager within the creative research hub at DFL, a platform which is being established as part of the faculty’s research and archiving structures. In 2020 and 2021 she ran the DFL annual conference and festival, the first entirely online conference hosted by the department.

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APHIWE JIKAZANA

2017 FIRSTSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Water and Wastewater
Engineering, Cranfield University

Updated 2023

After completing her FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar Scholarship-funded MSc in Water and Wastewater Engineering at Cranfield University in 2018, Aphiwe has now successfully completed her PhD in Water at the Cranfield Water Science Institute.

She has been active in industry, academia and the social organisations since her return to South Africa in 2022, where she continues to pursue her passion for water reuse, resource recovery and circular economy in the water and sanitation sector.

In her current role as a process engineer at WEC Projects, she contributes to expanding the implementation of the NEWgenerator™ – a decentralised, off-grid sanitation solution which provides a sustainable circular economy sanitation solution since it recovers water (for toilet flushing or irrigation of crops), nutrients (for fertilisation of crops), and renewable energy (biogas).

In 2023, she published her first academic article in the Journal of Membrane Science. She is also part of sWIBSA (Sisterhood for Women in Business South Africa) and presented her thoughts on the challenges and opportunities for the South African water sector at the Women Economic Empowerment Conference on the International Day of Rural Women – 15 October 2022.

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TEDDY MUDGE

2017 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

Masters in Medical Device
Design and Entrepreneurship,
Imperial College London

Updated 2022

Teddy graduated top of his year at Imperial and subsequently received the class prize.

Teddy is an engineer and entrepreneur with a passion for product development. He is the managing director and co-founder of an Ireland-based medical device start-up, Hoop Medical, which designs and manufactures medical balloons for the global medical devices industry. These balloons are used by surgeons to treat conditions of the heart, vascular system, brain and digestive system, to name a few.

Prior to moving to London, he worked in research and development at Strait Access Technologies (a Cape Town-based start-up) developing medical balloons and devices for the treatment of rheumatic heart disease, which is rampant in the developing world. Before this, he worked as a mechanical engineer specialising in machine design.

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FARAI MUBAIWA

2017 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Political Economy
of Emerging Markets,
King's College London

Updated 2023

Farai is a strategy manager for Accenture. In this role she works with clients in the international development space to address social, political and economic challenges through Accenture's global core capabilities. She also serves as the Africa Livelihoods and Education Lead for Accenture Development Partnerships (ADP).

She formerly served as the chief partnerships officer at the Youth Employment Service (YES), a business-led NPO that works in partnership with government and labour to initiate policy changes which incentivises the creation of jobs for youth.

Prior to YES, Farai served as a project manager at The Aurum Institute, a leading African TB and HIV research and implementation institute. Her main project Youth Health Africa focused on decreasing the spread of HIV and reducing the high levels of youth unemployment. Before that, she was an intern at the South African Institute of International Affairs. Previously she worked at Deloitte as an analyst for strategy and operations consulting.

Farai achieved a distinction for her MSc in the Political Economy of Emerging Markets at King's College London.

Farai co-founded of the youth-led organisation, Afrika Matters, which empowers young Africans to lead through leadership skills, capacity building and community-impact projects. She has since left the organisation to pursue other livelihoods and education ventures on the continent. Farai is a Queen's Young Leader for South Africa, a TEDx speaker, a One Young World Ambassador and a King's Principal Global Leadership Award Recipient. In 2018, she was named one of the top 100 Mandela's of the future by Media24 and in 2020 she was ranked as one of the top 100 influential young South Africans.

Farai is a Dalai Lama 2019 Fellow and the 2021 recipient of the Stellenbosch University Exceptional Alumni award. In 2022, she became an honorary member of the Golden Key International Honours society and won the TransUnion Rising Star award for the Service: Public and Private sector category.

farai.mubaiwa@accenture.com



SAFA NARAGHI

2017 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Entrepreneurship and
Health-related Engineering
Design, University College
London

Updated 2023

Safa completed his MSc from University College London in 2018. His passion lies in combining technology and entrepreneurship to effect tangible change in the South African healthcare sector.

Safa is now the vice president of delivery at Zenysis Technologies, a San Francisco-based company that specialises in health data analytics across the globe. In this role, he spearheads a global team that spans more than 12 countries. His responsibilities go beyond just leadership – it's about fostering collaboration, driving strategy, and ensuring that Zenysis is not just meeting its goals but exceeding them.

At Zenysis, they partner with Ministries of Health and prominent public health NGOs, working to dissolve the boundaries of fragmented data, and integrate it into a powerful, analytical view that is more than just numbers and charts, but rather a catalyst for action.

Based in South Africa, he leads and works with a diverse team of problem solvers, from technologists, to demographers, designers, and globally recognised public health experts. Safa leads Zenysis's delivery teams in more than 10 countries, approaching each project with a deep understanding of the unique context and challenges of the countries they work with. His team strive to ensure their solutions are tailored to the specific needs of each country, ensuring sustainability and tangible impact.

safa.naraghi@gmail.com



TSHEPO MOSAKA

2017 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Law, Nottingham
University

Updated 2022

Tshepo is from Dobsonville in Soweto in Gauteng. He holds an LLB from the University of the Witwatersrand (2014) and an LLM from the University of Cape Town (2015).

In 2017 Tshepo was awarded a FirstRand Foundation scholarship for a PhD in Law at Nottingham University in the UK.

After completing his LLM, Tshepo did his articles, gaining exposure to commercial litigation and financial regulatory law. Tshepo read for his PhD at the University of Nottingham and is now a lecturer at the University of Cape Town's Public Law Department. He is a researcher in the fields of evidence, argumentation theory and African studies, and his doctoral research is a jurisprudential study of theories of evidence and proof in Africa.

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KEYAN JARDINE

2017 FIRSTRAND OXFORD
AFRICAN STUDIES
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in African Studies,
University of Oxford

Updated 2022

As a recipient of the 2017 FirstRand Oxford African Studies scholarship, Keyan completed his MSc in African Studies at Wadham College, University of Oxford.

