

PROFILES OF PREVIOUS SCHOLARSHIP

AWARDEES TO FOLLOW



ANDREW MOLVER

2018 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

Masters of Law, University of Cambridge

Andrew is a litigation specialist, with particular expertise in administrative and constitutional matters. He obtained BCom Law (2006) and LLB (2008) degrees (both *cum laude*) at the University of Pretoria, where 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. After university, he served articles at Adams & Adams, where he has been a partner since 2014. Andrew acted as lead attorney for the Public Protector in several politically critical and precedent setting court cases, as well as representing the Public Protector in successfully defending certain challenges in these matters. This fostered his fascination with the role of good governance as both a deterrent of corruption and as a guarantor of fundamental human rights.

In October 2018, Andrew will commence reading for a Masters of Law at Cambridge, with a focus on public international law. He holds particular interest in the validity of invalid administrative acts – an interesting dichotomy in South Africa – which he intends exploring and, hopefully, resolving through a comparative analysis of foreign and South African law. He also plans to extend his current administrative law competency into greater global and substantive application through a selection of international and public law courses. On completion of his masters, Andrew hopes to contribute to South Africa's ongoing project to eradicate socio-economic oppression, corruption and other societal ills, by leveraging the law as a tool for societal change. He will be joined in Cambridge by his wife, Candice, and their two young daughters, Amelia and Zoey.

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IRFAN HABIB

2018 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*PhD in Condensed Matter Physics,
University of Oxford*

Irfan completed his BSc in Physics and Astrophysics at the University of Cape Town in 2016. His primary motivation was an intense curiosity about the mysteries of the universe. While this curiosity is still there, towards the end of his degree, he began to gravitate to the applied physics fields. The energy sciences in particular grabbed his attention, as much because of their impact on everyday life as the complex challenges the field provides. He traded the relative laid-back ease of Cape Town for the hustle and bustle of city life in Johannesburg to complete an honours degree in physics at the University of Witwatersrand (2017). His honours project was on a new attempted design of a thermophotovoltaic system, a system which tries to utilise waste heat to increase the efficiency of traditional photovoltaic (solar cell) systems. He is currently pursuing an MSc in Physics at Wits on supercapacitors as energy storage devices.

He will be pursuing a PhD in Condensed Matter Physics at the University of Oxford, where he will work in the advanced functional materials group, researching organic solar cells. He will be attempting to first understand some of the fundamental challenges with the energy conversion mechanisms in these devices and then hopefully improve their energy conversion performance. His primary aim in this research is to enable better energy provision, thereby addressing one of the fundamental foundational challenges of development on the African continent. Irfan strongly believes that Africa has a unique prospect to be a world leader in the energy sciences due to its rich mineral resources for advanced functional devices and its ideal climate for renewable energy systems. His future career goals include playing a crucial and direct role in advancing African science as a means for inclusive development.

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BONOLO MATHEKGA

2018 FirstRand Foundation scholarship

*MSc in Bioengineering Innovation and Design,
John Hopkins University*

Bonolo is a BEngSc in Biomedical Engineering (2015) and BSc (Eng) (Information Engineering) (2017) graduate from the University of the Witwatersrand. She is currently in the United States studying towards a Master of Science in Bioengineering Innovation and Design at Johns Hopkins University. The programme involves working closely with physicians at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine to identify medical problems, then design and build products that solve these difficulties. Additionally, the programme consists of a global immersion aspect, in which Bonolo is gaining first-hand experience recognising and addressing clinical needs in an emerging global health market. She is assigned to work with Becton Dickinson and Company to reduce catheter-related bloodstream infections in the US market. Her global health project entails travelling to Brazil to understudy infection control and come up with the necessary measures.

She is very passionate about her field of work and plans to use the skills learned throughout her masters programme to develop biomedical technologies that cater specifically to the global health sector. Bonolo aims to start her own biomedical engineering business in South Africa in the near future. Furthermore, she wishes to create a holiday entrepreneurship club that will equip high school learners with the necessary enterprise tools, so that they are able to start their own businesses and fend for themselves post-matric. She believes that this is imperative given the increasing youth unemployment rate.

Bonolo has received several awards throughout her university career, including the Swirnow fellowship from Johns Hopkins University. One of Bonolo's strongest qualities is her ability to embrace change and maintain a positive attitude.

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BUBELE BOOI

2018 FirstRand Foundation scholarship
 Masters in Music Technology, New York
 University

Bubele is a producer, songwriter, composer and technologist from Johannesburg. He was awarded a bachelors degree, with distinction, in Music Technology from the University of Cape Town.

In his first year, Bubele won Microsoft's Sound of The World project, which put his composition, African Hue, on every Microsoft Lumia 535 device, worldwide, as a ringtone option. The following year Bubele, in partnership with Nomxolisi Masango, birthed UCT Live Room, an online platform aimed at showcasing campus talent in a professionally filmed and recorded way. Within two years, UCT Live Room had a reach of over 20 000, clips from the YouTube channel being shown on television and one episode going viral on Twitter in South Africa.

This led to a former UCT student, Langa Mavuso, being signed to one of the most prominent independent record labels in the country.

By graduation in 2017, Bubele had placed a large number of records with major labels and multiple tracks garnering local radio play with a handful charting. In 2018, a selection of the songwriting and production work by him was nominated for a South African Music Award.

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TSHEPO MOLOI

2018 FirstRand Foundation scholarship

*Masters in Public Administration
(International Development),
University of York*

Tshepo is an economist, currently working at the South African Reserve Bank economic research and statistics department and responsible for the analysis of Government's domestic and foreign debt. He completed an MCom degree in Economics at the University of the Free State (UFS) in 2016. His masters dissertation entitled *The social discounting task in economics: A laboratory experiment in South Africa* has been published in both local and international journals such as the South African Journal for Economics (SAJE) and PLOSone. In 2014, he was the recipient of the DST-NRF Centre for Excellence in Human Development scholarship and granted the Economic Research Southern Africa (ERSA) Award for being the best honours student in economics at the UFS. In 2015, he attended a summer school on *Big Data and the digital divide*, hosted by the Association of Commonwealth Universities in Canada.

During his tenure at the UFS, he served as vice president of the Student Representative Council (SRC), SRC sport officer, founder and chairperson of the South African Economics

Student Association and CEO of the EMS faculty's Student Representative Body (Commercio). His leadership capabilities and outstanding contribution to student affairs was recognised when he was awarded a Lifetime Leadership Award by UFS.

After graduating, driven by his passion to help government make economic sense of some of its common socio-economic challenges, Tshepo joined National Treasury in the public finance division where he was mainly responsible for budget formulation, expenditure monitoring as well policy analysis of national government departments. During his time there, he was selected to participate in the International Monetary Fund's Monetary Policy Analysis course, alongside 30 other delegates from other African countries. He was also asked to mentor university students intending to enrol for a masters degree in public economics at the annual GTAC winter school.

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SHAEERA KALLA

2018 FirstRand Oxford African Studies scholarship

MSC in African Studies, University of Oxford

Shaeera believes in the power of the youth and technology to shake the core of an unjust system. From being one of the leaders of the #FeesMustFall protests in South Africa, she recently founded a start-up called The Mbegu Platform to create a space for the development of ideas, both entrepreneurial and social, through inclusive innovation and coordinated collaboration.

As a former student leader and activist at heart, Shaeera believes that “there is no such thing as the voiceless, there is only the deliberately silenced or the preferably unheard”. (Arundhati Roy). She was the president of the Student Representative Council, chairperson of the Palestine solidarity committee at Wits and a member of the workers solidarity committee. She is also an advocate for Pan-Africanism and currently sits on the Africa Regional Advisory Group for Amnesty International.

She holds a BCom in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) and an honours in Political Science. In September, Shaeera will make her way to the UK to complete an MSc in African Studies focusing on African development in the digital age at the University of Oxford.

The international exposure that Oxford offers provides an opportunity for strategies on African development to be locally responsive as well as globally competitive. Upon her return, Shaeera hopes to use the networks built and knowledge gained to challenge the *status quo* in Africa.

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EMMA WHITELAW

2018 FirstRand FNB Fund scholarship
 MSc in Economics and Public Policy,
 University of York

Emma completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Cape Town in 2015, majoring in Economics and isiXhosa Communication. She went on to pursue her MA in African Languages and Literatures, which she is currently in the process of finalising. During this time, she worked on the development of a linguistically and culturally appropriate speech and communicative development assessment for isiXhosa-speaking toddlers. This led to her developing a keen interest in the role of language in early childhood development and subsequent academic and economic success. To effectively achieve this success, however, Emma believes that appropriate language policy needs to extend throughout students' education. Promoting the use of multilingualism to a greater extent, she advocates, is a means to contribute to addressing the development need of reducing inequality through appropriate and inclusive educational attainment.

Her broader interests extend to the "economics of language", which advocates for the use of economic concepts and tools in the study of language. Emma hopes to use this approach to best inform appropriate language policy

for education, promoting both inclusivity and success. In this vein, she will be starting an MSc in Economics at the University of York in the UK in September 2018. This will afford her the skills to quantifiably evaluate and measure the outcomes of such interventions through a lens that does not purely consider linguistic facets, but also acknowledges the role of early childhood development and the education system in navigating students out of the country's persisting cycle of inequality. Emma truly believes that almost any issue or task presents multifaceted dimensions including sociological, political, linguistic and economic factors, and that ignoring the interaction of these factors would be to restrict the power and value of any outcome to a problem to be solved. Her MSc will allow her to advance her commitment and determination to contribute to the fields of socio-economic and economic development in a meaningful way.

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HEIDI BARENDS

2018 FirstRand FNB Fund scholarship

*MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable
Development, University of Cambridge*

Heidi completed her Industrial Engineering degree at the University of Pretoria in 2014 and was awarded the SAIE student award for top student, the Louis Heyl Prize for best final year project and was invited to join the Golden Key honours society. She has since worked in banking. Initially, Heidi was a performance improvement consultant in retail banking, and for the past two years, has been in the debt capital markets team in investment banking where she was exposed to the world of finance and economics. This gave her the opportunity to explore responsible sustainable alternative financing solutions, such as green bonds, social bonds and development impact bonds. In her free time Heidi is putting her energy into working with a diverse group of passionate South Africans on launching the Mila Initiative, a website that will deliver SA-centric videos to supplement the South African Life Orientation curriculum for Grade 8 – 12 learners.

In October 2018, Heidi will commence her masters at the University of Cambridge. The programme includes courses in sustainable development best practices, negotiation, government policies and the impact of engineering and infrastructure solutions on wider society, which Heidi believes will enable her in pursuing her passion: education. Upon returning to South Africa, armed with a new skill set, Heidi dreams of transforming the South African education system by bringing government NGOs and corporate social responsibility funds together through the implementation of development impact bonds and other alternative financing solutions.

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TARRYN DE KOCK

2018 FirstRand FNB Fund scholarship
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*PhD in Education, University of Sussex*

Tarryn studied politics and international studies up to honours level at Rhodes University. While there, she served as the politics editor for the student newspaper The Oppidan Press, tutored in politics and anthropology, and was involved in various cultural and activism activities. After completing her BSocSci (Hons), Tarryn moved back home to Cape Town to take up an MEd at the Centre for International Teacher Education (CITE), based at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. Her master's research focused on issues of language, identity and social cohesion in three Cape Town schools. Coupled with completing this degree she gained professional experience in the CITE research programme, doing research, writing and dissemination for projects conducted in collaboration with South African universities and schools, the Department of Basic Education, UNESCO and NECT. In her spare time, she also works as a fundraiser for social initiatives and owns a small baking business.

Tarryn will begin her PhD in Education at the University of Sussex with a focus on corporate sector involvement in public education. Her proposed research topic takes the view that education interventions for social justice must derive from a sound evidence and analytical base, with a future orientation that considers what will be and not only what is. She is excited to take this research forward into future work in global education policy and the development of pragmatic, inclusive and transformative educational opportunities for the global south.

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## ALISON GREEN

2018 FirstRand RMB Fund *ad hoc* scholarship  
 MPhil in Art Education, Cambridge University

Alison Green is an educator, theatre practitioner and facilitator.

Her teaching experience includes: the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy, Rodean, The National School of the Arts and Creative Voices – an integrated arts initiative associated with the Royal London Opera House. In 2013, Alison attended the UNESCO World Arts Alliance Conference in Germany as the South African Arts Educator Representative. Currently, she is the project manager for the ASSITEJ SA Kickstarter Creative Arts Empowerment programme, which is the first-ever case study for the impact of arts in South Africa. The project won the Business Arts South Africa Award for Development with RMB in 2017.

Alison sits on the Naledi panel for the Best Production for Children and Young Audiences, a new category focusing on the outstanding work being created for youth.

Alison is interested in play and the transformative power of the arts to shift and develop communities. She has recently been accepted at Cambridge University to complete an MPhil in Creativity and Arts Education.

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*The RMB Fund is not stepping into the bursary provision space. Should any candidate in one of the RMB Fund funding focus areas, the creative or environmental economy, make it into the top 40/long list in the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship of their own accord and according to the FirstRand scholarship screening process and should that candidate not be successful in obtaining a scholarship, the RMB Fund might consider awarding an appropriate grant towards his/her studies.*

Alison Green was awarded a 2018 FirstRand RMB Fund *ad hoc* scholarship.



## **APHIWE JIKAZANA**

**2017 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship**

*MSc in Water and Wastewater Engineering,  
Cranfield University*

Having graduated with a BEng (Chemical Engineering) degree from Stellenbosch University, Aphiwe began her MSc in Water and Wastewater Engineering at Cranfield University (UK) in September 2017. The first five months of her degree were coursework based. During this time, she completed eight modules including water reuse and resource recovery, hydraulics and pumping systems, process science and engineering as well as risk management and reliability engineering. The following three months were devoted to a group design project. Aphiwe's group designed a direct potable reuse scheme with an integrated rainwater-harvesting system as part of a sustainable water management strategy. She is now working on her thesis. Her research is focused on the use of UV-LEDs for drinking water disinfection.