Previously, he attained his BA in history with honours in 2016, under the auspices of the National Research Foundation Chair in Local Histories and Contemporary Realities, which is based at the University of the Witwatersrand. During his time there, Keyan was, among other things, a representative on the University of the Witwatersrand School of Social Sciences Student Council.

Having majored in history and philosophy during his undergraduate studies, he is interested in exploring the intersections of the two disciplines as a means through which to better understand our world and our past. At Oxford, he conducted research on South Africa's prison or Numbers Gangs. As the first step towards understanding these gangs and their influence on South African society, he demonstrated how issues of history, memory identity and symbolism converge to form a strong magnet that draws men into these gangs. Keyan plans to elaborate upon this research at the doctoral level, with the goal of providing a historically sensitive theoretical understanding of these prison and street gangs within South Africa.

jardinekeyan@gmail.com



RUSSEL DARIES

2016 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Machine Learning,
University College London

Updated 2023

Russel is from Cape Town and holds a BSc in Electrical Engineering from the University of Cape Town. After graduating in 2013 he joined Denel Dynamics, where his work focused primarily on mathematical modelling and software development for various aerospace projects.

In 2016 Russel was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship for an MSc in Machine Learning at University College London, which he completed in 2016.

Russel currently works as a senior data scientist at Luno, focused on the mission of upgrading the world to a better financial system through the use of data science and machine learning to service customer needs better.

rdaries29@gmail.com



MOGWALE MOTEBEJANE

2016 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

Research fellowship in
Interventional Neuroradiology,
Tufts University School of
Medicine

Updated 2022

Mogwale is a neurosurgeon at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital in KwaZulu-Natal with a special interest in interventional neuroradiology. After completion of his FC Neurosurgery in 2013, he acquired a certificate in interventional neuroradiology, known as PLANET (Pierre Lasjaunias Neurovascular Education Team), from the University of Toronto in November 2014.

In 2016, Mogwale completed his research fellowship in Interventional Neuroradiology at Lahey Hospital and Medical Centre in Boston in the USA. His research topic was on *foramen magnum dural arteriovenous fistulas*. He submitted the manuscript to the Operative Neurosurgery Journal for publication.

Mogwale presented his work on neuro-oncology at the World Federation of Neurological Surgeons conference 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. He also presented the work from his masters dissertation at the World Federation of Interventional and Therapeutic Neuroradiology conference in Budapest, Hungary in October 2017.

Mogwale completed his masters degree (neurosurgery) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, while doing his research fellowship in interventional neuroradiology in Boston. In June 2016, the International Academy of Independent Medical Evaluators in Chicago, Illinois in the USA, certified him as an independent disability impairment evaluator.

Mogwale's dream is to see the field of interventional neuroradiology expand and cater for the population of South Africa and beyond.

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GENNA GARDINI

2016 FIRSTRAND
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Drama, Queen Mary
University of London

Updated 2023

As part of Genna's PhD project at Queen Mary University of London, she wrote a play called *Many Scars*, which looks at experiences of multiple sclerosis, a disease that she has.

She received the 2020 CASA Award for *Many Scars*. The prize was created by the Playwrights Guild of Canada Women's Caucus and The African Women Playwrights Network. In 2021, as part of the CASA residency, Genna was mentored by the award-winning Canadian playwright Erin Shields, and later that year a closed reading of *Many Scars* was directed by Mwenya Kabwe and performed by a South African cast.

Genna's story *The Fish Tank Crab* was shortlisted for the 2021 Short Story Day Africa Prize and republished on Literary Hub. She wrote a chapter on the long-running production *Walk*, for *Collaborative Conversations: Celebrating Twenty-One Years of The Mother Tongue Project* (this book was co-edited by fellow FRF scholarship alum Alex Halligey). Genna is currently working on a new poetry collection and her first novel.

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BRANDON FINN

2015 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Urban Studies,
University College London

Updated 2022

Brandon is completing a PhD in Urban Planning at Harvard.

He was awarded the Dissertation Completion Fellowship at the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences as well as the GSD Real Estate Grant at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

In 2015 he was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship for an MSc in Urban Studies at University College London completed in 2016.

Currently Brandon is completing his PhD at Harvard University. He studies urbanisation, extraction, labour, democracy and race in southern and central Africa. He is working on two papers. The first is an analysis of the history of segregation and labour supply in South Africa at the start of the 20th century and the second is concerned with changing labour regimes and spatial organisation in the Zambian Copper Belt. Brandon has conducted fieldwork in Sierra Leone, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe, and worked for the African Centre for Cities. He is a visiting scholar at the Centre for Political Studies at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, where he is also conducting work for the African Studies Centre.

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ESTHER CHRISTINE MCFARLANE

2015 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

International and Comparative
Education masters programme,
Columbia University

Updated 2022

Esther is from Cape Town and studied at Stellenbosch University. She holds a BA in Humanities and a PGCE.

Esther completed her masters studies in International Educational Development at Teachers College, Columbia University in 2017, for which she received the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship. During her studies in New York she took on a consultancy with the UNESCO Liaison Office at the United Nations Headquarters, working on the UN Secretary General's Global Education First Initiative.

After graduating from Columbia she moved to Myanmar to work with UNESCO in Yangon. She leads a programme that supports the country's education reforms by building capacity of government officials, supporting planning and policy processes in the Ministry of Education and strengthening Myanmar's education management information system.

Before moving to New York, Esther studied educational policy and planning at the University of Cape Town. She taught at Claremont High School, a school in Cape Town that empowers learners from disadvantaged backgrounds to access tertiary education institutions. She has also been involved with education projects in various African countries. Esther is interested in finding better ways in which education can contribute to a country's sustainable and prosperous development and shape societies in meaningful ways.

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INGRID PENZHORN

2015 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Neuroscience,
King's College London

Updated 2023

Ingrid was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship in 2015 for an MSc in Neuroscience at King's College London and graduated in September 2016.

Upon returning to South Africa she started her training as pathologist at Tygerberg Hospital. In 2019 she represented South Africa at the World Vision Cytopathology Contest in the United States. She graduated from Stellenbosch University with an MMed in Anatomical Pathology in 2021 and became a fellow of the College of Pathologists of South Africa. She works as a pathologist in Cape Town, where most of her work revolves around cancer diagnostics.

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THATO MASIANGOAKO

2015 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in African Politics, SOAS
University of London

Updated 2022

Thato is from Rustenburg and studied at the University of the Witwatersrand. She holds a BA (International Relations and Political Studies) as well as a joint honours degree in International Relations and Political Studies, completed in 2014.

In 2015 she was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship for an MSc in African Politics at SOAS University of London, which she received in 2016.

Thato is a researcher at the Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa (SERI), a non-profit human rights organisation working with communities, social movements and individuals to develop and implement strategies to challenge inequality and realise socio-economic rights. Her work focuses on the misuse of the criminal justice system, and issues of police brutality and police accountability.

Thato completed an MA in Politics at the University of the Witwatersrand where she looked at the ways in which student activists, community activists and migrants in Johannesburg experience and understand the law in South Africa based on their experiences of arrest and brief incarceration.

Thato is also a Mellon Mays Fellow and has been involved with the Constitution Hill Education Project, the Wits Writing Centre and sometimes serves as a political studies sessional lecturer at Wits. These fall in line with her passion for attaining and sharing knowledge as well as her plans to pursue a PhD in the near future.

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ANDREW LINDEN

2014 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

DPhil in Population Health,
University of Oxford

Updated 2022

Andrew grew up in Johannesburg and studied at the University of Cape Town, where he completed a BBusSc in Actuarial Science and Finance in 2008. He also holds an MBusSc in Actuarial Science, which he finished in 2013, and an MSc in Global Health Science from the University of Oxford. He is a fellow of the Actuarial Society of South Africa.

In 2014, Andrew was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship for a DPhil in Population Growth at the University of Oxford.

Andrew is currently an Early Career Research Fellow at the University of Oxford, where his research aims to provide insight into the mechanisms underlying cardiovascular diseases in ethnically diverse populations. Prior to Oxford, Andrew worked as an actuarial consultant in London, Stockholm and Cape Town. He is passionate about experiencing new places and cultures, and has travelled to more than 50 countries, mostly in the developing world.

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GIFT PULE

2014 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Medicine (specialising
in Human Genetics), University
of Cape Town and University of
Montreal

Updated 2022

Gift was awarded the Deal of the Year Award 2020: Large Portfolio Company South African Venture Capital and the Private Equity Association conference award.

In 2014 he was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship for a PhD in Medicine specialising in Human Genetics at the University of Cape Town, in collaboration with the University of Montreal (research collaboration) and Baylor College of Medicine (fellowship) in Texas in the USA, from 2014 to 2016.

Gift joined Sanlam Private Equity (SPE) in January 2020 as an investment associate and is responsible for investment execution and management. Prior to SPE, Gift was an investment analyst at Value Capital Partners, an activist shareholder investment firm that holds minority positions in JSE-listed companies. Between 2016 and 2018 he was a member of the investment team at Allan Gray, one of the leading asset management firms in South Africa, where his experience covered JSE-listed and Africa ex-SA equities.

giftpu@mail.com



MICHAEL SCHMID

2014 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

Masters in Micro and
Nanotechnology Enterprise,
University of Cambridge

Updated 2022

Michael was shortlisted as one of five candidates to present at the Singularity University Southern Africa Global Impact Challenge. This was for new battery technology he was developing, which could be used for stationary off-grid energy storage.

In 2014 he was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship for a masters in Micro and Nanotechnology Enterprise at the University of Cambridge, which he completed in July 2015.

Through his thesis work, Michael connected with a Cambridge-based start-up producing advanced materials such as graphene and carbon nanotubes. He headed up their business development unit for two years. Michael moved back to South Africa to work at the Boston Consulting Group, where he is helping transform South African companies.

schmidmike@gmail.com



SYDELLE WILLOW SMITH

2014 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MSc in African Studies,
University of Oxford

Updated 2023

Sydelle is a storyteller with a strong passion for empowering communities and fostering a more equitable society. With over 15 years of experience in documentary photography, filmmaking, community engagement, and fundraising, She has played a pivotal role in establishing Sunshine Cinema. Co-founding this ground-breaking non-profit in 2017, she has led Africa's first solar-powered cinema network run by youth.

Through Sunshine Cinema, over 80 young individuals are trained and employed annually to host mobile cinema community dialogues, while also earning income from digital marketing gig work across South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya. Sydelle seamlessly blends academic knowledge with practical experience to design and execute media advocacy-driven programs that achieve tangible results.

Her academic research has centred around the politics of participatory visual research dynamics, focusing on Applied Visual Anthropology perspectives. Apart from her work with Sunshine Cinema, Sydelle is an Atlantic Fellow for Racial Equity with Columbia University and the Nelson Mandela Foundation and has spent the past eight years passionately working on a personal documentary project titled *Un/Settled*. This project delves into white peoples' conceptions of belonging in relation to settler colonial histories in South Africa and USA. The project has gained international recognition, being featured in the New York Times, presented at the National Geographic Storytelling Summit and exhibited in various prestigious venues worldwide including with World Press Photo. Currently, the exhibition is displayed at the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town, provoking and unpacking crucial dialogues about whiteness.

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CHARLOTTE SLINGSBY

2013 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

MA/MSc Innovation Design
Engineering, Imperial College
London and the Royal College
of Art

Updated 2022

Charlotte was acknowledged as a Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe in the following categories: science and healthcare, dorm room founders and immigrants, and also selected as a Leader of Tomorrow for the 47th St. Gallen Symposium, Switzerland, in 2017.

In 2013 she was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship for an MA/MSc in Innovation Design Engineering at Imperial College London and the Royal College of Art and graduated in 2015.