Until recently, Aphiwe had her heart set on going into industry and possibly joining a graduate programme on completion of her MSc. She is now, however, seriously considering a career in academia. This will allow her to be more focused on her goals of empowering others through education and the provision of adequate water and sanitation. Aphiwe will be pursuing her PhD in the near future.

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## TEDDY MUDGE

2017 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*Masters in Medical Device Design and  
Entrepreneurship, Imperial College London*

Teddy is an engineer and entrepreneur with a passion for product development. He is a co-founder of a medical device start-up, which makes balloons for intervention cardiology (heart surgery).

Teddy completed his mechanical engineering degree at UCT in 2009. He has worked as a mechanical/bio-medical engineer in medical devices for the past six years. At Strait Access Technologies (a Cape Town-based start-up) he leads teams of R&D engineers to develop minimally invasive heart valves and balloons for the treatment of rheumatic heart disease in the developing world. Prior to this, he worked as a mechanical engineer specialising in machine design where he developed his design, engineering and product development skills.

In October 2017, Teddy joined Imperial College London, where he hopes to gain a master's degree in Medical Device Design and Entrepreneurship. This degree combines engineering and business to prepare students to found new medtech companies.

Imperial College is regarded as a powerhouse in bioengineering, producing much of the world's best research and academics. Unlike other leading science universities, Imperial has a strong business school adjacent to the engineering buildings in South Kensington, London. This location is ideal for investors and alumni, who regularly visit the campus, seeking new opportunities. Teddy's masters project is a point of care diagnostics device that will better detect heart attack in resource-scarce environments. His work will focus on taking a promising new diagnostics technology (developed in the Molly Stevens lab) from successful lab experiments through to a viable product and business plan.

Teddy is thrilled to have been afforded the opportunity to work with the prestigious team at Imperial College London and hopes to continue to work with the best people, solving tough problems.

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### **FARAI MUBAIWA**

**2017 FirstRand Foundation scholarship**

*MSc in Political Economy of Emerging Markets,  
Kings College London*

Farai is an intern at the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) and she is pursuing an MSc in the Political Economy of Emerging Markets at King's College London. Her dissertation on South African private companies and Black women will examine the extent to which the Employment Equity Act (affirmative action policy) has affected representation, corporate experience and career projection of black women. Farai is a former analyst for strategy and operations consulting at Deloitte. She is the co-founder of the youth-led organisation Africa Matters, which empowers young Africans to lead through leadership skills capacity building and community-impact projects.

Farai is a Queen's Young Leader for South Africa for 2017, a One Young World Ambassador and a King's Principal's Global Leadership Award Recipient. She was recently named as one of the top 100 Mandelas of the future by Media24.

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## SAFA NARAGHI

2017 FirstRand Foundation scholarship

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

Safa is a mechanical engineering graduate from the University of Cape Town (2015), where he built a low cost solar-powered water pump for use by farmers in resource limited regions in sub-Saharan Africa for his honours thesis. He was awarded a Gallagher Foundation Scholarship in 2010 for his studies at UCT, and was on the UCT Dean's merit list and part of the Golden Key society throughout his undergraduate studies. During his time at UCT, Safa was the deputy head student of Kopano Residence, chair of the UCT residence outreach council, lead scholar of the Gallagher Foundation and headed the planning and execution of the UCT CANSA Shavathon. In 2015, he was selected as one of 19 South Africans to participate in the South Africa Washington International Program (SAWIP), a seven-month leadership programme aimed at developing future leaders of South Africa through exposing them to various aspects of servant leadership, political and economic context of SA, community engagement and professional life. Through SAWIP, Safa completed an internship in Washington DC with an engineering consultancy focused on creating

electrical infrastructure in Africa. In the following year, he served as a SAWIP team manager. In his spare time, Safa enjoys playing and coaching cricket and rugby.

Safa has also completed an MSc in Biomedical Engineering at UCT where his masters research was focused on developing a TB screening tool using a smartphone. Clinical trials of the application are currently being conducted. His passion lies in the merger of technology and entrepreneurship to effect tangible change in the South African healthcare sector. He has worked on various projects aligned to his vision for healthcare in SA and took the opportunity to develop himself further through his studies in the UK. In September 2018, Safa will complete an MSc in Entrepreneurship focused on healthcare innovation at University College London. His current research focuses on the use and possible implementation of a technology-added healthcare behavioural economics model in the public healthcare sector of South Africa.

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## **TSHEPO MOSAKA**

**2017 FirstRand Foundation scholarship**

*PhD, Nottingham University*

Tshepo is from Dobsonville on the northern border of Soweto. He holds an LLB from Wits, LLM from the University of Cape Town and currently is reading towards a PhD at the University of Nottingham. Before that, Tshepo has spent his time training as a candidate attorney at ENSAfrica.

Although Tshepo has continued to have his research work in the fields of evidence and constitutional law published in various law journals in South Africa, his current primary research interest is in legal argumentation. For purposes of his doctoral studies, he is working towards developing a theory of proof for witchcraft-related claims in the context of civil and criminal courts in Africa.

In the longer term, Tshepo is working towards building a career as an African philosopher and legal argumentation specialist.

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## KEYAN JARDINE

2017 FirstRand Oxford African Studies scholarship  
MSc in African Studies, University of Oxford

As a recipient of the 2017 FirstRand Oxford African Studies Scholarship, Keyan has just completed his MSc in African Studies at Wadham College, University of Oxford. Previously, he attained his Bachelor of Arts with honours in history in 2016, under the auspices of the National Research Foundation Chair in Local Histories and Contemporary Realities, which is based at the University of Witwatersrand. During his time there, Keyan was, among other things, a representative on the University of the Witwatersrand School of Social Sciences Student Council and a recipient of the prestigious Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship. Having majored in both history and philosophy during his undergraduate studies, He is interested in the 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 Number 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 all converge to form a strong magnet that draws men into these gangs. Keyan plans to continue and further elaborate upon this research at the doctorate level, with the ultimate goal of providing a historically sensitive theoretical understanding of these prison and street gangs within South Africa.

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## RUSSEL DARIES

2016 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship  
MSc in Machine Learning, University College  
London

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

He recently completed an MSc in Machine Learning at University College London. His dissertation under the supervision of Dr Nicholas Lane from the University of Oxford focused on a research area called Reinforcement Learning whereby robots are taught to perform abstract tasks through positive and negative reinforcement, much like children's behaviour is shaped in the same manner. During his year abroad, Russel undertook the London Marathon with fellow Firstrand alumnus, Michael Schmid. They completed the marathon in rhino suits and managed to raise £3 000 for the UK-based charity, Save The Rhino.

Upon returning to South Africa, Russel began a moonshot start-up, Hyco Technologies, focused on disrupting the use of social media in business using his skills gained abroad.

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## MOGWALE MOTEBEJANE

2016 FirstRand Foundation scholarship

*Research Fellowship in Interventional Neuroradiology,  
Tufts University School of Medicine*

Mogwale is a neurosurgeon from Inkosi Albert Luthuli hospital in KwaZulu-Natal. His special interest is in the field of interventional neuroradiology. After completion of his FC Neurosurgery in 2013, he registered for the certificate in interventional neuroradiology, known as PLANET (Pierre Lasjaunias Neurovascular Education Team) course offered by University of Toronto and acquired the certificate in November 2014.