Since then Charlotte has founded two London-based start-ups. The first is Moya Power Ltd, where she researched and developed an alternative wind energy harvester. In a departure from the traditional approach of using wind turbines, she worked on developing what can be regarded as a flexible building textile to convert wasted urban surfaces into energy-generating hubs. Charlotte has since paused this research to give full attention to the other start-up, Nettoken Limited, which is building a cybersecurity product to help tidy and manage the ever-increasing mess of online accounts people sign up to. Nettoken has been granted a patent in a novel method of authentication, bringing a consumer product to market that has top-level security functionality.

Charlotte is also a permanent (although part-time) staff member at Imperial College London, tutoring Global Innovation Design.

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MATTHEW GADD

2013 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

DPhil in Engineering Science,
University of Oxford

Updated 2023

Matt is a research scientist and teacher at the University of Oxford, working as a stipendiary lecturer in Engineering Science at St Hilda's College (previously Keble College) and as a postdoctoral research assistant in the Mobile Robotics Group and Oxford Robotics Institute.

Matt's research is in uncertainty-aware deep learning which plugs into and boosts the performance of autonomous vehicle navigation, particularly through localisation.

In his ideal world, autonomous intelligent machines will "know when they don't know", i.e. when they are failing to report good position information, and will express that in a way that human stakeholders (engineers, passengers, insurers, etc.) can understand.

Matt's teaching is in first- and second-year electronic and information engineering and energy systems (circuits, devices, digital systems, algorithms, electromagnetism and power) and engineering mathematics (differential equations, linear algebra, time-frequency analysis, and probability) as well as fourth-year machine vision and state estimation for robotics.

In his free time, Matt also consults with the autonomous vehicle industry, at the intersection of machine learning and full-stack vision and radar localisation systems.

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SHAHIDA MOOSA

2013 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Molecular Genetics,
University of Cologne

Updated 2022

Shahida is from Johannesburg and completed her medical degree at the University of the Witwatersrand in 2004.

Following her internship and community service years, she spent some time working in paediatrics before specialising in medical genetics. In 2012, Shahida graduated as the first primary specialist in medical genetics in southern Africa. She always dreamt of becoming a clinician-scientist to improve patient care and the level of clinical research in South Africa.

In 2013 Shahida was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship for a PhD in Molecular Genetics at the University of Cologne, where she successfully defended her PhD in 2017. She then moved across the Atlantic to Boston in the USA, where she was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital. Shahida is a senior specialist and acting Head of Medical Genetics at Tygerberg Hospital and Associate Professor and head of the Rare Disease Genomics research group at the University of Stellenbosch.

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MLULEKI SHONGWE

2013 MOMENTUM
DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

LLM in Finance and Law,
Duisenberg School of Finance

Updated 2023

Mluleki is the head of the Monetary and Financial Law division of the Legal Services Department at the South African Reserve Bank. He leads a team of lawyers who are responsible for legal risk management of the South African Reserve Bank and its subsidiaries.

Mluleki is an admitted attorney of the High Court of South Africa.

He holds the following qualifications: LLB (*cum laude*) from the University of Zululand, LL.M (Banking and Stock Exchange Law) from the University of Johannesburg, LL.M (Finance and Law) from the Duisenberg School of Finance, the Netherlands, postgraduate diploma in General Management from the Gordon Institute of Business Science, MBA from the Gordon Institute of Business Science and the Advanced Management and Leadership Programme from the Said Business School, University of Oxford. He also completed the Executive Leadership Programme at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

Mluleki serves as the trustee of the Winnie Mabaso Foundation, an orphanage that supports vulnerable young girls in the south of Johannesburg, particularly those living with HIV/AIDS (<http://www.winniemabaso.org/>). He also tutors the students of the Law of Contracts and Family Law courses at the University of South Africa.

In 2021, Mluleki received the Governor's Award at the South African Reserve Bank for his contributions to the launch of the Covid-19 Loan Guarantee Scheme.

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DEENA DINAT

2013 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MA in English Literature,
University of British Columbia

Updated 2023

Deena graduated with an MA in English Literature from the University of British Columbia in 2015. In 2022 he graduated with a PhD, also in English Literature, from the University of British Columbia.

His PhD asked how the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission continues to shape ideas around the normative South African subject, forms of postcolonial capital accumulation and the infrastructure of subjection that defines the post-apartheid nation.

Deena lectures in African Studies at the University of British Columbia and in the English department at Simon Fraser University.

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TIFFANY EBRAHIM

2013 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MSc in Gender, Sexuality and
Society, Amsterdam University

Updated 2023

Tiffany is completing an LLB at the University of the Witwatersrand.

In 2013 Tiffany was awarded a FirstRand assistance bursary for an MSc in Gender and Sexuality Studies at Amsterdam University, which she completed in 2015.

She is the collaborations and advocacy manager at the Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa (ISLA). She manages strategic collaborations to amplify the work of civil society organisations and strengthen regional mechanisms on the continent. Her work involves organising civil society at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and working with different groups to sustain the establishment of the Coalition for the Independence of the African Commission. She also supports the coordination of the Litigants Group that operates as an advocacy forum to strengthen the communications procedure of the ACHPR, coordinates the Women's Platform and advances sexual orientation, gender identity and expression advocacy.

Before joining ISLA, Tiffany worked as a researcher at the Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa for five years. She was a research fellow at SECTION27 in 2013 and an intern at Gay and Lesbian Memory in Action in 2010.

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MATTHEW BUTLER-ADAM

2012 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Economics for
Development, University of
Oxford

Updated 2023

Matthew is regional managing director in the London office of Duke Corporate Education. Passionate about educational innovation and driving sustainable business growth, Matt cultivates relationships and business development for Duke CE.

His work at Duke CE has included leading a variety of major client engagements (ranging from \$100K- \$2m) in Africa and Europe, operating to forge and progress senior relationships with clients implementing major strategic and leadership transformation programmes.

Before joining Duke CE, Matt worked as a management consultant at Bain & Company as well as at Deloitte in the Mergers and Acquisitions advisory team. Aside from working as a management consultant, Matt supported an education sector deal at Sanari Capital (Private Equity). His work in the South African market was recognised when he was selected as one of the “Top 200 Young South Africans” by the Mail and Guardian.

With a notable research and academic background, Matt graduated with a master’s degree in international education policy at Harvard University, where he was completing research in the education intervention discipline. He earned an additional master’s degree in economics for development at the University of Oxford, where his research focused on behavioural economics and micro-econometrics; he was awarded the Luca d’Agliano prize for the best dissertation in his year. Matt earned his foundational degrees from the University of Cape Town in South Africa, where he was awarded a bachelor’s and master’s degree with honours. Matt is also a triathlete and ice hockey player.

btlmat001@gmail.com



THYLA VAN DER MERWE

2012 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Information Security at
Royal Holloway,
University of London

Updated 2022

Thyla is from Cape Town and completed a Master of Science degree at the University of Cape Town.

In 2012 Thyla was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship for an MSc in Information Security at Royal Holloway, University of London. Following this she completed a PhD in Cyber Security at the same university, where she was a member of the Centre for Doctoral Training in Cyber Security.

Thyla represented South Africa on the International Organisation for Standardisation committee responsible for standardising cryptographic mechanisms and protocols for five years.

She is a security engineering manager at Google, where her team is responsible for developing and maintaining the cryptographic libraries that are used across Google products and beyond.

Thyla's PhD research focused on the security of network protocols. She won the EPSRC Connected Nations award, the Safe and Secure Cyber Society category, for her work on the transport layer security protocol, which secures communications on the web and is used by millions of people on a daily basis. During time spent at Harvard, Thyla worked on two Internet of Things projects and even ventured into the realm of law, publishing a technology law paper with a colleague at Harvard Law School. Whilst at Royal Holloway, Thyla founded the Women in the Security Domain and/or Mathematics Group, which aims to encourage female undergraduate students to embark on careers in mathematics and cyber security, and supports women in these fields. The group was awarded the 2017 Equality and Diversity Award at Royal Holloway for its efforts in promoting equality.

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ALEX HALLIGEY

2012 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MA in Performance Studies,
New York University

Updated 2022

Alex studied at the University of Cape Town. Her undergraduate degree was a BA Theatre and Performance (Hons equivalent) which she completed in 2004.

Alex co-edited and contributed to the scholarly book *Collaborative Conversations: Celebrating Twenty-one Years of The Mother Tongue Project*, published by Modjaji Books in October 2021; and created and premiered a film version of the play *Unfathomable*, original play co-devised by her and Athena Mazarakis. This premiered at The Bioscope Independent Cinema, Johannesburg, on 13 July 2022.

Alex completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Johannesburg in July 2022, and started a new position as a research fellow at the institute in August 2022.

alexhalligey@gmail.com



JESSICA BENJAMIN

2012 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MPA in Public Administration,
Columbia University

Updated 2023

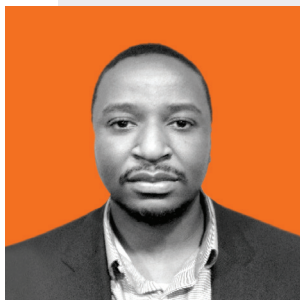
Jessica began her career at Genesis Analytics, Africa's largest economics consultancy.

Jessica completed her MPA at Columbia University in 2014, focusing on political and economic development. During and after her MPA, Jessica worked on a varied portfolio of international development projects, from access to finance for renewable energy in Bangladesh, to micro-enterprise development in Colombia, supply chain management

for HIV/AIDS drugs in Tanzania, and mobile phone applications for health and wellness in South Africa. After graduate school, Jessica spent five years honing her experience in strategy and business operations. She helped to launch a consulting business within Gerson Lehrman Group, a large professional learning platform; and led the Social Impact practice at Applied Value, a boutique firm combining management consulting, investment and social responsibility. She also worked closely with Hand in Hand International, a non-profit fighting poverty through job and business creation.

Since 2020, Jessica has headed The Sustainability Group of Loring, Wolcott and Coolidge, a private trust and investment management company, which focuses on environmental, social and governance-integrated investment, shareholder advocacy, and community finance. Through its impact investing portfolio, Jessica works with a broad network of Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs), many operating in southern Africa, which enhance access to finance, enable small-scale growth and build thriving local economies. She also currently serves as president of the board of directors for South Africa Partners, a non-profit organisation dedicated to the development of partnerships between the United States and South Africa in the areas of health, education, and economic development. In addition to her MPA, Jessica holds BA and BA (Hons) in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from the University of Cape Town, and a CFA Institute Certificate in ESG investing.

jessicabenjamin1@gmail.com



NGOVUYO GUGUSHE

2012 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MA in Finance, University of
Cambridge

Updated 2023

Ngovuyo grew up in Cape Town with his mother and four older siblings. He went on to study Business Science at the University of Cape Town, focusing on Finance and Economics. After completing his degree at the University of Cape Town, he joined the South African Reserve Bank on their graduate programme.

After a year, he left and joined the RMB FICC team as a fixed income derivatives trader. This is where he stayed until he left to pursue his postgraduate studies at St Edmund's College, Cambridge University.

Ngovuyo completed his master's degree in 2013 and returned to RMB in 2014 as a transactor in their Corporate Finance team. He then moved on to work in the investment team of RMBH/ RMIH, focusing on general financial services and fintech investments both locally and abroad.

Ngovuyo then joined Royal Bafokeng Holdings where he worked directly for the CEO and as a strategic investment manager focusing on strategic investment projects and looked after the investment firm's mining services and oil and gas infrastructure investments.

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**ROBERT
FREEMAN**

2012 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MA in Issues in Modern Culture,
University College London

Updated 2023

**Having completed his doctorate,
Robert now lectures 20th and 21st
century English at Oxford University.**

His current research project looks at African cinema, including the aesthetic implications of Nollywood's emergence out of the global shift from celluloid to digital filmmaking. Previously, Robert worked on theories of literary and aesthetic value, intellectual histories, and the relationship between law and literature. Prior to his return to academia, Robert worked on displacement in the context of natural disasters for the United Nations' Nansen Initiative, and as a judicial clerk for South Africa's Constitutional Court. His general interests include world cinema, ultimate frisbee and cricket, for which he is a qualified umpire.

robhfree@gmail.com



ANDREW PAVERD

2011 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

DPhil in Computer Science,
University of Oxford

Updated 2023

Andrew studied at the University of the Witwatersrand. He holds a BSc in Electrical Engineering which he completed in 2010 and an MSc in Electrical and Computer Engineering, completed in 2011.