In 2016, Mogwale went to do his research fellowship in interventional neuroradiology in Lahey Hospital and Medical Centre, Boston, USA. His research topic was on the foramen magnum dural arteriovenous fistula. He submitted the manuscript to the Operative Neurosurgery Journal for publication. During his research fellowship in Boston, he presented his work at several international meetings. One work on intracranial meningiomas in the era of human immunodeficiency viruses and antiretroviral therapies received one of the highest points from the Congress of Neurological Surgeons conference held in San Diego, USA on 26 – 30 September 2016. The manuscript produced from this work was preselected for publication by the Clinical Neurosurgery Journal, September 2017 edition.

His research work on the demographic and angioarchitectural features predictive brain

arteriovenous malformation hemorrhagic and seizure presentation in KwaZulu-Natal was accepted for publication by interdisciplinary neurosurgery, advanced techniques and case management. This research work was presented at the combined CNS/AANS conference held in Houston Texas, USA in February 2017.

Mogwale presented his work on neuro-oncology at the World Federation of Neurological Surgeons conference 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. He is also due to present 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, USA. In June 2016, the International Academy of Independent Medical Evaluators in Illinois Chicago, USA, certified him as an independent disability impairment evaluator, before his return to South Africa.

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

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### GENNA GARDINI

2016 FirstRand Foundation scholarship  
PhD in Drama, *Queen Mary University of London*

Genna holds an MA in Theatre-making (Playwriting) from UCT and is currently a PhD candidate in the drama department of Queen Mary University of London. She has won various awards for her work as a poet and playwright, including the DALRO New Coin Poetry Prize. Her debut collection of poems, *Matric Rage*, was published by uHlanga Press in 2015 and received a commendation for the Ingrid Jonker prize. Gardini works as a drama lecturer at CityVarsity and is the poetry editor for Prufrock.

She has just completed the first year of her PhD at Queen Mary, where she is researching autobiographical plays about multiple sclerosis through a queer-feminist lens. She is also writing a new play about multiple sclerosis as part of her studies.

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## BRANDON FINN

2015 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*MSc in Urban Studies, University College London*

Brandon conducts research on informality, democracy and state formation in relation to contemporary African cities. His work focuses on spaces of urbanisation that receive less scholarly attention than they ought to – especially given the global demographic necessity of theorising and planning for cities on the world's youngest and fastest urbanising continent. He is a recipient of the Nigerian Fellowship for Distinguished African Students at Harvard University.

His previous research has focused on the work of young men in Freetown and Kigali – often falling outside the prescriptive city plans spearheaded by the Sierra Leonean and Rwandan governments. Brandon has also worked on contextualising South Africa's wave of protest movements as

constitutive of a continuum-based notion of popular sovereignty, and a DfID sponsored research project assessing urban land-based value policies and taxation in Harare, Zimbabwe. He is a South African PhD Urban Planning student at Harvard University and completed his BA and BSocSci Honours (first class) at the University of Cape Town, before being awarded a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship to complete his MSc in Urban Studies (distinction) at University College London. Outside of academia, Brandon loves long-distance running.

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### ESTHER CHRISTINE MCFARLANE

2015 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*International Comparative Education Master Program, Columbia University*

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 and was selected for a Mandela Rhodes scholarship. She taught as a full-time teacher at Claremont High School, a school in Cape Town specifically aimed at empowering 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 always finding better ways in which education can contribute to a country's sustainable and prosperous development and shape our societies in meaningful ways.

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### INGRID PENZHORN

#### 2015 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*MSc in Global Mental Health,  
King's College London*

Ingrid had the privilege of completing an MSc in Neuroscience at King's College London where she was introduced to the immensely complex cellular and molecular underpinnings of the brain and its pathology. She is now expanding upon that knowledge by training as an anatomical pathologist at the University of Stellenbosch. Although her current focus of research is on the role of viral infections in the development of certain blood cancers, her training as a general pathologist at Tygerberg Hospital affords her ample exposure to neuropathology, in which she still has a special interest. Her experience at a world class university in London has prepared her extremely well for the current challenges she faces. She is grateful to be contributing to the public health care system and would like to continue playing an active part in South African health sciences.

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### THATO MASIANGOAKO

#### 2015 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*MSc in African Politics, School of Oriental and  
African Studies*

Thato is a policy analyst at the Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) and is also a sessional lecturer in the Politics Department at Wits. She recently completed an MA in Politics (with distinction) at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) 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 was awarded the scholarship in 2015 to pursue an MSc in African Politics at the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London) which she received in 2016. She holds a BA (International Relations and Political Studies with distinction) as well as a joint Honours degree (International Relations and Political Studies) from Wits. Thato is a Mellon Mays Fellow and has been involved with the Constitution Hill Education Project and the Wits Writing Centre, in line with her passion for education and youth development.

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### ANDREW LINDEN

#### 2014 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*DPhil in Population Health, University of Oxford*

Andrew is a Clarendon Scholar and a Fellow of the Actuarial Society of South Africa. He holds an MSc in Global Health Science from the University of Oxford and a MBus Sc in Actuarial Science from the University of Cape Town. Andrew is currently pursuing a DPhil in Population Health where his research aims to provide insight into the mechanisms underlying common 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 Stem Cell Research, University of Cape Town and University of Montreal*

Gift is an investment analyst at Allan Gray, covering a diverse range of sectors and industries. He joined the financial services and asset management sector in 2016. Gift holds a doctoral degree in human genetics from the University of Cape Town where he published over 12 peer-reviewed journal articles and presented at over 15 national and international conferences. Gift was also a pre-doctoral fellow in the Department of Molecular and Human Genetics at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, USA. He has had scholarships from the Mellon Mays Foundation, Mandela Rhodes, Fulbright, FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar and the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust.

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## MICHAEL SCHMID

2014 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship  
*Masters in Micro and Nanotechnology  
Enterprise, University of Cambridge*

Michael completed his masters degree in Micro and Nanotechnology Enterprise at the University of Cambridge in July 2015. The masters course is unique, combining a multidisciplinary scientific programme with a global perspective on the commercial opportunities and business practice necessary for the successful exploitation of innovations in micro and nanotechnology. Through his thesis work, he connected with a Cambridge-based start-up producing advanced materials such as graphene and carbon nanotubes, where he headed up their business development work for two years. Michael recently moved back to South Africa to work at The Boston Consulting Group, where he is helping transform South African companies.

Always up for a challenge, Michael ran the 2017 London Marathon with Russel Daries (also a FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar alumnus) both wearing rhino suits to raise money and awareness for Save The Rhino. Together, Michael and Russel raised £3 000, which is being used to fund numerous rhino conservation programmes in southern Africa.

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## CHARLOTTE SLINGSBY

2013 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*MA/MSc in Innovation Design Engineering at  
Imperial College London and Royal College of Art*

Charlotte graduated in July 2015 from Imperial College London and Royal College of Art with double masters degrees in Innovation Design Engineering (IDE), thanks to the essential support of the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship. Charlotte previously graduated with a more traditional engineering degree in electro-mechanical engineering at the University of Cape Town (2013). After completing her masters it was the overlap of design thinking and technical skills that set her off to establish her two London-based startups.