Andrew was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship in 2011 for a DPhil in Computer Science at the University of Oxford. He completed his DPhil in 2015.

Andrew is a senior researcher at Microsoft Research, Cambridge, in collaboration with Microsoft's Security Response Centre. Since joining Microsoft, he has worked on improving the security of software systems by using new programming languages that make it more difficult to write vulnerable code. His current research focuses on the security of artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Previously, Andrew was a research fellow in the Secure Systems Group at Aalto University, Finland, and deputy director of the Helsinki-Aalto Centre for Information Security, where he led public outreach efforts. During this time, he also undertook a four-month research visit to the University of California, Irvine, as a US-UK Fulbright Cyber Security Scholar.

He maintains a connection to academia by lecturing the Network Security module on the Software and Systems Security Masters course at the University of Oxford, for which he received a Departmental Teaching Award in 2020.

andrew.paverd@gmail.com



NKAZIMULO SOKHULU

2011 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

MBA, Columbia University

Updated 2023

Nkazi has over 15 years' experience in insurance and banking, having held senior roles at Old Mutual and FNB, as well as founding an insurtech start-up. He is the chief executive at Old Mutual iWYZE, one of the biggest direct insurers in South Africa. Prior to re-joining Old Mutual, he was the co-founder and CEO of Yalu, a credit life insurance insurtech business that raised over R75 million in funding and won multiple industry awards.

During his time at FNB Nkazi was the cofounder and COO of FNB Life, which became the fastest growing, large-scale life insurer in South Africa. During his first stint at Old Mutual, he was a distribution manager and the manager in the office of the CEO. Nkazi was also a consultant at McKinsey & Company where he worked across multiple geographies.

Nkazi has been a member of the Mandela Rhodes Foundation audit and risk committee since 2014, and in his spare time he attempts triathlons – rather poorly. His future life goals are quite simple: putting his family first by supporting each of them with their personal endeavours and finding joy in the little things that make life beautiful.

sokhulu@gmail.com



LEANNE BRADY

2011 MOMENTUM
DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Public Health, London
School of Hygiene and Tropical
Medicine

Updated 2022

Leanne completed her MSc in 2012.

She works in Emergency Medical Services (EMS), the public ambulance service of the Western Cape, and is completing a PhD focusing on collective action and organising in the health system at the Health Policy and Systems Division at the University of Cape Town. She has worked in both a public health and clinical capacity in a number of different settings in South Africa, Eswatini, Malawi, India and Sierra Leone. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Leanne worked with a group of community organisers, social activists and public health stakeholders to catalyse and nurture a self-organising mutual aid network known as Cape Town Together, a community action network (CAN).

In the last year she has focused on developing a mobile Covid-19 vaccination program called the EMS Vaxi Taxi, building links with the CANs and other local community groups to deliver vaccines in low-income neighbourhoods. When she is not working, you will probably find her on a bicycle or going for a walk on the mountain with her lovely dog, Kai.

tships@gmail.com



ZOË LINCOLN

2011 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MSc in Sustainable Energy
Systems, Edinburgh University

Updated 2023

Zoë was awarded a FirstRand assistance bursary for an MSc in Sustainable Energy Systems at the University of Edinburgh, which she completed in 2012.

Zoë is an electrical engineer with an undergraduate degree from UCT. Her passion for integrating renewable energy and innovative solutions into electricity grids fuelled her determination to make a green impact at Eskom over the 12 years that she worked there. Having left the utility in 2019, she is now a principal consultant in renewables and electricity networks at TNEI Africa. She assists clients ranging from renewable energy project developers to financiers, manufacturers, utilities and government agencies. Her expertise lies in modelling the South African grid. A large part of her time these days is also spent coaching junior colleagues to develop excellent power system skills which are so critical for the country and continent.

Zoë is professionally registered with the Engineering Council of South Africa. Committed to encouraging schoolchildren and students – especially girls – to consider a career in engineering and other STEM fields, Zoë continues to volunteer at the Schools Expo for Young Scientists, mentors a number of young female engineering candidates, and assists as an external examiner for postgraduate engineering students at the University of Stellenbosch.

zoelincoln@gmail.com



DAVID HOFMEYR

2010 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Organisational
Mathematics,
Edinburgh University

Updated 2022

After completing his Masters in Operations Research at the University of Edinburgh, David moved to Lancaster University to pursue a PhD. In 2017 he returned to South Africa to take on a position as senior lecturer in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at Stellenbosch University, where he remains.

Over the very recent past David has become increasingly involved in the structuring and design of the curriculum for parts of a new Bachelor in Data Science (BDatSci) degree now being offered at Stellenbosch University. Between this and his teaching responsibilities, David spends the all-too-few remaining work hours focusing on his research in statistical learning theory, efforts which recently led to a Y1 rating from the National Research Foundation.

More significantly to him, David is thoroughly enjoying being a father to his recently-turned-one-year-old son, Gabriel (Gabe). Gabe, recognising his dad's frustration with how little time there is for research at work, has taken it upon himself to eliminate sleep from the entire family's routine, thereby opening up far more time in all of their schedules.

david.p.hofmeyr@gmail.com



DAVID WATSON

2010 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

MPhil in Civil Law, University of
Oxford

Updated 2022

David is from Durbanville in Cape Town. He holds a BScSci in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from the University of Cape Town and a Bachelor of Laws from the same institution. He completed these studies in 2010.

David was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship in 2010 for an MPhil in Civil Law at the University of Oxford.

After graduating, he clerked for the former Chief Justice, Sandile Ngcobo, and Justices Raymond Zondo and Johan Froneman. David then worked as a visiting scholar at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and Private International Law. He completed pupillage in 2013, after which he joined Thulamela Chambers, before moving to Group 621. His practice has an increasingly private and commercial law flavour. During the Covid-19 lockdown, David was lucky enough to be involved in a series of interesting cases. He has acted for the President and members of Cabinet in defending the lockdown regulations against legal challenges. He has also acted for several businesses in disputes relating to business-continuity insurance claims, and for and against landlords where tenants have claimed *vis majeure* in consequence of the lockdown. Other interesting cases have involved rhino dehorning in game reserves, environmental remediation disputes and a fight for the control of the national lottery.

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TRACEY MILLIN

2010 MOMENTUM
DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MSc Education: Language,
Theory and Practice, Edinburgh
University

Updated 2023

In 2010 Tracey was awarded a Momentum Dippenaar scholarship for an MSc in Education: Language, Theory and Practice at Edinburgh University, which she completed in 2011.

After completing her MSc, Tracey returned to South Africa to teach English at secondary school level. She embarked on a doctoral study at Stellenbosch University from 2013 to 2015. In 2016 and 2017 she was a visiting academic fellow at Otago University in New Zealand.

Tracey then taught English at a school in New Zealand and is now a permanent senior lecturer in Education at Canterbury University in New Zealand. She teaches Initial Teacher Education programme courses whilst also heading up the TESOL programme. Tracey has since taken on leadership roles as the programme coordinator for the MTESOL, PGCertTESOL, PGDipEd (TLL) and Med (TLL) programmes.

She also received the Higher Education Fellowship UK (FHEA) and multiple publishing research grants.

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ABIGAIL MARCUS

2010 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MA in Law, New York University

Updated 2022

Abigail is from Johannesburg and studied at the University of the Witwatersrand. She completed a BA in 2006 and an LLB in 2008.

Abigail was awarded a FirstRand assistance bursary in 2010 for a Master of Laws at New York University School of Law and attained this in 2011.

She is an admitted attorney of the New York State Bar and practised corporate law at Latham & Watkins LLP for a number of years, representing banks and other financial institutions in acquisition financing transactions. Abigail is in the dissertation phase of her candidacy for the Doctorate in Juridical Sciences at Fordham University School of Law in New York.

Her research focuses on grand corruption in developing countries, with an emphasis on private enforcement mechanisms. Abigail observed that the Covid-19 pandemic heightened the salience of this area of work. Vast and rapid deployment of funds by governments into the private sector (to meet urgent healthcare needs and revive economies) has created substantial opportunities for rent-seeking, which is an economic concept that occurs when an entity seeks to gain added wealth without any reciprocal contribution of productivity.

She hopes that her research will contribute to the important conversation about the scourge of grand corruption – a phenomenon which imposes significant costs on many developing nations, and which distorts competition in global trade. In addition to her studies, Abigail serves as the director of the Corporate Law Center at Fordham Law School.

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HANNAH DIAZ

2010 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MA in Development Studies,
Erasmus University, Rotterdam

Updated 2023

Hannah is the programme manager: executive education for the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance at the University of Cape Town. The Nelson Mandela school works to build inclusive, developmental, entrepreneurial and effective democratic African public institutions and strengthen ethical leadership for social change and sustainable development in partnership with government, private sector and civil society.

Hannah's work involves creating spaces for engagement between researchers, policymakers and practitioners, and designing learning experiences to promote effective governance, identify and develop strategies to respond critically and creatively to complex challenges, and foster leadership development to advance transformative change. Now Hannah's work is focused on developing a suite of online training offerings to support actors across the continent in the negotiation and implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area to advance both integration and development on the continent.

Prior to joining the school, Hannah worked as a senior social consultant at EOH Coastal Environmental Services, where she undertook and oversaw research relating to the socio-economic impacts of planned change resulting from large development initiatives. Before that, Hannah served as a programme officer in the Regional Learning Programme at the Public Service Accountability Monitor, working with a range of civil society organisations to enhance their capacities and impact in rights-based monitoring and advocacy across South and southern Africa.

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INKA SCHOMER

2010 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MSc in Environment Change
Management,
University of Oxford

Updated 2022

Inka is from Cape Town and completed her studies at the University of Cape Town. She holds a BSc in Environmental and Geographical Sciences and a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Management. Inka completed these studies in 2009.

In 2010 she was awarded a FirstRand assistance bursary for an MSc in Environmental Change and Management at the University of Oxford.

Inka is a senior gender advisor at the World Bank Group working with the International Finance Corporation Infrastructure and Natural Resources department on gender-based violence issues, energy global practice on leading gender equality programmes, and social sustainability and inclusion global practice. She previously was the task team leader of the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program's Gender and Social Inclusion Program, as well as the World Bank's Africa Gender and Energy Program covering over 40 countries in the region. Her most recent career achievements include designing a multi-year \$24 million programme on gender equality in the energy sector and winning the World Bank President's Award for Excellence for pioneering innovative approaches to closing gender gaps across the energy sector in Ethiopia.

Inka has also led the infrastructure work of the World Bank's Gender Group, where she focused on supporting the implementation of gender strategy.

Prior to focusing her career on gender equality, Inka worked on climate and carbon finance projects and renewable energy sector programmes with the Climate Investment Funds and Camco Clean Energy Consulting (South Africa). She studies psychology part-time.

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SIMON MARCUS

2010 FIRSTRAND
ASSISTANCE BURSARY

MA in Philosophy, New York
University

Updated 2022

Simon attended New York University for the Masters in Philosophy programme and graduated in 2013. During his studies, Simon taught classes as an adjunct instructor at the NYU College of Arts and Science. He has provided editorial and consulting services in the areas of analytics, content and brand strategy for TED, K2 (a corporate intelligence agency) and the Clinton Global Initiative.

For a number of years Simon worked as a part-time volunteer for Housing Works – a non-profit organisation focused on combating homelessness related to HIV/AIDS. Simon passed the CFA Level I exam in 2015. In 2016 he founded a technology start-up in New York City, Pippa.io. Pippa has grown to become a significant market player in the US and Europe in providing podcast hosting, analytics and advertising services. In 2017, Pippa completed the prestigious Techstars accelerator programme in Los Angeles. Simon continues to lead and grow Pippa, which now provides hosting services to a number of South African podcasts.