Charlotte co-founded Nettoken Limited which is developing a cybersecurity product to help tidy and manage the ever-increasing mess of accounts that people sign up to. Nettoken is based in London and has been granted a patent in a novel method of authentication. The company is looking at exciting opportunities to collaborate with a threat intelligence company to bring a consumer product to market that has top-level security functionality. They are excited to launch their first product in late 2018.

Charlotte simultaneously self-started the company Moya Power that is researching and developing an alternative wind energy harvester. Unlike the traditional approach of using turbines, she is developing what can be regarded as a flexible building textile to convert wasted urban space into energy-generating hubs. Highlights include a trial with CrossRail London, funding from Shell LiveWIRE as a Young Entrepreneur of the Year Finalist (2016) and being recognised on Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe List 2017 in three categories; including science and healthcare.

On the side, Charlotte also tutors at Imperial College London for Global Innovation Design – keeping her up-to-date with hot topics and challenges that great minds are tackling today.

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### MATTHEW GADD

2013 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship  
*DPhil Engineering Science, University of Oxford*

Matt's PhD research dealt with communication and data sharing between connected driverless cars.

He now leads research as a postdoctoral assistant within Innovate UK's DRIVEN consortium, which will see a fleet of fully autonomous vehicles being deployed in safety-critical urban areas and motorways in late 2019. This connected and autonomous vehicle trial will be a world-first in terms of levels of complexity, logistics, and integration.

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### SHAHIDA MOOSA

2013 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship  
*PhD in Molecular Genetics, University of Cologne*

Shahida studied medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand. Following her internship and community service years, she spent some time working in paediatrics before choosing to specialise in medical genetics. In 2012, Shahida graduated as the first primary specialist in medical genetics in southern Africa. She dreams of becoming a clinician-scientist, so that she can improve both patient care and the level of clinical research in South Africa.

Shahida successfully defended her PhD at the University of Cologne, Germany in 2017. Both her thesis and oral examination were awarded *summa cum laude*. She is adjusting to life (and the crazy weather) in Boston, as she continues her research at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School.



## MATTHEW BUTLER-ADAM

2012 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*MSc in Economics for Development,  
University of Oxford*

Today, Matthew works as a senior consultant at Bain & Company where he has been involved in strategy work in financial services, telecoms, mining and the public sector, as well as in commercial due diligences in the private equity practice area. Matthew was also the director of Bain social impact and is currently in the early phase of establishing Bain's first Africa education practice area. He has also been employed by various research units at Harvard, Oxford, and UCT, as well as well as at SALDRU, J-PAL, and IPA – primarily involved in randomised control trials as well as cross-sectional and panel econometric analyses.

Matthew has a Master's degree in Policy and Management (Education specialisation) from Harvard University and a Master of Science degree in Economics for Development from the University of Oxford where he was awarded the Luca d'Agliano prize for the best dissertation, graduating top of his class. His undergraduate

degree at the University of Cape Town was a PPE (Politics, Philosophy, and Economics) and was awarded with distinction in all subjects. His research includes the effects of gender, race, and language on labour market outcomes; analyses of the intra-household allocation of resources; as well as the labour supply curves of South African sex workers. Matthew is passionate about continuous learning/education and continues to learn and grow with those around him.

Matthew has South African sports colours for ice hockey, rowed in his college's first men's boat at Oxford, played in Harvard's men's college ice hockey club and is now an avid amateur triathlete – having completed several Ironman events in the last few years. Matthew was ranked South Africa's top school debater in Matric and South Africa's top university debater while at UCT.

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### THYLA VAN DER MERWE

2012 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*MSc in Information Security at Royal Holloway, University of London*

Thyla has just finished her PhD in Cybersecurity and recently graduated from Royal Holloway, University of London, where she was a member of the Centre for Doctoral Training in Cybersecurity, funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (UK). Prior to starting her PhD, Thyla completed an MSc in Information Security at Royal Holloway where she was awarded the prize for the most outstanding student on the MSc programme and a Computer Weekly-Search Security award for her dissertation on the cryptographic mechanisms used in transport ticketing. Thyla represented South Africa on the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) committee responsible for standardising cryptographic mechanisms and protocols for five years. Her contributions to this committee drew greatly on her experience as a former industry cryptographer.

Thyla's PhD research focused on the security of protocols and during her PhD she participated in the Berkman Klein Assembly programme at Harvard University. The aim of the programme was to bring together individuals from industry

and academia to solve problems in cybersecurity. During her time at Harvard, Thyla worked on two Internet of Things projects and even ventured into the realm of law, drafting a technology law paper with a colleague at Harvard Law School. Whilst at Royal Holloway, Thyla also founded the Women in the Security Domain and/or Mathematics (WISDOM) group. The group aims to encourage more female undergraduate students to embark on careers in mathematics and cybersecurity, and supports women currently in these fields. The group has grown from strength to strength and was awarded the annual Equality and Diversity Award at Royal Holloway for its efforts in promoting equality. Thyla remains active and is still boxing.

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## ANDREW PAVARD

2011 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*DPhil Computer Science, University of Oxford*

After completing his BSc and MSc degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Cape Town respectively, Andrew read for a DPhil in Computer Science at the University of Oxford. His doctoral research developed new approaches for enhancing security, improving privacy, and building trust in next-generation computing and communication systems, such as the smart energy grid. He defended his thesis in February 2016.

Andrew is now a research fellow in computer science at Aalto University in Finland. His research focuses on the use of new hardware technologies to build secure systems and solve real-world security challenges. He is also interested in the intersection between law and technology, particularly regarding privacy and data protection, and last year he co-organised and presented a summer school on the topic of Legal and Technical Aspects of Digital Privacy.

In October 2017, Andrew was appointed as a deputy director of the Helsinki-Aalto Center for Information Security (HAIC). In this capacity he established and leads the new HAIC public outreach initiative, which aims to bring contemporary topics in information security to a broader audience. Andrew was also recently selected as a recipient of the prestigious 2017–18 Fulbright Cyber Security Scholar Award, which enabled him to undertake a four-month research visit to the University of California, Irvine in 2018.

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## NKAZI SOKHULU

2011 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship  
MBA, Columbia University

Nkazi is the co-founder and CEO of Yalu, a new life insurance company that launched in June, focused on reshaping the way South Africans engage with the most lucrative but least competitive form of insurance: credit life. Yalu brings a number of first-time innovations to the credit life market and is seeing a great take-up response from ordinary South Africans. It's no easy task to take on entrenched lenders, but the small team of superstars building the company makes it seem possible and actually quite a bit of fun. Prior to Yalu, Nkazi was the COO and co-founding member at FNB Life, and before that the executive assistant to the CEO of Old Mutual before cutting his teeth in the company's tied advisory distribution division. He has also worked in a number of countries as a management consultant at McKinsey Company.

Nkazi is a University of Cape Town finance graduate and obtained his MBA from Columbia University in New York, made possible by the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship. In his spare time, Nkazi is a member of the Mandela Rhodes Foundation audit and risk committee and pretends to know what he is doing by raising a four-year old and one-year old with his long-suffering wife.

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## DAVID HOFMEYR

2010 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*MA in Organisational Mathematics,  
Edinburgh University*

After his MSc at the University of Edinburgh, David moved to Lancaster University to join one of the many emerging centres for doctoral training in the UK. His PhD research focused on unsupervised machine learning algorithms and earned him the Kingsman Prize from the department of management science, awarded to the best doctoral thesis from the previous three years, and a nomination for the PhD prize from the Operations Research Society, awarded to the top doctoral thesis from universities across the UK. Sadly the latter was only a nomination, as David was recently informed that the award was given to another researcher.

On his return to South Africa, David joined the department of statistics and actuarial science at Stellenbosch University, where he is about to enter his fourth semester as a senior lecturer. David teaches primarily courses in mathematical statistics, but is heavily involved in the department's shifting focus towards data science and the computational sides of mathematical statistics and machine learning. He continues research in unsupervised learning algorithms and has begun exploring at a deeper level the fundamental and age old problem of model selection. The problem of model selection requires being able to (at least implicitly) decompose a set of observed data points into the structured relationships between variables

which we are interested in understanding, and the random deviations which cause individual observations to differ from these relationships/structures. Failing to correctly identify this decomposition means that the relationships we think we have understood from a set of observations does not generalise to other sets of observations. Consider an example where a statistical model is designed to find human faces in images. If this model is only given images which contain David's face, then it will "think" that human faces all have the specific nuances of his face, say the shape of his nose. Because this shape is so specific and will never arise in any other part of an image, this model will "think" it is doing a tremendous job by just looking for the exact nose shape and saying there is a face if and only if that shape is present. Given a new collection of images, now containing other people's faces, it will again simply look for that exact nose, and failing to find it it will not identify any faces at all. Here the model has learnt about the random deviation of David's nose from other noses, rather than the structure of a human face, and how the different components relate to one another. It has learnt the "noise" rather than the "signal".

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### DAVID WATSON

**2010 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship**  
 MPhil in Civil Law, University of Oxford

After studying at University of Oxford, Dave did a clerkship at the Constitutional Court where he was a law clerk to the Chief Justice Sandile Ngcobo, and Justices Johan Froneman and Raymond Zondo. He then held a brief research position at the Max Planck Institute for Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law where he researched the impact of constitutional norms on private law.

Dave now practices as an advocate and is a member of Thulamela Chambers. His practice is a mixture of public and private law. Recent cases that he has been involved in include: a case concerning the role of good faith in the law of contract; the jurisdiction of the Advertising Standards Authority of South Africa over non-members; waste disposal disputes; and delinquency applications. Dave also appears in commercial arbitrations covering topics such as contractual disputes, professional liability claims, and financing arrangements. Dave also does *pro bono* work, including matters representing communities against mining conglomerates and traditional authorities.

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### BEN WINKS

**2009 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship**  
 Advanced LLM, Leiden University

After graduating *cum laude* from Leiden University with an Advanced Master's degree in International Law (specialising in Peace, Justice and Development) in 2010, 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 constitutional and international law. Ben values the freedom and flexibility this role affords him, to undertake more *pro bono* and academic work, as well as to spend more time with his wife and son.

✉ ben@benwinks.com





### MARYKE BAILEY

2009 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*MPhil in Intellectual History, University of Sussex*

Maryke is involved in different education-related projects on a freelance basis. In 2018 most of her time has been spent on developing content and resources for an adult education programme focusing on South African history. The resources are due to be finished by the end of 2018.

2019 will hopefully witness the launching of the pilot phase of the project. She also stepped back into the classroom for a few months to stay in touch with the realities of teaching and learning in South Africa. Maryke intermittently writes opinion pieces for *The Daily Maverick* in which she usually analyses the disconnect between official education policies and/or public opinion, and the practical realities in schools and universities. Maryke remains a passionate about teacher excellence, and tries as much as possible to bring teacher quality to the centre of education debates in South Africa.

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### LUCY CORKIN

2008 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*PhD in Political Science, School of Oriental and African Studies*

Lucy completed her PhD in Political Science from the School of Oriental and African Studies University of London in 2011, funded by the FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar Scholarship. Her work was published by Ashgate (now Taylor and Francis) as *Uncovering Agency: Angola's Management of China's Credit Lines* and has been translated into Portuguese. 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, before her passion for all things Africa saw her take up a role in RMB's Global Markets division in strategy implementation in the rest of Africa. Lucy continues to dabble in academia and has been known to write the odd think-piece and make cameo appearances at conferences on Africa's financial landscape, the BRICS grouping or African countries' relations with China. In her spare time, she sharpens her negotiation skills with her three-year old son Kai and a baby daughter Imogen.

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### GUS WASCHFORT

2007 FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar scholarship

*PhD in Law, School of Oriental and African Studies*

Gus Waschefort 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 appointed as 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*

Christie is currently a lecturer at 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 the recovery of base and precious metals. His most recent projects evaluate processing options for the recovery of metals such as copper and gold from electronic waste. Metal recycling from waste will become increasingly important from an economic and environmental management perspective. In his spare time, Christie enjoys exploring the Stellenbosch surroundings.

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# MOMENTUM DIPPENAAR SCHOLARSHIP



## MLULEKI SHONGWE

2013 Momentum Dippenaar scholarship

*LLM in Finance and Law, Duisenberg School of Finance*

Mluleki is the associate general counsel a HSBC Bank – Johannesburg Branch and a tutor for the law of contract course at Unisa. He specialises in banking, finance and capital markets transactions. Mluleki was awarded the scholarship to study an LLM in Finance and Law at the Duisenberg School of Finance in the Netherlands, which he completed in 2014.

He also holds a LLB (completed with distinction) from the University of Zululand and a LLM in Banking and Stock Exchange Law from the University of Johannesburg. He is involved in providing mentorship to high school students and law students at the University of Zululand.

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## LEANNE BRADY

**2011 Momentum Dippenaar scholarship**  
 MSc in Public Health, London School of  
 Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Leanne completed her MSc in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2012. Since then, she has worked in both a public health and clinical capacity in a number of different settings in South Africa, Swaziland, Malawi, India and Sierra Leone. She currently works at the health policy and systems division at the University of Cape Town as a researcher and lecturer on the Public Health Masters course. She also teaches health policy analysis at the University of the Western Cape. In 2018, she registered for her PhD which focuses on responses to violence in the health system – and specifically on the current epidemic of attacks on ambulances in Cape Town. Red Zone Paramedics – a short documentary film she made as part of this work

tells the story of an ambulance crew working the night shift on New Year's Eve in Mitchells Plain, and was selected to screen at the Encounters Documentary Film Festival this year. The film will also be travelling internationally, and she will be accompanying it to the Health Systems Global Symposium in Liverpool later this year.

She continues to ride her bicycle around the city, and now also teaches others how to ride at Learn2Cycle as part as a broader movement to get more commuter cyclists on the road.