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More shoulders**BEN WINKS**

2009 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

Advanced LLM,
Leiden University

Updated 2023

After graduating *cum laude* from Leiden University in 2010 with an Advanced Masters degree in International Law (specialising in Peace, Justice and Development), Ben spent a year serving as a judges' clerk at the Constitutional Court of South Africa.

He then completed his articles and practised as an attorney until 2016.

Ben now practices as an independent advocate, specialising in media, constitutional and international law. In the past year, Ben has acted in several significant defamation and hate speech cases. He acted in the Supreme Court of Appeal for the Nelson Mandela Foundation and represented the South African Chinese community in securing a landmark judgement.

Ben lives in Johannesburg with his wife, Catherine, and two children.

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MARYKE BAILEY

2009 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

MPhil in Intellectual History,
University of Sussex

Updated 2023

Maryke has moved to KZN and is now teaching History and English at Maritzburg College. In 2006 she graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand with a BA in History and Philosophy and obtained a BA (Hons) in History from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2007.

In 2009 Maryke was awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship for an MPhil in Intellectual History at the University of Sussex. She completed these studies in 2010.

Maryke was involved in different education-related projects on a freelance basis from 2015 to 2018. Her roles included that of textbook over-writer and textbook reviewer (Pearson); Wits Education lecturer and teaching experience tutor; resource producer and teacher trainer; mentor and coach at schools such as Spark Schools, Nova Pioneer and Collaboration Schools in the Western Cape (for Instill Education); and co-author with John Pampallis of a South African history book.

Maryke was appointed as the Head of Department of Cognitive Education at Roedean School (SA), and has enjoyed working in a school environment that allows her to work with both student and teacher development.

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KYLA BRADY

2009 MOMENTUM
DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Stem Cell Biology,
University of Bristol

Updated 2023

Kyla was awarded a Momentum Dippenaar scholarship in 2009 and completed a PhD in Stem Cell Biology at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom.

Following completion of her PhD, she worked as postdoctoral research associate investigating stem cell therapies for cartilage repair applications. She is particularly interested in the translation of scientific research for therapeutic application. To further develop her clinical career, she completed Physician Associate studies at the University of Manchester. She currently holds the role of a research physician associate in the Oncology Clinical Trials Unit in Plymouth, where her work involves offering novel and innovative treatment options to cancer patients.

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LUCY CORKIN

2008 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Political Science, SOAS
University of London

Updated 2023

Following a brief post-doc at the BRICS Policy Centre in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Lucy joined RMB's prestigious Class Of Programme in 2012, through which she rotated through various divisions at RMB, learning the ropes of investment banking.

Lucy has also since received the Pride of RMB Award in 2020.

Her passion for all things Pan-African saw her take up a role in RMB's Global Markets division in strategy implementation, focusing on FirstRand's regional African footprint.

Lucy still holds a candle for academia and continues to publish chapters, research papers and think-pieces on the BRICS grouping, and African countries' relations with China.

Her most recent interest is digital innovation in banking and how this is changing African countries' diverse and dynamic financial landscapes, as well as its broader social and societal applications and impact. She is an Asian Global Governance Forum alumnus and a member of the African Leadership Network.

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**DOMINIQUE
DAVIES**

2008 MOMENTUM
DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in African Studies,
University of Oxford

Updated 2023

Dominique grew up in Grahamstown (Makhanda) and studied at Rhodes University. She holds a BA Honours in History, Politics and isiXhosa.

Dominique is still working for RB Africa, where she is a director and senior consultant. She enjoys the varied nature of consulting and the exposure she gets to different work environments. Over the past 12 years she has worked in diverse industries, including automotive, rolling stock, aquaculture and agriculture.

Dominique is a director of RB Adventures and organises an annual multiday 120km trail run down the Transkei coastline. On the weekends you will find her on her smallholding in the Eastern Cape running after her cows, donkeys, peacocks and children.

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WILLEM KLOPPER

2008 MOMENTUM
DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP

MA in Management Research,
University of Oxford

Updated 2023

After returning from his studies at Oxford, Willem joined FirstRand for three years on its CA Training Programme.

After qualifying as a CA(SA) in 2012, he moved to a private equity/infrastructure fund, Pembani Remgro Infrastructure Managers, as part of the fund's deal team.

In 2017, Willem joined the Eric Ellerin family office and was the company's chief investment officer until the start of 2022. He then joined Transaction Capital as value creation executive focusing on the company's investment in WeBuyCars.

He lives in Midstream Estate in Gauteng with his young family.

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GUS WASCHEFORT

2007 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

PhD in Law, School of Oriental
and African Studies

Updated 2022

Gus is a senior lecturer at the School of Law, University of Essex. Prior to joining the University of Essex, he held academic appointments at the University of Pretoria as lecturer and the University of South Africa as associate professor.

Between 2011 and 2013, Gus was a legal advisor to the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. He has also been a visiting researcher to the International Law Centre of the Swedish National Defence University, as well as the Centre for Human Rights and Global Justice at New York University.

Gus's primary research interests relate to contemporary challenges in the context of armed conflict in Africa, including working towards enhancing the level of participation from within Africa in the global discourse on the law of armed conflict. With a background in photojournalism, Gus has extensive experience working within active conflict zones in Africa, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, South Sudan and Angola.

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**CHRISTIE
DORFLING**

2007 FIRSTRAND
LAURIE DIPPENAAR
SCHOLARSHIP

MSc in Engineering, University
of Cambridge

Updated 2023

**Christie is professor in and
chairperson of the Department of
Process Engineering at Stellenbosch
University.**

His career in academia allows him to pursue his passions for teaching and research. His research focuses on process development and process improvement for metal production and recycling. Christie's most recent projects evaluate processing options for the recovery of metals such as copper and gold from electronic waste, investigating environmentally benign reagents for metal extraction, and improving the resource efficiency of metal production processes.

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