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## TRACEY MILLIN

2010 Momentum Dippenaar scholarship

*MSc Education: Language, Theory and Practice, Edinburgh University*

After completing an MSc Education at the University of Edinburgh, Tracey returned to South Africa to teach English at a secondary school level and academic literacy development in higher education. During this time, Tracey experienced first-hand the discrepancy between skills developed in the National Senior Certificate and the skills required to access and succeed at university. For this reason, She embarked on a doctoral study at Stellenbosch University investigating an academic literacy intervention to address unequal academic literacy development at schools in South Africa, especially for students who do not have English as their primary language. The results of her study showed that, with the right intervention, students from impoverished schools can “catch-up” in academic writing performance to those students from more well-resourced schools. Given the positive outcome of her study, and with a generous post-doctoral fellowship from the

Oppenheimer Memorial Trust, Tracey is currently working on furthering her research in academic literacy development at the Higher Education Development Centre at the University of Otago, New Zealand. She is currently a visiting academic fellow at Otago University. Tracey has big dreams of returning to South Africa and consulting with farmers in the Winelands and Overberg region to help address low academic achievement of children in the area. In her spare time, Tracey still loves to hit the trails with her hubby in and around Dunedin and hopes to find time to go snowboarding too.

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**KYLA BRADY**

**2009 Momentum Dippenaar scholarship**  
.....  
*PhD Stem Cell Research, University of  
Bristol*

Kyla completed her PhD in Stem Cell Biology at the University of Bristol in 2014. Since then she has worked as a postdoctoral research associate on projects investigating the use of stem cells for cartilage tissue engineering and repair applications. In October last year she joined NHS Blood & Transplant as a Cell and Molecular Therapy Specialist working in the development of cell-based therapies for clinical application. Throughout her research experience she has been inspired by the translation of science into medicine and specifically the development of novel therapies and treatment approaches that improve and enhance healthcare.

This prompted the bold decision to change direction and pursue a clinical career. Following a successful application, she has now made a return to education and is currently completing the Physician Associate programme at the University of Manchester. She has recently started her first clinical placement and is thoroughly enjoying the opportunity of having a direct role in patient care.

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## DOMINIQUE SCHAFFER

2008 Momentum Dippenaar scholarship

*MSc in African Studies, University of Oxford*

Dominique is still working for RB Africa, a small and dynamic consulting company with niche expertise in developing solutions for the changing needs of South African companies. Her team's focus is currently on the East London auto sector and the development and implementation of a strategy for a sustainable, competitive and transformed industry, with the support of OEMs, suppliers and unions.

Dominique continues to pursue her heart project and is a longstanding member of the board of directors of Inkululeko, a non-profit organisation that works with underprivileged high school students in Grahamstown. Her busy toddler, Fin, keeps her on her toes and on the weekends you will find her park running, oil painting or adventuring in the Eastern Cape with her family.

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**WILLEM KLOPPER**

**2008 Momentum Dippenaar scholarship**

*MA in Management Research,  
University of Oxford*

After returning from his studies at Oxford, Willem joined the FirstRand group for three years on their CA Training Programme. After qualifying as a CA(SA) in 2012, Willem moved to a private equity/infrastructure fund, Pembani Remgro Infrastructure Managers, as part of the fund's deal team.

During his four years with the fund, Willem spent time travelling other African countries in search of investment opportunities in infrastructure projects and companies that support the growth of Africa's resource-focused industries.

In 2017, Willem joined the Eric Ellerin family office. As their investment officer he plays an active role in the implementation of company's investment strategy and monitoring of their existing portfolio.

Willem is still based in Johannesburg and outside of work has remained an active sportsman. He still plays cricket, tennis and squash on a regular basis.

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# FIRSTRAND ASSISTANCE BURSARIES



## SYDELLE SMITH

2014 FirstRand assistance bursary

*MSc in African Studies, University  
of Oxford*

Sydelle is a visual storyteller and entrepreneur. Holding an MSc in African Studies from the University of Oxford through the generous FirstRand Laurie Dippenaar and Oppenheimer Memorial Trust scholarships, she is inspired by media advocacy approaches in documenting social injustices. She co-founded the NGO, Sunshine Cinema, a solar-powered mobile advocacy platform, and is a partner in Makhulu Media. Through Sunshine Cinema, she aims to build a media advocacy platform in Africa, which will ultimately give grassroot voices a chance to be heard, creating the necessary dialogues across current economic, generational and prejudicial lines. Through the production company, Makhulu Media, which is owned by her husband, Rowan Pybus, the duo worked with LGBTI activists and honoured environmental local heroes in the DRC, Malawi, Kenya and Zambia. Closer to home, they have worked with youth affected by HIV-related issues.

She recently survived a car crash returning from Botswana with her husband, in which her right index finger was partially amputated. Surviving the accident has given her a whole new lease on life and she is grateful it has not negatively affected her work. As a visual storyteller, Smith wants to focus on conceptions of belonging and identity in relation to white South African histories framed by settler heritage – through a long-term project called Un/Settled.

(extract from <http://200ysa.mg.co.za/2017/sydelle-willow-smith/>)

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## DEENA DINAT

2013 FirstRand assistance bursary  
 .....  
*MA in English Literature, University  
 of British Columbia*

Deena graduated with an MA in English Literature from the University of British Columbia in 2015. His thesis explored the ways in racialised migrants challenged forms of power in post 9/11 New York City. It asked how migrant stories provide opportunities for critique agency and resistance inside the nexus of western modernity. Thanks to the support of the FirstRand assistance bursary, Deena was also lucky enough to present his work at several conferences across North America.

Deena is currently at the beginning of his second year of a PhD at the University of British Columbia. His work in preparation for his dissertation considers the postcolonial South African state, particularly questions around how and when the nation is posited as a political, cultural and aesthetic project in the wake of the

liberation movement. How has the nation been constructed, from a future-yet-to-be to the historical-present? How has South African literature grappled with the promise of the nation to come, and then the nation that is?

While not reading Deena likes taking photographs, playing football and trying to cook.

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### TIFFANY EBRAHIM

2013 FirstRand assistance bursary

.....  
*MSc in Gender, Sexuality and Society,  
 Amsterdam University*

Tiffany is a researcher at the Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa (SERI). She has an MSc in Sociology, specialising in gender studies, from the University of Amsterdam.

She received her BA Honours degree in Political Studies with distinction through the National Research Foundation (NRF) Chair in Local Histories and Present Realities at the University of the Witwatersrand.

During her time at SERI, Tiffany has been involved in the implementation phase of the *Public Interest Legal Services in South Africa: Project Report*, a study commissioned by the Ford Foundation and RAITH Foundation that explored the nature of public interest legal services sector in South Africa, the context in which it operates and how its value and impact can be best characterised.

Tiffany is currently involved in informal settlement action research and policy advocacy focused on in situ upgrading of informal settlements through the implementation of the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme to improve access to basic services, livelihood strategies and tenure security in informal settlements across Gauteng, North West, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

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## ALEX HALLIGEY

2012 FirstRand assistance bursary

MA in Performance Studies, New York University

Alex has just completed her PhD in Drama and Urban Studies through the University of Cape Town's Drama Department and the African Centre for Cities. Her research was concerned with how theatre and performance as participatory public art might help to explore the relationship between people and the built environment in Johannesburg. She teaches part-time at the Market Theatre Laboratory and the Wits Theatre and Performance Division, and in June started a post-doctoral research fellowship with the South African Research Chair in Spatial Analysis and City Planning, attached to the Wits School of Architecture and Planning. Outside of her research, she continues to make her own performance work.

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## JESSICA BENJAMIN

2012 FirstRand assistance bursary

MA in Public Administration, Columbia University

Jessica is a trained development economist, enthusiastic social entrepreneur and strategy consultant. She began her career at Genesis Analytics, Africa's largest economics consultancy, where she focused on market-based solutions to poverty across the continent, with particular emphasis on youth unemployment and financial education.

She completed her MA in Public Administration (MPA) at Columbia University, a platform that afforded her immeasurable opportunities. 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. She then spent two years gaining hands-on experience in business operations, helping to launch a new start-up consulting business within Gerson Lehrman Group (GLG), a large professional learning platform in New York. Her current role at Applied Value spans management consulting, private equity and micro-entrepreneurship, allowing her to combine her experience in business and operations with her deep-seated passion for and ongoing commitment to economic development.

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## NGOVUYO GUGUSHE

2012 FirstRand assistance bursary

*MA in Finance, University of Cambridge*

Ngovuyo completed his Master of Finance degree at the University of Cambridge in 2013. He grew up in Cape Town with his mother and four older siblings. During his years in school, Ngovuyo enjoyed and excelled at jazz trombone, being selected on a number of occasions to the National Schools Big Band at the Grahamstown Jazz Festival. He also performed on two occasions at the Cape Town Jazz Festival with the Cape Town-based youth jazz group, The Little Giants. Ngovuyo had another passion alongside his love of jazz music: finance. He went on to study Business Science at the University of Cape Town (UCT) focusing on finance and economics. During this time he continued to play jazz and ventured into jazz composition, with two of his compositions being recorded.

After completing his degree at UCT, he joined the South African Reserve Bank on their graduate programme. After a year, he left and joined RMB FICC team as a trader.

This is where he stayed until he left to pursue his postgraduate degree at St Edmund's College, Cambridge University. Ngovuyo completed his masters degree in 2013 and returned to RMB in 2014 as a transactor in their corporate finance division. 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 currently works for the CEO of Royal Bafokeng Holdings (RBH) as a strategic investment manager and executive assistant where he focuses on strategic projects for the CEO and also looks after the investment firm's oil and gas infrastructure investments where he holds a non-executive board seat. His work at RBH fulfils both his passions for finance and strong desire to contribute to the African growth story and impact positively the continent's people.

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## ROBERT FREEMAN

2012 FirstRand assistance bursary  
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*MA in Issues in Modern Culture,*  
*University College London*

Robert currently works as a research fellow at the South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law (SAIFAC). His current research focuses on asylum and migration policy. Aside from the law, Robert lectures English Literature, plays ultimate frisbee and works on his collection of JM Coetzee first editions. His future plans involve doing a PhD and finishing a collection of short stories.

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### ZOË LINCOLN

2011 FirstRand assistance bursary  
MSc in Sustainable Energy Systems,  
Edinburgh University

Zoë obtained an MSc in Sustainable Energy Systems from the University of Edinburgh in 2012. She now works as a senior power systems engineer for Eskom Distribution in Cape Town and spends most of her time figuring out how to connect more renewables, safely and efficiently, to the national electricity grid in the Western and Northern Cape provinces, and the balance navigating the challenges of operating effectively within a highly scrutinised state-owned enterprise. Zoë has recently enrolled to begin a PhD at the University of Cape Town and is looking forward to getting stuck into academic research again.

Committed to encouraging school children and students – especially girls – to consider a career in engineering and other STEM fields, Zoë was

part of the Cape Town organising team for Africa Code Week 2016, which was successful in introducing 1 200 children to computer coding, and is preparing for an even further-reaching Africa Code Week in 2017. She continues to be involved in the Schools' Expo for Young Scientists, the Hope Scholarship Network and various mentoring initiatives coordinated by the South African Women in Science and Engineering.

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## ABIGAIL MARCUS

2010 FirstRand assistance bursary  
MA in Law, New York University

Abigail attained her Masters in Law (LLM) from NYU School of Law in 2011. She is an admitted attorney of the New York State Bar and has practiced corporate law at Latham & Watkins LLP for a number of years, representing banks and other financial institutions in acquisition financing transactions. Abigail's *pro bono* practice focuses on providing legal advice to the Foundation for the United Nations Global Compact and representing unaccompanied minors in the US Immigration system. In September of 2018, Abigail will commence studies as a candidate for the Doctor of Juridical Science degree (SJD) at Fordham University. Her research will address issues in corruption, corporate law and enforcement incentives.

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## HANNAH DE WET

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MA Development Studies,  
Erasmus University, Rotterdam

Hannah Lindiwe Diaz (de Wet) is the programme manager: executive short courses for the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance at the University of Cape Town. The school works to cultivate and support leadership in African governance, combining academic insight and practice-based public service strategy to advance effective public governance. She holds a BA Hons in Anthropology from Rhodes University and a MA in Development Studies, specialised in Poverty Studies and Social Policy, from the Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Prior to joining the GSDPP, Hannah worked as a senior social consultant at EOH Coastal and

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 worked at the Public Service Accountability Monitor as a programme officer in the Regional Learning Programme; this involved working extensively with a range of civil society organisations, identifying their capacity needs and building capacity through designing and delivering a range of training courses focusing on rights-based monitoring and advocacy across South and southern Africa.

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## INKA SCHOMER

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*MSc Environment Change Management,  
University of Oxford*

Inka holds an MSc in Environmental Change and Management from Oxford University and completed a postgraduate degree at the University of Cape Town with majors in Economics and Environmental Management. She currently leads the Gender and Social Inclusion Program at the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program at the World Bank (WB). She recently won the WB Presidents Award for Excellence in June 2018 for work she leads on closing gender gaps across the Ethiopia energy sector and will be based in-country in the coming months to continue working on various gender issues across the energy sector in the region.

Inka previously spearheaded work on infrastructure in the Gender Group at the WB where she focused on supporting the implementation of the WB gender strategy, designing new approaches for operations to close gaps between women and men, fostering the gender and clean cooking agenda and strengthening the delivery of results through improved monitoring and evaluation.

She is supporting task teams in project-level actions in various countries including Ethiopia, Tanzania, Nigeria, Rwanda and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. New areas of work she has engaged in over the last year include gender-based violence prevention and response in infrastructure and women's employment issues in technical roles-especially science, technology, engineering and mathematics occupations.

Inka has worked on climate and carbon finance projects and programs in the renewable energy sector with the Climate Investment Funds in DC and Camco Clean Energy Consulting in Johannesburg. To keep her links to home and the agriculture sector, she has been collaborating with the Sustainability Institute in Stellenbosch to develop a Young Women in Agriculture programme. In addition, she is in her fourth year of part-time psychology studies in Knysna where she is enjoying learning about various human conditions.

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## SIMON MARCUS

2010 FirstRand assistance bursary

*MA Philosophy, New York University*

Simon attended New York University for the Masters in Philosophy and graduated in 2013. During his studies Simon taught classes as an adjunct instructor in the NYU College of Arts and Science. Simon 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. Simon worked for a number of years as a part-time volunteer for Housing Works – a non-profit organisation focused on combatting 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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